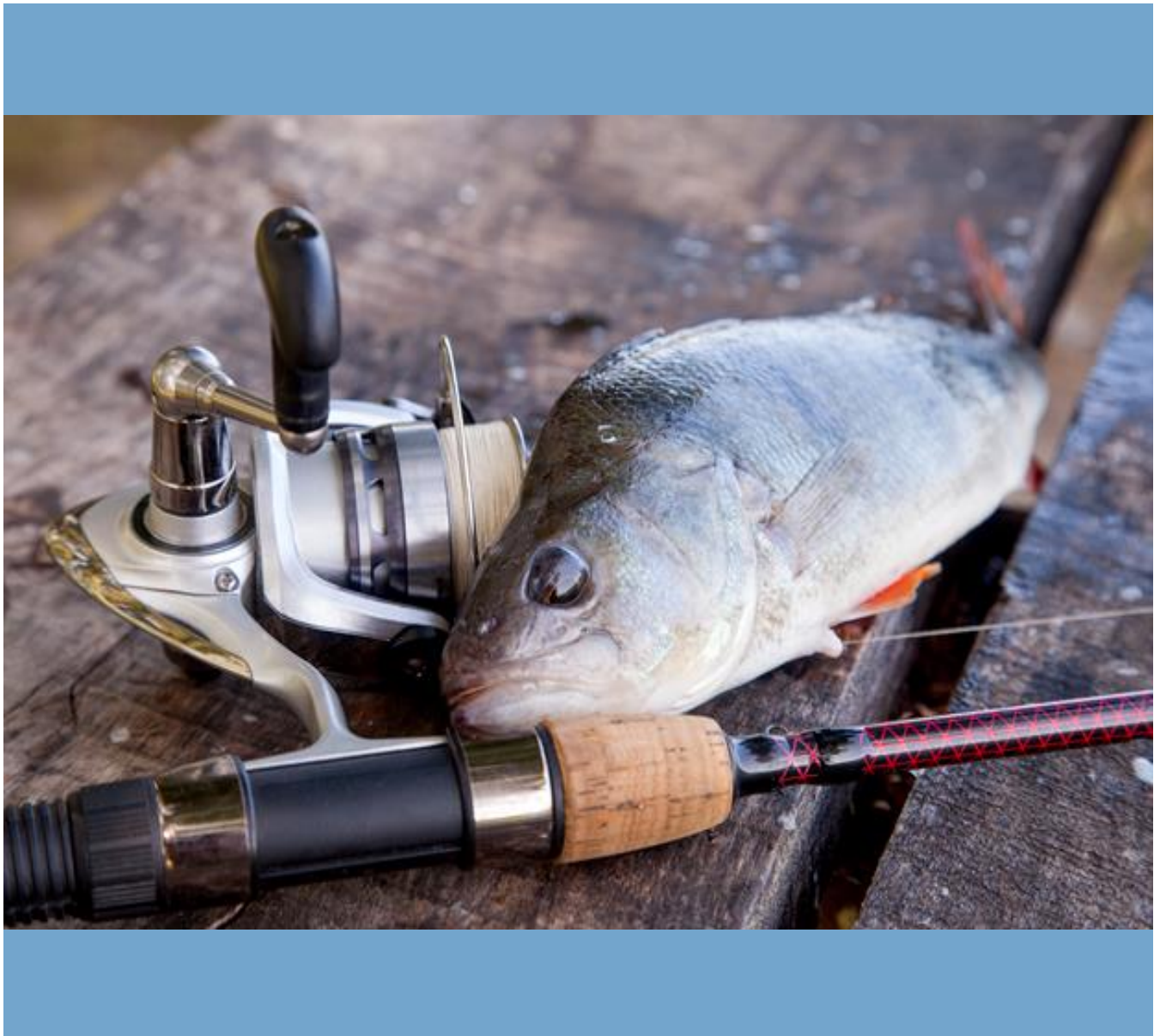


Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory

2023



Department of Health
Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Agency

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This document was last updated June 2023.

Purpose

People who fish in Ohio waters should use this advisory to find important information on the safety of consuming Ohio sport fish.

The Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory provides information about fish consumption advisories issued by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for fish caught in Ohio waters. ODH, in cooperation with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), issues these advisories under Ohio law ([Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3701](#)).

If you have questions and are an angler, or you are someone working with an organization that shares sport fish consumption advisory information to the public, please contact us at:

Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection
(614) 466-1390
BEH@odh.ohio.gov
www.odh.ohio.gov

Note: Fish consumption advisories are subject to change based on new data. This advisory is updated annually.



Fish for Your Health: Overall Advice on Fish Consumption

There are many benefits to including fish in a balanced diet for people of all ages. Fish are:

- High in protein.
- Low in fat.
- Rich in many vitamins and minerals.
- The primary food source of omega-3 fatty acids (healthy oils).

Fishing can be a rewarding hobby that brings people closer to nature, provides a source of natural food, and can even help with wildlife conservation.

There have been many improvements to the quality of Ohio's lakes, rivers, and streams over the past several years. Still, some fish in some Ohio waters are contaminated with harmful chemicals like methylmercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Over time, eating contaminated fish too often can cause health problems.

You do not have to give up eating Ohio-caught fish! Follow this advisory to make safe fish choices.

GOOD TO KNOW!

The benefits of eating fish outweigh the risks from contaminants. Use the fish consumption advisory to make good choices to protect your health.

Remember the "4 Cs" of Fishing

Now that you know the benefits of making Ohio-caught fish part of your diet, how can you make sure you're making the best choices to protect your health? An easy way is to remember the "4 Cs":

- 1. Check.**
- 2. Catch.**
- 3. Clean.**
- 4. Cook.**

Find out more about the "4 Cs" and what they mean below.

1. Check the advisory before going fishing.

In general, **people can safely eat one serving of Ohio-caught fish every week (or 4 servings per month)**. Unless the full advisory table has more or less restrictive guidance for a specific fish species from a certain body of water, use this general rule to safely include Ohio fish to your diet.

Some fish are even safer, and people can safely eat two servings per week (or eight servings per month). These include popular species like yellow perch, walleye, and sunfish like bluegill and green sunfish.

Some fish in Ohio should be catch-and-release only and should never be eaten. The “Do Not Eat” advice for Ohio fish species in specific bodies of water is below.

Do Not Eat

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Contaminant
Little Scioto River	State Route 739 near Marion to Holland Road near Marion.	All Species	*PAHs
Tuscarawas River	Massillon to State Route 416, New Philadelphia.	Common Carp	*PCBs

*PAHs = Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, a class of chemicals that occur naturally in coal, crude oil, and gasoline and persist in the environment.

*PCBs = Polychlorinated Biphenyls, man-made chemicals used in industrial and consumer products until banned in the U.S. in 1979 but still persist in old industrial products and in the environment.

+See Appendix B: FAQ for more information.

Guidance for all other bodies of water and fish species can be found in the full advisory. Always remember to check the advisory before you go fishing!



2. Catch safer, younger, and healthier fish.

The following general recommendations will help Ohio anglers choose healthier fish with fewer contaminants:

- Choose smaller (younger) fish within the legal-size limit. For all species, older, larger fish have had more time to build up contaminants in their bodies than younger fish and tend to have higher contaminant levels.
- Avoid bottom-feeders and suckers.
- Avoid fish from a body of water known to be contaminated.
- Vary the types of fish you catch and eat.

Additionally, some species tend to naturally build up fewer contaminants than others. The chart below can help you make good decisions when you eat Ohio-caught fish or when you buy fish from a grocery store, market, or restaurant.

From Ohio waters:

Choose:

- Crappie.
- Sunfish.
- Walleye.
- Yellow Perch.



From grocery stores and restaurants:

Choose:

- Canned Light Tuna.
- Salmon.
- Shrimp.
- Tilapia.



Avoid:

- Any fish listed as “Do Not Eat.”
- Consuming fish more often than the advisory recommends.
- Bottom-feeders and suckers.
- Older, larger fish which have had more time to build up contaminants.



Avoid:

- Bigeye Tuna.
- King Mackerel.
- Marlin.
- Orange Roughy.
- Shark.
- Swordfish.
- Tilefish.

