DURAND, WIS.
COURIER-WEDGE
W. 3,742

JUL 10 1975

Weight and Fat Tied to Pollutant

Tests in Lake Pepin indicate chemical content of fish apparently is related to weight and fat, according to the federal food and drug administration.

Henry Roberts of the St. Paul office said tests by Wisconsin department of natural resources seemed to show weight of a fish correlates directly with parts per million of polychlorinated biphenyls in its system.

For instance, a four pound fish might contain four parts per million of PCB. A full check of 400 samples of carp from various parts of the lake will not be completed until August, however.

Fat content of fish tested last week rated about 4 per cent, a low figure. It could rise to 10 per cent by the end of summer. Pollutant chemicals are stored in fish fat, Roberts says.

Information will be computerized to determine if the correlation could be used by commercial fishermen who net and sell fish. Federal limit on PBC is five parts per million.

Fishermen on the lake have been extremely co-operative, according to Roberts. They have been working with the food and drug administration as well as other governmental agencies. Private sampling and testing were initiated by Milt Sorensen of Bay City and Rudolph Hogue of Pepin.

Sorensen and Hogue sent carp samples to Wisconsin Alumni Research foundation in Madison, which agreed to inform the food and drug administration of test results.

Roberts said data collected since May points to a lowering of pollutants in the lake.

MONS 031050