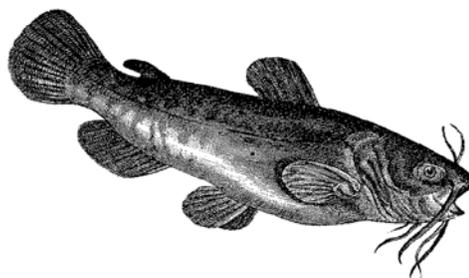
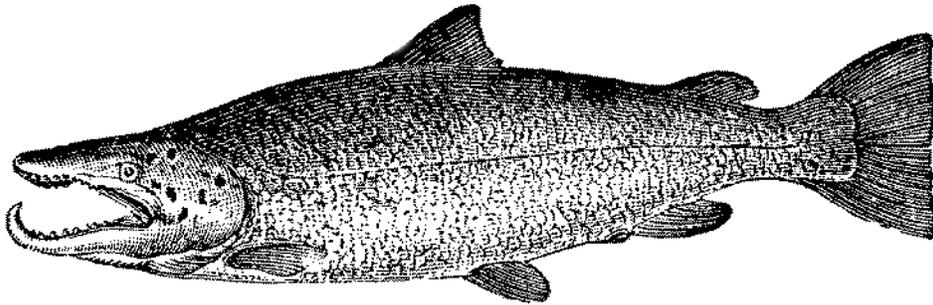


New York State Department of Health

2002-2003 Health Advisories



Chemicals in Sportfish and Game



These advisories are also available from the New York State Department of Health Web site on the Internet: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/environ/fish.htm>

In an effort to reduce the costs of printing, please notify us if you wish your name to be deleted from our mailing list or if your address has changed. Comments regarding the format or content of this booklet are welcome. Use the telephone number for Environmental Health Information listed on page 21 or e-mail: BTSA@health.state.ny.us

2002-2003 Health Advisories: Chemicals in Sportfish and Game

Summary

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) issues advisories on eating sportfish and game because some of these foods contain chemicals at levels that may be harmful to your health. These advisories are for sportfish and game that people take and are not for fish and game sold in markets. The health advisories are: (1) general advice on sportfish taken from waters in New York State; (2) advice on sportfish from specific waterbodies; and (3) advice on eating game. The advisory tells you how to minimize your exposure to contaminants in sportfish and game and reduce whatever health risks are associated with them. The advisories are updated yearly.

Background

Fish and game are nutritious and good to eat. But some fish may take in contaminants from the water they live in and the food they eat. Game, too, may take in contaminants from their food and water. Some of these contaminants build up in fish and game--and in people--over time. These contaminants could harm people, so it is important to keep your exposure to these contaminants as low as possible.

The federal government sets standards for chemicals in food that is sold commercially, including fish. The decision to eat sportfish or game that you take is not regulated by government. Instead, state governments issue advisories. In New York State, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) routinely monitors contaminant levels in fish and game and DOH issues advisories when sportfish have contaminant levels greater than federal standards.

These advisories are not intended to discourage you from eating fish or game, but should be used as a guide to minimize your exposure to contaminants.

Health Benefits

When properly prepared, fish provide a diet high in protein and low in saturated fats. Almost any kind of fish may have real health benefits if it replaces a high-fat source of protein in the diet. You can get the health benefits of fish and reduce unwanted contaminants by following the guidelines in these advisories.

Contaminants in Fish and Game

Long-lasting contaminants, such as PCBs, DDT and cadmium, build up in your body over time. It may take months or years of regularly eating contaminated fish or game to build up amounts that are a health concern. Health problems that may result from the contaminants found in fish or game range from small changes in health that are hard to detect to birth defects and cancer. Mothers who eat highly contaminated fish and game before becoming pregnant may have children who are slower to develop and learn. The meal advice in this advisory is also intended to protect children from these potential developmental problems. Women beyond their childbearing years and men face fewer health risks from contaminants than children do. People in this group should follow the advisory to reduce their total exposure to contaminants.

Some contaminants cause cancer in animals. We cannot predict with certainty your risks of cancer from eating contaminated fish or game. Cancer currently affects about one in every three people, primarily due to smoking, diet and hereditary risk factors. Exposure to contaminants in the fish and game you eat may not increase your cancer risk at all. If you follow this advisory over your lifetime, you will minimize your exposure and reduce whatever cancer risk is associated with these contaminants.

More information about the chemicals that

have led to advisories in New York State sportfish and game and potential health effects can be found on page 18. When the federal government sets standards for fish, it generally assumes that people eat about a half-pound of fish each month. The contaminant levels are measured in a skin-on fillet which has not been trimmed; this sample is used in determining whether or not the fish exceeds standards. Fish cannot be legally sold if they contain a contaminant at a level greater than its standard. When sportfish from a waterbody contain contaminants at levels greater than the federal standards, DOH issues a specific advisory.

General Advisory for Eating Sportfish

The general health advisory for sportfish is that you eat no more than one meal (one-half pound) per week of fish taken from the state's freshwaters and some marine waters at the mouth of the Hudson River. These include the New York waters of the Hudson River, Upper Bay of New York Harbor (north of Verrazano Narrows Bridge), Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull, Harlem River and the East River to the Throgs Neck Bridge (see map on page 16). This general advisory is to protect against eating large amounts of fish that have not been tested or may contain unidentified contaminants. The general advisory does not apply to most marine waters.

Specific Advisories for Freshwater, the Hudson River and the Upper Bay of New York Harbor

Fish from more than 70 waterbodies in New York have contaminant levels that are greater than federal standards. For these waters, DOH recommends either limiting or not eating a specific kind of fish (see pages 6 to 14). In some cases, enough information is available to issue advisories based on the length of the fish. Older (larger) fish are often more contaminated than younger (smaller) fish.

The contaminants that led to the advisory (mercury, cadmium, PCBs, chlordane, dioxin, DDT and mirex) are listed next to each advisory. If you eat fish from more than one water body with these advisories, you should limit consumption from all of the waters you fish. For example, if you eat a meal of Koppers Pond carp, you should not eat American eel

from Kinderhook Lake for the rest of that month since both of these fish species have EAT NO MORE THAN ONE MEAL PER MONTH advisories and both are based on PCB contamination.

Advisory for Women, Infants and Children

Health advice is also given for infants, children under the age of 15 and women of childbearing age. DOH recommends that these groups not eat any fish from the specific waterbodies listed in the advisory. The reason for this specific advice is that chemicals may have a greater effect on developing organs in young children or in the fetus. They also build up in women's bodies and are often passed on in mother's milk. Waters that have specific advisories have at least one species of fish with an elevated contaminant level, which means that a contamination source is or was in or near the water.