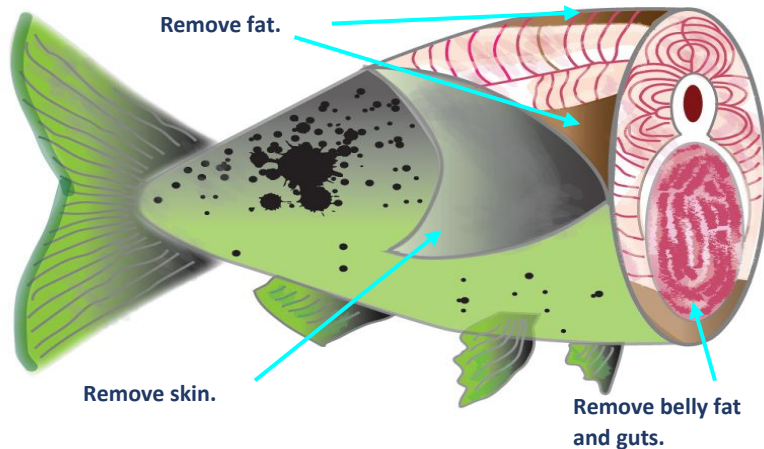


Need help identifying your catch? Appendix A has artwork from ODNR with many common Ohio sport fish species. For more information on Ohio wildlife, search the [ODNR Wildlife Species Guide](https://www.ohiodnr.gov/species-guide) at www.ohiodnr.gov.

3. Clean the skin, fat, and guts from your catch.

Contaminants tend to build up in a fish’s skin, fat, and guts (organs, including the eggs) more than the fillet, so always discard those parts before cooking, and only eat the fillet.

The diagram below shows you how to clean your catch.



4. Cook by baking, broiling, or grilling.

Cooking methods like baking, broiling, and grilling fish on a rack allow extra fat to drip away from the fillet. Since contaminants tend to be stored in the fish's fat, this also allows contaminants to drip away. Discard any drippings before serving your fish.

Baking, broiling, and grilling fish also helps avoid adding extra unhealthy fats to your diet like deep frying does. If you do decide to deep fry your catch, discard the oil after frying and drain your fish well before eating.

Need tasty and healthy recipe ideas for your Ohio-caught fish? Check out the [ODNR Wild Ohio Harvest Cookbook](#) at www.ohiodnr.gov, or try out some of the recipes from [Eat Midwest Fish](#) at www.eatmidwestfish.org

ADVICE FOR PARENTS

Is your baby ready for solid food? Ask your baby's healthcare provider how to safely add fish to their diet!

Serving Size Tip

The Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory uses the terms “serving” and “meal” interchangeably.

How much one serving is depends on a person’s age and size. For adults, one serving is about 4 to 6 ounces of cooked fish. For children, one serving is about 2 to 3 ounces of cooked fish. The diagram below shows an easy way to estimate the size of a serving.



Adult Serving
4 – 6 ounces cooked
An adult serving is about the size of the palm of an adult’s hand.



Child Serving
2 – 3 ounces cooked
A child serving is about half the size of the palm of an adult’s hand.

Please note that ODH bases its calculations for Ohio sport fish consumption advisories on the larger size, 6-ounce meal, cooked meal (approximately 8 ounces when uncooked).

Remember: meals add up! Some fish have an advisory of two meals per week. This means an adult person could eat two separate meals of 4 to 6 ounces in one week, or one big meal of 8 to 12 ounces in one week. Likewise, a child could eat two separate meals of 2 to 3 ounces in one week, or one big meal of 4 to 6 ounces in one week.

Note for Sensitive Populations

The recommendations found in the Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory are meant to be protective of the most sensitive populations – people who are more likely to have health effects from eating contaminated fish. This includes babies and children younger than 15 years old, pregnant mothers, and women who are planning to become pregnant. In particular, the general advice is designed to be protective from mercury in fish.

Sensitive populations can safely enjoy one serving of Ohio fish per week (four servings per month) unless there is a more or less restrictive advisory in the full advisory table (Table 2).

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In 2017, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued advice to help pregnant women and parents of young children make informed choices when it comes to store-bought fish and fish served in restaurants (including shellfish) that are healthy and safe to eat.

The U.S. EPA advises that sensitive populations avoid the following fish that typically have higher mercury levels:

- Tilefish from the Gulf of Mexico.
- Shark.
- Swordfish.
- Orange roughy.
- Bigeye tuna.
- Marlin.
- King mackerel.

The U.S. EPA also advises that sensitive populations choose fish lower in mercury – some of which are among the most popular grocery store choices:

- Pollock.
- Salmon.
- Canned light tuna.
- Tilapia.
- Cod.

Find the U.S. EPA's full advice and other information (disponible en español) at the [EPA-FDA Advice About Eating Fish and Shellfish](https://www.epa.gov/eating-fish) webpage at www.epa.gov.



How to Use the Full Advisory Table

This section will explain how to use the full advisory table.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant
Example River	State Route 805, Columbus, to mouth (Ohio Lake County)	Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury

Example interpretation: In the fictional advisory table above, channel catfish and largemouth bass caught from the Example River between S.R. 805 in Columbus and the mouth of the river at Ohio Lake should only be eaten once per month due to mercury contamination.

- In Column 1 (Body of Water), find the body of water in which you are fishing.
- In Column 2 (Area Under Advisory), find the specific portion of the body of water in which you are fishing. If the advisory applies to the entire body of water, Column 2 will say “All waters.” The Ohio counties are included in parentheses.
- In Column 3 (Species), find the species of fish for which there are advisories in this body of water. If a length is noted, measure the fish from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail fin.



- In Column 4 (Meal Frequency), find the recommended meal frequency for a specific fish.

Typical recommendations are:

- DO NOT EAT – Catch and release only; 0 meals per year.
 - One/two months – 6 meals per year.
 - One/month – 12 meals per year.
 - One/week – 52 meals per year.
 - Two/week – 104 meals per year.
 - Unrestricted – No limit on meals per year.
- In Column 5, Contaminant, find the contaminant causing the advisory.

Waterbodies Not in the Table

If your water body of interest is not listed in the advisory table, please use the general guidance in **Table 1 -- General Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advice** on page 4. Bolded meal frequencies in the Advisory Table are less restrictive than the general advice in Table 1.

2023 Ohio Fish Consumption Advisory Table

RULE OF THUMB!

For most Ohio fish, people can safely eat one serving every week (or four servings per month.)

The table below shows the full list of fish consumption advisories in Ohio for 2023. Bolded meal frequencies are less restrictive than the general advice – this means people can eat more than one meal per week for those fish from those bodies of water.

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
Acton Lake	All waters (Butler, Preble Counties)	Channel Catfish	Two/week	Mercury
		Bluegill, Common Carp, Saugeye	Unrestricted	--
Adams Lake	All waters (Adams County)	Bluegill, Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Ashtabula River	Hilldom Road to U.S. Route 20/Prospect Road (Ashtabula County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
		Smallmouth Bass	One/month	*PCBs
	U.S. Route 20 (Prospect Road) to mouth (Lake Erie) (Ashtabula County)	Common Carp, Freshwater Drum	One/month	*PCBs
Atwood Lake	All waters (Carroll, Tuscarawas Counties)	Common Carp, Largemouth Bass	Two/week	Mercury
		Bluegill, Saugeye, White Crappie	Unrestricted	--
Auglaize River	U.S. Route 33, Wapakoneta to Maumee River, Defiance (Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Paulding, Putman Counties)	Freshwater Drum, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Bad Creek	All waters (Fulton County)	Channel Catfish	Two/week	Mercury
Belmont Lake	All waters (Belmont County)	Channel Catfish	Two/week	Mercury
		Largemouth Bass, Saugeye	One/month	Mercury
Berlin Lake	All waters (Mahoning, Portage, Stark Counties)	Channel Catfish	One/month	*PCBs
		Common Carp	One/month	Lead, *PCBs
Big Darby Creek	U.S. Route 42, Plain City, to Alkire Road, Georgesville (Franklin, Madison, Union Counties)	Channel Catfish	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
		Channel Catfish	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs

