STATE OF MICHIGAN

Michigan Fish Consumption Advisory Program

Guidance Document

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Acronyms, Abbreviations and Symbols

%	percent
/	per
<	less than
>	greater than
∑	sum
≤	less than or equal to
µ	micro
µg	microgram(s)
µU	micro units
ACL	Analytical Chemistry Laboratory of the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories
AT	averaging time
BW	body weight
COC	chemicals of concern
CR	cancer risk
CSF	cancer slope factor
cv	coefficient of variation
DDD	dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane
DDE	dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene
DDT	dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DLC	dioxin-like chemicals
ED	exposure duration
EF	exposure frequency
EGLE	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy
EHB	Environmental Health Bureau
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAWCAC	Fish and Wildlife Contaminants Advisory Committee
FCMP	Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program
FCSV	Fish Consumption Screening Values
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
g	gram(s)
Guidelines	Fish Consumption Guidelines
Hg	mercury
IgG	immunoglobulin G
IgM	immunoglobulin M
IOM	Institute of Medicine
IR	ingestion rate
IRIS	Integrated Risk Information System
kg	kilogram(s)
LOAEL	lowest-observed-adverse-effect level
MDA	Michigan Department of Agriculture, now known as MDARD
MDARD	Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
MDCH	Michigan Department of Community Health
MDEQ	Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
MDHHS	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
MDNR	Michigan Department of Natural Resources

MESB	Michigan Environmental Science Board
MFCAP	Michigan Fish Consumption Advisory Program
ml	milliliter
ng	nanogram(s)
NIH	National Institute of Health
NOAEL	no-observed-adverse-effect level
o,p'-	ortho, para prime
oz	ounce
p,p'-	para, para prime
PBPK	physiologically-based pharmacokinetic model
PC	parlar congeners
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PFOS	perfluorooctane sulfonate
pg	picogram(s)
ppb	part(s) per billion
ppm	part(s) per million
ppt	part(s) per trillion
p-value	probability value
r^2	coefficient of determination
RfD	reference dose
RSC	relative source contribution
SAR	structure-activity relationships
TCDD	2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin
TEQ	toxic equivalency
TSH	thyroid stimulating hormone
UCL	upper confidence limit
US	United States

Executive Summary

Fish consumption guidelines (hereafter referred to as "Guidelines") are public health advisories issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) under the authority of the Michigan Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978). Since 1970, MDHHS[1] has issued Guidelines to provide the public with the information needed to make decisions to protect themselves and their families from the health risks of consuming fish that contain environmental contaminants.

The department's Mission statement summarizes the intent of Michigan's Guidelines:

> *Protect, preserve and promote the health and safety of the people of Michigan with particular attention to providing for the needs of vulnerable and under-served populations.*[2]

When followed, the Guidelines help consumers to minimize the health risks and maximize the benefits of consuming fish from Michigan. These Guidelines are not regulatory requirements and are not enforced by legal authority.

The Michigan Fish Consumption Advisory Program issues four types of Guidelines:

Waterbody- and Species-Specific Guidelines are issued for a specific Michigan surface waterbody where specific types of fish have been tested and found to contain chemical contaminants.

Statewide Guidelines are issued when contaminants are found in one or more tested fish species from multiple waterbodies dispersed across Michigan. Statewide guidelines apply to all Michigan rivers and inland lakes but not to the Great Lakes. Lake-wide advisories may be issued for an entire Great Lake if a contaminant is found in tested fish throughout the lake.

Purchased Fish Guidelines are based on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration mercury data collected from fish tested from the U.S. food supply.

Emergency Guidelines are issued when fish are tested and found to contain levels of chemical contaminants that raise immediate and unexpected public health concerns.

The MDHHS develops Guidelines using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance that was extensively reviewed by Federal, State and Native American tribal stakeholders.[3] The EPA guidance for fish advisories in turn relies on an extensive body of human health risk assessment guidance and policy[4] that has undergone extensive peer and public review.

Guidelines are reviewed prior to public release by the MDHHS Environmental Health Bureau (EHB) and the inter-departmental *Fish and Wildlife Consumption Advisory Committee* that includes representatives from the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources (MDNR),

[1] Former agency names are the Michigan Department of Public Health and the Michigan Department of Community Health.
[2] MDHHS Mission Statement FY2023 Strategic Plan
[3] U.S. EPA. Guidance for Assessing Chemical Contaminant Data for Use in Fish Advisories. Available at Support for Fish and Shellfish Advisory Programs | US EPA
[4] See EcoRisk Portal | US EPA

Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)[5], Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), in addition to MDHHS.

[5] Former agency name is the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Michigan Fish Consumption Advisory Program Guidance Document

Introduction

Fish consumption guidelines (hereafter referred to as "Guidelines") are public health advisories issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) under the authority of the Michigan Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978). Since 1970, MDHHS[6] has issued Guidelines to provide the public with the information needed to make decisions to protect themselves and their families from the health risks of consuming fish that contain environmental contaminants.

The department's Mission statement summarizes the intent of Michigan's Guidelines:

> *Protect, preserve and promote the health and safety of the people of Michigan with particular attention to providing for the needs of vulnerable and under-served populations.*[7]

The Guidelines include information about fish selection, preparation and recommended frequency of consumption for everyone, including sensitive groups such as children. When followed, the Guidelines will help consumers to minimize the health risks associated with the contaminants found in fish.

These Guidelines are not regulatory requirements and are not enforced by legal authority. Guidelines cannot be used to monitor temporal or spatial contaminant trends; input (loading or deposition) or removal of chemicals from a waterbody; or regulatory requirements or processes at sites impacted by point-source industrial contamination.

Types of Fish Consumption Guidelines

The Michigan Fish Consumption Advisory Program (MFCAP) produces four types of Guidelines: (1) waterbody- and species-specific; (2) statewide; (3) purchased; and (4) emergency.

Waterbody- and Species-Specific Guidelines

Overview

The waterbody- and species-specific Guidelines are evaluated annually by MDHHS in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)[8], the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).

The MFCAP relies on fish contaminant data from EGLE's Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program (FCMP). MDNR Fisheries Division and EGLE annually collect fish samples from

[6] Former agency names are the Michigan Department of Public Health and the Michigan Department of Community Health.
[7] MDHHS Mission Statement FY2023 Strategic Plan
[8] Former agency name is the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

selected waterbodies throughout Michigan. The EGLE processes the samples into species-appropriate edible portions (generally filets) that are provided to the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories – Analytical Chemistry Laboratory (MDHHS-ACL) for chemical analysis and data validation. The EGLE FCMP compiles the data into an annual report, which is posted on the. Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program webpage.

Assessment Process

Fish Consumption Screening Values and Meal Categories

The MDHHS toxicologists develop Fish Consumption Screening Values (FCSVs) based on a review of the best available scientific literature about the adverse health effects associated with a chemical of concern (COC). The FCSVs are chemical concentration ranges in fish tissue that are associated with the following fish meal categories:

- 16 meals per month
- 12 meals per month
- 8 meals per month
- 4 meals per month
- 2 meals per month
- 1 meal per month
- 6 meals per year
- Limited
- Do Not Eat

Appendix A provides a detailed description of the methodology used to develop the FCSVs and the associated fish meal categories.

Waterbody Selection and Sample Collection

The MDNR Fisheries Division conducts annual assessments on the Great Lakes that border Michigan (Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie), connecting channels and numerous inland rivers and lakes to meet fishery management needs. The EGLE, in collaboration with MDHHS, requests samples of fish from waterbodies that have not been recently sampled (e.g., within 5 to 10 years), have not been adequately sampled (e.g., too few samples, limited range of fish lengths), or where there are outstanding analytical or public health questions. In addition to the MDNR sampling, EGLE conducts limited fish collections as needed.

Typically, two fish species that accumulate COCs will be collected from a waterbody. The first species is usually a long-lived, top-predator fish that feeds on other fish (e.g., walleye, northern pike, lake trout, largemouth bass, or smallmouth bass). The second is a long-lived, fatty, omnivorous, bottom feeding species (e.g., catfish or carp). An ideal sample size is ten or more fish per species from each waterbody.

At the request of MDHHS and/or EGLE, expanded-collections will be conducted on waterbodies with documented chemical contamination, extensive fishing activity, previously demonstrated elevated COC concentrations in fish, or outstanding public health questions.

Sample Storage, Processing and Chemical Analysis

Procedures for the storage and processing of fish samples are developed by the FCMP and documented in the annual reports available on the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program webpage.

The MDHHS-ACL conducts or oversees all fish analyses under established protocols and provides validated data to the FCMP and MFCAP.

In brief, fish samples are labeled by location and maintained frozen until processed into the commonly eaten portion (generally filets) according to standard operating procedures. Each portion is treated as a discrete sample and analyzed for COCs.

The list of COCs for analysis may differ by waterbody based on existing knowledge about likely contamination. In general, samples of top predator fish from inland lakes with no known point-source contamination are analyzed for mercury only. Samples from the Great Lakes, tributaries of the Great Lakes, large lakes near the Great Lakes and lakes in southeast Michigan are analyzed for mercury, organochlorine pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Selected samples are analyzed for dioxin-like chemicals (dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs). Additional analytes may be added when there are waterbody-specific chemical contamination concerns.

Data Handling

The MDHHS-ACL provides the validated analytical results to EGLE in an electronic spreadsheet format, which is then maintained in a database by the EGLE FCMP.

Dataset Selection

The MDHHS and EGLE consider the following factors in selecting a representative dataset for each COC: (1) the number of samples; (2) the year(s) the fish were collected as it relates to known temporal trends of COCs in Michigan fish; (3) the fate and transport of the COC in the environment; (4) the source of contamination; and (5) behavior of fish in contiguous waters that lack migration barriers. Since multiple factors can determine the final dataset, MDHHS and EGLE conduct the following analysis to maintain a consistent approach to selecting representative data.

