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During a routine inspection, Seattle District Investigator Daniel C. Schneringer learned that Midwest salmon was being canned in an Oregon plant. His knowledge of environmental contamination problems associated with fish from part of the Great Lakes area aroused his suspicion and curiosity. An FDA investigation was conducted and samples collected. The findings resulted in Government seizure of 2,343 cases of canned salmon, each containing 48 15½-ounce cans, and 178 60-pound boxes of frozen salmon and salmon heads in possession of Point Adams Packing Co., Hammond, Oregon. An additional 899 cases of the canned salmon enroute to Puerto Rico were seized by the Government in the San Francisco area. Examination of the salmon by the Seattle District laboratory found it to be adulterated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) in excess of the temporary tolerance established by FDA. PCB's are toxic chemicals that have escaped into the environment from certain industrial operations. The raw salmon had originally been shipped from Holland, Michigan, to the Oregon plant for canning for the account of Harrison Pierce and Company, Inc., Long Beach, California.

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