

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Every year, Iowa DNR biologists collect edible samples of fish for laboratory analysis. Results of this analysis show that most fish are safe to eat even though trace amounts of chemicals may be present in fish tissue. Mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are the chemicals most likely to accumulate in fish and exceed Iowa's risk-based advisory levels that are based on guidance provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Fish consumption advisories are issued whenever it is confirmed that Iowa's advisory levels are exceeded. Consumption advisories typically focus on predator and bottom-feeding species. Panfish (crappie, Bluegill, Yellow Perch) are generally safe to eat with virtually no risk.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

recommend that pregnant and nursing women, those planning to become pregnant and children 12 years or younger limit their consumption to one meal per week of all larger size predator fish, such as Walleye and bass. Predator fish are more likely to have higher concentrations of mercury (see www.epa.gov/waterscience/fishadvice/advice.html); however, consumption of panfish by these higher risk individuals is considered safe unless otherwise posted.

The most up to date list of consumption advisories is found at: www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Water-Monitoring/Fish-Tissue. New advisories are issued and existing advisories are removed, based on results of annual fish contaminant monitoring in Iowa.

CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Do not eat more than 1 meal/week of , Advisory contaminant Lake (County)
Channel Catfish , PCBs McKinley Lake (Union)
Largemouth Bass , Mercury Grade Lake (Clarke), Lake Geode (Henry), Lake Iowa (Iowa), Lake Keomah (Mahaska), Lake Miami (Monroe), Lake Wapello (Davis), Mormon Trail Lake (Adair), Nine Eagles Lake (Decatur), North Banner Lake (Warren), Pollmiller Park Lake (Lee), Red Haw Lake (Lucas), South Banner Lake (Warren), Upper Centerville Reservoir (Appanoose)
Snapping Turtle , Mercury Pollmiller Park Lake (Lee)
Do not eat more than 1 meal/week of , Advisory contaminant River Reaches (County)
Any Predator Fish , Mercury Cedar River from Hwy. 218 bridge at Floyd (Floyd) to the Iowa/Minn. state line (Mitchell), Iowa River from the upper end of Coralville Reservoir near Swisher (Johnson) to the dam in Iowa Falls (Hardin); Shell Rock River from the West Fork Cedar River confluence near Cedar Falls (Black Hawk) to the Winnebago River confluence Rockford (Floyd); Turkey River from Mississippi River confluence near Millville (Clayton) to the Volga River confluence near Garber (Clayton); and West Fork Des Moines River from the East Fork Des Moines River confluence near Dakota City (Humboldt) to Hwy. 15 south of West Bend (Humboldt/Pocahontas)
Any Fish , Mercury Upper Iowa River from County Road 76 near Dorchester (Allamakee) to County Road W20 (Bluffton Road) (Winneshek)
Common Carp over 20 inches in length , PCBs Mississippi River (Scott), Pool 15 at Davenport
Smallmouth Bass , Mercury Volga River from Volga (Clayton) to its headwaters near Hawkeye (Fayette) including the Little Volga and North Branch Volga rivers