1. The MFCAP has a goal of ten or more data points, each from a discrete sample, for each chemical, species and waterbody (or section of a large waterbody) combination per sampling year with at least two sample years conducted in the previous 10 years. An approximately even distribution of samples within and across the range of commonly harvested fish lengths is preferred. When these goals are not met, MDHHS and EGLE may calculate summary statistics on available datasets with as few as five sample results per chemical and review datasets with less than five sample results for the occurrence of highly elevated concentrations. When dataset limitations exist, additional public health considerations may apply (Appendix B). The MDHHS and EGLE will request additional sample collection and analysis, as necessary. As new samples become available, these data are incorporated into an updated dataset

2. The level of COCs found in a fish sample represents the measured concentration at the time of sample collection; therefore, more recent samples may be most representative of current contaminant levels. However, the EGLE FCMP has documented temporal trends in the fish tissue concentrations of several persistent, bioaccumulative COCs. These trends are most reliable when fish contamination is a result of non-point sources. In these cases, older datasets can be considered representative of current concentrations and additional sample collection may not be necessary for chemicals whose temporal trend has been demonstrated to not change significantly (Appendix B).

3. The status of the source of COCs is also an important consideration. Many point sources of historical contamination have been identified and either eliminated or controlled. Temporal trend analysis at these locations may indicate either stable or declining levels of COCs in fish tissue. Sources that are either uncontrolled or not characterized with regards to the chemical's fate from the source to the fish may increase the uncertainty about the representativeness of a dataset. Such datasets may require additional public health considerations when setting Guidelines (Appendix B).

4. Waterbody-specific datasets are preferred, but combining datasets of the same species in contiguous waterbodies may be necessary if there are no barriers to fish migration. Factors such as the biology of the fish (e.g., migratory behavior), the absence of impediments to fish movement (e.g., dams), presence of a point-source chemical input and comparison of concentrations in the same species collected from both waterbodies are considered when selecting representative datasets for contiguous waters.

Data Summary and Review

Datasets are identified for either discrete chemicals (e.g., mercury, selenium, perfluorooctane sulfonate [PFOS]) or groups of chemicals (e.g., total polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs]; sum of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDD), dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane (DDE); toxic equivalency of dioxins, furans and co-planar PCBs) where appropriate. Methods for handling results below the limit of quantification or limit of detection are summarized in the FCMP report. Data that represent highly elevated concentrations are flagged for further evaluation. The MDHHS-ACL may be requested to re-check the analytical data to ensure the data point is valid. Only data points demonstrated to be invalid are removed from the dataset.

Summary statistics, including the minimum and maximum concentrations, median, mean and the 95% upper confidence limit (UCL) about the mean, are identified for each contaminant dataset as appropriate. For datasets with a minimum of five samples, a scatter plot and a regression equation of the COC concentrations (y-axis) versus fish length (x-axis) are created. Regressions that are found to be solely determined by a single data point or having a negative slope are not used in determining the consumption guidelines.

Identification of Meal Categories

Where a regression analysis of a COC concentration onto fish length identifies a positive slope with a correlation coefficient (R^2) greater than 0.6, MDHHS uses this analysis to estimate COC concentrations for fish lengths between the minimum and maximum lengths in the dataset. The

estimated concentration at each length is then compared to the FCSV ranges (Table 1) and two or fewer length breaks are identified. Length ranges created by the breaks are assigned a meal category based on the concentration associated with the greatest length in a given range.

Alternatively, the meal category is identified using the 95% UCL for the COC dataset. The 95% UCL, preferably calculated using at least five samples of legal sized fish, is compared to the FCSV ranges. The meal category is identified when 95% UCL is greater than or equal to the lower FCSV concentration but less than the highest value in the FCSV concentration range.

Finally, MDHHS compares the results across COC datasets and the most restrictive meal category is identified for a given species from the specific waterbody. Where appropriate, MDHHS may apply a *waterbody-wide advisory* and identify a meal category for "all other species" in a waterbody (Appendix B).

Table 1. Fish Consumption Screening Values (FSCV) for DDT plus metabolites, dioxin-like chemicals, mercury, PCBs, PFOS, selenium and toxaphene.

Meal Category	**DDT, DDE, DDD**	**Dioxins/Furans/co-planar PCBs**	**Mercury**	**PCBs**
meals per month	*µg/g (ppm)[a]*	*pg TEQ/g (ppt-TEQ)[b]*	*µg/g (ppm)[a]*	*µg/g (ppm)[a]*
16	≤ 0.11	≤ 0.5	≤ 0.07	≤ 0.01
12	>0.11 to 0.15	>0.5 to 0.6	>0.07 to 0.09	>0.01 to 0.02
8	>0.15 to 0.23	>0.6 to 0.9	>0.09 to 0.13	>0.02 to 0.03
4	>0.23 to 0.45	>0.9 to 1.9	>0.13 to 0.27	>0.03 to 0.05
2	>0.45 to 0.91	>1.9 to 3.7	>0.27 to 0.53	>0.05 to 0.11
1	>0.91 to 1.8	>3.7 to 7.5	>0.53 to 1.1	>0.11 to 0.21
6 meals per year	>1.8 to 3.7	>7.5 to 15	>1.1 to 2.2	>0.21 to 0.43
Limited	>3.7 to 20	>15 to 90	NA	>0.43 to 2.7
Do Not Eat	>20	>90	>2.2	>2.7

Meal Category	**PFOS**	**Selenium**	**Total Toxaphene**	**Toxaphene Parlars 26, 50, 62 ($\sum$3PC$_{26,50,62}$)**
meals per month	*ng/g (ppb)[c]*	*µg/g (ppm)[a]*	*µg/g (ppm)[a]*	*µg/g (ppm)[a]*
16	≤ 1.5	≤ 2.3	≤ 0.02	≤ 0.001
12	>1.5 to 2.1	>2.3 to 3.1	>0.02 to 0.03	>0.001 to 0.002
8	>2.1 to 3.1	>3.1 to 4.6	>0.03 to 0.05	>0.002 to 0.003
4	>3.1 to 6.2	>4.6 to 9.2	>0.05 to 0.09	>0.003 to 0.006
2	>6.2 to 12.4	>9.2 to 17	>0.09 to 0.18	>0.006 to 0.011
1	>12.4 to 24.8	NA	>0.18 to 0.36	>0.011 to 0.023
6 meals per year	>24.8 to 49.6	NA	>0.36 to 0.73	>0.023 to 0.046
Limited	NA	NA	>0.73 to 4.5	>0.046 to 0.28
Do Not Eat	>49.6	>17	>4.5	>0.28

[a]: micrograms of chemical per gram of wet weight fish tissue (µg/g) that is the same as parts per million (ppm).
[b]: picograms of toxic equivalents calculated according to US EPA methods[9] per gram of wet weight fish tissue (pg TEQ/g) that is the same as parts per trillion of toxic equivalents (ppt-TEQ).
[c]: nanograms of chemical per gram of wet weight fish tissue (ng/g) that is the same as parts per billion (ppb).

[9] US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). 2010. Recommended toxicity equivalence factors (TEFs) for human health risk assessments of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. (EPA/100/R-10/005). Washington, DC.10

Establishment of Consumption Guidelines

The MDHHS staff, together with EGLE, reviews the fish contaminant data with management in the Environmental Health Bureau to identify appropriate Guidelines for each tested species and waterbody.

New Guidelines for specific waterbodies or fish species not previously listed are established using the process described above. Where Guidelines have been previously identified, this process is also used to reassess the data and either retain or modify the consumption recommendations.

Before relaxing a Guideline, MDHHS typically requires two years of sampling data that achieve the MFCAP dataset goals and demonstrate that COC concentrations have declined. However, when point-source contamination is a concern, additional data over a longer span of years may be required to adequately characterize COC concentrations in fish over time.

The Guidelines are reported first to the interdepartmental Fish and Wildlife Contaminants Advisory Committee (FAWCAC) for review and concurrence. The Guidelines are then posted on-line in the Michigan Eat Safe Fish Guide at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish. Dependent on the availability of funding, a limited number of printed copies are made available to the public upon request and through selected venues.

Statewide Consumption Guidelines

Statewide consumption guidelines may be issued when a COC is found in one or more fish species from multiple waterbodies dispersed across a wide geographic range in Michigan. A statewide advisory generally applies to all rivers and inland lakes but not to the Great Lakes. Lake-wide advisories may be issued for an entire Great Lake if a COC is found throughout the waterbody.

Statewide consumption guidelines are not predicated on COC data for every location and species for which guidance is issued and are not evaluated on an annual basis but may be re-evaluated when temporal trend data suggest chemical concentrations in the environment have changed.

Appendix C provides an evaluation of the available information regarding mercury in Michigan fish. Appendix D provides an evaluation of PCB and mercury data for catfish and carp in Michigan waterbodies.

Consumption Guidelines for Purchased Fish

In 2004, the US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) issued a nationwide mercury fish advisory for sensitive populations: FDA/EPA 2004 Advice on What You Need to Know About Mercury in Fish and Shellfish | FDA

> *The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are advising women who may become pregnant, pregnant women, nursing mothers and young children to avoid some types of fish and eat fish and shellfish that are lower in mercury.*

In 2005, MDHHS[10] provided consumption guidance for purchased fish based on species-specific mean mercury concentrations using the US FDA dataset. Mean concentrations were compared to the US EPA's mercury fish consumption limit screening ranges and assigned to meal categories. The purchased-fish consumption guidance was presented to the MDARD Michigan Food Safety Alliance.

Emergency Fish Consumption Guidelines

Emergency fish consumption guidelines are issued: (1) when hazardous substances are unexpectedly released into Michigan waters; (2) where conditions present an immediate concern about the safety of fish consumption; (3) or when a COC is found in fish samples at high concentrations immediately prompting a "*Do Not Eat*" advisory. Emergency fish consumption guidelines remain in effect until quantitative analytical chemistry data are available to indicate that the fish may be safely eaten.

