

Catch and Release or ...

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Are My Fish Safe to Eat?

Tests have shown many of New Mexico's waters are contaminated with mercury, PCBs and in some instances DDT. To help anglers make informed choices about what can be safely eaten, the following consumption advisories by region are provided on the pages 36–40. Occasional consumption of fish from these waters does not constitute a substantial health risk, however higher consumption over a longer period of time could result in health problems. These advisories are guidelines only and do not suggest any health risks from camping, swimming or boating in these waters. Also, handling fish will not result in exposure to dangerous contaminants.

How To Use the Consumption Advisory Chart

The following table is a consumption advisory only. Some listings may be under the legal minimum length limit (such as walleye and largemouth and smallmouth bass). Legal length limits for all species apply when fishing.

Determine the species and length (inches) of the fish and find the lake or river where it was caught. Match the species (row) and size (column) of your fish to determine the number of meals (8 ounces) that can be safely eaten each month. No advisory (NA) indicates an advisory is unnecessary, and 0 (zero) indicates it is recommended not to eat that species and size of fish. If blank, the species and size of fish at that location has not been analyzed.

For questions about these advisories, contact the New Mexico Environment Department–Surface Water Quality Bureau at: (505) 827-2470. For questions about health concerns relating to consumption of contaminants, contact the New Mexico Department of Health–Environmental Health Epidemiology Bureau at: 1-888-878-8992. Further information is also available online at:

https://nmtracking.unm.edu/enviro_n_exposure/fish/
www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/
www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/advisories/index.html

Northwest Consumption Advisory⁽¹⁾

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30		30+
Abiquiu Lake	Brown trout	4	4	2				Mercury
	Carp		1	1				Mercury
	Channel catfish	3	2	2	.1			Mercury
	Rainbow trout	NA		3				Mercury
	Smallmouth bass	2	1					Mercury
	Walleye			2	1			Mercury
	Crappie	2						Mercury
Bluewater Lake	Tiger muskie						3	Mercury
Canjilon Lakes	Brook trout	NA	NA					Mercury
	Rainbow trout	NA	NA					Mercury

NA* No Advisory

(1) Cold water bag and possession limits are listed on pages 16–17 and 18–21.

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Northwest Consumption Advisory—continued⁽¹⁾

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)							CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	30+	
Cochiti Lake	Bluegill	3							Mercury
	Carp				2	.2			Mercury
	Channel catfish		4	3	1	.1			Mercury
	Crappie	2							Mercury
	Northern pike . . . . .					.3	.2	1	Mercury
	Walleye			1	½	½			Mercury
	White bass		1						Mercury
El Vado Lake	Brown trout . . . . .		.NA*	.NA*					Mercury
	Kokanee salmon . . . . .	.NA*	.NA*	.NA*					Mercury
	Rainbow trout . . . . .		.NA*						Mercury
	White sucker		4						Mercury
Heron Lake	Kokanee salmon . . . . .	.NA*	.NA*	.NA*					Mercury, DDT, PCBs
	Lake trout . . . . .		.NA*	.NA*	.NA*		4		Mercury
	White sucker		4	4					Mercury
Lake Farmington (Beeline Lake)	Channel catfish		3						Mercury
	Carp				4	4			Mercury
	Largemouth bass		4				.NA*		Mercury
Navajo Lake	Bluegill	3							Mercury
	Channel catfish		4	4	2		½		Mercury
	Crappie	4	4	1					Mercury
	Kokanee salmon . . . . .		.NA*	.NA*					Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2		½				Mercury
	Northern pike . . . . .					.1	1	½	Mercury
	Rainbow trout			4					Mercury
	Smallmouth bass	3	2	1					Mercury
	White sucker . . . . .		.NA*						Mercury
Rio Grande (Otowi Bridge to Rio Chama)	Channel catfish				4	4	4		Mercury
	River carpsucker				3				Mercury
Rio Grande (Cochiti Lake to Otowi Bridge)	Carp			4	4	4			Mercury
	Channel catfish			4	4				Mercury
Rio Grande (US I-25 to 550)	Channel catfish . . . . .			.NA*					.PCBs
	White bass	1	1						.PCBs
San Juan River (Cañon Largo to Navajo Dam)	Rainbow trout . . . . .		.NA*	.NA*	.NA*				Mercury

NA* No Advisory

⁽¹⁾ Cold water bag and possession limits are listed on pages 16–17 and 18–21.

