

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

Changes Respond To Recent Sampling Results in Sport Fish

QUINTE WEST – The Ontario Government has released new fish consumption information for seven species of sport fish caught in the Upper Bay of Quinte, from Trenton to Deseronto.

As part of the Sport Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program, samples collected by the Ministry of Natural Resources were recently analyzed by the Ministry of the Environment. Several species have been found to contain elevated levels of dioxins and furans and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls which are all known toxins. As a result, the province has updated consumption advice for the public to encourage greater caution when consuming fish species.

Consumption levels are revised and reset appropriately to protect people who consume sport fish over the long-term. Today's new information adds to consumption advice already in place for several fish species in the area of the Upper Bay of Quinte. There is no indication that the new consumption restrictions are attributable to contaminated sediment located in the mouth of the Trent River.

New data for walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill and channel catfish are now available. Consumption advisories generally remain unchanged or have changed very little for most of these species, however significant changes have been made for channel catfish.

The new consumption advisories are as follows:

CHANNEL CATFISH

- New size ranges have been included. Previously, advisories were provided only for fish up to 35cm. Advisories are now provided for fish up to 75cm in length.
- Women of child-bearing age and children under 15 are advised not to consume any channel catfish over 30 cm. The current consumption advice of eight meals per month for fish up to 30cm remains unchanged. Previously, no advice was provided for fish over 35cm.
- For the general population, consumption restrictions have changed to one meal a month for fish 30 to 35 cm. The current consumption advice of eight meals per month for fish up to 30cm remains unchanged.
- Channel catfish over 35 cm should not be consumed. Previously, no advice was provided for fish over 35cm.

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

A complete list of consumption advisories currently in place for sport fish in the Upper Bay of Quinte can also be found on the ministry's website.

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www.ene.gov.on.ca