Emergency guidelines based on toxins from events such as algal blooms or botulism outbreaks may be rescinded without analytical data because these events can be seasonal and transient.

[10] Formerly the Michigan Department of Community Health

Appendix A. Methods for Calculating MDHHS Fish Consumption Screening Values (FCSV).

Background

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) develops Fish Consumption Screening Values (FCSVs) for the Michigan Fish Consumption Advisory Program to evaluate levels of chemicals commonly analyzed for and found in fish from Michigan waterbodies. The MDHHS may also conduct a site- or chemical-specific risk assessment when a novel contaminant presents a public health concern (ATSDR 2005) but may not always develop formal screening values. The FCSVs are not used for regulatory oversight of commercially sold fish.

The MDHHS uses the FCSVs to recommend meal consumption guidelines for an individual species of fish from a specific source such as an inland lake, river, or one of the Great Lakes. FCSVs are also used to establish Statewide Guidelines. The FCSVs define the breakpoint(s) between meal consumption categories (e.g., one meal per month versus two meals per month).

The MDHHS uses the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) risk assessment methodology (US EPA 1989, 2000, 2005, 2011), to calculate FCSVs that are protective for everyone, including vulnerable populations such as people with existing medical conditions and unborn and young children.

The MDHHS commonly develops FCSVs based on non-cancer risks unless the chemical is identified by the US EPA as mutagenic[11]. Currently, none of the chemicals commonly tested for and found in fish from Michigan surface waters are considered mutagenic.[12] The US EPA makes this determination using a weight-of-evidence approach that includes: the finding of tumors in exposed humans (preferred) and treated laboratory animals; the chemical and physical properties of the chemical; structure-activity relationships (SARs) as compared with other carcinogenic chemicals; and studies assessing potential carcinogenic mode(s) of action. If a fish contaminant is considered mutagenic, MDHHS will calculate both cancer and non-cancer FCSVs and use the ones that are most protective of public health.

Risk Assessment Equations

The FCSV equations shown below yield values for most chemicals in micrograms per gram of fish (µg/g), which are equivalent to parts per million (ppm). The total dioxin toxic equivalent (TEQ) FCSVs are provided in picograms per gram of fish (pg/g), which are equivalent to parts per trillion (ppt).

[11] In the context of carcinogenicity, EPA defines a mutagenic as a chemical, or its metabolite, that reacts with or binds to DNA in a manner that causes mutations.
[12]. Risk Assessment Guidance | US EPA

Cancer FCSVs are calculated using the following equation:

$$FCSV = \frac{CR \times BW \times AT}{CSF \times IR \times EF \times ED} \qquad \text{Equation 1}$$

Where:

FCSV (Fish Contaminant Screening Value)	= chemical specific in µg/g or pg/g wet weight
CR (Cancer Risk)	= 10^{-4} to 10^{-6}, unitless
BW (Body Weight)	= kg
AT (Averaging Time)	= 28,470 days (365 x 78 years)
CSF (Cancer Slope Factor)	= chemical specific in µg/kg-day-1
IR (Ingestion Rate)	= g/day
EF (Exposure Frequency)	= days/year
ED (Exposure Duration)	= years

Non-Cancer FCSVs are calculated using the following equation:

$$FCSV = \frac{RfD \times RSC \times BW \times AT}{IR \times EF \times ED} \qquad \text{Equation 2}$$

Where:

FCSV (Fish Contaminant Screening Value)	= chemical specific, µg/g or pg/g wet weight
RfD (Reference Dose)	= chemical specific, µg/kg-d or pg/kg-d
RSC (Relative Source Contribution)	= chemical specific, unitless
BW (Body Weight)	= kg
AT (Averaging Time)	= days
IR (Ingestion Rate)	= g/day
EF (Exposure Frequency)	= days/year
ED (Exposure Duration)	= years

The **Cancer Slope Factor (CSF)** is defined as *an upper bound, approximating a 95% confidence limit, on the increased cancer risk from a lifetime exposure to a chemical.*[13] For chemicals identified by the US EPA as mutagenic, MDHHS considers CSF values available from other government resources, including the US EPA Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) or the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) environmental cleanup programs.

Cancer Risk (CR) represents the acceptable risk of developing cancer from exposure to a given chemical. This risk will not be more than one additional case of cancer in 10,000 exposed individuals (10^{-4}). US EPA's accepted cancer risk range is from 10^{-4} to 10^{-6}.

[13] Glossary of Terms

The **Chronic Reference Dose (RfD)** is defined as *an estimate (with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude) of a daily oral exposure to the human population (including sensitive subgroups) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of deleterious effects during a lifetime*.[14] The MDHHS evaluates the currently available scientific literature for chemical contaminants in fish to identify exposure thresholds below which there are no observable adverse effects. The MDHHS considers RfD values available from other government resources including the EPA IRIS database or the EGLE environmental cleanup programs, as well as Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs) generated by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The MDHHS may calculate an RfD if existing values are not available or not appropriate for generating FCSVs.

The **Relative Source Contribution (RSC)** factor is used only in the non-cancer FCSV equation and represents the portion of the RfD that can be attributed only to eating fish. People can be exposed to chemicals through sources other than eating fish, such as in other food, drinking water, or air. The MDHHS may account for these other sources when calculating the FCSVs for some contaminants. The MDHHS sets the RSC at 1.0 if no significant exposures from other sources are anticipated, allowing for 100 percent of the exposure to come from eating fish. An RSC less than 1.0 assumes that additional exposure from other sources is likely.

Body Weight (BW) values are taken from the EPA Exposure Factors Handbook (Table A-1), which provides average body weight by age range for males and females combined (EPA 2011).

Table A-1. Average body weights by age group.

Age Group years	Body Weight kilograms (kg)
1 to 2	11.4
2 to 3	13.8
3 to 6	18.6
6 to11	31.8
11 to 16	56.8
16 to 21	71.6
Adults	80.0

Ingestion Rate (IR) is the weight in grams of fish eaten per meal and is assumed to be proportional to BW (Table A-2). The IR for an adult weighing 80 kg is assumed to be 227 grams, or eight ounces, per meal (uncooked weight). The MDHHS adjusts IRs proportionally to BWs in accordance with Table A-2. The resulting FCSVs remain constant for each body weight and meal size combination allowing for uniform consumption recommendations for all age groups including children and adults.

[14] *Ibid.*

Table A-2. Ingestion rate in ounces adjusted by body weight.

Body Weight (BW) kg	Ingestion Rate (IR) per Meal ounces	Ratio IR:BW
10	1.0	0.10
20	2.0	0.10
30	3.0	0.10
40	4.0	0.10
50	5.0	0.10
60	6.0	0.10
70	7.0	0.10
80	8.0	0.10
90	9.0	0.10
100	10.0	0.10
110	11.0	0.10
120	12.0	0.10
130	13.0	0.10

For the calculation for FCSVs for each meal category, an equivalent grams of fish per day is provided in Table A-3.

Table A-3. Ingestion rate (grams per day) for an 80-kg body weight and corresponding meal categories.

Meal Category[a]	Ingestion Rate per Day for an 80-kg Body Weight
fish meals per month	*grams per day*
16	120
12	90
8	60
4	30
2	15
1	7.5
6 meals per year	3.7
Limited	0.6 or 1.2
Do Not Eat	0

[a] units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.

Exposure Frequency (EF) is the assumed number of fish meals eaten per year. Table A-4 shows the conversion of EF in meals per year to the Meal Categories in meals per month used in the *Eat Safe Fish Guide*. The MDHHS calculates chemical-specific FCSVs for the Meal Categories shown in Table A-4.

Table A-4. Exposure frequency (fish meals per year) and corresponding meal categories.

Exposure Frequency	**Meal Category[a]**
fish meals per year	*Fish meals per month*
192	16
144	12
96	8
48	4
24	2
12	1
6	6 meals per year
1 or 2	Limited
0	Do Not Eat

[a] units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.

Exposure Duration (ED) is the assumed number of years of exposure.

Averaging Time (AT) is given in days and is equal to the ED x 365 days per year. For mutagenic carcinogens, exposure is averaged over a 78-year lifetime (i.e., 28,470 days).

References

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DDT, DDD and DDE FCSV Worksheet

Chemical Name: DDT (∑DDT, DDD and DDE [p,p'- and o,p'-])
CAS Number:
DDT: 50-29-3
DDD: 72-54-8
DDE: 72-55-9
FCSV Health Basis: Non-cancer
Chronic Reference Dose (RfD): 0.17 micrograms per kilogram per day (µg/kg-day)
Relative Source Contribution (RSC) =1

State of Michigan
Fish Consumption Screening Value Ranges for the Sum of DDT, DDD, DDE

Meal Category	**FCSV Ranges**
meals per month[a]	*µg/g (ppm)*[b]
16	≤ 0.11
12	>0.11 to 0.15
8	>0.15 to 0.23
4	>0.23 to 0.45
2	>0.45 to 0.91
1	>0.91 to 1.8
6 meals per year	>1.8 to 3.7
Limited	>3.7 to 20
Do Not Eat	>20

[a] Units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.
[b] micrograms of chemical per gram of wet weight fish tissue (µg/g) that is the same as parts per million (ppm).

Limited Meal Category
Fish in the *Limited* category were tested and found to contain high levels of DDT. Healthy adults may safely eat one or two meals per year of fish in this category. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that women of childbearing age, young children, or adults with a chronic health condition should not eat these fish.

Do Not Eat Meal Category
Fish in the *Do Not Eat* meal category were found to contain very high levels of DDT. The MDHHS recommends that no one ever eat the fish in this category. A single fish meal from this category will contain at least a one-year amount (i.e., dose) of DDT exposure.

Toxicological Assessment
The DDT, DDD and DDE are found as a mixture in the environment. The DDT is the basis of the RfD. The MDHHS uses the US EPA IRIS p,p'-DDT RfD (US EPA 1996) with an added uncertainty factor for an incomplete database on genotoxicity (MDCH

2012). A detailed review of DDT, DDD and DDE toxicology and epidemiology literature is provided at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under *Reports & Science* (MDCH 2012).