When eating fish from waters where cadmium or mercury are listed as primary contaminants, it is important to space out fish meals according to the specific advisory for that waterbody. For example, if you eat a meal of yellow perch from Moshier Reservoir, you should not eat any more fish with the same mercury advisory for the rest of that month. However, for other contaminants, the total number of meals that you eat during the year is important and many of those meals can be eaten during a few months of the year. If most of the fish you eat are from the ONE MEAL PER WEEK category, you should not exceed 52 meals per year. Likewise, if most of the fish you eat are in the ONE MEAL PER MONTH category, you should not exceed 12 meals per year. Remember, eating one meal of fish from the ONE MEAL PER MONTH group is the same as eating four meals from the ONE MEAL PER WEEK group.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration Advice

Due to concerns about mercury contamination, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advises pregnant women, women of childbearing age who may become pregnant, nursing mothers and young children to eat no shark, swordfish, king mackerel or tilefish. FDA also acknowledges seafood can be an important part of a balanced diet for pregnant

women and women who may become pregnant, and advises that they can eat up to 12 ounces per week of a variety of other kinds of fish. If you have any questions or would like additional information on this advice, you can call FDA (toll-free) at 1-888-INFO-FDA.

The full FDA advisory can be found at: <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/admehg.html>. Additional information for consumers about mercury in fish from the market can be found at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~frf/sea-mehg.html>.

Advisories for Other Marine Waters

DOH also issues specific advisories for Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound, Peconic/Gardiners Bays, the Lower Bay of New York Harbor, Jamaica Bay and other Long Island south shore waters (see maps on pages 16 and 17). These apply to striped bass, bluefish and American eels and are the only fish advisories that apply to these waters. Ocean fish, although tested less often, are generally less contaminated than freshwater fish. However, striped bass, bluefish and eels have specific habits or characteristics that make them more likely to have contaminants than other marine species (see page 17).

Advisories for Chemical Contaminants in Crabs and Lobsters

DOH has a special advisory to eat no more than six Hudson River blue crabs per week and to avoid consuming crab cooking liquid due to cadmium and PCB contamination. DOH also recommends that you not eat the soft green substance (mustard, tomalley, liver or hepatopancreas) found in the body section of crabs and lobsters from any waters, because cadmium, PCBs and other contaminants concentrate there.

Advisories for Eating Game

DOH also issues advisories about eating some game. These are on page 17 of this booklet and include advisories for eating snapping turtles and waterfowl statewide because they contain PCBs and other contaminants. Because these contaminants concentrate in fat, you can minimize your exposure by not eating fat from these game

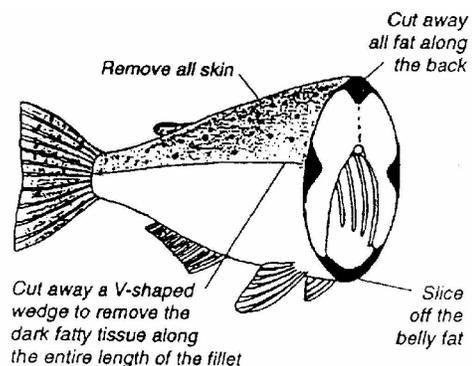
and by following the cooking and eating advice on page 17.

Deformed or Abnormal Fish

The health implications of eating deformed or abnormal fish are unknown. Any obviously diseased fish (marked by tumors, lesions or other abnormal condition of the fish skin, meat or internal organs) should be discarded.

Cleaning and Cooking Your Fish

Many contaminants are found at higher levels in the fat of fish. You can reduce the amount of these contaminants in a fish meal by properly trimming, skinning and cooking your catch. Remove the skin and trim all the fat from the belly flap, the line along the sides, the fat along the back and under the skin (see the diagram below).



Cooking or soaking fish cannot eliminate the contaminants, but heat from cooking melts some of the fat in fish and allows some of the contaminated fat to drip away. Broil, grill or bake the trimmed, skinned fish on a rack so that the fat drips away. Do not use drippings to prepare sauces or gravies.

These precautions will not reduce the amount of mercury or other metals. Mercury is distributed throughout a fish's muscle tissue (the part you eat), rather than in the fat and skin. Therefore, the only way to reduce mercury intake is to reduce the amount of contaminated fish you eat.

Botulism in Fish and Waterfowl

In recent years, large numbers of some species of Lake Erie fish and waterfowl have been found dead, sick and dying, many of them as a result of botulism poisoning. The botulism

poison is produced by *Clostridium botulinum*, a bacterium that is common in the environment and can produce harmful levels of botulism poison under certain environmental conditions. This poison has been found in some of the affected fish and waterfowl. The botulism poison can cause illness and death if consumed by humans or animals. Cooking may not destroy the botulism poison. This problem may also occur in other waters, and we don't know whether all or only some fish and waterfowl species can be affected.

No human cases of botulism poisoning have been linked to these events. However, as a precaution, do not eat any fish or game if they are found dead or dying, act abnormally or seem sick. If you must handle dead or dying fish, birds or other animals, cover your hands with disposable rubber or plastic protective gloves or a plastic bag. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is monitoring the situation and investigating the cause of this problem.

Good Sanitary Practices - Bacteria, Viruses and Parasites in Fish and Game

Fish and game and other meats can be contaminated with bacteria, viruses or parasites that can cause illness. You should harvest fish and game that act and look healthy, and follow good sanitary practices when preparing them. We recommend that you wear rubber or plastic protective gloves while filleting, field dressing, skinning or butchering. We also recommend that you remove intestines soon after harvest, don't eat intestines and avoid direct contact with intestinal contents. Hands, utensils and work surfaces should be washed before and after handling any raw food, including fish and game meat. Fish and game should be kept cool (with ice or refrigerated below 45°F or 7°C) until filleted or butchered and then should be refrigerated or frozen. Some hunters prefer to hang big game for several days before butchering; this should not be done unless the game can be kept at temperatures consistently below 45°F. Fish and other seafood should be cooked to an internal temperature (in the thickest part) of 140°F (60°C); game birds and other types of wild game meat should be cooked to an internal temperature (in the thickest part) of 165°F (74°C).

Advice on Eating Raw or Partially Cooked Fish, Shellfish and Other Meats

Foods of animal origin, such as pork, poultry, beef, dairy products, fish and shellfish, can be contaminated with bacteria, viruses or parasites that can cause illness. Persons at high risk (for example, those who are immunocompromised, suffer from liver disease or other chronic diseases) can be more susceptible to and more severely affected by these infectious diseases. This is why the Department of Health recommends that all of these foods be thoroughly cooked before eating. Government agencies, universities and the food industry have active programs that strive to minimize contamination of raw animal foods and assure safe food products.

Information on rules and regulations, including areas in which clam, oyster and mussel collection is permitted, can be obtained from DEC by calling (631) 444-0475. DEC routinely tests clam, oyster and mussel beds for bacteria. Based on these tests, an area may be closed to clam, oyster and mussel harvesting. Call DEC at (631) 444-0480 for a list of emergency closures.

