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Lake Trout Safe

LANSING — Fisheries biologists are assuring the public that siscowet, or "fat", strains of lake trout from Lake Superior, recently found to have high levels of PCB contamination, are not normally found in anglers' catches.

This fish habitually stays in deeper waters on offshore reefs.

The so-called "lean" lake trout inshore are all well below the five parts-per-million safe level set for human consumption by the Food and Drug Administration.

Siscowet lake trout have more fatty tissue, in which the chemical is stored, biologists explained. These fish above 5 ppm contamination have shown up from Wisconsin to Grand Marais.

[redacted]

Lake Michigan siscowets show less contamination, biologists say, but the health warning there is against consumption more than once a week. Again, few are caught. Most lakers taken by fishermen there are the lean strain, also.

PCBs are not to be confused with the PBB contaminant found in cattle feed in the state recently. PCBs are used most often in electrical transformers and brake fluid.

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