The chronic RfD for DDT is derived from a study of lesions in rat livers. This study was selected because it was of sufficient duration and had doses over the range of the dose-response curve (MDCH 2012). A no-observed-adverse-effect level (NOAEL) was identified as one part per million (ppm), which is equivalent to a dose of 0.05 milligrams per kilogram per day (mg/kg-day). US EPA applied a 100-fold combined uncertainty factor (10 for extrapolation from animals to humans and 10 for human variability), resulting in an RfD of $5x10^{-4}$ mg/kg-day (US EPA 1996). The MDHHS applied an additional uncertainty factor of three for an incomplete database for genotoxicity, resulting in a final chronic RfD of 0.17 µg/kg-day.

Cancer Risk Considerations

The US EPA considers DDT, DDD and DDE to be *probable human carcinogens* based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in animals. The DDT, DDD and DDE are tumor promoters, but are not considered to be mutagenic or tumor initiators. Applying the US EPA's p,p'-DDT or p,p'-DDE upper-bound cancer slope factor of 0.34 $(mg/kg\text{-}day)^{-1}$ to the FCSVs, the resulting upper-bound risk is between 4 and 10 additional cancers for every 100,000 individuals exposed for 30 to 78 years, respectively. The MDHHS finds this cancer risk to be low and the DDT, DDD and DDE FCSVs adequately protective of cancer risk.

Vulnerable (Sensitive) Population Considerations

The chronic RfD is an estimate of a daily oral exposure for a chronic duration (up to a lifetime) to the human population (including susceptible subgroups) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of adverse health effects over a lifetime. Human fetuses can be exposed during development to DDT, DDD and DDE from contaminated fish that the mother eats. Further exposure to newborns and older babies could occur through the mother's breast milk. If toxic exposure levels are high enough during critical growth stages, the developing body systems of the fetus or baby can sustain permanent damage.

The MDHHS agrees that the RfD approach is protective of sensitive subpopulations. Child development may be altered from exposure to DDT and DDE at an early age. Three different observational studies of prenatally exposed children found an association between higher DDT exposures and lower child development scores for children up to four years of age (MDCH 2012). DDE prenatal exposure was also found to have associations in two of the studies; however, the findings were less consistent. Epidemiology studies provide mixed but supportive evidence for an association between early life exposures to DDE and reduced childhood or pubertal growth. Even beyond prenatal exposure, DDT and DDE may impact the normal development of children. The *Child Health and Development* study, a longitudinal cohort study in California, found that prepubertal exposure to p,p'-DDT was correlated with increased incidence of breast cancer in adulthood (MDCH 2012).

References

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Toxic Equivalents for Dioxins, Furans and co-planar Polychlorinated Biphenyls (Dioxin-like Chemicals [DLCs]) FCSV Worksheet

Chemical Name: Dioxin-like Chemicals (DLCs)
CAS Number: 1746-01-6 (2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin [TCDD])
FCSV Health Basis: Non-cancer
Chronic Reference Dose (RfD): 7.0×10^{-7} micrograms per kilogram per day (µg/kg-day)
Relative Source Contribution (RSC) = 1

State of Michigan
Fish Consumption Screening Value Ranges for Dioxin-like Chemicals

Meal Category	**FCSV Ranges**
meals per month[a]	*pg TEQ/g (ppt-TEQ)*[b]
16	≤ 0.5
12	>0.5 to 0.6
8	>0.6 to 0.9
4	>0.9 to 1.9
2	>1.9 to 3.7
1	>3.7 to 7.5
Six meals per year	>7.5 to 15
Limited	>15 to 90
Do Not Eat	>90

[a] Units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated
[b] picograms of chemical toxic equivalents (TEQ) per gram of wet weight fish tissue (pg-TEQ/g) that is the same as parts per trillion (ppt-TEQ).

Limited Meal Category
Fish in the *Limited* category were tested and found to contain high levels of DLCs. Healthy adults may safely eat one or two meals per year of fish in this category. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that women of childbearing age, young children, or adults with a chronic health condition should not eat these fish.

Do Not Eat Meal Category
Fish in the *Do Not Eat* meal category were found to contain very high levels of DLCs. The MDHHS recommends that no one ever eat the fish in this category. A single fish meal from this category will contain at least a one-year amount (i.e., dose) of DLC exposure.

Toxicological Assessment
The MDHHS concurs with the US EPA IRIS RfD of 7.0×10^{-10} milligrams per kilogram per day (mg/kg-day) for TCDD (US EPA 2012) and the use of the toxic equivalency factor (TEF) method to assess DLC (US EPA 2010). The MDHHS also concurs with MDEQ's use of a relative source contribution of one (MDEQ 2012). A description of

MDHHS selection of the US EPA RfD is provided at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under *Reports & Science* (MDCH 2013).

The US EPA based the chronic RfD on co-critical human studies that demonstrated altered thyroid function (Baccarelli et al. 2008) and impaired adult male reproductive function (Mocarelli et al. 2008). Both studies investigated TCDD exposures to a residential population living in Seveso, Italy during a large chemical manufacturing plant accident in 1976.

The Baccarelli study compared serum thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) levels in neonates to the mothers' TCDD exposure during the 1976 accident, 17-29 years prior to pregnancy. The adverse effect was identified as an increase in TSH levels above the World Health Organization standard of five micro units per milliliter of blood (µU/ml), indicating dysregulation of thyroid hormone metabolism. The Mocarelli study reported decreased adult sperm concentrations and decreased motile sperm counts in men who were 1-9 years old living in Seveso, Italy in 1976.

From the Baccarelli study, the US EPA used the study's regression model to estimate a maternal plasma TCDD concentration at the neonatal TSH level of concern and a human physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) model to determine the maternal intake rate lowest-observed-adverse-effect level (LOAEL) of 2.0×10^{-8} mg/kg-day. In the Mocarelli study it was not clear if the effects were related to the peak exposure or to the average exposure. The US EPA used a human toxicokinetic model to calculate an oral exposure of 0.032 nanogram per kilogram-day (ng/kg-day) associated with the lowest effective peak TCDD serum concentration of 68 ppt TCDD. Then, starting with the peak TCDD exposure and accounting for background TCDD exposure, the average daily serum TCDD level and an associated oral exposure of 0.0080 ng/kg-day was estimated over a five-year period. A combined uncertainty factor of 30 was applied to the LOAEL, 10 for the use of LOAEL and 3 for inter-human variability, resulting in the RfD of 7×10^{-10} mg/kg-day (7.0×10^{-7} µg/kg-day).

Cancer Risk Considerations

Currently, US EPA is re-assessing the cancer potency of TCDD (US EPA 2012). The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) identifies a cancer slope factor of 75,000 $(\text{mg/kg-day})^{-1}$ for TCDD to develop environmental cleanup criteria. Applying the EGLE cancer slope factor to the FCSVs, the resulting upper-bound risk is between 4 and 10 additional cancers for every 100,000 individuals exposed for 30 to 78 years, respectively. The MDHHS concludes that the non-cancer FCSV is adequately protective of cancer risk.

Vulnerable (Sensitive) Population Considerations

Human fetuses are exposed during development to DLCs in contaminated fish that the mother eats. Exposure to newborns and older babies could occur through the mother's breast milk. If toxic exposure levels are high enough during critical growth stages, the developing body systems of children can sustain permanent damage.

The MDHHS determined that the US EPA RfD is protective of children and other sensitive subpopulations. Children eliminate DLC from their bodies more quickly than adults and the US EPA RfD is based on exposures during prenatal and postnatal development and endpoints that were shown to be sensitive and well-described by the US EPA.

References

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Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). 2012. DEQ staff recommendations for a site-specific residential direct contact cleanup criterion (SSRDCC) for dioxins/furans toxic equivalents (TEQ) for Midland area soils June 1. Lansing, MI. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/2012-3-9_Final_Midland_SSRDCC_Recommendation_378921_7.pdf

Mocarelli P, Gerthoux PM, Patterson DG Jr, Milani S, Limonata G, Bertona M, Signorini S, Tramacere P, Colombo L, Crespi C, Brambilla P, Sarto C, Carreri V, Sampson EJ, Turner WE, Needham LL, 2008. Dioxin exposure, from infancy through puberty, produces endocrine disruption and affects human semen quality. Environ Health Perspect, 116: 70-77.

US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). 2010. Recommended toxicity equivalence factors (TEFs) for human health risk assessments of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. (EPA/100/R-10/005). Washington, DC. RECOMMENDED TOXICITY EQUIVALENCE FACTORS (TEFS) FOR HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENTS OF 2,3,7,8-TECTRACHLORODIBENZO-P-DIOXIN AND DIOXIN-LIKE COMPOUNDS (38 pp, 636KB).

US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). 2012. EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD); CASRN 1746-01-6. Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin CASRN 1746-01-6 | IRIS | US EPA, ORD

Mercury FCSV Worksheet

Chemical Name: Methylmercury
CAS Number: 22967-92-6
FCSV Health Basis: Non-cancer
Chronic Reference Dose (RfD): 0.1 micrograms per kilogram per day (µg/kg-day)
Relative Source Contribution (RSC) = 1

State of Michigan
Fish Consumption Screening Value Ranges for Mercury

Meal Category	**FCSV Ranges**
meals per month[a]	*µg/g (ppm)*[b]
16	≤ 0.07
12	>0.07 to 0.09
8	>0.09 to 0.13
4	>0.13 to 0.27
2	>0.27 to 0.53
1	>0.53 to 1.1
6 meals per year	>1.1 to 2.2
Do Not Eat	>2.2

[a]: Units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.
[b] micrograms of chemical per gram of wet weight fish tissue (µg/g) that is the same as parts per million (ppm).

Limited Meal Category
This category does not apply to mercury due to toxicological assessment considerations (see section below).

