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Fishermen map war on PCB's

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The Yonkers Chapter of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association last night mapped out an extensive campaign to ban the use of polychlorinated biphenyls, PCB's, not only in New York State but nationwide.

THIS WEEK Environmental Conservation Commissioner Ogden Reid banned virtually all commercial fishing in the Hudson River south of Fort Edward due to the PCB chemical contamination.

More than four years ago the HRFA alerted New York State about evidence of PCB's in the Hudson River stripped bass which fell to deaf ears, according to William O'Hara, secretary-treasurer of the Yonkers Chapter of HRFA.

THE LOCAL chapter will request the state to post signs along the Hudson River warning fishermen about the high concentration of PCB's in stripped bass and oysters which is above the levels set by the federal government.

"We will also request local officials to remove all abandoned refrigerators, air conditioners, lighting fixtures and television sets from and near waterways because this is a source of PCB contamination which has been greatly overlooked," said O'Hara.

ACCORDING to a recent report given the Save the Hudson Coalition, a group of 75 local environmental leaders from this area including HRFA, "PCB's are extremely long lived chemicals used in the manufacture of such household appliances."