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Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
	Alkire Road, Georgesville, to mouth (Scioto River) (Franklin, Pickaway Counties)	Freshwater Drum 20" and larger, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Black Fork Mohican River	All waters (Ashland, Richland Counties)	Freshwater Drum Channel Catfish Rock Bass	Two/week One/month One/month	Mercury *PCBs Mercury
Black River	Interstate 80 to Homewood Park, Lorain (Lorain County)	Channel Catfish Freshwater Drum	One/month One/month	*PCBs Mercury, *PCBs
Black River (Continued)	Homewood Park, Lorain, to Erie St./U.S. Route 6 (Lorain County)	Common Carp, Channel Catfish Freshwater Drum	One/month One/month One/month	*PCBs Mercury, *PCBs
	Erie St./U.S. Route 6 to mouth (Lake Erie) (Lorain County)	Common Carp Channel Catfish Freshwater Drum	One/two months One/month One/month	*PCBs *PCBs Mercury, *PCBs
Bokes Creek	All waters (Logan County)	Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Buckeye Lake	All waters (Fairfield, Licking, Perry Counties)	Black Crappie, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Saugeye	Unrestricted	--
Caeser Creek Lake	All waters (Warren County)	Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass White Crappie	Two/week Unrestricted	Mercury
Captina Creek	All waters (Belmont, Monroe Counties)	Common Carp Freshwater Drum Smallmouth Buffalo	One/month One/month One/month	*PCBs Mercury Mercury, *PCBs
Chagrin River	Interstate 90 to mouth (Lake Erie) (Lake County)	Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Chippewa Lake	All waters (Medina County)	Common Carp, White Crappie Bluegill, Channel Catfish	Two/week Unrestricted	Mercury --
C.J. Brown Reservoir	All waters (Clark County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	Two/week	Mercury
Clark Lake	All waters	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	Two/week	Mercury
Clear Creek	Clearport Road, Clearport to mouth (Hocking River) (Fairfield, Hocking Counties)	Common Carp	One/month	Mercury

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Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
Clear Fork Reservoir	All waters (Richland County)	Largemouth Bass	Two/week	Mercury
Confluence Park Ponds	All waters (Summit County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Conneaut Creek	All waters (Ashtabula County)	Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Cowan Lake	All waters (Clinton County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
		Channel Catfish, Common Carp	Two/week	Mercury
		Bluegill	Unrestricted	--
Cross Creek	Reeds Mill Road to mouth (Ohio River) (Jefferson County)	Channel Catfish	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Cuyahoga River	State Route 87, Russell Park, to Ohio Edison Dam Pool (Geauga, Portage, Summit Counties)	Black Crappie, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
	Ohio Edison Dam Pool to mouth (Lake Erie) (Cuyahoga, Summit Counties)	Rock Bass	Two/week	Mercury
		Brown Bullhead, Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Smallmouth Buffalo	One/month	*PCBs
		White Sucker 16" and larger, Smallmouth Bass 15" and larger	One/month	Mercury
		Freshwater Drum	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
Dale Walborn Reservoir	All waters (Stark County)	Channel Catfish, White Crappie	Two/week	Mercury
Delaware Lake	All waters (Delaware county)	Bluegill, Common Carp	Two/week	Mercury
		Black Crappie	One/week	Arsenic
		Channel Catfish	One/week	*PCBs
		Largemouth Bass	One/week	Arsenic, Mercury
Deer Creek	Interstate 70 to mouth (Scioto River) (Fayette, Madison, Pickaway, Ross Counties)	Channel Catfish	Two/week	Mercury
Deer Creek Lake	All waters (Fayette, Pickaway Counties)	Common Carp, Largemouth Bass, White Crappie	Two/week	Mercury
Dicks Creek	From Amanda Rd. to Yankee Rd. in Middletown (Butler County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One /month	*PCBs
Dillon Lake	All waters	Common Carp,	Two/week	Mercury

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Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
	(Muskingum County)	Largemouth Bass		
Dow Lake	All waters (Athens County)	Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Saugeye	One/month	Mercury
Dry Fork Whitewater River	All waters (Hamilton, Butler Counties)	Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Duck Creek	Township Road 329, Stanleyville, to State Route 26, Norwood (Washington County)	Common Carp, Sauger	One/month	*Total DDT
	State Route 26, Norwood, to mouth (Ohio River) (Washington County)	Common Carp, Sauger	One/month	*Total DDT
		Black Crappie, Freshwater Drum, Saugeye 16" and larger	One/month	Mercury
		Channel Catfish	One/month	Lead
Eagle Creek	All waters (Portage County)	Redfin Pickerel, Rock Bass	One/month	Mercury
East Branch Black River	Richman Road, Lodi, to mouth (Black River) (Lorain, Medina Counties)	Common Carp 23" and larger, Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Bullhead	One/month	Mercury
East Branch Rocky River	State Route 3, North Royalton, to mouth (Rocky River) (Cuyahoga County)	Rock Bass	One/month	Mercury
East Fork Lake (Harsha Lake)	All waters (Clermont County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
East Fork Little Miami River	All waters (Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland Counties)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Flathead Catfish, Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass	One/month	Mercury
Eastwood Lake	All waters (Montgomery County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	*PCBs
		Bluegill Sunfish Common Carp	Unrestricted	--
Fish Creek	All waters (Williams County)	Rock Bass	One/month	Mercury
Findlay Reservoir #2	All waters (Hancock County)	Channel Catfish, White Bass	Two/week	Mercury
Ford (Hamilton Hydraulic Canal)	All waters (Butler County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
Forked Run Lake	All waters (Meigs County)	Common Carp, Largemouth Bass, White Crappie	One/month	Mercury

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Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*	
Four Mile Creek	Acton Lake to Sevenmile Creek (Butler County)	Smallmouth Bass 17" and larger	One/month	Mercury	
Grand Lake St. Marys	All waters (Auglaize, Mercer Counties)	Largemouth Bass	Two/week	Mercury	
Grand River	Lake Estabrook, Parkman, to Sweitzer Road, Camp Yakewi (Ashtabula, Geauga, Trumbull Counties)	Common Carp 22" and larger	One/month	*PCBs	
		Freshwater Drum, Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Silver Redhorse, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Yellow Bullhead	One/month	Mercury	
	Sweitzer Road, Camp Yakewi, to State Route 2, Painesville (Ashtabula, Lake Counties)	Common Carp 22" and larger, Rainbow Trout	One/month	*PCBs	
		Freshwater Drum, Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Silver Redhorse, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Yellow Bullhead	One/month	Mercury	
	Grand River (Continued)	State Route 2, Painesville, to mouth (Lake Erie) (Lake County)	Common Carp 18" and larger, Rainbow Trout	One/month	*PCBs
			Freshwater Drum, Largemouth Bass, Silver Redhorse, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Bullhead	One/month	Mercury
Great Miami River	Downstream of Indian Lake to Lowhead Dam at Monument Avenue, Dayton (Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Shelby Counties)	Golden Redhorse, Smallmouth Redhorse	One/month	*PCBs	
		Smallmouth Bass, White Bass	One/month	Mercury	
		Flathead Catfish	One/month	Mercury	
	Main Street, Moraine, to State Route 73 near Middletown (Butler, Montgomery, Warren Counties)	Flathead Catfish	One/month	Mercury	
		Common Carp, Golden Redhorse, Smallmouth Redhorse	One/month	*PCBs	
		Smallmouth Bass, White Bass	One/month	Mercury	
	Striped Bass Hybrid	One/two months	*PCBs, Lead		
	Flathead Catfish	One/month	Mercury		