Do Not Eat Meal Category
Fish in the *Do Not Eat* meal category were found to contain high levels of mercury. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that no one ever eat the fish in this category. A single fish meal from this category will contain at least a two-month amount (i.e., dose) of mercury exposure.

Toxicological Assessment
Methylmercury is more than 90 percent of the mercury speciation found in fish filets. The MDHHS concurs with the US EPA IRIS RfD of 0.1 µg/kg-day for methylmercury (US EPA 2001). A detailed review of methylmercury toxicology and epidemiology literature is provided at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under *Reports & Science* (MDCH 2009).

The RfD is based on a human neurodevelopmental study of fetal exposure from the mother's consumption of contaminated fish during pregnancy. A composite uncertainty factor of ten for pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic variability was applied by the US EPA, resulting in the RfD of 0.1 µg/kg-day.

Cancer Risk Considerations

The US EPA classifies methylmercury as a *possible human carcinogen* (Classification C), based on inadequate data in humans and limited evidence of carcinogenicity in animals. Genotoxicity is inconclusive with limited evidence for chromosomal and nuclear damage and has not been determined to be mutagenic. The US EPA has not published a cancer slope value for methylmercury; thus, methylmercury is not evaluated for cancer risk (US EPA 2001).

Vulnerable (Sensitive) Population Considerations

Methylmercury targets the central nervous system, including the brain and both a developing fetus and child are particularly susceptible to this exposure (ATSDR 1999). Mercury easily crosses the placenta, and both inorganic and organic mercury can be found in human breast milk. Additionally, maternal exposure to mercury levels that cause little or no signs of toxicity in the mother can result in neurotoxicity for a fetus (ATSDR 1999). Developing organ systems may have a reduced ability to excrete chemicals as compared to excretion in adult organ systems.

The methylmercury RfD is protective of neurodevelopmental effects, however emerging science continues to show that mercury also affects other endpoints, such as cardiovascular and immune system function. The MDHHS reviewed the current literature and determined that the RfD may also be protective of these effects in adult populations. MDHHS recognizes, based on the currently available human epidemiological studies, that not every person with cardiovascular or immunological disease may be fully protected by the selected reference dose. The MDHHS set the *Do Not Eat* FCSV for mercury as greater than 2.2 ppm due to the emerging concerns regarding cardiovascular effects in adults (Roman et al. 2011, MDCH 2009).

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1999. Toxicological profile for mercury. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). 2009. Technical support document for a methylmercury reference dose as a basis for fish consumption screening values (FCSVs). Lansing, Michigan. Microsoft Word - Methylmercury HC 6-22-09.docx

Roman HA, Walsh TL et al. 2011. Evaluation of the cardiovascular effects of methylmercury exposures: current evidence supports development of a dose-response function for regulatory benefits analysis. Environmental Health Perspectives. Vol. 119 (5): 607-614.

US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). 2001. US EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). Methylmercury (MeHg); CASRN 22967-92-6. Methylmercury (MeHg) CASRN 22967-92-6 | IRIS | US EPA, ORD

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) FCSV Worksheet

Chemical Name: Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)
CAS Number: 11097-69-1
FCSV Health Basis: Non-cancer
Chronic Reference Dose (RfD): 0.02 micrograms per kilogram per day (µg/kg-day)
Relative Source Contribution (RSC) = 1

State of Michigan
Fish Consumption Screening Value Ranges for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Meal Category	**FCSV Ranges**
meals per month[a]	*µg/g (ppm)*[b]
16	≤ 0.01
12	>0.01 to 0.02
8	>0.02 to 0.03
4	>0.03 to 0.05
2	>0.05 to 0.11
1	>0.11 to 0.21
6 meals per year	>0.21 to 0.43
Limited	>0.43 to 2.7
Do Not Eat	>2.7

[a] Units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.
[b] micrograms of chemical per gram of wet weight fish tissue (µg/g) that is the same as parts per million (ppm).

Limited Meal Category
Fish in the *Limited* category were tested and found to contain high levels of PCBs. Healthy adults may safely eat one or two meals per year of fish in this category. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that women of childbearing age, young children, or adults with a chronic health condition should not eat these fish.

Do Not Eat Meal Category
Fish in the *Do Not Eat* meal category were found to contain very high levels of PCBs. The MDHHS recommends that no one ever eat the fish in this category. A single fish meal from this category will contain at least a one-year amount (i.e., dose) of PCB exposure.

Toxicological Assessment
The MDHHS concurs with the US EPA IRIS RfD of 0.02 µg/kg-day for Aroclor 1254 (US EPA 1996). A detailed review of PCBs toxicology and epidemiology literature is provided at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under *Reports & Science* (MDCH 2012).

The RfD is based on a sub-chronic rhesus monkey study of clinical and immunological endpoints. Significant dose-response trends were observed for clinical endpoints and significant decreases in immunoglobulin G (IgG) and immunoglobulin M (IgM) for all doses with the exception of IgM in the group given the lowest dose of Aroclor 1254. The US EPA applied a combined uncertainty factor of 300 based on three for animal to human extrapolation, ten for sensitive individuals, three for sub-chronic to chronic extrapolation and three for using a lowest-observed-adverse-effect level (LOAEL), resulting in 0.02 µg/kg-day.

Cancer Risk Considerations

The US EPA considers mixtures of PCBs to be *probable human carcinogens* based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in animals. US EPA does not identify PCBs as mutagenic. Applying the US EPA's PCB upper-bound cancer slope factor of 2.0 per milligram per kilogram per day [$(mg/kg\text{-}day)^{-1}$] to the FCSVs, the resulting upper-bound risk is between 3 and 8 additional cancers for every 100,000 individuals exposed for 30 to 78 years, respectively. The MDHHS concludes that the non-cancer PCB FCSV is adequately protective of cancer risk.

The Great Lakes Sport Fish Advisory Task Force (1993) took a similar approach to MDHHS by using a non-cancer value called the *Health Protective Value (*HPV*)* in place of the US EPA cancer slope value. The Task Force stated that HPV should fall within the one in 10^{-4} to 10^{-6} life-time cancer risk range (GLSFATF 1993). The MDHHS PCB FCSV approach is consistent with the Protocol for a Uniform Great Lakes Sport Fish Consumption Advisory.

Vulnerable (Sensitive) Population Considerations

Human fetuses are exposed during development to PCBs in contaminated fish that the mother eats. Exposure to newborn and older babies could occur through the mother's breast milk. In addition, infants may have a reduced capacity to metabolize and eliminate PCBs, due to still developing organ systems. If toxic exposure levels are high enough during critical growth stages, the developing body systems of children can sustain permanent damage.

Based on several factors, MDHHS determined that the US EPA RfD is protective of these sensitive subpopulations. First, there is a variety of PCB associated immune effects that have been reported in humans, both children and adults. Second, an estimated RfD for neuropsychological effects is also 0.02 µg/kg-day, which indicates that the Aroclor 1254 RfD would be protective against those types of developmental effects. Third, in a study using Aroclor 1254, prenatal exposure to 80 µg/kg-day did not alter infant monkey birth weights. The 80 µg/kg-day is higher than the point-of-departure used as a basis for the Aroclor 1254 RfD and so this RfD will be protective of additional developmental effects. A detailed review of the developmental effects of PCBs is provided at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under *Reports & Science*.

References

Great Lakes Sport Fish Advisory Task Force (GLSFATF). 1993. Protocol for a Uniform Great Lakes Sport Fish Consumption Advisory. September 1993.

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). 2012. Technical support document for a polychlorinated biphenyl reference dose (RfD) as the basis for a fish consumption screening value (FCSVs). State of Michigan. Lansing, Michigan.

US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). 1996. US EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). Aroclor 1254; CASRN 11097-69-1. Aroclor 1254 CASRN 11097-69-1 | IRIS | US EPA, ORD

Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) FCSV Worksheet

Chemical Name: Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS)
CAS Number: 1763-23-1
FCSV Health Basis: Non-cancer
Reference Dose (RfD): 2.89 nanograms per kilogram per day (ng/kg-day)
Relative Source Contribution (RSC) = 0.80

State of Michigan
Fish Consumption Screening Value Ranges for PFOS

Meal Category	**FCSV Ranges**
meals per month[a]	*ng/g (ppb)*[b]
16	≤ 1.5
12	>1.5 to 2.1
8	>2.1 to 3.1
4	>3.1 to 6.2
2	>6.2 to 12.4
1	>12.4 to 24.8
6 meals per year	>24.8 to 49.6
Do Not Eat	>49.6

[a] Units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.
[b] nanograms of chemicals per grams of wet weight fish tissue (ng/g) that is the same as parts per billion (ppb)

Limited Meal Category
The *Limited* meal category is reserved for levels of contaminants where it is believed to be safe for consumption on a limited basis by the general population, not including persons that are under the age of 15, have health problems like cancer or diabetes, or might have children in the next several years or currently pregnant or are breastfeeding. Due to the continuing emerging information on health effects from PFOS exposure, the background exposure in the general population (to PFOS and other per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances [PFAS]) and potential health effects from exposure to multiple PFAS, levels that would allow for the *Limited* category could not be identified for PFOS, and this category was omitted.

Do Not Eat Meal Category
Fish in the *Do Not Eat* meal category were found to contain high levels of PFOS. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that no one ever eat the fish in this category.

Toxicological Assessment
The MDHHS evaluated the literature on PFOS toxicology and epidemiology for both cancer and non-cancer risk and set a RfD and RSC. The MDHHS RfD and RSC are described in the health consultation entitled *Technical Support Document for Assessment*

and Selection of a new Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) Reference Dose (RfD) and Relative Source Contribution as the basis for Michigan Fish Consumption Screening Values (FCSVs) (MDHHS 2025) provided at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under *Reports & Science.* The conclusions and justification for the RfD are described within the health consultation on pages 4 and 5.