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Northeast Consumption Advisory⁽¹⁾ (How to Use the Chart, page 34)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT	
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30		30+
Cabresto Lake	Brook trout	4						Mercury	
	Cutthroat trout	4						Mercury	
Charette Lakes	Black bullhead		1					Mercury	
	Rainbow trout . . . . .		.NA'					Mercury
	White sucker		4	4				Mercury	
	Yellow perch		1	1				Mercury	
Clayton Lake	Bluegill	1						Mercury	
	Channel catfish				4		1	Mercury	
	Walleye				2	.2	½	Mercury	
Conchas Lake	Bluegill	3						Mercury	
	Channel catfish			2	1			Mercury	
	Largemouth bass		3	2	1			Mercury	
	Smallmouth bass		3	2				Mercury	
	Walleye		4	4	1	.1	½	Mercury	
Eagle Nest Lake	Kokanee salmon . . . . .		.NA'	.NA'				Mercury
	Northern pike					4		Mercury	
	Rainbow trout . . . . .		.NA'	.NA'	4			Mercury
	White sucker		4					Mercury	
	Yellow perch		3					Mercury	
Lake Maloya	Rainbow trout . . . . .		.NA'	.NA'				Mercury
	White sucker . . . . .		.NA'	4				Mercury
Maxwell Lakes	Channel catfish . . . . .				.NA'			Mercury
	Rainbow trout . . . . .			.NA'	.NA'			Mercury
Pecos River (Pecos NH Park to Headwaters)	Brown trout . . . . .	.NA'	.NA'	4				Mercury
	White sucker . . . . .	.NA'						Mercury
Rio Grande (Rio Chama to Embudo Creek)	Carp				3	.3		DDT	
	Channel catfish . . . . .			.NA'	.NA'			Mercury, DDT, PCBs
	White sucker			4				Mercury	
Shuree Ponds	Rainbow trout . . . . .			.NA'	.NA'	.NA'		Mercury
Springer Lake	Black bullhead	4						Mercury	
	Carp . . . . .			.NA'	.NA'			PCBs
	Channel catfishNA'	.NA'	.NA'	2	½	Mercury
	Northern pike					4	2	2	Mercury
	Yellow perch	4	4					Mercury	
Storrie Lake	CarpNA'	.NA'	4		Mercury	
	Channel catfish		4	2		1		Mercury	
	White suckerNA'	4				Mercury	

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Northeast Consumption Advisory—continued⁽¹⁾

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	
Stubblefield Lake	Black bullhead		4.					Mercury
	Channel catfish			4.	4.			Mercury
	Walleye			2.	2.			Mercury
	White sucker			NA*				Mercury
	Yellow perch		4.					Mercury
Ute Lake	Bluegill	3						Mercury
	Channel catfish			4.	2.			Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2.	1.	1.			Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		2.					Mercury
	Walleye			1.	½.	½.	0.	Mercury
	White bass		3.	1.				Mercury

Southwest Consumption Advisory⁽²⁾ (How to Use the Chart, page 34)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	
Bear Canyon Dam	Bluegill	4						Mercury
	Channel catfish		4.	4.				Mercury
	Crappie	½						Mercury
	Largemouth bass		4.	3.				Mercury
Bill Evans Lake	Bluegill	4						Mercury
	Largemouth bass			2.				Mercury
Caballo Lake	Blue catfish		4.	3.	3.			Mercury
	Channel catfish			3.	2.	2.		Mercury
	Crappie		3.					Mercury
	River carsucker			4.	4.			Mercury
	Smallmouth buffalo				2.	2.	1.	Mercury
	Walleye		4.	2.	1.	1.	1.	Mercury
White bass		1.	½				Mercury	
Elephant Butte Lake	Carp			2.	1.			.PCBs
	Channel catfish			1.	1.	½		Mercury
	Crappie		2.					Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2.	1.	1.			Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		2.	1.				Mercury
	Striped bass					1.	½	Mercury
White bass		1.	½				Mercury	
Lake Roberts	Bluegill	NA*						Mercury
	Largemouth bass			3.	2.			Mercury

NA* No Advisory

(1) Cold water bag and possession limits are listed on pages 16–17 and 18–21.

(2) Warm water bag and possession limits are listed on page 26.

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Southeast Consumption Advisory⁽²⁾ (How to Use the Chart, page 36)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	
Avalon Lake								
(Data on Avalon Lake unavailable. However, DDT, PCB presence up- and down-stream suggests the likelihood of substantial contamination)								
Brantley Lake	Channel catfish	4	4	2	½			Mercury, DDT
	Largemouth bass	2	2					.DDT
	White bass	½	½	1				.DDT
Carlsbad Municipal Lakes (Lake Carlsbad and Bataan Lake)	Carp			4	4			.DDT
	Channel catfish			1	4			.DDT
	Spotted bass . . . . .			.NA*				Mercury, DDT, PCBs
Pecos River (North boundary of Brantley WMA to US 70)	Carp . . . . .		.NA*	.NA*				DDT, PCBs
	Channel catfish . . . . .		.NA*	.NA*	.NA*			DDT, PCBs
Pecos River (Brantley WMA)	Channel catfish	4	4	2	½			Mercury, DDT
	Largemouth bass	2	2					.DDT
	White bass	½	½	1				.DDT
Pecos River (Texas border to Carlsbad Municipal Lakes)	Carp . . . . .		.NA*	.NA*	.NA*			.PCBs
	Channel catfish			14				.PCBs
Santa Rosa Lake	Bluegill	3						Mercury
	Channel catfish		3	2	2	2	1	Mercury
	Crappie	3	3					Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		2					Mercury
	Walleye			3	1	1	1	Mercury
Sumner Lake	Carp		4	4	4			Mercury
	Channel catfish	4	3	3	2			Mercury
	Flathead catfish		4		2			Mercury
	Walleye			3	1	½	0	Mercury
	White bass	3	2					Mercury

NA* No Advisory

⁽²⁾ Warm water bag and possession limits are listed on page 26.