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Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
	State Route 73 near Middletown to Harrison Pike, Miamitown (Butler, Hamilton, Warren Counties)	Common Carp, Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Redhorse	One/month	*PCBs
		Smallmouth Bass, White Bass	One/month	Mercury
	Harrison Pike, Miamitown, to mouth (Ohio River) (Hamilton County)	Striped Bass Hybrid	One/two months	*PCBs, Lead
		Flathead Catfish	One/month	Mercury
		Common Carp, Smallmouth Redhorse	One/month	*PCBs
		Freshwater Drum 16" and larger, Smallmouth Bass, White Bass	One/month	Mercury
Greenville Creek	All waters (Darke, Miami Counties)	Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Griggs Reservoir	All waters (Franklin County)	Common Carp	Two/week	Mercury
Guilford Lake	All waters (Columbiana County)	Common Carp, Largemouth Bass	Two/week	Mercury
		Bluegill, Channel Catfish, White Crappie	Unrestricted	--
Hamilton Hydraulic Canal	(see "Ford Hydraulic Canal")			
Highlandtown Lake	All waters (Columbiana County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Hocking River	Rock Mill Road, Rock Mill, to State Route 33, The Plains (Athens, Fairfield, Hocking Counties)	Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Hocking River (Continued)		Rock Bass	Two/week	Mercury
		Black Crappie	Unrestricted	--
	State Route 33, The Plains, to U.S. Route 50/State Route 32, Athens (Athens, Hocking Counties)	Freshwater Drum	One/month	*PCBs
		Walleye, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
		Rock Bass	Two/week	Mercury
		Black Crappie,	Unrestricted	--
	U.S. Route 50/State Route 32, Athens, to mouth (Ohio River) (Athens County)	Freshwater Drum	One/month	*PCBs
		Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
		Rock Bass	Two/week	Mercury
		Black Crappie	Unrestricted	--
Honey Creek	All waters (Perry County)	Channel Catfish	One/month	Mercury
Huron River	All waters (Erie, Huron Counties)	Common Carp, Smallmouth Buffalo, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish	One/month	*PCBs
		Freshwater Drum	One/month	Mercury

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Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
		Rock Bass, White Crappie	Two/week	Mercury
Indian Lake	All waters (Logan County)	Largemouth Bass	Two/week	Mercury
		Black Crappie, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Saugeye	Unrestricted	--
Jackson City Reservoir	All waters (Jackson County)	Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Jefferson Lake	All waters (Jefferson County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Killdeer Pond #30	All waters (Wyandot County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Kiser Lake	All waters (Champaign County)	Largemouth Bass	Two/week	Mercury
		Bluegill	Unrestricted	--
Knox Lake	All waters (Knox County)	Common Carp, White Crappie	Two/week	Mercury
		Channel Catfish	Unrestricted	--
Kokosing River	County Road 13/Green Valley Road, Mount Vernon, to mouth (Walhonding River) (Coshocton, Knox Counties)	Rock Bass 8" and larger, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
LaDue Reservoir	All waters (Geauga County)	Brown Bullhead, Largemouth Bass	Two/week	Mercury
Lake Erie Lake Erie (Continued)	All waters (Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky Counties)	Common Carp 27" and larger	One/two months	*PCBs
		Smallmouth Bass	One/month	*PCBs, Mercury
		Channel Catfish, Common Carp 19"- 27", Freshwater Drum, Lake Trout, Steelhead Trout, White Bass, Whitefish 21" and larger	One/month	*PCBs
	All waters (Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky Counties)	Brown Bullhead	One/month	Mercury
		Bluegill Sunfish	Unrestricted	--
Lake Hope	All waters (Vinton County)	Bluegill Sunfish Largemouth Bass,	One/month	Mercury
Lake La Su An	All waters (Williams County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
		Bluegill	One/week	Mercury
Lake Lavere	All waters (Williams County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Lake Logan	All waters (Hocking County)	Common Carp, White Crappie	Two/week	Mercury

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Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
		Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Saugeye	Unrestricted	--
Lake Loramie	All waters (Shelby, Auglaize Counties)	Common Carp, Largemouth Bass	Two/week	Mercury
		Channel Catfish, Saugeye, White Crappie	Unrestricted	--
Lake Milton	All waters (Mahoning County)	Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
Lake Nesmith	All waters (Summit County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
Lake Sue	All waters (Williams County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Lake Vesuvius	All waters (Lawrence County)	Bluegill	One/week	Mercury
		Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Lake White	All waters (Pike County)	Common Carp	Two/week	Mercury
Leesville Lake	All waters (Carroll County)	Black Crappie, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Yellow Perch	Two/week	Mercury
		Saugeye	One/month	Mercury
Little Beaver Creek	Upstream of Bell School Road, Williamsport, to Pennsylvania State Line near Grimms Bridge Road (Columbiana County)	Channel Catfish	One/two months	*PCBs
		Common Carp, Sauger	One/month	*PCBs
		Smallmouth Bass 12" and larger	One/month	Mercury
Little Auglaize River	All water (Paulding County)	Freshwater Drum, White Crappie	One/month	Lead
Little Cuyahoga River	State Route 532 near Mogadore to mouth (Cuyahoga River) (Summit County)	Common Carp	One/month	PCBs
		Yellow Bullhead	One/month	Lead
Little Miami River	Lower Bellbrook Road, Bellbrook, to mouth (Ohio River) (Clermont, Greene, Hamilton, Warren Counties)	Common Carp 24" and larger, Freshwater Drum Sauger, Silver Redhorse, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Little Muskingum River	Hill's Covered Bridge to mouth (Ohio River) (Washington County)	Freshwater Drum	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Spotted Bass, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Little Scioto River	State Route 739 near Marion to Holland Road near Marion	All Species	DO NOT EAT	*PAHs

2023 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
	(Marion County)			
Little Scioto River (Southeast Ohio River tributary)	Millstone Road to mouth (Scioto River)	Channel Catfish	One/month	*PCBs, Mercury
	(Scioto County)	Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass	One/month	Mercury
Mad River	U.S. Route 36, Urbana, to mouth (Great Miami River) (Champaign, Clark, Greene, Montgomery Counties)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
		Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Mahoning River	Rockhill Avenue NE, Alliance, to Pennsylvania State Line (Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Trumbull Counties)	Channel Catfish	One/two months	*PCBs
		Smallmouth Bass, Walleye	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Bluegill, Common Carp, Northern Pike, Rock Bass	One/month	*PCBs
		Yellow Perch	One/week	*PCBs
Maumee River	Indiana State Line to Defiance (Defiance, Paulding Counties)	Common Carp, Flathead Catfish, Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Bass, Smallmouth Buffalo	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Channel Catfish	One/month	*PCBs
	Defiance to Perrysburg (Defiance, Henry, Lucas, Wood Counties)	Common Carp, Flathead Catfish, Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Bass, Smallmouth Buffalo	One/month	Mercury, PCBs
		Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
	Perrysburg to Interstate 75 (Lucas, Wood Counties)	Flathead Catfish, Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Bass, Smallmouth Buffalo	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	*PCBs
	Interstate 75 to mouth (Lake Erie) (Lucas County)	Flathead Catfish, Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Buffalo	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
Meadowbrook Lake	Perrysburg to mouth (Lake Erie) (Lucas, Wood Counties)	Channel Catfish	One/two months	*PCBs
Middle Fork Little Beaver Creek	Allen Road, Salem, to State Route 14, Millville (Columbiana, Mahoning Counties)	Common Carp, Flathead Catfish, Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Bass,	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs

2023 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
		Smallmouth Buffalo		
		Sauger	One/month	*PCBs
	State Route 14, Millville, to mouth (Little Beaver Creek) (Columbiana County)	Common Carp, Sauger	One/month	*PCBs
		Freshwater Drum	One/month	Mercury
Mill Creek (Ashtabula)	South Denmark Road, Jefferson, to mouth (Grand River) (Ashtabula County)	Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass	One/month	Mercury
Mill Creek (Cincinnati)	Interstate 275 to the Ohio River (Hamilton County)	Striped Bass Hybrid	One/month	*PCBs
Mill Creek (Marysville)	State Route 36 to mouth (Scioto River) (Union County)	Saugeye	Two/week	Mercury
		Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Mosquito Creek	All waters (Trumbull County)	Northern Pike	One/month	Mercury
		Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
		Bluegill	One/week	*PCBs, Lead
Muskingum River	Zanesville Dam, Zanesville, to mouth (Ohio River) (Morgan, Muskingum, Washington Counties)	Smallmouth Buffalo 24" and larger	One/two months	*PCBs
		Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Smallmouth Buffalo under 24", White Bass	One/month	*PCBs
		Flathead Catfish 24" and larger, Saugeye, Striped Bass Hybrid	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Freshwater Drum, Spotted Bass	One/month	Mercury
New Lyme Lake	All waters (Ashtabula County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Nimishillen Creek	All waters (Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas Counties)	Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
		Green Sunfish	Unrestricted	--
North Branch Portage River	All waters (Wood County)	Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
North Reservoir	All waters (Summit County)	Largemouth Bass, Bluegill Sunfish	Unrestricted	--
North Turkeyfoot Creek	All waters (Henry County)	Channel Catfish	Two/week	Mercury
		Common Carp	Unrestricted	--
Ohio Brush Creek	State Route 73, Loudon, to mouth (Ohio River) (Adams County)	Spotted Bass	One/month	Mercury
Ohio River	Pennsylvania Border, East Liverpool, to Belleville Lock	Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Hybrid Striped Bass,	One/two months	*PCBs

