

TDH News Release
August 29, 2003

TDH Issues Fish Advisory for Part of San Antonio's Leon Creek

The Texas Department of Health has issued an advisory against eating any species of fish from part of Leon Creek in San Antonio. TDH took the action after tests showed elevated levels of PCBs in the fish.

The advisory applies to fish taken from the portion of the creek from the U.S. Highway 90 bridge south to Military Drive. The affected area includes that part of the creek that flows through Pablos Grove Park and Lackland Air Force Base.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, are industrial chemicals once used in electrical transformers and capacitors. They were banned in the United States in the 1970s but degrade slowly in the environment. Long-term consumption of PCBs may cause cancer and reproductive, immune system, developmental and liver problems.

Fish samples tested from above and below the Highway 90-to-Military Drive stretch of the creek did not contain elevated levels of PCBs.

Testing of the fish samples was done by the TDH laboratory in Austin.

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(News media: for more information contact Gary Heideman, TDH Seafood Safety Division, 512-719-0215; or Doug McBride, TDH Press Officer, 512-458-7524.)