

For Immediate Release
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PROVINCE UPDATES FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES FOR SPORT FISH IN THE UPPER BAY OF QUINTE

Changes Respond To Recent Sampling Results in Two Species of Fish

QUINTE WEST – The Ontario government has released new fish consumption information for yellow perch and brown bullhead caught in the upper Bay of Quinte, from Trenton to Deseronto.

As part of an ongoing investigation into sediment quality at the mouth of the Trent River, samples of yellow perch and brown bullhead were recently collected by Environment Canada and analyzed by the Ministry of the Environment. Samples have been found to contain elevated levels of dioxins and furans and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls which are known toxins. As a result, the province has updated consumption advice for the public to indicate greater caution when consuming these two species of fish.

Consumption levels are revised and reset as appropriate to make sure that people who consume fish over the long-term are protected. Today's new information adds to consumption advice already in place for three other fish species in the area – Chinook salmon, whitefish and carp – that have been found to contain dioxins and furans.

The new consumption levels are as follows:

YELLOW PERCH

- For the general population, four meals of 15-30 cm yellow perch a month. This has been changed from eight meals a month. For fish outside this range, please see page 9 of the *2005/06 Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish*.

BROWN BULLHEAD

- Women of child-bearing years and children under 15 are advised not to consume brown bullhead. This has been changed from four meals a month.
- For the general population, consumption restrictions have changed to: two meals a month for fish between 20-25 cm and one meal a month for 25-30 cm. Brown bullheads over 30 cm should not be consumed. This has been changed from eight meals a month.

The *2005/06 Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish* is based on Health Canada's health protection guidelines and will be up-dated in February 2007.

The updated advice for yellow fish and brown bullhead will be posted at key access points along the upper Bay of Quinte and is available by calling 1-800-820-2716 or on the ministry's website at www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/guide/index.htm

A complete list of consumption guidelines currently in place for fish species in the upper Bay of Quinte can also be found on the ministry's website.

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