2023 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*	
	(Athens, Belmont, Columbiana, Jefferson, Meigs, Monroe, Washington Counties)	White Bass			
		Black Bass, Flathead Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Saugeye, Smallmouth Bass, Smallmouth Buffalo, Spotted Bass, All Suckers, Walleye	One/month	*PCBs	
		All Crappie, Freshwater Drum, Sauger	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs	
		Belleville Lock to Indiana Border (Adams, Brown, Clermont, Gallia, Hamilton, Lawrence, Meigs, Scioto Counties)	Channel Catfish 18" and larger, Hybrid Striped Bass	One/two months	*PCBs
			Channel Catfish under 18", Common Carp 22" and larger, Freshwater Drum 14" and larger, All Suckers	One/month	*PCBs
			Black Bass, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass	One/month	Mercury
		Flathead Catfish, White Bass	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs	
Olentangy River	State Route 95, Claridon, to mouth (Scioto River), including Delaware Reservoir (Delaware, Franklin, Marion Counties)	Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury	
O'Shaughnessy Reservoir	All waters (Delaware County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp, White Crappie	Two/week	Mercury	
		Saugeye	Unrestricted	--	
Ottawa River (Lima)	Cool Road, Allen County, to mouth (Auglaize River) (Allen, Putnam Counties)	Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury	
Ottawa River (Toledo)	Main Street, Sylvania, to mouth (Lake Erie) (Lucas County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Golden Shiner	One/month	*PCBs	
		Pumpkinseed Sunfish	One/week	*PCBs	
Paint Creek	State Route 734 near Jeffersonville to near	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury	

2023 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
	Plyley's Lane at Belleview Avenue, Belleview Heights (Fayette, Highland, Madison, Ross Counties)			
	Near Plyley's Lane at Belleview Avenue, Belleview Heights, to mouth (Scioto River) (Ross County)	Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
		Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Paint Creek Lake	All waters (Highland County)	Saugeye	Two/week	Mercury
		Bluegill Sunfish	Unrestricted	--
Piedmont Lake	All waters (Harrison County)	Common Carp, Largemouth Bass	Two/week	Mercury
		Bluegill	Unrestricted	--
Pike Lake	All waters (Pike County)	Channel Catfish	Two/week	Mercury
Pine Creek	Monroe Road to mouth (Ohio River) (Lawrence, Scioto Counties)	Sauger, Spotted Bass	One/month	Mercury
Portage Canal (Ohio Canal)	All waters (Summit County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
Portage River	Ohio Turnpike to Lake Erie (Ottawa County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/two months	*PCBs
Punderson Lake	All waters (Geauga County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Pymatuning Reservoir	All waters (Ashtabula County)	Largemouth Bass	Two/week	Mercury
Raccoon Creek	State Route 160, Vinton, to mouth (Ohio River) (Vinton, Gallia Counties)	Freshwater Drum, Spotted Bass	One/month	Mercury
Rocky Fork Lake	All waters (Highland County)	Channel Catfish	Two/week	Mercury
		Common Carp		
		Bluegill	Unrestricted	--
Rocky Fork Licking River	Jobes Road near Davis Farm Bridge to mouth (Licking River) (Licking County)	Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Rocky Fork Little Scioto River	Kendall Road, Minford, to mouth (Little Scioto River) (Scioto County)	Spotted Bass	One/month	Mercury
Rocky Fork Mohican River	Interstate 71 to mouth (Black Fork Mohican River) (Richland County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
Ross Lake	All waters (Ross County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury

2023 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
Rush Creek Lake	All waters (Fairfield, Perry Counties)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	Two/week	Mercury
		Redear Sunfish	One/week	Arsenic
Rush Run Lake	All waters (Preble County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Salt Creek	State Route 56 near Election Road, Haynes, to mouth (Scioto River) (Hocking, Ross, Vinton Counties)	Channel Catfish 18" and larger, Sauger, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass	One/month	Mercury
		Flathead Catfish	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
Salt Fork Reservoir	All waters (Guernsey County)	Bluegill	Unrestricted	--
Salt Lick Creek	North High Street, Jackson, to County Road 216/Springer Road (Jackson, Ross Counties)	Spotted Bass	One/month	Mercury
Sandusky River	State Route 598, Leesville, to Rice Road, Ballville (Crawford, Sandusky, Seneca, Wyandot Counties)	Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
		Common Carp, Smallmouth Buffalo	One/month	*PCBs
	Rice Road, Ballville, to mouth (Lake Erie) (Sandusky County)	Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
		Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
Sandusky River	U.S. Route 224, Tiffin to mouth (Hancock, Sandusky, Seneca Counties)	Channel Catfish, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Sandy Creek	Stump Road, Minerva, to mouth (Tuscarawas River) (Carroll, Columbiana, Stark, Tuscarawas Counties)	Common Carp, Rock Bass	One/month	*PCBs
		Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
Schoonover Lake	All waters (Allen County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Scioto River	U.S. Route 68, Kenton, to Ostrander Road, Warrensburg (Delaware, Hardin, Marion Counties)	Northern Pike, Saugeye 19" and larger, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
		Flathead Catfish 21" and larger	One/month	*PCBs
	Ostrander Road, Warrensburg, to	Saugeye 19" and larger	One/month	Mercury

2023 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
Scioto River (Continued)	Greenlawn Dam, Columbus (Delaware, Franklin, Pickaway Counties)	Flathead Catfish	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
	Greenlawn Dam, Columbus, to U.S. Route 35, Chillicothe (Pickaway, Ross Counties)	Saugeye 19" and larger, White Bass 12" and larger	One/month	Mercury
		Flathead Catfish	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
	U.S. Route 35, Chillicothe, to State Route 335, Omega (Pike, Ross Counties)	White Bass 12" and larger	One/month	Mercury
		Flathead Catfish	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
	State Route 335, Omega, to mouth (Ohio River) (Pike, Scioto Counties)	White Bass 12" and larger	One/month	Mercury
		Flathead Catfish	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
Shade River	All waters (Meigs County)	Freshwater Drum	One/month	Mercury
Sippo Lake	All waters (Stark County)	Black Crappie, Bluegill, Common Carp, Largemouth Bass	Unrestricted	--
South Branch Portage River	Defiance Pike to mouth (Portage River) (Wood County)	Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
South Turkeyfoot Creek	All waters (Henry County)	Yellow Bullhead	Two/week	Mercury
Springfield Lake	All waters (Summit County)	Largemouth Bass	Two/week	Mercury
		White Crappie	Unrestricted	--
St. Joseph Lake	All waters (Perry County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
St. Joseph River	All waters (Defiance, Williams Counties)	Channel Catfish	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Northern Pike, Rock Bass	One/month	Mercury
St. Marys River	All waters (Auglaize, Mercer, Van Wert Counties)	Freshwater Drum, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Saugeye	One/month	Mercury

