By JAMES WELSH
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Edible fish containing 72 times the Food and Drug Administration tolerance levels for PCBs were found in an Alabama creek [illegible] year, and nothing has been done about it, a Senate subcommittee was told today.

Sen. [illegible] D. Spong, D-Va., [illegible] of a Commerce subcommittee on the environment, [illegible] a letter from an Alabama [illegible] fisheries official reporting [illegible] as high as 360 parts [illegible] in fish caught in the Choccolocco Creek, near Anniston.

[illegible] FDA tolerance limit is [illegible] per million for the PCBs, [illegible] chemicals that act [illegible] and are suspected of [illegible] long-term ill effects on [illegible]

[illegible] L. Spencer, assistant [illegible] of fisheries for Alabama, [illegible] in the letter that the samples were collected for the [illegible] regional office of FDA.

"Yet FDA apparently did not [illegible] to advise us of this contamination problem," he said.

In a telephone interview today, Spencer said the creek has [illegible] been closed for fishing. [illegible] a job for the state health department, which hasn't moved on the problem, he said.

"As far as I know, the fish in that creek still have a high level of PCBs in their bodies," said Spencer.

He said the apparent source of the contamination is a Monsanto Corp. plant near Anniston that [illegible] wastes into the creek, which is a tributary of the Coosa River.

The fish collected at various points along the creek included bass, carp, catfish and spotted [illegible]. Three bass caught at one point were found to contain 360 parts per million of the PCBs.

At another point, the Alabama lab reports show, catfish were found to contain 177 parts per million of the chemicals.

The reports identified the contaminant as Aroclor 254, one of the PCBs in industrial use.

Monsanto is the sole American manufacturer of PCBs.

In his letter to the subcommittee, Spencer said:

"You asked if FDA is cooperating with the states. I think they are cooperating to the extent they have to. We assisted them in collecting fish from Choccolocco Creek. They later sent us copies of the mercury analyses which were not high enough to be greatly concerned about.

"I later wrote FDA asking for the results of their PCB analyses of these samples because I heard a rumor that they were very high. FDA then sent me the results, a copy of which I have attached."

"Consumers . . . Entitled"

Spencer at first asked for anonymity, adding: "However, I feel the consumers of fish or any other food product are entitled to know what they are eating." Later, he consented to use of his name.

The subcommittee is holding hearings on the Nixon administration's proposed Toxic Substances Control Act, which would permit regulation of the manufacture and use, as well as the discharge, of such hazardous chemicals as PCBs.

The effects of PCBs on human beings has not been determined. In laboratory experiments with mice, it has caused birth defects and liver damage.

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