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For immediate release
2007 sport fish consumption advisories announced

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources has updated the West Virginia Sport Fish Consumption Advisory for 2007. DHHR partners with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to develop consumption advisories for fish caught in West Virginia.

Fish consumption advisories are updated annually and help West Virginia anglers and their families make educated choices about eating the fish they catch.

The 2007 advisory is the result of reviewing recent fish tissue data. The only additions to the current specific advisory section are as follows:

- Limit the consumption of carp from the Bluestone River to one meal per month or less because of polychlorinated biphenyls, PCB, residues. PCBs are no longer manufactured; however, many old electrical transformers and capacitors still contain them;
- Limit the consumption of smallmouth buffalo from the Ohio River to one meal a month because of PCBs residues.

The 2007 advisories can be reviewed at www.wvdhhr.org/fish, obtained from DHHR or found in the 2007 DNR fishing regulations.

Low levels of chemicals like PCBs, mercury, and dioxin have been found in some fish from certain waters. An advisory is advice and should not be viewed as law or regulation. It is intended to help anglers and their families decide: where to fish, what types of fish to eat, how to limit the amount and frequency of fish eaten and how to prepare and cook fish to reduce contaminants.

Women of childbearing age, children, and people who regularly eat fish are particularly susceptible to contaminants that build up over time. Individuals falling into one of these categories should be especially careful to follow the guidelines.

This advisory covers only sport fish caught in West Virginia waters. Safety regulations and advisories for fish in the marketplace are the responsibility of the United States Food and Drug Administration. For more information you can contact the FDA at www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/mehgadvisory1208.html.