2023 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
Stillwater Creek	Piedmont lake to State Route 800 (Tuscarawas, Harrison, Belmont Counties)	Northern Pike, Saugeye	One/month	Mercury
Stillwater River	Brooks Road, Cosmos, to State Route 121, Needmore (Darke County)	Channel Catfish, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
	State Route 121, Needmore, to State Route 718, Pleasant Hill (Darke, Miami Counties)	Channel Catfish, Rock Bass 8" and larger, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
	State Route 718, Pleasant Hill, to Turner Shoup Mill Road, Dayton (Miami, Montgomery Counties)	Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass 13" and larger, Rock Bass 8" and larger, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
	Turner Shoup Mill Road, Dayton, to mouth (Great Miami River) (Montgomery County)	Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass 13" and larger, Rock Bass 8" and larger, Smallmouth Bass, White Crappie	One/month	Mercury
Stillwater River (Continued)				
Stonelick Lake	All waters (Clermont County)	Channel Catfish	Two/week	Mercury
Sugar Creek	Beach City to Mouth (Tuscarawas County)	Bluegill	Unrestricted	--
Summit Lake	All waters (Summit County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
Swan Creek	Weckerley Road, Whitehouse, to mouth (Lake Erie) (Lucas County)	Yellow Perch	One/week	*PCBs
		Common Carp	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
		Freshwater Drum, Northern Pike, Rock Bass	One/month	Mercury
Sycamore Creek	All waters (Hamilton County)	Rock Bass	One/month	Mercury
Symmes Creek	State Route 141, Waterloo, to Ohio River (Gallia, Lawrence Counties)	Freshwater Drum, Sauger, Channel Catfish	One/month	Mercury
Tiffin River	All waters (Defiance, Fulton, Williams Counties)	Channel Catfish 20" and larger, Common Carp, Flathead Catfish, Freshwater Drum, Northern Pike 25" and larger,	One/month	Mercury

2023 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
		Smallmouth Bass		
Tinkers Creek	East Idlewood Drive, near Twinsburg, to Cuyahoga River (Cuyahoga, Summit Counties)	Common Carp	One/month	Mercury
Toussaint Creek	U.S. 23 to mouth (Lake Erie) (Ottawa, Sandusky Counties)	Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
Toussaint River	State Route 19, near Oak Harbor, to mouth (Lake Erie) (Ottawa County)	Freshwater Drum	One/month	Mercury
Turkey Creek Lake	All waters (Scioto County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Tuscarawas River	Arlington Road, Akron, to State Route 619, Barberton (Summit County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
Tuscarawas River (Continued)	State Route 619, Barberton, to Massillon (Stark, Summit Counties)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
	State Route 619, Barberton, to Massillon (Stark, Summit Counties) (Continued)	Smallmouth Bass, Yellowhead Bullhead	One/month	*PCBs
		Northern Pike 25" and larger	One/month	Mercury
	Massillon to State Route 416, New Philadelphia (Stark, Tuscarawas Counties)	Common Carp	DO NOT EAT	*PCBs
		Channel Catfish	One/two months	*PCBs
		Black Crappie, Rock Bass 9" and larger, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Bullhead	One/month	*PCBs
		Northern Pike 25" and larger	One/month	Mercury
	State Route 416, New Philadelphia, to Township Road 62, Tuscarawas (Tuscarawas County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Flathead Catfish	One/month	*PCBs
		Walleye	One/month	*PCBs
	Township Road 62, Tuscarawas, to State Route 751, Orange (Coshocton, Tuscarawas Counties)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Flathead Catfish	One/month	*PCBs
	Freshwater Drum, Walleye	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs	
State Route 751, Orange, to mouth (Muskingum River)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Flathead Catfish	One/month	*PCBs	

2023 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
	(Coshocton County)	Freshwater Drum	One/month	Mercury, *PCBs
Twin Creek	U.S. Route 40, Lewisburg, to mouth (Great Miami River) (Montgomery, Preble, Warren Counties)	Smallmouth Bass 13" and larger	One/month	Mercury
Tycoon Lake	All waters (Gallia County)	Black Crappie, Bluegill, Channel Catfish	Two/week	Mercury
Upper Sandusky Reservoir # 2	All waters (Wyandot County)	Bluegill Sunfish Largemouth Bass,	Unrestricted	--
Vermilion River	All waters (Erie, Huron, Lorain, Richland Counties)	Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Veteran's Memorial Reservoir	All waters (Hancock County)	Saugeye	Unrestricted	--
		Largemouth Bass, White Crappie	Two/week	Mercury
		Common Carp	One/month	Mercury
Wakatomika Creek	All waters (Coshocton, Knox, Licking, Muskingum Counties)	Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Walborn Reservoir	All waters (Portage, Stark Counties)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Walhonding River	All waters (Coshocton County)	Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Walnut Creek (Scioto River tributary)	All waters (Fairfield, Franklin, Pickaway Counties)	Channel Catfish	One/month	*PCBs
		Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
West Branch Black River	Parsons Road to mouth (Black River) (Lorain County)	Common Carp, Rock Bass	One/month	Mercury
West Branch Huron River	Monroeville at River Road to mouth (Huron River) (Erie, Huron Counties)	Common Carp	One/month	*PCBs
West Branch Reservoir (Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir)	All waters (Portage County)	Largemouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
West Reservoir	All waters (Summit County)	Black Crappie	Two/month	Mercury
		Bluegill Sunfish, Channel Catfish	Unrestricted	--
West Branch Rocky River	All waters (Cuyahoga, Medina Counties)	Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass	One/month	Mercury
Whitewater River		Channel Catfish, Freshwater Drum,	One/month	Mercury

2023 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	Meal Frequency	Contaminant*
	Indiana State Line to mouth (Great Miami River) (Hamilton County)	Sauger, Smallmouth Bass, Smallmouth Buffalo White Bass	One/month	*PCBs
Williard Reservoir	All water (Huron County)	Bluegill Sunfish, Largemouth bass	Unrestricted	--
Wills Creek	All waters (Muskingum, Coshocton Counties)	Saugeye	One/month	Mercury
Wills Creek Reservoir	All waters (Muskingum County)	Channel Catfish	Two/week	Mercury
Yellow Creek	State Park Mooretown Road, Bravo, to mouth (Ohio River) (Jefferson County)	Freshwater Drum	One/month	Mercury

*PAHs = Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, a class of chemicals that occur naturally in coal, crude oil, and gasoline and persist in the environment.

*PCBs = Polychlorinated Biphenyls, man-made chemicals used in industrial and consumer products until banned in the U.S. in 1979 but still persist in old industrial products and in the environment.

*Total DDT = Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, an insecticide used in agriculture that was banned in the U.S. in 1972 but still persists in the environment.

+See Appendix B: FAQ for more information.

Do Not Wade or Swim and Turtle Consumption Advisories

Do Not Wade or Swim Advisories

The waters and/or sediments in these bodies of water have high levels of contaminants. It is recommended that a person not swim or wade in these water body sections.

Do Not Wade or Swim in These Waters

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Contaminant
Dicks Creek	River mile 4.1 (1 mile downstream from North Branch Dicks Creek), Middletown to the Great Miami River (Butler County)	*PCBs
Little Scioto River	State Route 739, near Marion to Holland Road, near Marion (Marion County)	*PAHs
Mahoning River	NW Bridge Road (Warren) to Pennsylvania State Line (Mahoning, Trumbull counties)	*PAHs, *PCBs

*PAHs = Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, a class of chemicals that occur naturally in coal, crude oil, and gasoline and persist in the environment.

*PCBs = Polychlorinated Biphenyls, man-made chemicals used in industrial and consumer products until banned in the U.S. in 1979 but still persist in old industrial products and in the environment.

+See Appendix B: FAQ for more information.

Turtle Consumption Advisory

Like fish, turtles can also accumulate contaminants that can be passed on to people who eat them. In general, contamination in turtles tends to be stored in the fat, certain organs, and the eggs of female turtles. The Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory recommends that anyone eating turtles should eat only muscle meat (back straps, neck muscle, etc.). Discard the fat, skin, organs, blood, and eggs before preparing the meat.

Reason for the Advisory

In 1997, the Ohio EPA collected snapping turtles from six locations and analyzed meat (muscle), liver, and fat tissues for lead, mercury, PCBs, and pesticides as part of a special monitoring project. Mercury and lead were found in the meat samples taken from four water bodies, resulting in the advisories below. Meat from snapping turtles collected at one location (see below) had contaminant concentrations below advisory levels of concern.

PCBs and mercury were found at extremely high concentrations in the turtles collected from the turtle advisory locations. Avoid eating fat or liver tissue from any snapping turtle caught in Ohio, particularly from turtles caught at the advisory locations.

Turtle Meal Preparation

If you decide to eat any snapping turtle caught in Ohio, we recommend the following precautions to reduce your exposure to contaminants that may be present:

1. Lay the turtle on its back shell (carapace).
2. Remove the shell that faces you (the plastron) by carefully cutting through the two bony ridges on both sides of the turtle between the fore and hind limbs.
3. Carefully remove and discard any fat and eggs present, and all organs, such as the liver and kidneys. **Save only the meat (muscle) for eating.**
4. Remove claws from the fore and hind limbs.
5. Remove skin from the neck, tail, and fore and hind limbs.