Fish From Waters Affected by Beach Wash-ups

There is no indication that the wash-up of medical-type waste and garbage on New York and Long Island beaches has affected the sanitary condition of marine fish, lobster and crabs. Fish do not carry the AIDS virus. Consumers need not worry about eating these foods because of these problems. Good sanitary practices should be followed when preparing fish or any other food.

Reducing Exposure To Chemical Contaminants From Fish

Fish are an important source of protein and are low in saturated fat. Naturally occurring fish oils lower plasma cholesterol and triglycerides, thereby decreasing the risk of coronary heart disease. Increasing fish consumption is useful in reducing dietary fat and controlling weight. By eating a diet that includes food from a variety of protein sources, an individual is more likely to have a diet that is adequate in all

nutrients.

Although eating fish has some health benefits, fish with high contaminant levels should be avoided. When deciding whether or not to eat fish that may be contaminated, the benefits of eating those fish can be weighed against the risks.

For young women, eating contaminated fish is a health concern not only for themselves but also for any unborn or nursing child, since the chemicals may reach the unborn babies and can be passed on in mother's milk. For an older person with heart disease, the risks, especially of long-term health effects, may not be as great a concern when compared to the benefits of reducing the risks of heart disease.

Everyone can benefit from eating the fish they catch and can minimize their contaminant intake by following these general recommendations:

1. Choose sportfish from waterbodies that are not listed on pages 6 through 14 and follow the advice in this booklet.
2. When preparing sportfish, use a method of filleting the fish that will reduce the skin, fatty material and dark meat. These parts of the fish contain many of the contaminants.
3. When deciding which sportfish to eat, choose smaller fish, consistent with DEC regulations, within a species since they may have lower contaminant levels. Older (larger) fish within a species may be more contaminated because they have had more time to accumulate contaminants in their bodies.
4. Do not eat the soft green tissue (mustard, tomalley, liver or hepatopancreas) found in the body section of crab and lobster. This tissue has been found to contain high levels of chemical contaminants, including PCBs and heavy metals.
5. When eating sportfish, use cooking methods such as broiling, poaching, boiling and baking, which allow contaminants from the fatty portions of fish to drain out. Pan frying is not recommended. The cooking liquids and fat drippings of fish from contaminated waters should be discarded since these liquids may retain contaminants.
6. Anglers who want to enjoy the fun of fishing but who wish to eliminate the potential risks associated with eating

contaminated sportfish may want to consider "catch and release" fishing. Refer to the DEC *New York State Fishing Regulations Guide* for suggestions on catch and release fishing techniques.

Lead in Fishing Tackle and Bullets

Lead can cause health problems when it builds up in the body. Because the fetus and young child are at the greatest risk, it is particularly important for pregnant women, women of child-bearing age and young children to minimize their lead exposures. Lead poisoning can slow a child's physical growth and mental development and can cause behavior and other nervous system problems, reproductive problems, kidney and liver damage, blindness and even death in both adults and children. Fishing tackle (especially sinkers and jig heads), bullets and shot often contain lead; in order to reduce exposure to the lead in these products, you should:

- Keep all lead objects away from young children (young children often put their hands and objects in their mouth).
- Wash hands with soap and water after holding or using lead sinkers and jig heads or reloading lead bullets or shot.
- Never put lead sinkers in your mouth. This includes biting down on lead sinkers.
- Never eat, drink, or smoke immediately after handling lead sinkers, bullets or shot; wash hands first.
- Take proper precautions when melting lead and pouring sinkers or bullets at home. Use jacketed bullets (a jacketed bullet is a bullet enveloped in a casing of another material such as copper) and shotgun shells with plastic wads. Studies have shown that people can be exposed to lead from shooting at indoor and outdoor firing ranges. For additional information on how to minimize your exposure to lead, call 1-800-458-1158, ext 27900 (toll free).
- Consider non-lead alternatives. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) encourages anglers to use non-lead alternatives for sinkers and jig heads to reduce the risk of lead poisoning to birds. More information is provided on the DEC website at: http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/respangl.html#non_toxic

2002-2003 Health Advisories

The following recommendations are based on contaminant levels in fish and game. To minimize potential adverse health impacts, the DOH recommends:

- **Eat no more than one meal (one-half pound) per week** of fish from the state's freshwaters, the Hudson River estuary, Upper Bay of New York Harbor (north of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge), Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull, East River to the Throgs Neck Bridge and Harlem River, except as recommended below.
- **Women of childbearing age, infants and children under the age of 15 should not eat** any fish species from waters listed below.
- **Follow trimming and cooking advice.**
- Observe the following restrictions on eating fish from these waters and their tributaries to the first barrier impassable by fish.
- Advice for other marine waters is on page 17.

Water (County)	Species	Recommendations	Chemical(s) of Concern
Arthur Kill [64] (Richmond)	See Hudson River (south of Catskill)		PCBs
Ashokan Reservoir [57] (Ulster)	Smallmouth bass over 16" and walleye	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Barge Canal [4] Tonawanda Creek from Lockport to Niagara River (Erie & Niagara)	Carp	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
Beaver Lake [34] (Lewis)	Chain pickerel	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Belmont Lake [76] (Suffolk)	Carp	Eat no more than one meal per month	Chlordane, PCBs
Big Moose Lake [29] (Herkimer)	Yellow perch over 9 inches	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Boyds Corner Reservoir [58] (Putnam)	Largemouth bass over 16 inches and walleye	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Buffalo River/Harbor [6] (Erie)	Carp	Eat none	PCBs
Canadice Lake [9] (Ontario)	Lake or brown trout	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs

Waters with changes from the 2001-2002 Health Advisories are underlined.
Numbers in brackets refer to map on page 15.

Water (County)	Species	Recommendations	Chemical(s) of Concern
Canandaigua Lake [10] (Ontario & Yates)	Lake trout over 24"	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
Cannonsville Reservoir [52] (Delaware)	Smallmouth bass over 15"	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Carry Falls Reservoir [21] (St. Lawrence)	Walleye	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Cayuga Creek [2] (Niagara)	All species	Eat none	Dioxin
Chenango River [48]	Walleye over 22"	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Cranberry Lake [24] (St. Lawrence)	Smallmouth bass	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
<u>Cross River Reservoir</u> [59] (Westchester)	Largemouth and smallmouth bass over 16"	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Dart Lake [30] (Herkimer)	Yellow perch over 10"	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Delaware Park Lake [5] (Erie)	Carp	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
East River [63] (NYC)	American eel	Eat none	PCBs
	Atlantic needlefish, bluefish, striped bass and white perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
Eighteen Mile Creek [3] (Niagara)	All species	Eat none	PCBs
Ferris Lake [40] (Hamilton)	Yellow perch over 12"	Eat none	Mercury
	Smaller yellow perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Fourth Lake [36] (Herkimer & Hamilton)	Lake trout	Eat none	DDT
Francis Lake [32] (Lewis)	Yellow perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury

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Numbers in brackets refer to map on page 15.

