



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

RSA Tower 201 Monroe Street, Suite 914 Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone 334-206-5300 Fax 334-206-5520

www.adph.org

Alabama Department of Public Health issues 2011 Fish Consumption Advisories

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

John Guarisco, Ph.D
(800) 201-8208

Concern about protecting the public from possible exposure to mercury from eating fish led to the issuance of several new fish consumption advisories for bodies of water in Alabama. The quality of water, based upon the levels of contaminants in fish from the waters in Alabama, generally continues improvements made in recent years.

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) annually updates fish consumption advisories based on data collected the preceding fall by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

ADEM collected samples of specific fish species for analysis from various water bodies throughout the state during the fall of 2010. ADPH assessed the analytical results to determine whether any of the tested contaminants in the fish may give rise to potential human health effects.

Fish consumption advisories are issued for specific water bodies and specific species taken from those areas. In reservoirs, advisories apply to waters as far as a boat can be taken upstream in a tributary, that is, to full pool elevations.

Beginning with the 2007 advisories, ADPH adopted a contaminant level for mercury in fish that would protect those who might consider eating more than one fish meal per week. The new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards are four times more protective than Food and Drug Administration (FDA) levels previously used. After the lower, more protective limit was adopted in 2007, an increasing number of water bodies around the state received advisories for mercury in fish as they were tested. Newly issued advisories will be represented as the safe number of meals of that species of fish that can be eaten in a given period of time, such as meals per week, meals per month or no consumption. A meal portion consists of 6 ounces of cooked fish or 8 ounces of raw fish.

All advisories previously issued using FDA guidelines remain in effect for this year (2011) and other advisories have been updated to reflect the EPA consumption levels for mercury-contaminated fish.

New and updated consumption advisories issued for the 24 bodies of water, locations or species are listed in Table 1. Please note that Logan Martin Reservoir and Weiss Reservoir have no restriction and restricted consumption advisories. Previous year advisories, which remain in effect, are found in Table 2.

Fish were analyzed for up to 30 different materials or types of materials, including contaminants in the water (PCBs, including dioxins), pesticides (endosulfan I and II, hexachlorobenzene, chlordane, lindane, dieldrin, endrin, DDT and its breakdown products and congeners, heptachlors, Mirex, chlorpyrifos and toxaphene), and heavy metals (arsenic, cadmium, mercury and selenium) to which the fish may have been exposed. In addition, fish were examined for body appearance, lipid content, age and weight.

Fish are good indicators of the health of a water body. Some contaminants could bioaccumulate in fish. The contaminant could enter the food supply through either crustaceans or bottom feeding fish in a given area. These species would be eaten by larger or more aggressive species, thereby transferring the contaminant from the species consumed to the larger species.

The advice contained in this release and complete listings of the posted fish consumption advisories (<http://www.adph.org>) are offered as guidance to individuals who wish to eat fish they catch from various water bodies throughout the state. No regulations ban the consumption of any of the fish caught within the state, nor is there a risk of an acute toxic episode that could result from consuming any of the fish containing the contaminants for which the state has conducted analyses.

A fish consumption advisory can be issued for one or more specific species of fish within a water body or an advisory can be extended to include all fish species within that water body. When excess levels of a contaminant are found in a specific species of fish, an advisory is issued for that specific species. For example, if an advisory had been issued for largemouth bass and not for channel catfish, it would be advised that individuals should not eat largemouth bass, but consumption of channel catfish is permissible without endangering health. When excess levels of a contaminant are found in multiple fish species sampled from a specific water body, a No Consumption Advisory is issued. Consumption of any fish from a specific water body under a No Consumption Advisory may place the consumer at risk for harm from the contaminant.

If a particular species is not listed in the advisory, it is prudent to assume that similar species with similar feeding habits should be consumed with caution.

In previous years' advisories, the term "Limited Consumption" was used. The intent of a Limited Consumption Advisory was for women of childbearing age, pregnant women and children (less than 15 years of age) to refrain from consumption of any fish indicated under this advisory. All other individuals should limit their consumption of the particular species to one meal per month. These criteria are still being used, but in this advisory the term Limited Consumption has been removed and replaced with specific columns for each groups. This is the only change that has been made, and was done in an effort to increase readability of the advisory.

