



OCT 17 2000

Dear Colleague:

Following up on a recent National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on the potential adverse effects from chronic exposure to methylmercury, the Food and Drug Administration is inviting representatives of your group and several other consumer health organizations to meet with FDA to discuss the issue of consumer exposure to methylmercury in commercial fish. The meeting is slated for 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on October 24, 2000, in room 6821 of the FDA building located at 200 C. Street, SW, Washington, D.C.

As you may be aware, the NAS in September 2000 published its report on "Toxicological Effects of Methylmercury," which is available on the Internet at www.nap.edu/books/0309071402/html. In light of the NAS report, FDA is seeking input on whether it should revise its consumer guidance on methylmercury, and if so, what the new consumer guidance should be. Enclosed is a set of questions intended to help frame our discussion.

For your reference, FDA's last consumer advisory for methylmercury in commercial seafood, issued in May 1995, can be found on FDA's Website at <http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/ga-pes1.html>.

We hope you are able to participate in the proposed meeting on this important public health matter. To respond, please call Tamar Nordenberg at (202) 260-8920 on or before October 19, 2000. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph A. Levitt
Director
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition

Enclosure

Page 2: Dear Colleague:

Distribution:

Center for Science in the Public Interest

National Center for Policy Research

National Women's Network

FDA Questions On Methylmercury

1. Given the NAS report and the emissions standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), should FDA revise its advisory to consumers (and in particular to vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and women who may become pregnant)? If so, what should the new advisory say?
2. Given the potential nutritional contribution of fish and seafood to a healthful diet, should a consumer advisory be crafted so that it conveys the benefit/risk balance of methylmercury-containing fish? If so, what should be the content of such a message?
3. With additional Seychelles study data expected to be released next spring, what impact, if any, should such new data have on the timing and content of any FDA advisory?
4. What other factors, if any, should impact a decision on whether and how to revise the current consumer guidance?
5. What methods of communication should FDA use to best convey such a consumer advisory?
6. How could FDA measure its success in reaching the consumer audience, including vulnerable populations?



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Dear Colleague:

Following up on a recent National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on the potential adverse effects from chronic exposure to methylmercury, the Food and Drug Administration is inviting your group and several other organizations representing health professionals to meet with FDA to discuss the issue of consumer exposure to methylmercury in commercial fish. The meeting is slated for 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on October 25, 2000, in room 6821 of the FDA building located at 200 C. Street, SW, Washington, D.C.

As you may be aware, the NAS in September 2000 published its report on "Toxicological Effects of Methylmercury," which is available on the Internet at www.nap.edu/books/0309071402/html. In light of the NAS report, FDA is seeking input on whether it should revise its consumer guidance on methylmercury, and if so, what the new consumer guidance should be. Enclosed is a set of questions intended to help frame our discussion.

For your reference, FDA's last consumer advisory for methylmercury in commercial seafood, issued in May 1995, can be found on FDA's Website at <http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/qa-pes1.html>.

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Distribution:

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Dietetics Association

American Medical Association

FDA Questions On Methylmercury

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Following up on a recent National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on the potential adverse effects from chronic exposure to methylmercury, the Food and Drug Administration is inviting you and several other scientific experts to meet with FDA to discuss the issue of consumer exposure to methylmercury in commercial fish. The meeting is slated for 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on November 3, 2000, in room 6821 of the FDA building located at 200 C. Street, SW, Washington, D.C.

As you may be aware, the NAS in September 2000 published its report on "Toxicological Effects of Methylmercury," which is available on the Internet at www.nap.edu/books/0309071402/html. In light of the NAS report, FDA is seeking input on whether it should revise its consumer guidance on methylmercury, and if so, what the new consumer guidance should be. Enclosed is a set of questions intended to help frame our discussion.

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Distribution:

Dr. Tom Burke, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Michelle Catlin, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Robert Goyer, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Dr. Joseph Jacobson, Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.

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Dear Colleague:

Following up on a recent National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on the potential adverse effects from chronic exposure to methylmercury, the Food and Drug Administration is inviting representatives of the National Fisheries Institute to meet with FDA to discuss the issue of consumer exposure to methylmercury in commercial fish. The meeting is slated for 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on October 20, 2000, in room 6821 of the FDA building located at 200 C. Street, SW, Washington, D.C.

As you may be aware, the NAS in September 2000 published its report on "Toxicological Effects of Methylmercury," which is available on the Internet at www.nap.edu/books/0309071402/html. In light of the NAS report, FDA is seeking input on whether it should revise its consumer guidance on methylmercury, and if so, what the new consumer guidance should be. Enclosed is a set of questions intended to help frame our discussion.

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Following up on a recent National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on the potential adverse effects from chronic exposure to methylmercury, the Food and Drug Administration is inviting representatives of the National Food Processors Association to meet with FDA to discuss the issue of consumer exposure to methylmercury in commercial fish. The meeting is slated for 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on November 6, 2000, in room 6821 of the FDA building located at 200 C. Street, SW, Washington, D.C.

As you may be aware, the NAS in September 2000 published its report on "Toxicological Effects of Methylmercury," which is available on the Internet at www.nap.edu/books/0309071402/html. In light of the NAS report, FDA is seeking input on whether it should revise its consumer guidance on methylmercury, and if so, what the new consumer guidance should be. Enclosed is a set of questions intended to help frame our discussion.

For your reference, FDA's last consumer advisory for methylmercury in commercial seafood, issued in May 1995, can be found on FDA's Website at <http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/ga-pes1.html>.

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