

## Contaminants in Great Lakes Fish

# Monitoring Contaminant Concentrations in Nearshore Sport Fish

The Great Lakes Fish Monitoring Program (GLFMP) was established in the 1970s to understand how changes in regulations and improved industrial practices affect the contaminant content of Great Lakes sport fish. Concentrations of over thirty contaminants are measured yearly in three species of sport fish (coho salmon or Chinook salmon and rainbow trout) caught in nearshore areas of the Great Lakes. This monitoring program helps assess potential human exposure to contaminants in sport fish and provides information on new contaminants of concern in the Great Lakes ecosystem.

To evaluate potential human risk from consumption of Great Lakes sport fish, contaminant concentrations in sport fish fillets are compared to the *Protocol for a Uniform Great Lakes Sport Fish Consumption Advisory*. This protocol was

developed by public health and natural resource specialists from the eight Great Lakes states, the Province of Ontario, the U.S. EPA, and Native American organizations. Each Great Lake state issues its own consumption advice for the Great Lakes and inland lakes.

Citizens should consult their local advisories before consuming locally caught sport fish. This is especially critical for sensitive populations such as pregnant women and young children.



Coho salmon

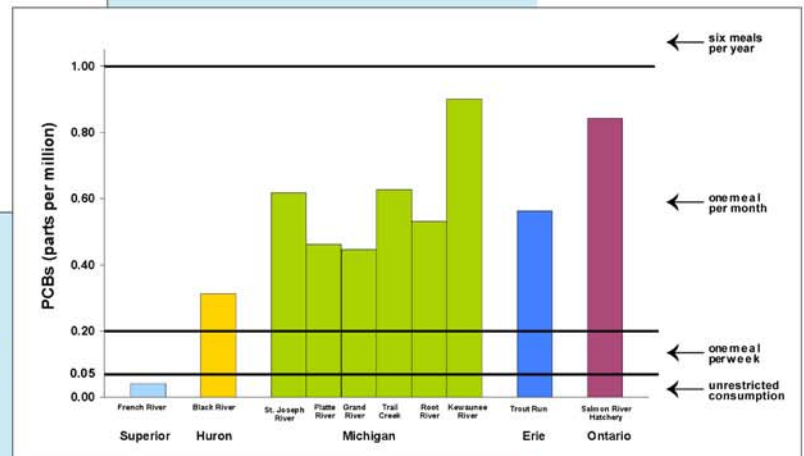
Without the remediation of Great Lakes sediments and control of toxic chemical releases, sport fish will never reach the unlimited consumption level set by the *Protocol for a Uniform Great Lakes Sport Fish Consumption Advisory*.

### Sport fish consumption guidelines for PCB concentrations\*

Advice category	Parts per million PCBs in fillets
No consumption	> 1.90
6 meals per year	1.10 – 1.90
1 meal per month	0.21 – 1.00
1 meal per week	0.06 – 0.20
Unrestricted consumption	0 – 0.05

\*Recommended by the *Protocol for a Uniform Great Lakes Sport Fish Consumption Advisory*.

Application of a uniform fish consumption advisory protocol for PCB concentrations in coho salmon collected in 2002.



Educational materials like these are available from Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant at [www.iisgcp.org](http://www.iisgcp.org). This poster series was produced in cooperation with the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program.

Photo credit:

Coho salmon: U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office

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