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17 Illinois lakes contain polluted fish, officials say

By Associated Press

CHICAGO--The Food and Drug Administration says fish being caught in the 16 downstate private lakes and one public lake are not fit to eat because they are contaminated with harmful chemicals.

Large carp being caught from the lakes contain 10 to 15 times more PCBs—polychlorinated biphenyls—than the 5 parts per million allowed by the FDA for freshwater fish, Donald Healton, regional FDA director, said Tuesday.

"I DON'T THINK PEOPLE ought to eat those fish," he said. "The accumulation of PCB's in the human body represents a potential health threat."

PCBs are used in industrial compounds. They have been found to cause liver cancer and sterility in laboratory animals.

Healton said the public lake involved is in Waterloo near East St. Louis. The privately owned lakes are primarily in the Springfield and East St. Louis areas. Fishermen pay a fee to use these lakes.

Lakes identified as yielding PCB-contaminated fish are:

MICK'S LAKE, HIGHLAND; Fishermen's Paradise Lake, Bethalto; Spring Lakes, Millstadt; Johnny's Fishing Lake, Granite City; Barth's Lake, Bunker Hill; Weder's Camp and Fish, Highland; Sandy's Lake, Granite City; Pleasure Acres, Springfield; Grigiski's Lake, Riverton; Paradise Lake, Assumption; Dixon Fisheries, East Peoria; Cedar Lakes, Coatsburg; Woody's Campground, Mendon; Pine Lakes, Pittsfield; Wagon Wheel Acres, Springfield, and Tyrell Gravel Co., Sycamore.

The FDA also said seven lakes yielded carp with dieldrin levels above the limit of .3 ppm.

They were listed as Tojo's Lake, East St. Louis; Emerald Lake, Granite City; Pine Lake, Pleasure Acres, Weder's, Wagon Wheel Acres and Fisherman's Paradise Lake.

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