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Fish DDT level tops dange: point

MARQUETTE (AP) — Some Lake Superior trout have twice the level of DDT and nearly three times the level of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) considered safe for human consumption by the federal government, researchers report.

Northern Michigan University scientists said the trout contained from 1 to 9 parts per million of DDT and from 3 to 14 p.p.m. of PCBs, a heat-resistant chemical with widespread industrial applications.

The legal maximum level for commercially sold fish is 5 p.p.m. for both contaminants.

Results of the five-year study were published recently in the Bulletin of Environmental Contamination & Toxicology. The trout were taken from two points 140 miles part — near Rock Harbor on Isle Royale and 10 miles north of Grand Marais, Mich., near Caribou Island.

The study was begun in 1970 by Dr. Ronald Parejko, an NMU biology professor. He later was joined by Raymond Johnson, a biology teacher in Marquette public schools, and Robert Keller, a former NMU graduate student now living in Kalamazoo.

The study, funded by he U.S. Department of the Interior and NMU, is continuing.

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