Table 1. New and Updated 2011 Alabama Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Water Body	County	Portion	Species	Type of Advisory		Contaminant
				Women of childbearing age and small children	All other individuals	
Alabama River NEW	Monroe	Approximately 2.0 miles downstream of AL Hwy 12/US Hwy 84. River miles 65-66.	Spotted bass	2 meals/month	2 meals/month	Mercury
Bayview Lake NEW	Jefferson	Bayview Lake at deepest point, main creek channel, dam forebay.	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.
Chocolocco Creek NEW	Talladega	Deepest point, main creek channel, Chocolocco Creek embayment, approximately 1.0 mile upstream of lake confluence.	All species	No consumption	No consumption	PCBs
Claiborne Reservoir NEW	Monroe	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	Largemouth bass	No consumption	No consumption	Mercury
	Clarke	Claiborne Reservoir in vicinity of the intersection of Clarke, Monroe, and Wilcox Counties.	Largemouth Bass	No consumption	No consumption	Mercury

Table 1. New and Updated 2011 Alabama Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Water Body	County	Portion	Species	Type of Advisory		Contaminant
				Women of childbearing age and small children	All other individuals	
Dannelly Reservoir NEW	Wilcox	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	All Species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.
	Dallas	Approximately 7.5 miles upstream of AL Hwy 41. Alabama river miles 214.9-216.9.	All Species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.
Four Mile/Six Mile Creek NEW	Dallas	Four Mile/Six Mile Creek upstream of confluence with the Alabama River, near Selma.	All species	No consumption	1 meal/month	Mercury
Guntersville Reservoir NEW	Jackson	Guntersville Reservoir, vicinity of TRM 408. Just downstream of Widows Creek.	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.
Harris Reservoir NEW	Randolph	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.

Table 1. New and Updated 2011 Alabama Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Water Body	County	Portion	Species	Type of Advisory		Contaminant
				Women of childbearing age and small children	All other individuals	
Huntsville Spring Branch/Indian Creek NEW	Madison	Deepest point, main creek channel, Indian Creek embayment, 1.0 mile upstream of lake confluence.	Smallmouth buffalo	No consumption	No consumption	DDT
			Bigmouth buffalo	No consumption	No consumption	
Jordan Reservoir NEW	Elmore	Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.
Lay Reservoir NEW	Chilton	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	Striped bass	No consumption	1 meal/month	PCBs
	Shelby	Approximately 1.5 miles downstream of US Hwy 280 bridge. Vicinity of Coosa River mile 444.0.	Channel catfish	2 meals/month	2 meals/month	Mercury
		Largemouth bass	No consumption	1 meal/month		

Table 1. New and Updated 2011 Alabama Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Water Body	County	Portion	Species	Type of Advisory		Contaminant
				Women of childbearing age and small children	All other individuals	
Logan Martin Reservoir NEW	St. Clair	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	Striped bass	No consumption	1 meal/month	PCBs
	Shelby	Approximately Logan Martin Reservoir at Riverside near the confluence of Blue Eye Creek. Alabama Power reservoir mile 20.0 (vicinity of Interstate 20 bridge).	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.
Martin Reservoir NEW	Tallapoosa	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.
Mitchell Reservoir NEW	Coosa	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.

Table 1. New and Updated 2011 Alabama Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Water Body	County	Portion	Species	Type of Advisory		Contaminant
				Women of childbearing age and small children	All other individuals	
Neely Henry Reservoir NEW	Calhoun	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.
Sougahatchee Creek NEW	Tallapoosa	Deepest point, main creek channel, Sougahatchee Creek embayment. Approximately 1.6 miles upstream from the Tallapoosa River confluence.	Largemouth bass	No consumption	1 meal/month	Mercury
Sugar Creek NEW	Tallapoosa	Martin Reservoir, Sugar Creek embayment.	Largemouth bass	No consumption	No consumption	Mercury
Tallapoosa River NEW	Montgomery	Tallapoosa River, deepest point, approximately 3.0 miles upstream of US Hwy 231.	Spotted bass	No consumption	1 meal/month	Mercury

Table 1. New and Updated 2011 Alabama Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Water Body	County	Portion	Species	Type of Advisory		Contaminant
				Women of childbearing age and small children	All other individuals	
Tennessee River UPDATED	Jackson	At AL/TN state line just upstream of Long Island at river mile 417.	Spotted bass	2 meals/month	2 meals/month	Mercury
Thurlow Reservoir NEW	Elmore	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	Largemouth bass	No consumption	1 meal/month	Mercury
Tombigbee River NEW	Washington	Tombigbee River at river mile 50.0 approximately 5 miles upstream of the confluence with the Alabama River.	Largemouth bass	2 meals/month	2 meals/month	Mercury
	Washington	Vicinity of McIntosh landing, river mile 60.	Largemouth bass	2 meals/month	2 meals/month	Mercury
Woodruff Reservoir NEW	Autauga	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay. In vicinity of Prairie Creek access area.	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.
	Elmore	Deepest point, main river channel, immediately upstream of US Hwy 31 bridge. River miles 278-279.	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.