Please note the special advice for **women of childbearing age, infants and children under the age of 15** on page 2.

Water (County)	Species	Recommendations	Chemical(s) of Concern
Freeport Reservoir [74] (Nassau)	Carp	Eat no more than one meal per month	Chlordane
Grant Park Pond [69] (Nassau)	Carp	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
Grasse River [20] Mouth to Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	All species	Eat none	PCBs
Halfmoon Lake [33] (Lewis)	Yellow perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Hall's Pond [70] (Nassau)	Carp and goldfish	Eat none	Chlordane
Harlem River [62] (NYC)	American eel	Eat none	PCBs
	Atlantic needlefish, bluefish, striped bass and white perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
Herrick Hollow Creek [50] (Delaware)	Brook trout	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
Hoosic River [43] (Rensselaer)	Brown trout over 14"	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
Hudson River [47] Corinth Dam to Dam at Route 9 Bridge in South Glens Falls	Smallmouth bass over 14"	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Sherman Island Dam downstream to Feeder Dam at South Glens Falls	Carp	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
Dam at Route 9 Bridge in South Glens Falls to Troy Dam	All species	Eat none	PCBs
Troy Dam south to bridge at Catskill	All species except Alewife, American shad, blueback herring, rock bass and yellow perch	Eat none	PCBs

Hudson River Advisory continued on next page

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Please note the special advice for **women of childbearing age, infants and children under the age of 15** on page 2.

Water (County)	Species	Recommendations	Chemical(s) of Concern
Hudson River (continued) Troy Dam south to bridge at Catskill	Alewife, blueback herring, rock bass and yellow perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
	American shad (general advisory)	Eat no more than one meal per week	PCBs
Bridge at Catskill south to and including the Upper Bay of New York Harbor (north of Verrazano Narrows Bridge), Arthur Kill and Kill Van Kull	Gizzard shad	Eat none	PCBs
	American eel, Atlantic needlefish, bluefish, carp, channel catfish, goldfish, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, rainbow smelt, striped bass, walleye, white catfish and white perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
	Blue crab	Eat no more than six crabs per week	Cadmium, PCBs
	--hepatopancreas	Eat none	Cadmium, PCBs
	--cooking liquid	Discard	Cadmium, PCBs
Dobbs Ferry south to Greystone	American eel	Eat none	PCBs
	Other species	See advisories for Hudson River south of Catskill (above)	
Indian Lake [17] (Lewis)	All species	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Irondequoit Bay [8] (Monroe)	Carp	Eat none	PCBs, Mirex
Keuka Lake [11] (Yates & Steuben)	Lake trout over 25"	Eat no more than one meal per month	DDT
Kill Van Kull [65] (Richmond)	See Hudson River (south of Catskill)		PCBs
Kinderhook Lake [46] (Columbia)	American eel	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs

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Water (County)	Species	Recommendations	Chemical(s) of Concern
Koppers Pond [12] (Chemung)	Carp	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
Lake Capri [77] (Suffolk)	American eel and carp	Eat no more than one meal per month	Chlordane, Cadmium
Lake Champlain [23] Whole Lake	Lake trout over 25" and walleye over 19"	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs, Mercury
Bay within Cumberland Head to Crab Island	Brown bullhead	Eat none	PCBs
	American eel and yellow perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
Lake Ontario [7] Including Niagara River below Niagara Falls (see Niagara River for additional advice)	American eel, channel catfish, carp, lake trout over 25", brown trout over 20" and chinook salmon	Eat none	PCBs, Mirex, Dioxin
	White sucker, rainbow trout, smaller lake trout, smaller brown trout and coho salmon over 25"	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs, Mirex, Dioxin
West of Point Breeze	White perch	Eat none	PCBs, Mirex, Dioxin
East of Point Breeze	White perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs, Mirex, Dioxin
Loft's Pond [72] (Nassau)	Carp and goldfish	Eat no more than one meal per month	Chlordane
Long Pond-Croghan [25] (Lewis)	Splake over 12"	Eat none	Mercury
Lower and Upper Sister Lakes [28] (Hamilton)	Yellow perch over 10"	Eat none	Mercury
Upper Massapequa Reservoir [75] (Nassau)	White perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	Chlordane
Massena Power Canal [19] (St. Lawrence)	Smallmouth bass	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs

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Water (County)	Species	Recommendations	Chemical(s) of Concern	
Meacham Lake [22] (Franklin)	Yellow perch over 12"	Eat none	Mercury	
	Smaller yellow perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury	
Mohawk River [41] Between Oriskany and West Canada Creeks (Oneida & Herkimer)	Carp	Eat none	PCBs	
	Largemouth bass and tiger muskellunge	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs	
Moshier Reservoir [26] (Herkimer)	Yellow perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury	
Nassau Lake [45] (Rensselaer)	All species	Eat none	PCBs	
Neversink Reservoir [55] (Sullivan)	Smallmouth bass	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury	
New York Harbor [66]	See Hudson River (south of Catskill) and marine waters advice on page 17		PCBs	
Niagara River [1] Above Niagara Falls	Carp	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs	
	Below Niagara Falls (also see Lake Ontario)	White perch	Eat none	PCBs, Mirex, Dioxin
	Smallmouth bass	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs, Mirex, Dioxin	
Onondaga Lake [14] (Onondaga)	Walleye	Eat none	Mercury	
	Carp and Channel catfish	Eat no more than one meal per month	Dioxin,PCBs, Mercury	
	All other species	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury	
Oswego River [15] Oswego power dam to upper dam at Fulton (Oswego)	Channel catfish	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs	

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Water (County)	Species	Recommendations	Chemical(s) of Concern
Pepacton Reservoir [54] (Delaware)	Smallmouth bass over 15"	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Ridders Pond [68] (Nassau)	Goldfish	Eat none	Chlordane
Rondout Reservoir [56] (Sullivan and Ulster)	Smallmouth bass over 16"	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Round Pond [37] Town of Long Lake (Hamilton)	Yellow perch over 12"	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
St. James Pond [78] (Suffolk)	All species	Eat no more than one meal per month	Chlordane, DDT
St. Lawrence River [18] Whole River	American eel, channel catfish, lake trout over 25", carp, brown trout over 20" and chinook salmon	Eat none	PCBs, Mirex, Dioxin
	White perch, white sucker, rainbow trout, smaller lake trout, smaller brown trout and coho salmon over 25"	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs, Mirex, Dioxin
Bay at St. Lawrence/ Franklin Co. line	All species	Eat none	PCBs
Salmon River [16] Mouth to Salmon Reservoir (Oswego) (also see Lake Ontario)	Smallmouth bass	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs, Mirex
Sauquoit Creek [42] Between Old Silk Mill Dam (near New Hartford/Paris town line) and Mohawk River (Oneida)	Brown trout	Eat none	PCBs
Saw Mill River [60] (Westchester)	American eel	Eat no more than one meal per month	Chlordane

Waters with changes from the 2001-2002 Health Advisories are underlined.

