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PCB Disaster Aid Asked for Lake Pepin

PEPIN, Wis. — Wisconsin Gov. Patrick Lucey has asked federal disaster aid for commercial fishermen and resorts damaged by PCB levels in Lake Pepin.

The annoucement was made this week at a meeting of Wisconsin and federal officials with commercial fishermen and other citizens concerned with the PCB problem.

If such a finding is made, according to an aide of Gov. Lucey, businesses would be eligible for Small Business Administration loans at low interest.

Some 30-40 part-time gill netters and a few full-time seiners have been idled, due to the finding that the larger carp caught have levels of PCB in excess of the five parts per million allowed by the Food and Drug Administration.

Several resort and motel operators around the lake have also complained that the PCB problem has reduced their patronage.

About 20 persons testified at the hearing, voicing complaints also about lake silitation, sewer bypassing by the Twin Cities and alleged dumping of holding tanks by commercial towboats.

Some asked for a federal ban on PCB.

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