MONONA, WIS.
COMMUNITY HERALD
W. 2,810

JUN 19 1975

eye on the outdoors

by butch horn



A warning

Fishermen are being warned to limit their consumption of large trout from Lake Michigan and all fish from the Upper Mississippi river and the Fox river near Portage.

The department of natural resources and the state department of health issued the warning because of large amounts of PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) recently found in the water. The Federal Food and Drug Administration has closed commercial fishing on the Mississippi river near Lake Pepin and is taking a careful look at other waters.

The FDA says that any more than 5 parts per million of PCB is unacceptable and dangerous. Large fish in these regions—trout and salmon in the great lakes, walleyes, catfish and northerns in the rivers—contain more than 5 ppm.

"Sport fishermen are cautioned to refrain from eating more than one meal per week of fish from these waters," a DNR spokesman says, "and pregnant women and young children are cautioned to limit their intake to one average serving of such fish per week."

In Lake Michigan and Green Bay lake trout, coho salmon, chinook salmon and brown trout in the 24-inch class have been found to contain more than 5 ppm of PCB.

Fish of various sizes and species in the Mississippi river between Prescott and the lower end of Lake Pepin—where the Chippewa river meets the Mississippi—have been affected.

Fish in the Fox river from Portage to the Columbia county line have registered higher than normal levels.

All commercial fishing is being closely watched to monitor the spread of the chemical pollutant.

With sport fishing on the great lakes becoming more enjoyable and facilities readily available this problem is no longer a concern of just the people in the infected areas. Local anglers planning fishing trips to Lake Michigan or other state waters should keep in mind the DNR warning.

Bikers' aid

Bicyclists using the Elroy-Sparta bike trail in western Wisconsin will find a variety of services available to them this summer thanks to a new corporation in the region. Elroy-Sparta National Trail, inc., a non-profit corporation, recently has been formed to provide concession outlets and maintenance services along the twisting trail.

The state department of natural resources (DNR) has agreed to allow the group to establish its locations on state property. The corporation is made up of residents of the Wisconsin communities along the trail. Each village has two on the board of directors.

"The corporation was formed to pool resources and provide services to the thousands of visitors who use the trail each summer," says chairman of the board Al Wright.

In addition to the on-the-spot services—refreshments, repair facilities and the like—the group also will make advanced plans for groups, provide equipment rentals and a shuttle service on the trail.

If you're looking for a fantastic place for a bike ride, keep the Elroy-Sparta trail in mind. It runs 32 miles through the hills following an old railroad line. The route includes three impressive railroad tunnels and more than 30 trestle bridges crossing streams and the zig-zagging Kickapoo river.

Camp sites are available; so load up your rig and stay a while. The trip is even better in the fall when the hardwoods put on their display.

MONS 031203