Numbers in brackets refer to map on page 15.

Please note the special advice for **women of childbearing age, infants and children under the age of 15** on page 2.

Water (County)	Species	Recommendations	Chemical(s) of Concern
<u>Schoharie Reservoir</u> [53] (Delaware, Greene and Schoharie)	Walleye	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Schroon Lake [38] (Warren & Essex)	Lake trout over 27", yellow perch over 13" and smallmouth bass	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs, Mercury
Sheldrake River [61] (Westchester)	American eel	Eat none	Chlordane, Dieldrin
	Goldfish	Eat no more than one meal per month	Chlordane
Skaneateles Creek [13] From dam at Skaneateles to Seneca River (Onondaga)	Brown trout over 10"	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs
Smith Pond - Rockville Centre [71] (Nassau)	White perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	Chlordane
Smith Pond - Roosevelt Park [73] (Nassau)	American eel	Eat none	Chlordane
	Carp and goldfish	Eat no more than one meal per month	Chlordane
Soft Maple Reservoir [35] (Lewis)	Rock bass	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Spring Pond - Middle Island [79] (Suffolk)	Carp and goldfish	Eat none	Chlordane
Stillwater Reservoir [27] (Herkimer)	Yellow perch over 9", smallmouth bass and splake	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Sunday Lake [31] (Herkimer)	Yellow perch	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Susquehanna River [51]	Walleye over 22"	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Threemile Creek [39] (Oneida)	White sucker	Eat no more than one meal per month	PCBs

Waters with changes from the 2001-2002 Health Advisories are **underlined**.

Numbers in brackets refer to map on page 15.

Please note the special advice for **women of childbearing age, infants and children under the age of 15** on page 2.

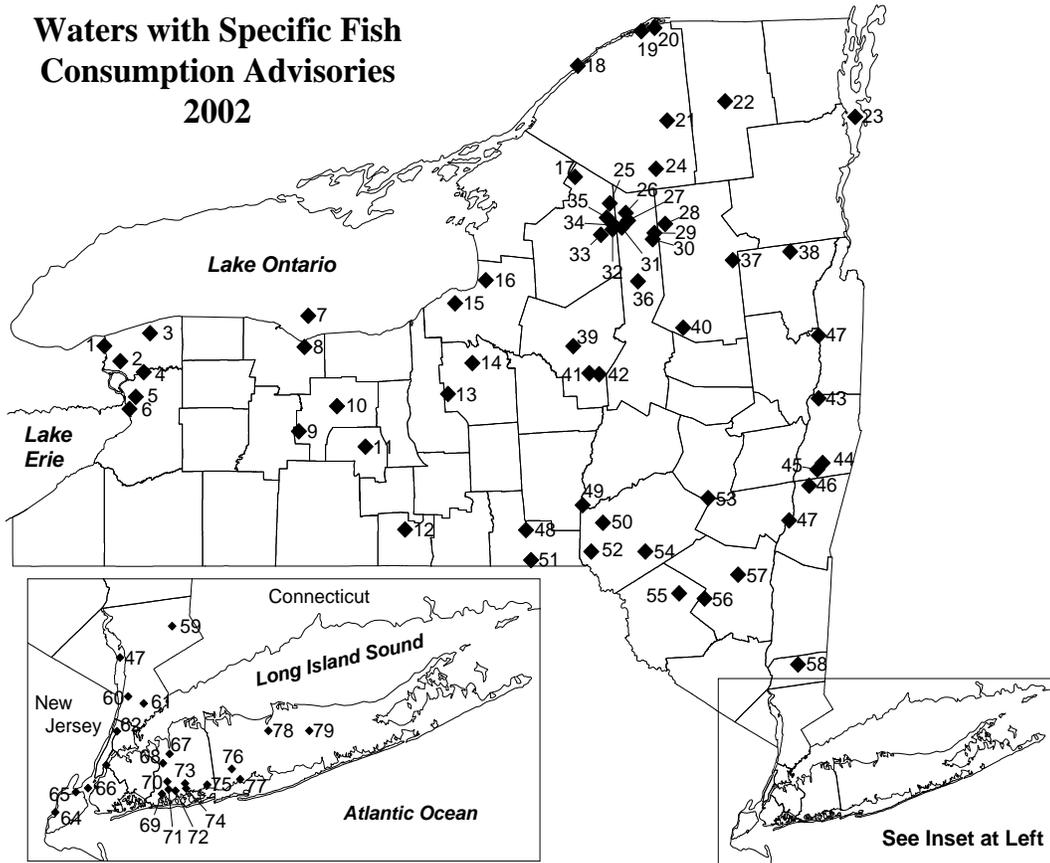
Water (County)	Species	Recommendations	Chemical(s) of Concern
Unadilla River [49]	Walleye over 22"	Eat no more than one meal per month	Mercury
Upper and Lower Sister Lakes [28] (Hamilton)	Yellow perch over 10"	Eat none	Mercury
Valatie Kill [44] Between County Rt. 18 and Nassau Lake (Rensselaer)	All species	Eat none	PCBs
Whitney Park Pond [67] (Nassau)	Carp and goldfish	Eat no more than one meal per month	Chlordane

Waters with changes from the 2001-2002 Health Advisories are underlined.

Numbers in brackets refer to map on page 15.