"MFCAP concludes that using the Michigan Science Advisory Workgroup's toxicity value of 2.89 ng/kg-day for PFOS to update the current FCSVs would be protective of human health.
This toxicity value was selected because it:

- Is derived from a widely evaluated study (Dong et al., 2009), which has the following strengths:
    - Dong et al. (2009) uses immunological endpoints. Some studies have shown that immunological effects may be the most sensitive endpoint for PFOS toxicity, although others have pointed to developmental effects. Both human epidemiological and laboratory animal studies have reported immunological effects of PFOS at concentrations lower than those associated with other health effects. Most consistent though, is the finding that several health outcomes, including immunotoxicity and developmental perturbations, may occur at similar and overlapping dose ranges. EPA (2024a) concluded that the noncancer health outcomes with the strongest evidence are hepatic, immune, cardiovascular and developmental.
    - Dong et al. (2009) reports results using an animal model. Relying upon an animal model does not negate findings associated with epidemiological studies but does reflect that the human experience is uncontrolled and imperfectly documented. Animal studies are controlled, with precisely measured exposures (SOM, 2009; ATSDR, 2021).
- Aligns closely with all other recently published final toxicity values available from ATSDR (2021) and EPA (2024a). The selected toxicity value is consistent (i.e., approximately within an order of magnitude) with those selected for use by all other relevant agencies and in other media (e.g., ATSDR, 2021; EPA, 2024a). In addition to alignment with actual, derived toxicity values, the health endpoints themselves, on which the toxicity values are based, also overlap.
    - Note also that all other candidate RfDs derived by the EPA from epidemiologic studies were within one order of magnitude of each other, regardless of endpoint, health outcome, or study population (EPA, 2024a)." (MDHHS 2025).

The RSC selection and use is described on pages 6 to 8 within the health consultation.

"PFOS... is understood to have had many and diverse historic uses resulting in widespread environmental contamination... The EPA recommends the application of an RSC between 20% and 80% when setting ambient water quality criteria protective of human health (EPA, 2000), which prevents exposures above the toxicity value if other exposure pathways are likely. This guidance was applied here, because sources of exposure to PFOS other than fish consumption are likely relevant to large swaths of the

population (EPA 2024; ATSDR, 2021). With 19% attributable to background, 81% may be attributable to fish consumption. This was rounded down to 80% to align with EPA's guidance to use an RSC between 20% and 80%." (MDHHS 2025).

Cancer Risk Considerations

The United States Environmental Protection Agency selected a cancer slope factor for PFOS of 39.5 $mg/kg/d^{-1}$ based on a study showing an increased incidence of hepatocellular adenomas and carcinomas in rats in the high-dose group compared to the control group (EPA 2024; Butenhoff et al. 2012; Thomford 2002). This was the only animal study that the EPA identified as being a high-confidence study for the development of a CSF and no human epidemiological studies were identified as being high-confidence studies for this purpose.

There was also a lack of data identifying the carcinogenic mode of action for PFOS and EPA determined that PFOS was unlikely to be mutagenic. "EPA concluded there was a lack of information to support a mutagenic mechanism of action for PFOS and MDHHS concludes there is otherwise no clear evidence yet for the mutagenicity of PFOS." (MDHHS 2025).

Vulnerable (Sensitive) Population Considerations

Human fetuses are exposed during development to PFOS from contaminated fish that the mother eats. Exposure to newborn and older babies could occur through the mother's breast milk. In addition, infants may have a reduced capacity to eliminate PFOS, due to still developing organ systems.

There is literature available describing associations between PFOS exposure and developmental effects both in human epidemiological and animal studies (ATSDR 2021; EPA 2024). One such study looked at the effects of eight PFAS, including PFOS, on birth outcomes. Increased maternal serum levels of five PFAS, including PFOS, were associated with lower birth weights in girls. (Wikstrom et al. 2020). The MDHHS concludes the selected RfD to be protective of vulnerable populations. As noted above, this RfD is based on immune effects that occur at lower or similar concentrations as those associated with developmental endpoints (ATSDR 2021; EPA 2024; MDHHS 2025).

References

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Selenium FCSV Worksheet

Chemical Name: Selenium (Se)
CAS Number: 7782-49-2
FCSV Health Basis: Non-cancer
Chronic Reference Dose (RfD): five micrograms per kilogram per day (µg/kg-day)
Relative Source Contribution (RSC) = 0.69

State of Michigan
Fish Consumption Screening Value Ranges for Selenium

Meal Category	**FCSV Ranges**	**Dose per 8-oz Meal**
meals per month[a]	*µg/g (ppm)*[b]	*milligrams (mg)*
16	≤ 2.3	0.5
12	>2.3 to 3.1	0.7
8	>3.1 to 4.6	1.0
4	>4.6 to 9.2	2.1
2	>9.2 to 17	3.9
Do Not Eat	>17	>3.9

[a] Units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.
[b] micrograms of chemical per gram of wet weight fish tissue (µg/g) that is the same as parts per million (ppm).

Limited Meal Category
This category does not apply to selenium due to toxicological assessment considerations (see section below).

Do Not Eat Meal Category
Fish in the *Do Not Eat* meal category were found to contain very high levels of selenium. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that no one ever eat the fish in this category. The *Do Not Eat* meal category is set at a filet concentration that is unlikely to cause harm from a single meal of fish.

Toxicological Assessment
The MDHHS concurs with the US EPA IRIS chronic RfD for selenium (US EPA1993), which is identical to the minimal risk level (MRL) (ATSDR 2003) developed by ATSDR (MDCH 2009). A description of the selection of the selenium RfD is provided at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under *Reports & Science*. The Institute of Medicine describes the recommended dietary allowance for selenium (IOM 2000).

The RfD is based on chronic human selenium exposure in a region of China that had elevated selenium concentrations in food due to elevated selenium soil concentrations (Yang et al. 1994). The clinically diagnosed endpoint of selenosis (i.e., selenium poisoning) was used to determine the no-observed-adverse-effect level (NOAEL) of 15

µg/kg-day (Yang et al. 1989). Selenosis symptoms are loss of hair and nails, skin lesions, nausea, irritability, fatigue and mild nerve damage (Yang et al. 1983, NIH 2012). An uncertainty factor of three for human variability was applied by the US EPA resulting in an RfD of 5 µg/kg-day. A second study of human selenium exposure (North Dakota, US), looking for clinical signs of selenosis, was considered by the US EPA to be supportive of this RfD (Longnecker 1994).

Acute human exposure to selenium is not well defined (Olsen 1986) but has occurred. Olsen (1986) summarized acute and chronic selenium poisoning that resulted in symptoms that could be considered selenosis. The best example was 57-year-old female who consumed a daily vitamin supplement (31 mg per tablet) for 11 days and acquired selenosis. She recovered from the exposure. Olsen (1986) suggested that a maximum single oral dose of 0.05 mg Se/kg body weight for adults or young adults is not likely to cause harm. For an 80-kg adult, this is equal to 4 mg of selenium in a single meal.

Based on acute toxicity concerns that a few high doses may be harmful to vulnerable populations, MDHHS set the maximum FCSV for selenium to 17 parts per million (ppm), which is equivalent to 3.9 mg of selenium in an 8-oz meal (227 grams) and a dose of 0.05 mg Se/kg body weight. The MDHHS recommends that no one eat a meal of fish that exceeds 17 ppm of selenium.

Cancer Risk Considerations

The US EPA classifies selenium as *not classifiable as to carcinogenicity in humans* (Classification D), based on inadequate data in humans and inadequate evidence of carcinogenicity in animals (US EPA 1993). The US EPA has not published a cancer slope value for selenium; thus, selenium is not evaluated for cancer risk.

Vulnerable (Sensitive) Population Considerations

The primary epidemiology study used to set the chronic RfD found that children did not exhibit signs of selenosis when exposed to amounts of selenium that did result in clinical symptoms in adults (Yang et al. 1983, Yang et al. 1989).

References

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Toxaphene FCSV Worksheet

Chemical Name: Toxaphene
CAS Number: 8001-35-2
FCSV Health Basis: Non-cancer
Chronic Reference Dose (RfD): 0.033 micrograms per kilogram per day (µg/kg-day)
Relative Source Contribution (RSC) = 1

State of Michigan
Fish Consumption Screening Value Ranges for Toxaphene

Meal Category	**FCSV Ranges**
meals per month[a]	*µg/g (ppm)*[b]
16	≤ 0.02
12	>0.02 to 0.03
8	>0.03 to 0.05
4	>0.05 to 0.09
2	>0.09 to 0.18
1	>0.18 to 0.36
6 meals per year	>0.36 to 0.73
Limited	>0.73 to 4.5
Do Not Eat	>4.5

[a] Units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.
[b] micrograms of chemical per gram of wet weight fish tissue (µg/g) that is the same as parts per million (ppm).

Limited Meal Category
Fish in the *Limited* category were tested and found to contain high levels of toxaphene. Healthy adults may safely eat one or two meals per year of fish in this category. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that women of childbearing age, young children, or adults with a chronic health condition should not eat these fish.

Do Not Eat Meal Category
Fish in the *Do Not Eat* meal category were found to contain very high levels of toxaphene. The MDHHS recommends that no one ever eat the fish in this category. A single fish meal from this category will contain at least a one-year amount of toxaphene exposure.

Toxicological Assessment
The MDHHS evaluated the toxicology and epidemiology literature for toxaphene and produced a health consultation describing the calculation of the toxaphene chronic RfD (MDCH 2009). The analytical methods for the quantification of toxaphene are changing to congener specific analysis, which will replace older, less accurate data. Detailed

information is provided in a technical document at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under *Reports & Science*.

The RfD was derived from a study of female monkeys. They were treated for over a year (75 weeks, subchronic exposure) with multiple doses of technical toxaphene. Immune system function was assessed after 33 weeks of treatment (MDCH 2009). A no-observed-adverse-effect level (NOAEL) of 0.1 milligrams per kilogram per day (mg/kg-day) was identified from this subchronic study. The MDHHS applied a combined uncertainty factor of 3,000 based on animal to human extrapolation (UF=10), human to human variability (UF=10), sub-chronic to chronic extrapolation (UF=10) and a modifying factor of 3 for possible developmental effects, resulting in an RfD of 0.033 µg/kg/day (MDCH 2009).

