

April 19, 2000*news release*

From The Texas Department of Health

1100 West 49th Street Austin, Texas 78756 (512) 458-7400

TDH Web Site: www.tdh.state.tx.us**TDH Warns Against Eating Fish from Lake Worth**

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) officially advised today that fish from Lake Worth in Tarrant County should not be eaten.

TDH issued the consumption advisory after tests confirmed high levels of Polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, in fish taken from the lake. PCBs, a group of compounds once used in electrical capacitors and transformers, were banned in the United States in the late 1970s.

PCBs can cause liver damage and reproductive disorders and are believed to cause cancer in humans.

TDH officials said eating fish from Lake Worth would pose a "significant health risk."

- 30 -

(For more information contact Kirk Wiles, Director, TDH Seafood Safety Division, Austin, at 512-719-0215; or Doug McBride, TDH Public Information Officer, Austin, at 512-458-7524.)