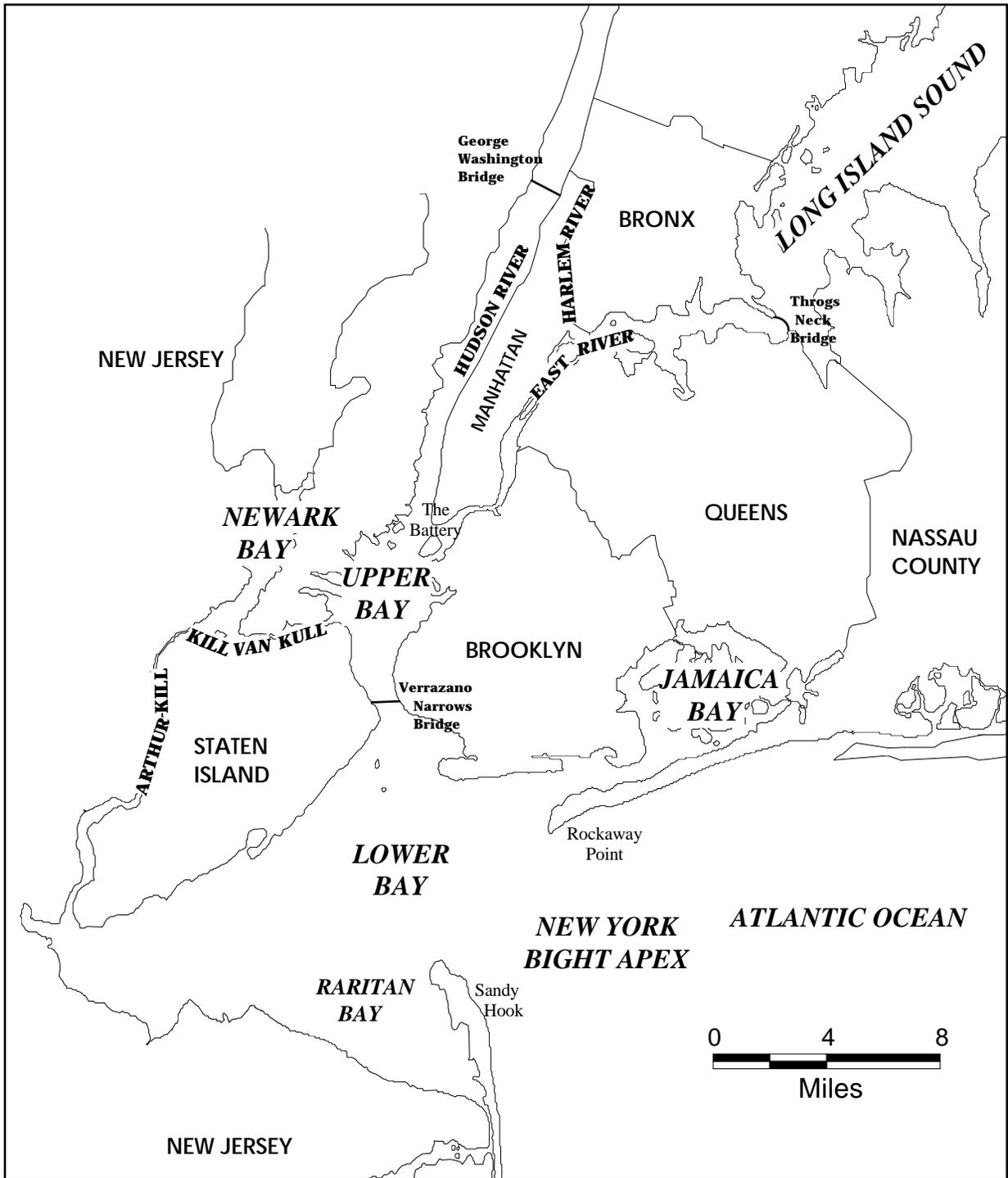
Please note the special advice for **women of childbearing age, infants and children under the age of 15** on page 2.

Waters with Specific Fish Consumption Advisories 2002



- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Niagara River | 27 Stillwater Reservoir | 53 Schoharie Reservoir |
| 2 Cayuga Creek | 28 Upper and Lower Sister Lakes | 54 Pepacton Reservoir |
| 3 Eighteen Mile Creek | 29 Big Moose Lake | 55 Neversink Reservoir |
| 4 Barge Canal | 30 Dart Lake | 56 Rondout Reservoir |
| 5 Delaware Park Lake | 31 Sunday Lake | 57 Ashokan Reservoir |
| 6 Buffalo River and Harbor | 32 Francis Lake | 58 Boyds Corner Reservoir |
| 7 Lake Ontario | 33 Halfmoon Lake | 59 Cross River Reservoir |
| 8 Irondequoit Bay | 34 Beaver Lake | 60 Saw Mill River |
| 9 Canadice Lake | 35 Soft Maple Reservoir | 61 Sheldrake River |
| 10 Canandaigua Lake | 36 Fourth Lake | 62 Harlem River |
| 11 Keuka Lake | 37 Round Pond | 63 East River |
| 12 Koppers Pond | 38 Schroon Lake | 64 Arthur Kill |
| 13 Skaneateles Creek | 39 Threemile Creek | 65 Kill Van Kull |
| 14 Onondaga Lake | 40 Ferris Lake | 66 New York Harbor |
| 15 Oswego River | 41 Mohawk River | 67 Whitney Park Pond |
| 16 Salmon River | 42 Sauquoit Creek | 68 Ridders Pond |
| 17 Indian Lake | 43 Hoosic River | 69 Grant Park Pond |
| 18 St. Lawrence River | 44 Valatie Kill | 70 Hall's Pond |
| 19 Massena Power Canal | 45 Nassau Lake | 71 Smith Pond (Rockville Centre) |
| 20 Grasse River | 46 Kinderhook Lake | 72 Loft's Pond |
| 21 Carry Falls Reservoir | 47 Hudson River | 73 Smith Pond (Roosevelt Park) |
| 22 Meacham Lake | 48 Chenango River | 74 Freeport Reservoir |
| 23 Lake Champlain | 49 Unadilla River | 75 Upper Massapequa Reservoir |
| 24 Cranberry Lake | 50 Herrick Hollow Creek | 76 Belmont Lake |
| 25 Long Pond (Croghan) | 51 Susquehanna River | 77 Lake Capri |
| 26 Moshier Reservoir | 52 Cannonsville Reservoir | 78 St. James Pond |
| | | 79 Spring Pond (Middle Island) |

Map of New York City Harbor Region



Additional Advice

Advisories for Lake Erie - Due to PCB contamination, women of childbearing age, infants and children under the age of 15 are advised to eat no more than one meal per week of chinook salmon less than 19 inches, burbot, freshwater drum, lake whitefish, rock bass and yellow perch and to EAT NO MORE THAN ONE MEAL PER MONTH of all other fish from Lake Erie. Other people should eat no more than one meal per week of any Lake Erie fish species.