Cancer Risk Considerations

The US EPA considers toxaphene to be a *probable human carcinogen* based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in animals. US EPA has not listed toxaphene as having mutagenic mode of action. Most studies show toxaphene is not genotoxic in mammalian cells but can be genotoxic in prokaryotic organisms (ATSDR 2010). The weight of evidence suggests a nongenotoxic mode of action for toxaphene tumorigenicity (ATSDR 2010). Applying the US EPA's toxaphene upper-bound cancer slope factor of 1.1 $(mg/kg\text{-}day)^{-1}$ to the FCSVs, the resulting upper-bound risk is between 3 and 7 additional cancers for every 100,000 individuals exposed for 30 to 78 years, respectively. The MDHHS finds this cancer risk to be low and the toxaphene FCSV adequately protective of cancer risk.

Vulnerable (Sensitive) Population Considerations

Human fetuses would be exposed during development to toxaphene from contaminated fish that the mother eats. Further exposure to newborns and older babies could occur through the mother's breast milk. If toxic exposure levels are high enough during critical growth stages, the developing body systems of children can sustain permanent damage.

The MDHHS's derived chronic RfD is based on an endpoint that is protective of sensitive subpopulations. The selected endpoint of suppression of immune system response is a subclinical endpoint that has been documented in animals including monkeys. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) used the same immune system study as MDHHS to establish the ATSDR intermediate oral Minimal Risk Level (MRL) (ATSDR 2010). Infants and children are especially sensitive to immune suppression because the immune system does not reach maturity until 10 to 12 years of age (ATSDR 2010). The immunosuppression also applies to adults, as adults with impaired immune systems are more susceptible to disease, including cancer.

Few neurodevelopmental studies of toxaphene have been conducted, and the existing information is inconclusive for this endpoint (ATSDR 2010).

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2010. Toxicological profile for toxaphene. (Draft for Public Comment) Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

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Sum of Toxaphene Parlars 26, 50, 62 (∑3PC26,50,62) FCSV Worksheet

Chemical Name: Toxaphene as the Sum of Congener Parlars 26, 50, 62 ($\sum 3PC_{26,50,62}$)
CAS Number: 8001-35-2

Parlar 26: 142534-71-2
Parlar 50: 66860-80-8
Parlar 62: 154159-06-5

FCSV Health Basis: Non-cancer
Chronic Reference Dose (RfD): 0.0021 micrograms per kilogram per day (µg/kg-day)
Relative Source Contribution (RSC) = 1

State of Michigan
Fish Consumption Screening Value Ranges for
Sum of Toxaphene Congener Parlars 26, 50, 62 ($\sum 3PC_{26,50,62}$)

Meal Category	FCSV Ranges
meals per month[a]	*µg/g (ppm)*[b]
16	≤ 0.001
12	>0.001 to 0.002
8	>0.002 to 0.003
4	>0.003 to 0.006
2	>0.006 to 0.011
1	>0.011 to 0.023
6 meals per year	>0.023 to 0.046
Limited	>0.046 to 0.28
Do Not Eat	>0.28

[a] Units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.
[b] micrograms of chemical per gram of wet weight fish tissue (µg/g) that is the same as parts per million (ppm).

Limited Meal Category
Fish in the *Limited* category were tested and found to contain high levels of $\sum 3PC_{26,50,62}$. Healthy adults may safely eat one or two meals per year of fish in this category. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that women of childbearing age, young children, or adults with a chronic health condition should not eat these fish.

Do Not Eat Meal Category
Fish in the *Do Not Eat* meal category were found to contain very high levels of $\sum 3PC_{26,50,62}$. The MDHHS recommends that no one ever eat the fish in this category. A single fish meal from this category will contain at least a one-year amount of $\sum 3PC_{26,50,62}$ exposure.

Toxicological Assessment
The MDHHS evaluated the toxaphene toxicology and epidemiology literature and produced a health consultation describing the calculation of the toxaphene chronic RfD (MDCH 2009). The analytical methods for the quantification of toxaphene are changing to congener specific analysis, which will replace older, less accurate data. A document describing the RfD and these analytical considerations is provided at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under *Reports & Science*.

The RfD was derived from a study of partially hepatectomized rats treated subcutaneously for 20 weeks with a mixture of weathered toxaphene that included Parlar congeners 26, 50 and 62. The concentration of 26, 50 and 62 were quantified in the extract injected into the rats. The number of altered hepatic foci expressing placental glutathione-S-transferase (GST-p-AHF), which is an indication of tumor promotion, was quantified. None of the treatment groups had altered hepatic foci, however concentration changes at the highest concentrations were reported for GST-p-AHF. A no-observed-adverse-effect level (NOAEL) of 0.0021 milligrams per kilogram per day (mg/kg/day) for the sum of Parlar congeners 26, 50 and 62 ($\sum 3PC_{26,50,62}$) was identified. The MDHHS applied a combined uncertainty factor of 100 based on animal to human extrapolation (UF=10) and human to human variability (UF=10) to the NOAEL resulting in 0.0000021 mg/kg-day (0.0021 µg/kg-day).

Cancer Risk Considerations
Toxaphene is a mixture of chemicals that US EPA considers to be *probable human carcinogens* based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in animals. Parlars 26, 50, 62 are three of those chemicals that are persistent in fish and humans. The RfD used to calculate the FCSVs for the $\sum 3PC_{26,50,62}$ is based on cancer promotion measured by the occurrence of pre-cancerous hepatic foci, making this RfD protective of cancer risk.

Vulnerable (Sensitive) Population Considerations
Human fetuses would be exposed during development to toxaphene from contaminated fish that the mother eats. Further exposure to newborns and older babies could occur through the mother's breast milk. If toxic exposure levels are high enough during critical growth stages, the developing body systems of children can sustain permanent damage.

Toxaphene is a pesticide made up of a mixture of over 670 chemicals. When it is released into the environment, a subset of those chemicals accumulate in fish and people. Parlars 26, 50 and 62 are three toxaphene congeners that persist in fish and people and correlated to a pre-cancerous endpoint. The more accurate analytical quantification of $\sum 3PC_{26,50,62}$ as well the choice of a sensitive endpoint makes this chronic RfD a protective approach for vulnerable populations.

References
Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). 2009. Technical support document for a toxaphene reference dose (RfD) as a basis for fish consumption screening values (FCSVs). State of Michigan. Lansing, Michigan.

Appendix B. Additional Public Health Considerations for Waterbody- and Species- Specific Consumption Guidelines

Background

Each waterbody- and species-specific guideline can have conditions that require additional considerations beyond the standard assessment process. Conditions can be caused by water-specific contamination issues (e.g. point-source contamination) and/or dataset-specific issues (e.g. small sample size; limited range of fish lengths, older sample collection years). Some conditions are relatively common and the approaches to those are described below; other conditions are rare or unique to waterbodies or datasets and require a unique, tailored evaluation.

Waterbody-Specific Conditions

Additional consideration may be needed for waterbodies where a point-source of contamination can be identified. Specific concerns include uncertainty regarding impacts to the ecosystem, fate and transport of the chemical of concern (COC) in the environment and uptake by the fish. Most of these conditions are multifaceted and unique to a waterbody, resulting in the need to apply additional consideration in selecting the appropriate guideline for fish consumption (see section below).

For waterbodies with highly elevated COC contamination, a *waterbody-wide guideline* may be appropriate. A waterbody-wide guideline is a meal frequency that is recommended for all fish in the waterbody that lack adequate datasets to issue species-specific guidelines yet are highly likely to be contaminated. This type of guideline can be recommended when **both** of the following conditions exist:

1. Analytical data are available for
    a. A minimum of two fish species and
    b. One of those species is a non-benthic feeding fish and
    c. A guideline recommending consumption be limited to six meals per year or less identified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

2. The chemical contamination is partly from sources other than atmospheric deposition, such as a point-source discharge from a known site of environmental contamination where data are available to indicate that site contaminants are also found in fish.

The meal consumption category for a waterbody-wide guideline recommended for all fish species lacking contaminant data will be set to a protective meal category of six meals or less per year unless additional data are available to support an alternative. Additional fish sampling and analyses will be requested.

Dataset-Specific Conditions

The standard data assessment process can require additional considerations when dataset limitations are encountered. Dataset limitations include datasets with less than five samples for each species and chemical; datasets in which the most recent data are more than 15 years old; datasets with samples that are not of legal length; datasets that lack longer lengths of fish; and datasets that may not include mercury levels as mercury is

anticipated to be in almost all freshwater fish. When datasets with limitations demonstrate the presence of chemical contamination, additional considerations are applied to reach a health protective guideline.

Sample Size Considerations

A dataset of less than five samples per chemical, species and waterbody is considered insufficient for evaluation using the standard assessment process. Datasets with less than five samples will be reviewed by MDHHS staff for values that exceed a *Limited* fish consumption screening value and concerns will be provided to management.

Statewide Eat Safe Fish Guidelines for mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) apply to all Michigan waters except for the Great Lakes and may address some datasets with insufficient sample size.

Year of Sample Collection Considerations

The level of COCs found in a fish sample represents the measured concentration at the time of collection; therefore, more recent samples may be most representative of current contaminant levels. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) has documented temporal trends in the fish tissue concentrations of several persistent, bioaccumulative COCs in five rivers, eight lakes and the Great Lakes[15]. Trend data are available for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), total dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) and its metabolites, total chlordane and mercury. No trend data are available for other COCs. These documented trends can be used to select a conservative estimate of similar trends for other waters that do not have known point-source contamination.

