TDH News Release
October 4, 2002

Fish Ban, Advisory Issued for Parts of Trinity River

Texas Commissioner of Health Eduardo Sanchez has signed an order that prohibits keeping any species of fish caught in the Trinity River from Interstate 20 southeast of Dallas to the state Highway 34 bridge connecting Kaufman and Ellis counties. The ban was issued because of high levels of PCBs, chlordane and DDE in the fish. Fishing in that part of the Trinity is not banned, but keeping any fish caught is prohibited.

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) also has issued a consumption advisory warning people not to eat gar taken from the Trinity from the Highway 34 bridge south to where the Cedar Creek Reservoir discharge canal empties into the Trinity just north of Trinidad in Henderson County.

TDH seafood safety officials said the actions were taken after testing of fish samples by the TDH laboratory in Austin revealed elevated levels of the chemicals. They said specific sources of the chemicals are unknown. A 1990 ban on keeping fish from the Trinity from the Seventh Street Bridge in Fort Worth to the I-20 bridge southeast of Dallas remains in effect because of elevated levels of chlordane and PCBs.

PCBs are industrial chemicals once used in electrical transformers and capacitors. Chlordane is a pesticide. DDE is a chemical resulting from the decomposition of the pesticide DDT. Chlordane and DDT once were widely used in agricultural and residential settings. Long-term consumption of PCBs may cause cancer and reproductive, immune system, developmental and liver problems. Long-term consumption of chlordane and DDE may cause cancer and liver problems. Use of PCBs, chlordane and DTT has been banned by the Environmental Protection Agency for many years, but they degrade slowly in the environment.

Sanchez is the chief executive officer of TDH.

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*(**News Media:** for more information call Eric Fonken, TDH Seafood Safety Division, at 512-719-0215; or Doug McBride, TDH Press Officer, Austin, at 512-458-7524.)*