Washington Post 11/6/76

Striped Bass 'Safe'

RICHMOND (UPI)—The Environmental Protection Agency said Friday that low levels of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls found in Chesapeake Bay striped bass will not harm persons who eat the fish.

The EPA based its conclusion on a study by Westinghouse Ocean Research Laboratory where samples of both flesh and eggs of the fish were analyzed.

An EPA spokesman said the results showed "PCB concentrations in striped bass from the Chesapeake Bay region will pose no health hazard to consumers of the fish."

PCB are a family of chemicals once used extensively in making electrical equipment and other products where their heat resistance is an advantage. They are known to lower the reproductive levels of fish and are thought to endanger human and animal reproductivity.

The sampled striped bass were taken from the major Chesapeake Bay spawning areas, including the James and Potomac Rivers.

MONS 053445