Marine Bluefish and Eels - The general advisory {Eat no more than one meal (one-half pound) per week} applies to bluefish and American eels but not to most other fish (see Marine Striped Bass below) from Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound, Peconic/ Gardiners Bays, the Lower Bay of New York Harbor, Jamaica Bay and other Long Island south shore waters. (Contaminant of concern - PCBs)

Marine Striped Bass - Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 15 should eat no striped bass from Upper and Lower Bays of New York Harbor or Long Island Sound west of Wading River. Other people should EAT NO MORE THAN ONE MEAL PER MONTH of striped bass from these waters. Everyone should eat no more than one meal per week of striped bass taken from Jamaica Bay, Eastern Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound, Peconic/Gardiners Bay or Long Island south shore waters. (Contaminant of concern - PCBs)

Crabs and Lobsters - The hepatopancreas (sometimes called mustard, tomalley or liver) of crabs and lobsters should not be eaten because it

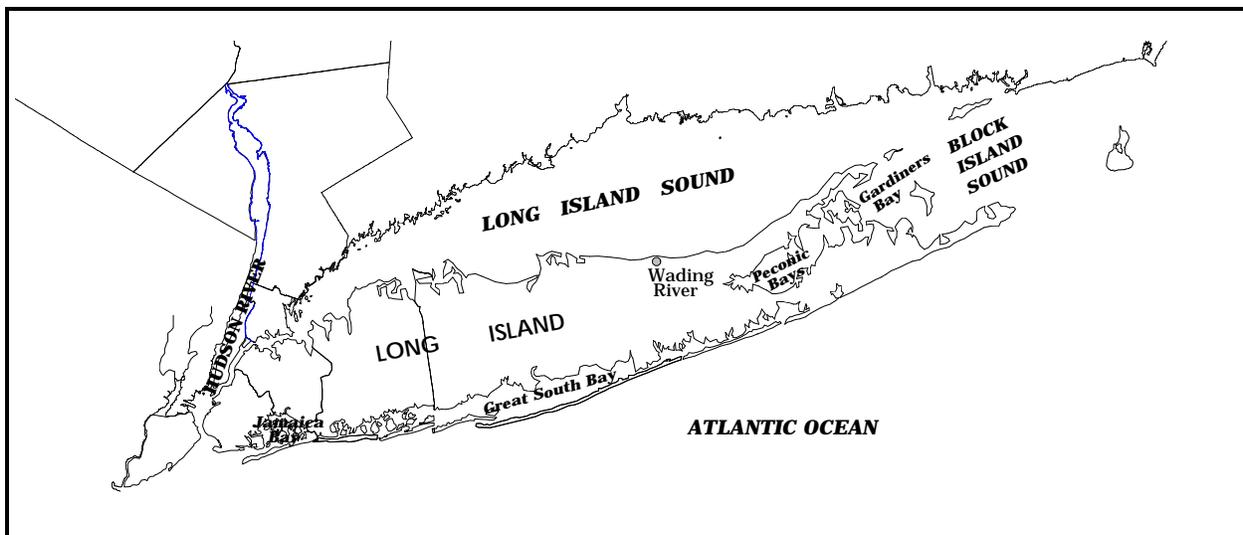
has high contaminant levels. (Contaminants of concern - PCBs, cadmium, dioxin)

Hudson River Shad - The advisory for women of childbearing age, infants and children under 15 is EAT NONE for all fish from the lower Hudson River because of PCB contamination. Shad have lower PCB levels than other species. A few meals of Hudson River shad meat and roe, especially using cooking and trimming methods to minimize PCB content, would not pose an unacceptable health risk for women of childbearing age and children, assuming this is their only significant exposure to PCBs.

Snapping Turtles - Snapping turtles retain contaminants in their fat, liver, eggs and, to a lesser extent, muscle. If you choose to consume snapping turtles, you can reduce your exposure by carefully trimming away all fat and discarding the fat, liver and eggs prior to cooking the meat or preparing soup. Women of childbearing age, infants and children under the age of 15 should AVOID EATING snapping turtles or soups made with their meat. (Contaminant of concern - PCBs)

Wild Waterfowl - Mergansers are the most heavily contaminated waterfowl species and should NOT BE EATEN. EAT NO MORE THAN TWO MEALS PER MONTH of other wild waterfowl; you should skin them and remove all fat before cooking, and discard stuffing after cooking. Wood ducks and Canada geese are less contaminated than other wild waterfowl species and diving ducks are more contaminated than dabblers. (Contaminants of concern - PCBs, mirex, chlordane, DDT)

Map of New York Marine Waters



Information on Chemicals in Sportfish and Game

The following paragraphs give some basic information on chemicals in sportfish and game in New York State. Most of our knowledge of potential health effects comes from high dose animal studies or worker exposures. Chemicals that cause adverse health effects in humans and laboratory animals after high levels of exposure may increase the risk of adverse effects in humans exposed to lower levels for long periods of time. Following the suggestions in the advisory will minimize your exposure and any health risks from contaminants in fish.

Chlordane

Chlordane is a man-made pesticide that was used widely to control agricultural and home/garden pests until most uses were banned in the United States during the mid-1970s. In New York State, chlordane was used for the underground control of termites until that use was banned in 1985. Chlordane generally gets into bodies of water after improper waste disposal or run-off from treated areas. Chlordane builds up in the fatty tissues of fish, birds and mammals and can be found in fish and shellfish caught in chlordane-contaminated waters. Since chlordane is present in the fatty tissues of fish, exposure to chlordane in fish can be reduced by certain cleaning and cooking practices (see page 3).

People exposed to large amounts of chlordane may have nervous system damage. Exposure to high levels of chlordane damages the nervous system and liver of laboratory animals. Some animals exposed before birth and while nursing developed behavioral effects later. Chlordane causes cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Whether chlordane causes cancer in humans is unknown.

DDT

DDT is a man-made pesticide that was used widely to control insects on agricultural crops and biting insects, such as mosquitos

and black flies. Its use was banned in New York in 1971 and throughout the United States in 1973. DDT generally gets into bodies of water after improper waste disposal, direct spraying of water bodies or run-off from treated areas. DDT builds up in the fatty tissues of fish, birds and mammals. It can be found in fish and shellfish caught in DDT-contaminated waters. Since DDT is present in the fatty tissues of fish, exposure to DDT in fish can be reduced by certain cleaning and cooking practices (see page 3).

People who accidentally ingested large amounts of DDT had effects on the nervous system that went away once the exposure stopped. Exposure of laboratory animals to high levels of DDT damages the liver and can cause reproductive, developmental and nervous system effects. DDT causes cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Whether DDT causes cancer in humans is unknown.

Mirex

Mirex is a man-made chemical that was used as a pesticide to control fire ants until its use was banned in the United States in the late 1970s. It was also used as a flame retardant in plastics, rubber, paint, paper and electrical goods until the early 1970s. Mirex generally gets into bodies of water after improper waste disposal or run-off from treated areas. Mirex builds up in the fatty tissues of fish, birds and mammals and can be found in fish and shellfish caught in mirex-contaminated waters. Since mirex is present in the fatty tissues of fish, exposure to mirex in fish can be reduced by certain cleaning and cooking practices (see page 3).

Laboratory animals exposed to mirex had damage to the eyes, nervous system, reproductive system, liver, thyroid and kidneys. Mirex causes cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Whether mirex causes cancer in humans is unknown.

PCBs

PCBs are a family of man-made chemicals that were used in many commercial and electrical products until their manufacture was banned in the mid-1970s. Some electrical equipment still in use contains PCBs. In this country, most PCBs were sold as mixtures called Aroclors. PCBs build up in fatty tissues of fish, birds and mammals. Since PCBs are present in the fatty tissues of fish, exposure to PCBs in fish can be reduced by certain cleaning and cooking practices (see page 3).

