



**FOR RELEASE:** February 28, 2013  
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### **Fish Consumption Advisories Updated for 2013**

This year's Ohio fish consumption advisory includes updates for several locations based on samples that were taken from five lakes and 12 streams in 2011. Fish consumption evaluations help Ohio anglers make informed decisions about consuming their catch.

[Ohio fish advisories](#) can be found on Ohio EPA's website, or call (614) 644-2160 to request a copy. Fish consumption advisory contact information will be provided to anglers with fishing license purchases beginning on March 1, 2013.

More information about fish consumption can be found at Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Centers, local health departments, Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Natural Resources district offices.

A statewide advisory of one fish meal per week due to mercury remains for all fish not otherwise mentioned. Mercury poses a greater health risk to women of child-bearing age, pregnant and nursing mothers and children under 15. Fish contaminated with high levels of mercury have been shown to cause neurological damage and impaired development in young children.

Advisories for the following areas have been relaxed primarily due to lower mercury levels:

- **Ashtabula River** - U.S. Route 20 to Lake Erie, one meal per month for common carp and freshwater drum due to lower PCB levels.
- **Deer Creek Lake** – Two meals per week for common carp, largemouth bass and white crappie.
- **Deer Creek** - from I-70 to the Scioto River - Two meals per week for channel catfish and white crappie.
- **Lake Erie** – One meal per month for whitefish 19 inches and over.
- **Pike Lake** – Two meals per week for channel catfish.
- **Ross Lake** – One meal per week for channel catfish.
- **Stonelick Lake** – Two meals per week for largemouth bass.

Advisories in the following water bodies are more restrictive:

- **Great Miami River** – Harrison Pike to the Ohio River:  
A once a month advisory for freshwater drum is now issued due to mercury rather than PCBs, with a limit of 16 inches and larger, and largemouth bass has been updated to cover all sizes.
- **Lake Erie** – One meal per month for Rock Bass affecting all waters due to PCBs.
- **Scioto River** –

Kenton to Warrensburg: smallmouth bass one meal per month due to mercury.

Greenlawn Dam to U.S. Route 35: one meal per month for channel catfish and carp due to PCBs, one meal per month for white bass 12 inches and larger due to mercury, and all flathead catfish due to PCBs and mercury.

U.S. Route 35 to State Route 335: one meal per month for white bass 12 inches and larger due to mercury; and all catfish due to PCBs and mercury.

State Route 335 to the Ohio River: one meal per month for white bass 12 inches and larger due to mercury; one meal per month for flathead catfish due to mercury and PCBs, and one meal per month for channel catfish and common carp due to PCBs.

For the latest advisory, 289 fish tissue samples were evaluated. Ohio EPA partners with the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to develop consumption advisories for fish caught in Ohio. Fish consumption advisories are updated annually.

To learn more about fishing and shellfish outside Ohio, please visit the [federal commercial fishing website](#).