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Harmful chemical levels found in fresh water fish

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Department of Natural Resources scientists are analyzing about 120 fish samples taken recently from the Mississippi River at Alma in an effort to pinpoint possible chemical contamination.

The samples are being examined for evidence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), a manufactured chemical shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration earlier this summer discovered PCBs at unsafe levels in carp caught in Lake Pepin.

The FDA ordered a halt in interstate shipments of the carp, and stopped commercial fishing on the Mississippi between Alma and Red Wing, Minn.

Stan Kleinert, chief of theDNR's surveillance section, said the fishery analysis would continue in July at stations near Pepin and Prescott, with results expected in August.

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