Industrial workers exposed to large amounts of PCBs had skin damage. Less frequently, workers exposed to high levels reported headache and digestive disturbances and showed liver problems. However, these workers were also exposed to other, more toxic chemicals that may have caused the skin effects. Some studies of pregnant women suggest a link between a mother's increased exposure to PCBs from eating contaminated fish or other environmental sources and slight effects on her child's birthweight, short-term memory and learning. Recent studies suggest that women who ate fish containing PCBs and other chemicals have slightly shorter menstrual cycles and take a longer time to become pregnant than women who did not eat contaminated fish.

PCBs affect the skin, liver and the nervous, immune and reproductive systems of animals exposed to high levels. PCBs also reduce the birth weight and change the behavior of offspring born to animals exposed before, during and after pregnancy. A few individual PCBs cause birth defects in offspring born to animals exposed during pregnancy. PCBs cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetime. Human studies also raise concerns about the human carcinogenicity of PCBs but results are inconsistent. The data are inadequate to prove that PCB exposures cause cancer in humans.

Polychlorinated dibenzo-*p*-dioxins (PCDDs, dioxins)

Polychlorinated dibenzo-*p*-dioxins (also known as PCDDs or dioxins) and chlorinated

dibenzofurans (also known as PCDFs or furans) are two closely related families of chemical compounds. Some dioxins and furans are produced as unwanted by-products in chemical manufacturing processes, such as in the production of certain herbicides and disinfectants. They are also found in the smoke or ash from motor vehicles, municipal waste incinerators and wood fires. Some dioxins and furans are environmentally and biologically persistent. They are highly soluble in fats and are stored in the fatty tissue of fish and other animals. Since dioxins and furans are present in fatty tissues of fish, exposure to dioxins and furans in fish can be reduced by certain cleaning and cooking practices (see page 3).

Dioxins and furans are thought to produce similar health effects. TCDD (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin) is the most potent of the dioxins and furans, and much of what we know about the toxicity of dioxins and furans comes from studies of TCDD.

People exposed to high levels of dioxins and furans during industrial accidents have developed a condition called chloracne (a severe acne-like skin condition) and other skin disorders, as well as skin, eye and respiratory tract irritation, dizziness, headaches, nausea, vomiting and possibly disorders of the liver and nervous system. In men exposed to lower levels over longer time, there is some evidence that TCDD can cause small changes in the liver function and levels of sex hormones, and may disrupt the metabolism of glucose (sugar). Children of Japanese and Taiwanese women who ingested rice oil highly contaminated with furans and other dioxin-like compounds showed developmental effects that ranged from very mild to very severe. Some studies have found that workers in plants where products contaminated with dioxins and furans (for example, some herbicides) were made developed cancers which may have been caused by TCDD.

In laboratory animals, TCDD has damaged the liver, skin, blood and immune and reproductive systems. It also affects prenatal development in animals whose mothers were exposed to TCDD. TCDD causes cancer in animals exposed to high levels over their lifetime.

Mercury

Mercury is a metal that occurs naturally in the environment in several forms. The metallic, or elemental form is a silvery, odorless liquid which can evaporate at room temperature to form odorless, colorless mercury vapor. Most of the mercury that accumulates in the fleshy part of fish is in an organic (carbon-containing) form called methylmercury. Greater amounts of methylmercury are found in older fish that tend to eat other fish and organisms. Methylmercury is found throughout the part of the fish that is eaten; therefore cleaning and cooking methods that may reduce exposure to other contaminants are NOT effective for reducing exposure to mercury.

Exposure to high levels of metallic, inorganic or organic mercury can damage the nervous system and kidneys. People who ate fish that contained large amounts of methylmercury had permanent damage to the brain, kidneys and fetus. Exposure to methylmercury is more of a concern for children and unborn babies because their nervous system is still developing and the nervous system is a target organ for mercury. To address this concern, two separate long-term studies are underway in the Seychelles and Faroe Islands to look for health effects among children in populations that eat large amounts of seafood containing low levels of methylmercury. In these studies, the children's health is assessed as they grow. To date, results from the two

studies are contradictory. The Seychelles Islands study shows no adverse effects, while the Faroe Islands study shows an association of mercury exposure and problems with memory, attention and language development. Interpreting the Faroe Islands study results is complicated because that population is also exposed to PCBs from the marine mammals which they eat. Both studies are ongoing and will continue to evaluate the children's health as they grow.

Cadmium

Cadmium is a naturally occurring metal found at low levels in soil and water. Cadmium is used in many industrial operations and in consumer products such as paints, plastics and batteries. Food, air and drinking water all contribute to a person's exposure to cadmium. Cadmium can be found in food items and in tobacco. Vegetables, fruits and cereals are the greatest source of cadmium. Cadmium can also be found in fish and shellfish from waters containing cadmium.

Eating food or drinking beverages containing high levels of cadmium can cause nausea, vomiting, stomach upset, cramps and diarrhea. Because cadmium leaves the body slowly, it can accumulate in the body, mainly in the kidneys, with continuing exposure. Some people with long-term exposure had kidney, bone and blood damage.

Contacts for Additional Information

New York State Department of Health

For more information on **health effects** from exposure to chemical contaminants or to provide comments on the format or content of this report contact:

Environmental Health Information: 1-800-458-1158, extension 27815 (toll-free). Calls are taken from 8:00AM-4:30PM, Monday through Friday. After hours, leave a voice mail message. The full advisories are also available from the Internet: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/environ/fish.htm> or can be requested by e-mail: BTSA@health.state.ny.us

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

For more information on **fishing inland waters**, contact:

Region 1

Loop Rd.
Bldg. 40 SUNY
Stony Brook, NY 11790
(631) 444-0280

Region 4

Rt. 10, Jefferson Rd.
Stamford, NY 12167-9503
(607) 652-7366

Region 7

1285 Fisher Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045-1090
(607) 753-3095, ext.213

Region 2

1 Hunter Point Plaza
47-40 21st St.
Long Island City, NY 11101-5407
(718) 482-4922

Region 5

Rt. 86, P.O. Box 296
Raybrook, NY 12977-0296
(518) 897-1333

Region 8

6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd.
Avon, NY 14414-9519
(585) 226-5343

Region 3

21 South Putt Corners Rd.
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696
(845) 256-3161

Region 6

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601-3787
(315) 785-2262

Region 9

270 Michigan Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14203-2999
(716) 851-7000 or 7010

For more information on **fishing marine waters**, contact:

Bureau of Finfish and Crustaceans
205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1
East Setauket, NY 11733
(631) 444-0435

For information on **contaminant levels**, in fish and shellfish and wildlife contact:

Bureau of Habitat
625 Broadway
Fifth Floor
Albany, NY 12233-4756
(518) 402-8996

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Division of Environmental Health Assessment
May 9, 2002
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