

PUBLIC HEALTH FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY:
IPSWICH RIVER

This advisory applies to the Ipswich River downstream from the Bostik Findley Dam in Middleton to the Sylvania Dam in Ipswich.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has reviewed fish toxics data generated by the Department of Environmental Protection for Ipswich River. Mercury has been detected in fish caught from Ipswich River below the Food and Drug Administration Action Level for mercury of 1.0 mg/kg but within a level that may pose health concerns. Mercury may accumulate in individuals who frequently eat fish contaminated with mercury, thus leading to an increased risk of health effects. Fetuses and nursing infants are particularly sensitive to the developmental and health problems associated with mercury exposure. Because of health concerns associated with exposure to mercury, the MDPH offers the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Children under 12, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women of childbearing age who may become pregnant should refrain from consuming any fish caught from Ipswich River to prevent exposure of developing fetuses, nursing infants and young children to mercury.
2. The general public should limit consumption of all fish caught from Ipswich River to two meals per month.

For more information contact:

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