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For immediate release

2012 sport fish consumption advisories announced

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources has updated the West Virginia Sport Fish Consumption Advisory for 2012. 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 each year to help West Virginia anglers and their families make educated choices about eating the fish they catch.

More information on the fish consumption advisories is available online at <http://www.wvdhhr.org/fish/> or found in the 2012 Division of Natural Resources fishing regulations at http://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/Regs12/regs_Consumption.pdf. A paper copy of the 2012 advisory may be obtained from the Office of Environmental Health Services by calling 304-558-2981.

The 2012 advisory is the result of reviewing recent fish tissue data and re-analysis of historical data. Following are changes to the current sport fish consumption advisory.

- Kanawha River upstream of I-64 Bridge in Dunbar, WV – The specific advisory limiting consumption of channel catfish of less than seventeen inches for two meals a month has been dropped. New information indicates lower levels of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). Anglers may now follow the 2012 statewide consumption advisory for channel catfish less than seventeen inches of one meal a week.
- Middle Island Creek – The specific advisory limiting consumption of spotted bass of less than twelve inches for one meal a month has been increased to two meals a

month. New information indicates lower mercury levels. Two meals a month is the statewide consumption advisory for black bass.

- Sleepy Creek Lake – The advisory limiting consumption of yellow bullhead to two meals a month has been dropped because of the low probability that this species is being consumed by anglers. The 2012 statewide consumption advisory for *All Other Species* should be followed for yellow bullhead consumption.
- Shenandoah River – The specific advisory for channel catfish greater than seventeen inches in length has increased from one meal a month to two meals a month because of new information indicating lower PCB levels.
- South Fork of South Branch of Potomac River – The specific advisory for sunfish has increased from two meals a month to one meal per week due to lower mercury levels in the species.
- Summersville Lake – The specific advisory has been modified for walleye, all sizes. Consumption of walleye greater than seventeen inches has been reduced to six meals per year and walleye of less than seventeen inches remains at one meal a month due to mercury levels.
- Fish advisories for the Ohio River are now based on data from the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) and are based on an advisory protocol developed by the Ohio River Fish Consumption Advisory Workgroup. The protocol ensures uniform advisories among Ohio River states for all river sections. Additional detail on Ohio River advisory updates can be found online at <http://216.68.102.178/comm/fishconsumption/default.asp>.
 - Ohio River – from the Pennsylvania border to Belleville Lock (Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Pleasants, Tyler, Wetzel, Wood counties): do not eat channel catfish eighteen inches and over due to levels of PCBs; consume only six meals a year for channel catfish under eighteen inches, common carp, and white bass due to levels of PCBs; and consume only one meal per month of black crappie, flathead catfish, freshwater drum fourteen inches and over, largemouth bass, sauger, saugeye, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, hybrid striped bass, all suckers, walleye, and white crappie due to levels of PCBs.
 - Ohio River – from the Belleville Lock to the Kentucky Border (Cabell, Jackson, Mason, Wayne counties): consume only six meals a year for channel catfish eighteen inches and over due to levels of PCBs; and one meal per month of channel catfish under eighteen inches, common carp, flathead catfish, freshwater drum fourteen inches and over, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, all suckers, and white bass due to levels of PCBs.

Low levels of chemicals like PCBs, mercury, selenium 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, contact the FDA at <http://www.fda.gov/food/resourcesforyou/consumers/ucm110591.htm>