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After the Ball

Lake Trout, Salmon on Menu Danger List

By Bob Barnet

REMEMBER those fine big lake trout and salmon they have been wanting us to chase around Lake Michigan?

We are now being warned it may be dangerous to eat the larger fish because man, as usual, has fouled his environment.



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, on advice of the state's Division of Health, "suggests" that people limit their consumption of large trout and salmon from Lake Michigan and other fish from the upper Mississippi River and the Fox River near Portage.

Fish in all these waters contain more than the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's acceptable level of PCB's (Polychlorinated Biphenyls).

The federal agency has set the level for market fish at five parts per million of PCB's. Recognizing that some large fish in these waters contain more than the acceptable amount, the Wisconsin Division of Health recommends that "sports fishermen be advised to refrain from eating more than one meal per week of such fish and that pregnant women and children be cautioned to limit their intake to one average-size serving of such fish per week."

Fish from the following waters have been found to exceed the levels believed safe for unlimited consumption:

1. Lake Michigan trout and salmon, including lake trout, coho salmon, chinook salmon and brown trout, over 24 inches in length.

2. Many species of fish in the Mississippi River between Prescott and Lower Lake Pepin.

3. Many fish in the Fox River from Portage north to the Columbia County line.

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