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Fish Being Tested for Chemicals

Dept. of Natural Resources scientists are analyzing about 120 fish samples taken recently from the Mississippi River at Alma in an effort to pinpoint possible chemical contamination.

The samples are bieng examined for evidence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), a manufactured chemical shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals.

The United States Food and Drug Administration earlier this summer discovered PCB at unsafe levels in carp caught in Lake Pepin.

The federal agency ordered a halt to interstate shipments of the carp, and stopped commercial fishing on the Mississippi between Alma and Red Wing, Minn.

Stan Kleinert, chief of the resource department surveillance section, said the fish analysis would continue in July at stations near Pepin and Prescott, with results expected in August.

The information will be shared among agencies from Wisconsin, Minnesota and the federal government, while Minnesota authorities work to locate sources of the PCB.

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