Table 1. New and Updated 2011 Alabama Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Water Body	County	Portion	Species	Type of Advisory		Contaminant
				Women of childbearing age and small children	All other individuals	
Weiss Reservoir NEW	Cherokee	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	Channel catfish	No consumption	No consumption	PCBs
			Striped bass	No consumption	1 meal/month	
	Cherokee	State line. Deepest point, main river channel, AL/GA state line.	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.
Widows Creek UPDATED	Jackson	Widows Creek between Tennessee River confluence and 1.0 mile upstream of confluence.	Largemouth bass	No consumption	1 meal/month	Mercury
	Jackson	Stretch of Widows Creek from 1.5 miles upstream of Tennessee River confluence to first bridge crossing (Million Dollar Bridge).	Largemouth bass	No consumption	No consumption	Mercury
	Jackson	Upstream of Jackson County Road 96.	Largemouth bass	No consumption	1 meal/month	Mercury
Yates Reservoir NEW	Tallapoosa	Lower reservoir. Deepest point, main river channel, dam forebay.	All species	No restrictions	No restrictions	No level of concern exceeded for chemicals tested.

Table 2. Previous Year (2010) Alabama Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Water Body	County	Collection Location	Species	Type of Advisory		Contaminant
				Women of childbearing age and small children	All other individuals	
Big Nance Creek	Lawrence	Big Nance Creek at Lawrence County Road 25.	Golden Redhorse	2 meals/month	2 meals/month	Mercury
			Largemouth bass	No consumption	No consumption	
	Lawrence	Wilson Reservoir. Big Nance Creek embayment upstream of AL Hwy 101 bridge.	Channel catfish	2 meals/month	2 meals/month	Mercury
			Largemouth bass	No consumption	1 meal/month	
Cedar Creek Reservoir	Franklin	Dam forebay to 1 mile upstream of dam.	Channel catfish	No consumption	1 meal/month	Mercury
			Largemouth bass	No consumption	No consumption	
Coffeeville Reservoir	Sumter	Approximately 1.5 miles downstream of US Highway 80/ AL Highway 28 bridge, Tombigbee River mile 202-200.	Largemouth bass	No consumption	No consumption	Mercury
			Spotted bass	No consumption	1 meal/month	
Flint Creek	Morgan	Downstream of West Flint Creek confluence, vicinity of US Highway 31.	Largemouth bass	No consumption	No consumption	Mercury
Limestone Creek	Limestone	Wheeler Reservoir, embayment beginning approximately 1 mile upstream of confluence with Tennessee River.	Largemouth bass	No consumption	1 meal/month	Mercury

Table 2. Previous Year (2010) Alabama Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Water Body	County	Collection Location	Species	Type of Advisory		Contaminant
				Women of childbearing age and small children	All other individuals	
Little Bear Creek Reservoir	Franklin	Dam forebay area. Little Bear Creek mile 12.5.	Largemouth bass	2 meals/month	2 meals/month	Mercury
Tennessee River	Jackson	At AL/TN state line just upstream of Long Island. At Tennessee River mile 417.	Spotted bass	2 meals/month	2 meals/month	Mercury
Upper Bear Creek Reservoir	Marion	Dam forebay area, Upper Bear Creek mile 11.	Channel catfish	2 meals/month	2 meals/month	Mercury
			Largemouth bass	No consumption	No consumption	
Widows Creek	Jackson	Vicinity of first bridge crossing of Tennessee River confluence, Million Dollar Bridge.	Largemouth bass	No consumption	No consumption	Mercury
			Yellow bullhead	No consumption	1 meal/month	
	Jackson	Upstream of Jackson County Road 96.	Freshwater drum	No consumption	1 meal/month	Mercury
			Largemouth bass	No consumption	No consumption	