



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER

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NEWS RELEASE

For Release: March 4, 2009
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2009 Fish Consumption Advisory Available

Ohio EPA has released fish consumption advisory updates for the 2009 fishing season. Advisories are relaxed for one species in two locations and more strict for seven species in 10 waterways.

A statewide advisory of one meal per week for all fish not otherwise specified remains in place due to mercury. Changes for this year are based on levels of chemicals found in fish tested in the most recent sampling season. The changes are described below:

Less Stringent

- Grand Lake St. Marys - Largemouth bass may be eaten twice per week because mercury levels in fish tested from this lake were lower than is typical statewide.
- Mogadore Reservoir -- Largemouth bass can now be eaten once per week, consistent with the statewide mercury advisory for all waters. Previously, the state had advised people to eat largemouth bass from this location no more than once a month, but mercury levels in the fish here have dropped.

More Stringent

- Black Fork Mohican River - Common carp should be eaten no more than once per month due to PCB contamination in waters from State Route 39 to the Mohican River.
- Clear Creek - Common carp from the waters near Clearport Road to the Hocking River should be eaten no more than once per month due to mercury.
- Hocking River - advisories increased to once-per-month include: Rock Mill Road to State Route 33 in Athens for PCB levels in common carp; State Route 33 to U.S. Route 50/State Route 32 in Athens for PCB levels in common carp and freshwater drum, and mercury levels in walleye; U.S. Route 50/State Route 32 in Athens to the mouth of the Ohio River for PCB levels in common carp and freshwater drum, and lead levels in spotted bass.
- Kokosing River - Rock bass (eight inches or more) and smallmouth bass (15 inches or more) caught between County Road 13/Green Valley Road in Mount Vernon to the Walhonding River should be eaten no more than once per month due to mercury.
- Little Miami River - Smallmouth bass, sauger, common carp (24 inches or more) and freshwater drum (16 inches or more) taken from lower Bellbrook Road to the Ohio River should be eaten no more than once per month due to mercury.
- Mill Creek in Ashtabula - Largemouth bass and rock bass from South Denmark Road in Jefferson to the Grand River should be eaten no more than once a month due to mercury.

- Ohio Brush Creek - Spotted bass from State Route 73 in Louden to the Ohio River should be eaten no more than once-per-month due to mercury.
- Salt Creek - Channel catfish (18 inches and over), sauger, smallmouth bass, spotted bass and flathead catfish from State Route 56 near Election Road in Haynes to the Scioto River should be eaten no more than once-per-month due to both mercury and PCBs.
- Salt Lick Creek - Spotted bass from North High Street in Jackson to State Route 216 at Springer Road should be eaten no more than one-per-month due to mercury.
- Yellow Creek - Freshwater drum caught from State Park Mooretown Road in Bravo to the Ohio River should be eaten no more than once-per-month due to mercury.

In addition to these updates, all Ohio fish advisories can be found on Ohio EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/fishadvisory/index.html> or call 1-800-755-4769 or (614) 644-2160.

Mercury poses the greatest risk for women of child-bearing age, pregnant and nursing mothers and children under 15. Fish contaminated with high levels of mercury have been shown to cause neurological damage and impaired development of young children. More detailed information about fish consumption can be found at Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Centers, local health departments, Ohio Department of Natural Resources district offices and Ohio EPA offices.

Ohio EPA partners with the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to develop consumption advisories for fish caught in Ohio. For the latest advisory, Ohio EPA and ODNR collected 415 samples. The information helps Ohio's fishing community make informed decisions about consuming their catch. To learn more about fish and shellfish purchased outside Ohio, please visit the federal government Web site: <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~frf/sea-mehg.html>.

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