

NEWS RELEASE

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Updates to Utah Mercury Fish Consumption Advisory List

New Waterways

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Three new locations have been added to Utah’s Mercury Fish Consumption Advisory list. The advisories are being issued after state officials found elevated levels of mercury in fish tissue in these waterways.

The new advisories include:

Waterbody	Species	Number of Meals per Month		
		Pregnant women and children under 6 (4 ounce meals/month)	Women of child-bearing age and children 6-16 (8 ounce meals/month)	Adult women past child-bearing age and men >16 (8 ounce meals/month)
Big Sand Wash Reservoir (Duchesne County)	Walleye	0	1	5
	Smallmouth Bass	0	1	3
	Yellow Perch	0	1	5
Millsite Reservoir (Emery County)	Splake Trout	1	2	7
Pineview Reservoir (Weber County)	Smallmouth Bass	1	2	8

For a complete list of all Utah Mercury Fish Consumption Advisories please visit: www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.

An 8-ounce serving of fish is equivalent to the size of two decks of playing cards. According to an analysis completed by the Utah Department of Health, eating more than the amounts noted in the advisories over a long period of time could result in an intake of mercury that exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency health recommendations.

Mercury is a naturally occurring element that can be transformed into methyl mercury, a toxic form found in some natural waters. Those most vulnerable to the effects of mercury toxicity include women who are pregnant or may become pregnant, nursing mothers, and young children. Chronic exposure to low concentrations of methyl mercury may result in neurological effects in the developing fetus and children.

Any health risks associated with eating fish from the fish advisory areas are based on long-term consumption and are not tied to eating fish occasionally. Eating fish remains an important part of a healthy diet. The American Heart Association recommends that individuals eat at least two fish or seafood meals weekly.

There is no health risk associated with mercury in the water for other uses of the waterways, such as swimming, boating, and waterskiing.

After testing hundreds of water bodies, health officials have found that fewer than 10% of Utah's tested waters have fish with elevated levels of mercury in their tissue.

Not all water bodies have been tested, and further testing may result in additional advisories. Utah fish consumption advisories are issued in partnership between the Utah Department of Health, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, and the Utah Department of Natural Resources.

For more detailed information, please visit the following website: www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.