Ohio Snapping Turtle Advisory

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Meal* Frequency	Contaminant
Ashtabula River (Ashtabula County)	All waters	One/week	Mercury
Black River (Lorain County)	All waters	One/week	Mercury
Maumee River (Defiance, Henry, Lucas, Paulding, Wood Counties)	All waters	One/week	Mercury
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (Ottawa County)	All waters	One/week	Lead
Ottawa River (Lucas County)	All waters	DO NOT EAT	*PCBs

*One meal = One serving = 4 ounces uncooked meat
 *PCBs = Polychlorinated Biphenyls, man-made chemicals used in industrial and consumer products until banned in the U.S. in 1979 but still persist in old industrial products and in the environment.
 +See Appendix B: FAQ for more information.

Contact Us

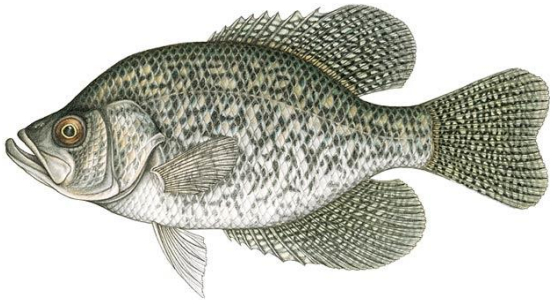
Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection
(614) 466-1390
BEH@odh.ohio.gov
www.odh.ohio.gov

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
(614) 644-2160
fishmail@epa.ohio.gov
www.epa.ohio.gov

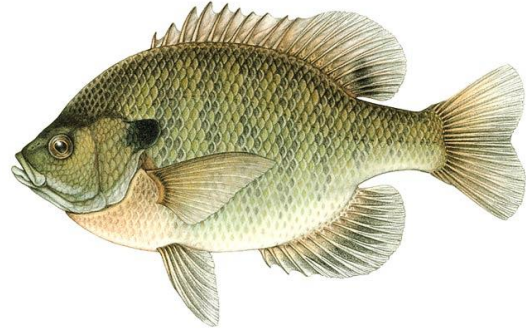
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543)
wildinfo@dnr.state.oh.us
www.ohiodnr.gov

Appendix A. Ohio Sport Fish Pictures

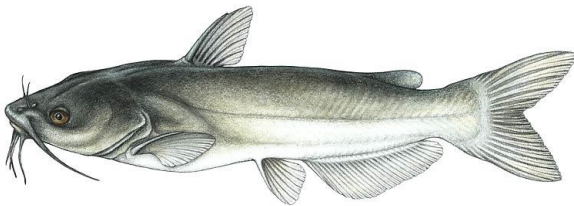
The Ohio Department of Natural Resources provides the following images of common sport fish in Ohio. Use the images below to help identify your catch. For more information, visit <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/animals/fishpages>.



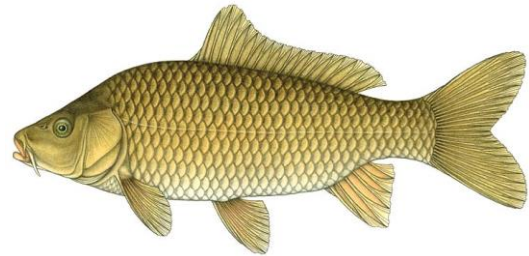
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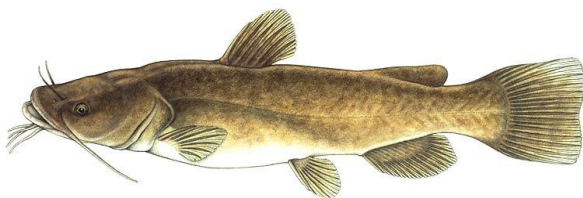
Bluegill



