



News Release

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New Utah Waterways Added to Fish Consumption Advisory List

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Fish consumption advisories have been issued for six popular fishing areas in Utah. The advisories were issued after state officials found elevated levels of mercury in the six waterways.

Since 2000, fish have been tested for mercury in 261 bodies of water in Utah. That includes 192 streams and rivers and 69 lakes and reservoirs. Fish in 15 of the 261 waterways had elevated levels of mercury. Advisories have been issued for all 15 bodies of water.

The new fish advisories include:

- Jordanelle Reservoir (Wasatch County) - Pregnant women and children should not eat **Smallmouth Bass**. Adults should limit their consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month.
- Porcupine Reservoir (Cache County) - Pregnant women and children should not eat **Brown Trout**. Adults should limit their consumption to one 8-ounce meal per month.
- Sand Hollow Reservoir (Washington County) - Pregnant women and children should not eat **Largemouth Bass**. Adults should limit their consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month.
- Rock Creek, below Upper Stillwater Reservoir (Duchesne County) - Pregnant women and children should not eat **Brown Trout** 12-inches and larger. Adults should limit their consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month.
- East Fork Sevier River, between Otter Creek and Piute Reservoirs (Piute County) - Pregnant women and children should not eat **Brown Trout**. Adults should limit their consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month.
- Pine Creek (Garfield County) - Pregnant women and children should not eat **Brown Trout**. Adults should limit their consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month.

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As part of the ongoing water quality investigation the following five water bodies were re-evaluated. Revised fish advisories include:

- Joe's Valley Reservoir (Emery County) - Pregnant women and children should not eat **Splake Trout** that are 12 inches and larger. Adults should limit their consumption to one 8-ounce meal per month.
- Newcastle Reservoir (Iron County) - Pregnant women and children should not eat **Rainbow Trout**. Adults should limit their consumption to one 8-ounce meal per month.
- Upper Enterprise Reservoir (Washington County) - Pregnant women and children should not eat **Rainbow Trout**. Adults should limit their consumption to one 8-ounce meal per month.
- Weber River near Morgan (Morgan County) - Pregnant women and children should not eat **Brown Trout**. Adults should limit their consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month.
- Calf Creek (Garfield County) - Pregnant women and children should limit their consumption of **Brown Trout** to two 4-ounce servings per month. Adults should limit their consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month.

An 8-ounce serving 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 these amounts 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 more 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 in fish may result in neurological effects in the developing fetus and children. Any health risks associated with eating fish from the affected 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 individuals consider consuming two fish or seafood meals weekly.

There is no health risk associated with mercury for other uses of the reservoirs, streams, rivers or creeks, such as swimming, boating and waterskiing.

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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, Utah Department of Environmental Quality and the Utah Department of Natural Resources.

For more detailed information please visit the following Web site:

www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.