



news release

From The Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street Austin, Texas 78756 (512) 458-7405

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Health Commissioner Bans Fishing on Part of Trinity River

Dr. Robert Bernstein, Texas Commissioner of Health, has banned the taking of finfish for human consumption from part of the Trinity River near Dallas and Fort Worth. His action followed a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department study showing that fish samples from the affected area contain unsafe levels of chlordane.

Chlordane, a pesticide banned in Texas since 1987, once was commonly used to control termites.

The area closed to fishing includes the Clear Fork of the Trinity, downstream from the 7th Street bridge in Fort Worth to beyond the fork's confluence with the Trinity's West Fork, as far as the IH 20 overpass southeast of Dallas.

The commissioner said that the area will remain closed to fishing until new tests show acceptable levels in fish samples.

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Richard Thompson, director of the TDH Shellfish Sanitation Control Division, said that chlordane is similar to DDT, another once-commonly used pesticide which is now believed to be a cancer causing agent. Like DDT, chlordane is not easily soluble in water. Therefore, the chemical may remain at toxic levels in river sediments for decades.

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(For more information about the closed area, contact Richard Thompson, Division of Shellfish Sanitation Control, at 512/458-7510. For information about the health significance of chlordane, contact Dr. Jean Brender, Division of Epidemiology, at 512/458-7269.)

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