



Public Health
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Department of: HEALTH

Phone: (609) 265-5548
Fax: (609) 265-3152
E-Mail: bchd@co.burlington.nj.us
<http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/health>

Board of Chosen Freeholders County of Burlington New Jersey



Physical Address:
15 Pioneer Boulevard
Westampton, NJ 08060

Mailing Address:
49 Rancocas Road
P.O. Box 6000
Mount Holly, NJ 08060-6000

Burlington County Health Department Issues Preliminary Fish Consumption Advisory For Mirror Lake and Little Pine Lake

The Department of Environmental Protection, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Health, has updated recreational fish advisories for tributaries, lakes and ponds in the lower Delaware River watershed as part of the state's ongoing fish-safety monitoring program.

The DEP has also expanded testing of fish in selected water bodies in this and other regions of the state to include several chemicals of emerging concern known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS.

Due to growing concerns over the presence of PFAS in the environment, the DEP also sampled water, sediment and fish tissue samples from a limited number of water bodies in the lower Delaware River watershed and other regions of the state.

Water bodies were selected based on their proximity to potential sources of PFAS and their likelihood of being used for recreational and fishing purposes. PFAS were detected at varying levels and combinations in all of the water bodies tested.

PFAS – which include compounds more commonly known as PFOA, PFOS and PFNA – were once widely used in a variety of applications, including non-stick cookware, stain-resistant clothing and fabrics, food packaging, and in firefighting foams. These chemicals are persistent in the environment and can accumulate in people exposed to them.

Water bodies tested in Burlington County included Mirror Lake and Little Pine lake due to their proximity to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

All states have fish consumption advisories. Many of the fish on New Jersey's advisory lists are typically caught and released without being consumed, but some people rely on some of the species on the advisory lists as a food source.

The Burlington County Health Department advise fisherman to get the latest advisories for the specific water body they fish by visiting www.fishsmarteatsmartnj.org

The DEP tested fish tissue for PFAS compounds in largemouth bass, bluegill sunfish, common carp, white perch, channel catfish, pumpkinseed sun fish, striped bass, chain pickerel, yellow bullhead, brown bullhead and white catfish.

As a result of these tests, the DEP has released these Preliminary Fish Consumption Advisories for the general population.

MIRROR LAKE

Large Mouth Bass- Once every 3 months

Bluegill Sunfish- Once every 3 months

American Eel- Once every 3 months

LITTLE PINE LAKE

Large Mouth Bass- Once yearly

Pumpkinseed Sunfish- Once every 3 months

Yellow Perch- Once yearly

PREGNANT OR NURSING MOTHERS, CHILDREN AND WOMEN OF CHILD BEARING YEARS SHLOULD NOT EAT THESE FISH.

While water quality in New Jersey continues to improve, past pollution can persist for many years in sediments and continue to accumulate in fish at or near the top of the aquatic food chain.

The DEP and Department of Health have been issuing fish consumption advisories since 1983, updating them on a regular basis. These advisories allow the public to make informed choices about the fish they catch and eat.

For all freshwater fish and waters **not** covered by consumption advisories, consumers should follow the DEP's general freshwater advisories, which recommend eating no more than one meal per week for the general population and no more than one meal a month for high-risk individuals.

For the DEP's PFAS study report, visit www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/

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