

JUN 14 1975

ASKS BAN OF CHEMICAL PCB

LANSING, MICH. (AP) —
The Michigan Natural Resources Commission urged the legislature and the nation Friday to ban use and production of a chemical which is contaminating fish in Lake Michigan.

The chemical, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), is used in a variety of household products.

"We hope this state will lead the nation in banning PCB," the commission said in a statement. Commission Chairman Carl Johnson said he sees no alternative other than an outright ban.

Fish in Lake Michigan have PCB levels above the limits allowed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The FDA has seized some shipments of chubb caught in Lake Michigan because PCB levels were found to be up to 20 parts per million. The FDA legal level is five parts per million. Human health could be endangered at a level of 500 parts per million, the FDA said.

PCB's appear in a wide range of products, from paper to hand soap. The sole U.S. manufacturer is Monsanto Chemical Co., of St. Louis, Mo.

The company agreed in the early 1970s to stop selling PCB for some industrial uses. But the chemical has since been sold for other industrial, commercial and household uses.

Tests at the University of Wisconsin showed Rheus monkeys became ill, even at levels of less than five parts per million.

MONS 031159