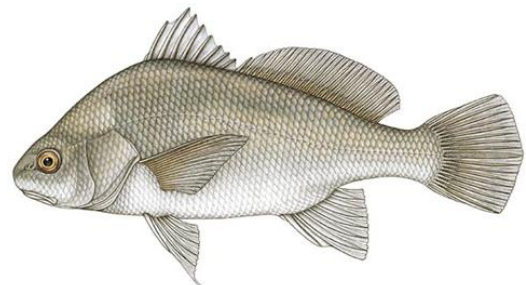
Channel Catfish



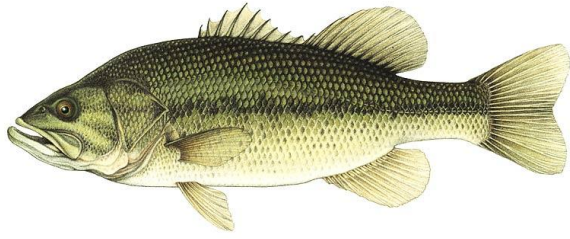
Common Carp



Flathead Catfish



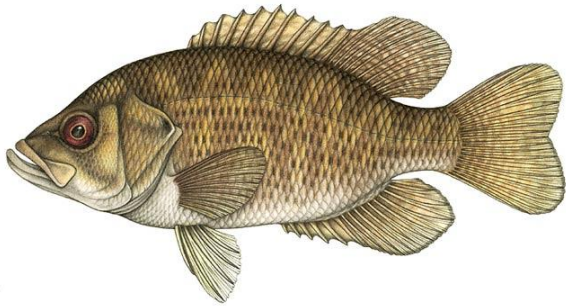
Freshwater Drum



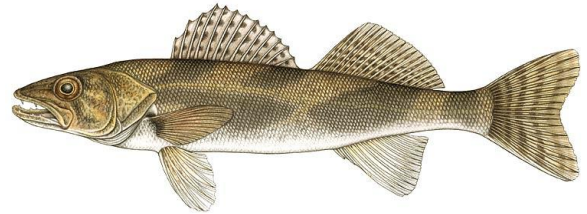
Green Bass



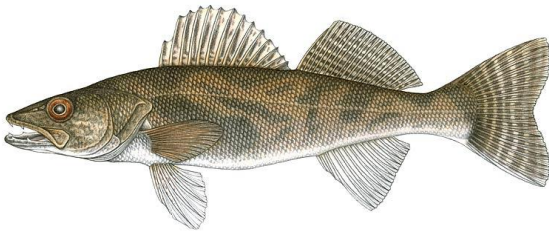
Rainbow Trout



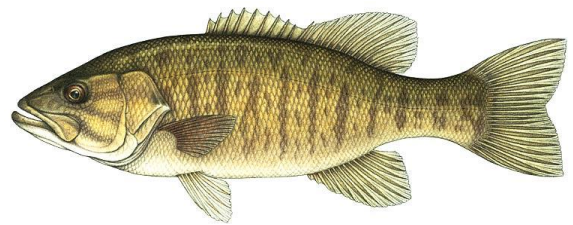
Rock Bass



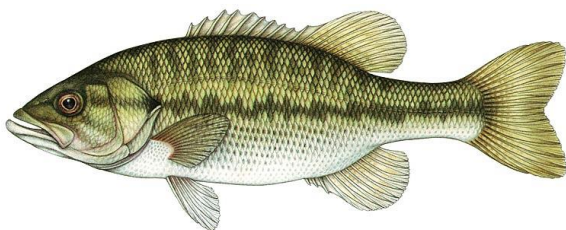
Sauger



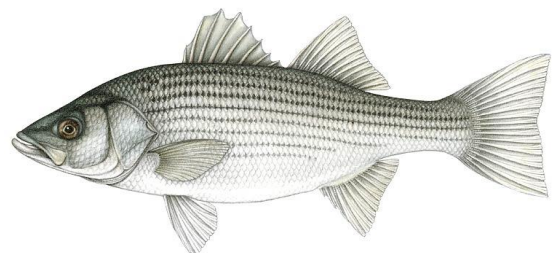
Saugeye



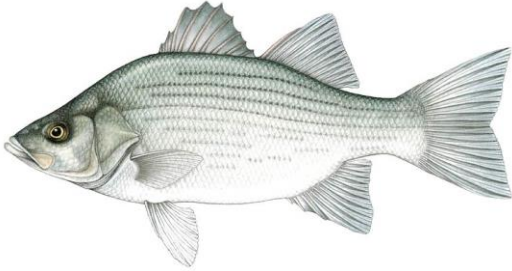
Smallmouth Bass



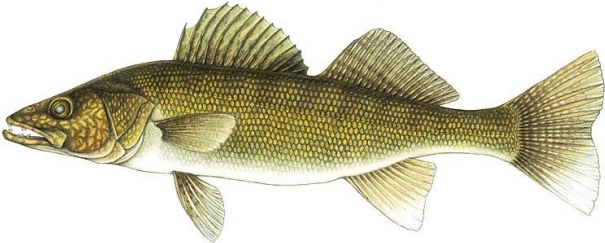
Spotted Bass



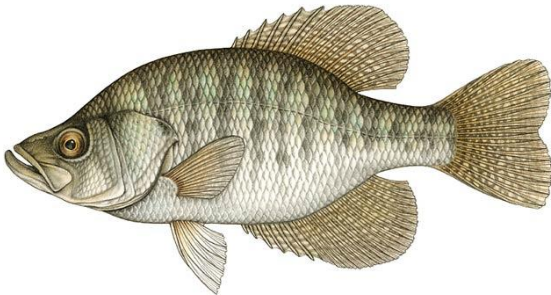
Striped Bass



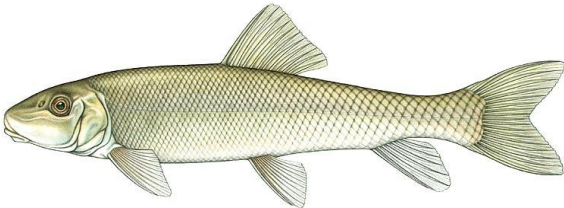
White Bass



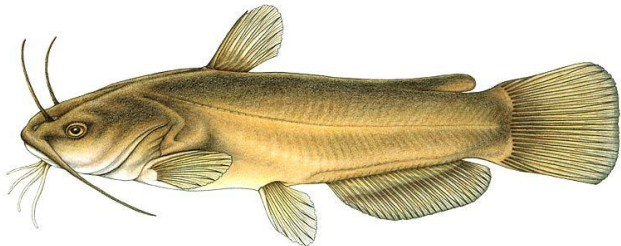
Walleye



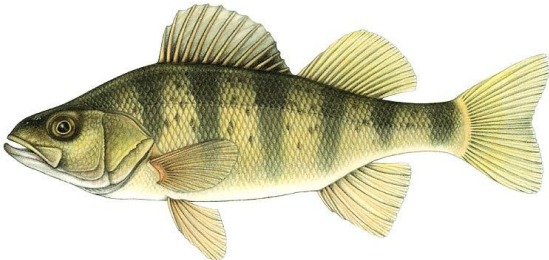
White Crappie



White Sucker



Yellow Bullhead



Yellow Perch

Appendix B. Frequently Asked Questions

1. What contaminants are in Ohio sport fish?

Not all Ohio fish are contaminated. Contaminants that are found in some Ohio fish include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, and metals like lead and methylmercury. The contaminants responsible for most advisories are PCBs and methylmercury.

PCBs are man-made oils that were once used to make copying paper and electrical equipment. PCBs break down very slowly in the environment and build up in fish through the food chain.

Mercury is a metal that occurs in nature. Natural sources of mercury include volcanoes and forest fires, but it can also enter the environment through human activities like coal-burning power plants. Methylmercury is a mercury compound that builds up in fish through the food chain.

2. How do methylmercury and PCBs affect human health?

The levels of methylmercury and PCBs found in Ohio fish are not known to cause immediate sickness in humans.

Over time, methylmercury and PCBs can build up in a person's body. It may take months or years of regularly eating contaminated fish to build up amounts of contaminants that are a health concern. It takes up to six years for the body to get rid of PCBs, and up to one year to get rid of mercury after a person stops eating contaminated fish.

Health problems that may result from contaminants in fish include birth defects (including developmental and physical deficits) in newborns of mothers who eat highly contaminated fish for many years before becoming pregnant. Mercury has been known to cause heart problems in older adults and can cause problems with the brain and nerves.

3. Why does Ohio have an advisory to only eat one meal of sport fish a week?

Fish taken from rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs throughout Ohio often have small amounts of chemical contaminants. Limiting the number of sport fish meals eaten ensures that the contaminants do not build up in your body to levels that may be harmful. Data collected from lakes and rivers in Ohio show a statewide advisory of one meal per week of most Ohio sport fish is safe.

4. Should I stop eating fish?

No. ODH is only recommending that you stop eating sport fish for which there is a “Do Not Eat” advisory. Ohio fish are safe to eat if the fish consumption advisory is followed, and fish provides a great source of proteins and healthy oils.

5. Is fish from grocery stores and restaurants safe to eat?

Although the Ohio Sport Fish Advisory is mainly focused on sport fish caught in Ohio waters, ODH encourages adding a wide variety of fish to your diet and understands that even people who fish will often add store-bought or fish from a restaurant to their diet. Most kinds of fish on the market, including fish from restaurants and grocery stores, are safe to eat and low in contaminants. For more information on recommended fish to eat, visit the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s webpage: <https://www.fda.gov/food/consumers/advice-about-eating-fish>.

To find food product recalls involving food regulated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, including recalls on fish and seafood, use ODH’s Food Recalls search tool:

<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/food-safety-program/food-recalls>.

6. Can I eat one serving of fish that has a once-per-month advisory due to PCBs and one serving of fish that has a once-per-month advisory due to mercury in the same month?

Yes. PCBs and mercury affect the body in different ways, so it is considered safe to eat within the same month both a serving of fish that has an advisory due to PCBs as well as a serving of fish that has an advisory due to mercury.

However, you should not regularly eat two servings of fish in a month containing the same contaminant if they both have a recommendation to only eat them once per month. For example, if you catch a catfish which the advisory recommends only eating once per month due to mercury and you eat one serving of it, then you should not eat another serving of that fish during that month. You should also not eat a serving of any other kind of fish that month that has a once per month advisory due to mercury.

7. What should I do if I eat more than the recommended amount of fish and shellfish in a week?

The levels of contaminants found in Ohio fish are not known to cause immediate sickness in humans.

Over time, contaminants can build up in a person's body. It may take months or years of regularly eating contaminated fish to build up amounts of contaminants that are a health concern. One week of eating too much fish or shellfish is not likely to cause noticeable health problems.

If you eat too much fish or shellfish in one week, ODH advises that you reduce the amount you eat during the following week. For example, the recommendation is that adults should eat no more than 6 ounces of Ohio sport fish per week. If you eat 12 ounces of Ohio sport fish in one week, then you should eat none the following week. If you eat 18 ounces of Ohio sport fish in one week, then you should eat none for the following two weeks, and so on.

8. Has the lake or stream where I like to fish been sampled for contaminated fish?

All lakes that are known to have fish with higher levels of contaminants are listed in the Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory booklet. If you don't see the public lake where you fish in the booklet, then you should consume the fish you catch from the waterbody according to the general advisory.

9. What contaminants are looked for to determine if an advisory is needed?

Ohio's fish samples are analyzed for several contaminants, most importantly mercury and PCBs which are responsible for the majority of fish consumption advisories. Samples are also tested for:

- Metals (arsenic, cadmium, lead, selenium).
- Pesticides (aldrin, dieldrin, lindane, DDT and its breakdown products, endrin, endosulfan, heptachlor, methoxychlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex, and nonachlor).

10. The water where I fish seems dirty, but the fish have been sampled and there is no advisory. Why isn't there an

advisory?

You cannot tell if a fish advisory is needed by whether a body of water looks or smells dirty.

Because the contaminant levels that Ohio EPA looks for when it samples fish are so small, you cannot see, smell, or taste them in the water or fish. A body of water and its fish can look clean but actually be contaminated and require an advisory.

On the other hand, a body of water can look dirty for reasons other than contaminants like PCBs and mercury. Bacteria and algae (microscopic plants) can cause the water to look discolored, murky, or muddy, or cause a bad odor. Recent heavy rains can stir up sediment and cause water to look cloudy or brown. Even if this is the case, a fish advisory may not be needed.