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Ohio EPA Releases 2011 Fish Consumption Advisory

Ohio EPA has revised state fish consumption advice for major water bodies in 2011, including Lake Erie, and the Scioto, Great Miami and Ohio Rivers.

Less stringent advisories are needed for three lakes due to lower mercury detections. People can now eat two fish meals per week from the following lakes for certain fish species:

- Griggs Reservoir for common carp and largemouth bass;
- Indian Lake for black crappie, channel catfish, common carp, and largemouth bass; and
- O'Shaughnessy Reservoir for common carp and white crappie.

Stricter limits for safely consuming your catch are recommended for Lake Erie; Cross Creek (Jefferson County); Duck Creek (Washington County); Great Miami River; Licking River; Little Muskingum River; Ohio River; Ottawa River (Lima); Sandusky River; Scioto River; and Wheeling Creek.

Ohio EPA fish consumption advisories are [online](#) or by calling (614) 644-2160 for a hard copy. Fish consumption advisories are provided to anglers in the Ohio Fishing Regulations issued with a fishing license, beginning March 1, 2011.

A statewide advisory remains in effect for one fish meal per week for all fish not otherwise listed in the advisory due to mercury still found in fish tissue samples. Mercury poses the greatest risk for 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 of young children.

More detailed information about health and fish consumption can be found at Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Centers, local health departments, Ohio Department of Natural Resources district offices and at Ohio EPA offices. Ohio EPA partners with the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to develop consumption advisories for fish caught in Ohio.

Fish consumption advisories are updated annually. For this advisory, Ohio EPA and ODNR evaluated 476 samples collected in 14 lakes and reservoirs and 29 streams in 2009. The information helps Ohio's fishing community make informed decisions about consuming their catch. To learn more about fishing and shellfish caught outside Ohio, please visit the [federal commercial fishing website](#).

2011 Fish Consumption Advisory Updates:

- Lake Erie – advisories for all of Lake Erie include:
 - one meal every two months for common carp due to PCBs;
 - one meal per month for channel catfish, freshwater drum, lake trout, rock bass, smallmouth bass, steelhead trout, white bass, whitefish 18” and over, and white perch due to PCBs; and
 - one meal per month for brown bullhead due to mercury. Walleye and yellow perch remain in the one meal per week category.
- Cross Creek (Jefferson County) – one meal per month for:
 - common carp due to PCBs;
 - channel catfish due to mercury and PCBs; and
 - freshwater drum due to mercury from Reeds Mill Road to the Ohio River.
- Duck Creek (Washington County) – one meal per month for:
 - township Road 329 in Stanleyville to State Route 26 in Norwood for common carp and sauger due to DDT, and
 - State Route 26 in Norwood to the Ohio River for black crappie, freshwater drum, and saugeye 16” and over due to mercury.
- Great Miami River – one meal per month advisories for:
 - the area downstream of Indian Lake to Lowhead Dam at Monument Avenue in Dayton, for common carp, channel catfish and flathead catfish due to PCBs, and for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and white bass due to mercury;
 - Lowhead Dam at Monument Avenue in Dayton to State Route 73 near Middletown for common carp, channel catfish, and flathead catfish due to PCBs, and largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and white bass due to mercury; and
 - State Route 73 near Middletown to Harrison Pike in Miamitown advisory for channel catfish, common carp, flathead catfish, freshwater drum, saugeye, and smallmouth buffalo due to PCBs, and for largemouth bass and white bass due to mercury.
- Great Miami River – one meal every two months advisory for hybrid striped bass due to PCBs and lead.
- Licking River – a new one meal per month advisory for the river section adjacent Summit Street in Newark to the Muskingum River for channel catfish due to PCBs.
- Little Muskingum River – advisory of one meal per month has been issued for:
 - the river section from Hill’s Covered Bridge to the Ohio River for freshwater drum due to mercury and PCBs; and
 - one meal per month for spotted bass due to mercury.
- Ohio River – from the Pennsylvania border to Belleville Lock:
 - do not eat channel catfish 18” and over due to PCBs;
 - one meal every two months of channel catfish under 18”, common carp, and white bass due to PCBs; and
 - one meal per month of black crappie, flathead catfish, freshwater drum 14” and over, largemouth bass, sauger, saugeye, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, hybrid striped bass, all suckers, walleye, and white crappie due to PCBs.

- Ohio River – from the from the Belleville Lock to the Indiana Border:
 - one meal every two months of channel catfish 18” and over due to PCBs; and
 - and one meal per month of channel catfish under 18”, common carp, flathead catfish, freshwater drum 14” and over, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, all suckers, and white bass due to PCBs.

Fish advisories for the Ohio River are based on data from the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) based on protocol developed by the Ohio River Fish Consumption Advisory Workgroup. The protocol ensures uniform advisories among Ohio River states for all river sections. For more detail on Ohio River advisory updates, see www.orsanco.org.

- Ottawa River (Lima) – a one meal per month advisory was added for the river section from Cool Road to the Auglaize River for smallmouth bass due to mercury.
- Sandusky River – advisories have been modified to join three river segments into one. Advisory updates will adjust all segments to include a one meal per month advisory for common carp and smallmouth buffalo due to PCBs, and channel catfish 16” and over, rock bass, and smallmouth bass due to mercury.
- Scioto River – advisories were added or modified to the following sections:
 - Township Road 17 to Radnor Road - one meal per month for flathead catfish 21” and over due to PCBs and for northern pike due to mercury;
 - Warrensburg to State Route 762 - one meal per month for common carp and flathead catfish 21” or more due to PCBs, and for saugeye 19” or more and smallmouth bass 12” or more due to mercury;
 - State Route 762 to U.S. Route 35, one meal per month advisories for common carp, flathead catfish 21” and over, and white bass 11” or more due to PCBs, and for sauger 15” or more, saugeye 19” or more, and smallmouth bass 12” or more due to mercury;
 - U.S. Route 35 to State Route 335, one meal per month for channel catfish, common carp, flathead catfish 21” or more, smallmouth buffalo, and white bass 11” or more due to PCBs and sauger 15” or more and smallmouth bass 12” or more due to mercury;
 - State Route 335 to U.S. Route 23, one meal a month for channel catfish, common carp, flathead catfish 21” or more, and white bass 11” or more due to PCBs, and for sauger 15” or more and smallmouth bass 12” or more due to mercury; and
 - U.S. Route 23 to the Ohio River, one meal a month for channel catfish, common carp, and flathead catfish 21” or more from PCBs.
- Wheeling Creek - State Route 9 to the Ohio River, one meal per month for smallmouth bass due to mercury.