The EGLE used analytical data from whole fish samples to demonstrate that total PCBs, total DDT and its metabolites and total chlordane concentrations declined by at least three percent (3%) per year depending on the species and location[16]. One inland lake and one river had non-significant trends for total DDT, but none of the studied waterbodies showed increasing trends. The median reduction was between five (5%) and nine percent (9%) across all waterbodies. Assuming a three (3%) to five percent (5%) reduction in PCBs or DDT per year, a decline of 50 percent in whole fish concentrations would occur after approximately 15 years. A 50 percent decline would allow for a less restrictive guideline for these COCs.

For mercury, no consistent trend across waterbodies has been observed by the EGLE whole fish trend monitoring program. The program reported that 10 of 13 waterbody-species combinations from inland lakes and rivers showed no statistically significant change over time, with one combination having a significant increase and two combinations showing a significant decrease[8]. Location-species combinations from the Great Lakes were reported to have no change over time for ten sites, increasing trends for nine and a decreasing trend for one.

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[15] EGLE Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program. Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program

[16] MDEQ Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program. 2008 Report. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wb-swas-fcmp-2008report_284691_7.pdf

Temporal Trend Adjustments for PCBs, DDT, or Chlordane

Guidelines for PCBs, DDT, or chlordane that are based on datasets that are 15 years and older can be relaxed one meal category, one time, when:

1. There are at least five samples per chemical in the dataset and
2. There are no source control or legacy contamination concerns and
3. The existing guideline is no more restrictive than six meals per year.

Additional sample collection and analysis from the specific waterbody is required for any further relaxation of the guidelines.

The temporal trend adjustment cannot be applied:

1. To the limited or do not eat meal categories, or
2. When mercury concentrations would cause a more restrictive advisory, or
3. When the dataset is too limited to be evaluated using the standard assessment process.

Temporal Trend Adjustments for Mercury
At this time, no adjustment to the Guidelines for mercury can be applied because EGLE has not demonstrated a consistent trend in mercury levels in fish across waterbodies.

Temporal Trend Adjustments for Other Chemicals
No adjustment can be made to the Guidelines for other COCs unless supporting information becomes available.

Fish Length Considerations
The standard assessment process is most accurate when the lengths of the fish samples span the range that can be legally harvested. Datasets that include only smaller fish may not provide an accurate representation of COC concentrations in larger fish. This is particularly true for mercury, PCBs, DDT and dioxin like chemicals (DLCs) that accumulate to higher concentrations in longer, older fish. Datasets that include samples from fish smaller than the legal length (i.e., sub-legal) can result in statistics that are skewed low and do not represent the legally harvestable lengths. The following adjustments to guidelines can be made for these situations.

Sub-legal Length Samples
When the dataset includes sub-legal length fish, but regression analysis identifies a positive correlation coefficient (R^2) greater than 0.6, then the regression analysis can be used to select a length break(s) to set a guideline(s). For lengths outside the length range of the dataset, the guideline can be set at one meal category more restrictive than the guideline for the largest fish length within the dataset.

When regression analysis cannot be used but the dataset includes at least five legal length samples, the guideline will be based on the 95% upper confidence limit (UCL) about the mean of the legal samples.

When regression analysis cannot be used and the dataset does not include at least five legal length samples, the 95% UCL will be calculated for the range of lengths in the available data. The guideline for legal length fish can be set to one meal category more restrictive than indicated by the 95% UCL for sub-legal length fish.

Insufficient Representation of Larger Legal Lengths

When the dataset does not include sufficient representation of larger lengths of fish, but regression analysis identifies an R^2 greater than 0.6, then the regression analysis can be used to set guidelines for the range of fish lengths represented in the dataset. For lengths beyond the range of the dataset, the guideline will be one meal category more restrictive than the guideline set for the largest length within the dataset.

When regression analysis cannot be used to predict the increase in concentration and insufficient representation of larger lengths exists, then a length break from Table B-1 can be used and the guideline for the smaller lengths can be set using the available analytical data. The guideline for the larger lengths will be set to one meal category more restrictive than the guideline for the smaller lengths. Length beaks are based on analysis presented in the Statewide Guidelines Appendix C and D.

Table B-1. Length breaks by fish species commonly encountered. [Note: This table can be updated with additional species and lengths as needed.]

Species	Legal Size Limit (inches)	Length Break
Largemouth Bass	14	18
Northern Pike	24	30
Smallmouth Bass	14	18
Walleye	15	20

Dataset-Specific Considerations

Dataset-Specific Considerations may be applied to datasets where the sample size, age or length considerations discussed above are insufficient to address rare or unique conditions. The MDHHS management will review and determine the appropriate guideline(s) when these situations are presented.

An example of a *Dataset-Specific Consideration* is the use of the mean contaminant concentration to inform the recommendation. In 2013, MDHHS based a guideline for the South Branch of the River Raisin (Lenawee County) on a dataset for redhorse sucker with only four samples with analytical results dating back to 1991. This dataset had too few samples to calculate a representative 95% upper confidence limit. The dataset was old, so the available data were not likely to be representative of current COC concentrations. In addition, the length of the samples was limited to smaller sizes under 13 inches.

This limited dataset demonstrated that mercury is present in this waterbody and fish species. A temporal trend adjustment could not be applied because EGLE cannot demonstrate a consistent trend in mercury levels in Michigan fish. Further, EGLE predicts that mercury concentrations are either steady or increasing and that mercury concentrations tend to increase with the length of the fish, thus longer fish typically have higher concentrations.

One option was to rely on the Statewide Safe Fish Guideline for mercury in sucker, which has a guideline of eight meals per month. However, the mean concentration of mercury in these four sucker samples of 0.225 parts per million (ppm) indicates a meal category of four meals per month is more appropriate. The Statewide guideline of eight meals a month would not have been sufficiently protective of public health.

In this example, the final guidelines were based on the limited available data for smaller fish with a guideline for larger fish set to one meal category more restrictive as shown below:

> *No one should eat more than four meals per month of South Branch River Raisin sucker less than 13 inches or two meals per month of sucker greater than 13 inches due to mercury. Dataset is limited due to age of the data and sample size. A dataset specific consideration to use the mean mercury concentration and a length break were applied.*

Appendix C. Supporting Documentation for Statewide Eat Safe Fish Guidelines for Species from Inland Waters Contaminated with Mercury.

Introduction

Fish consumption guidelines (hereafter referred to as "Guidelines") are public health advisories issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) under the authority of the Michigan Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978). Statewide consumption guidelines may be issued when a chemical of concern (COC) is found in one or more fish species from multiple waterbodies dispersed across a wide geographic range in Michigan. A statewide advisory generally applies to all rivers and inland lakes but not to the Great Lakes. Lake-wide advisories may be issued for a region of a Great Lake or the entire Great Lake if a COC is found to be a concern throughout the defined area.

The purpose of this document is to provide technical support for the statewide mercury fish consumption guidelines. Guidelines that are issued for specific fish species and waterbodies should be followed rather than the statewide guidelines when they differ.

The MDHHS will issue statewide fish consumption guidelines when:

- A COC prompts guidelines for waterbodies that are dispersed across a wide geographic range; and
- The data support the conclusion that guidelines are appropriate for many species and waterbodies, including those without existing data; and
- The species-waterbody specific guideline approach is not feasible for every affected waterbody and species given the statewide extent of the contamination.

Statewide consumption guidelines are not predicated on COC data for every location and species for which the guidance is issued. These guidelines are not evaluated on an annual basis but may be re-evaluated if temporal trend data suggest chemical concentrations in the environment have changed.

Background

Some chemicals, such as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), are widely dispersed in Michigan's environment. These chemicals are persistent and bioaccumulative in aquatic systems and may also biomagnify in the foodweb. These COCs may enter Michigan surface waters from both wet and dry atmospheric deposition and non-point source runoff.

Michigan has about 76,000 miles of streams and rivers and 46,000 inland lakes and ponds greater than 0.1 acre in size, many of which do not have public access. It is not feasible, therefore, to develop species- and waterbody-specific fish consumption guidelines for every fish and location in Michigan. However, mercury is one of two chemicals that most often prompt MDHHS *Eat Safe Fish* Guidelines.

In 1989, MDHHS published the first statewide mercury fish consumption guidance for top predator fish species and larger sizes of panfish. The guidance applied to these species found in all inland lakes, including those lakes where no fish samples had been collected. Two sets of guidelines were previously provided: one for women of childbearing age and children under the age of 15 years old and a second, less restrictive set, for everyone else. No technical document exists that provides a summary of the mercury data or other information that was used to support the 1989 guidance. In a 1998 Michigan Environmental Science Board document, a brief

description of the history of the statewide mercury advisory mentions a re-evaluation in 1994 that resulted in no modifications to the statewide mercury advisory[17].

Discussion

Mercury is atmospherically deposited and is found in nearly all fish samples collected from all waterbodies in Michigan. Inorganic mercury in aquatic systems is methylated by bacteria to form methylmercury, which is the dominant form (greater than 90 percent) found in fish samples.

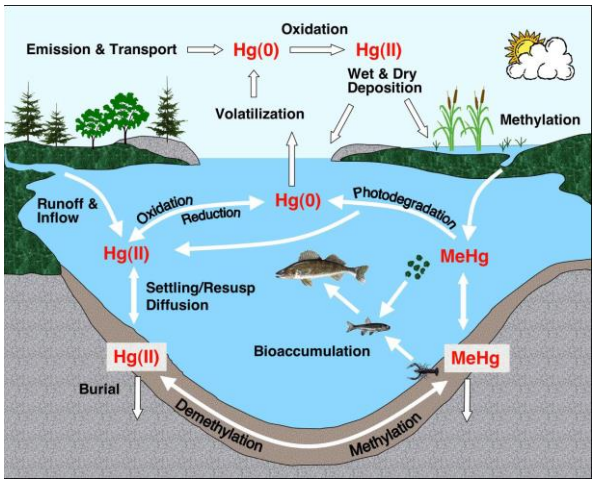

Figure 0-1. Diagram of mercury cycling in a lake and watershed. From Engstrom (2007). Copyright 2007 National Academy of Sciences, United States of America.

Methylation of mercury occurs most readily under anoxic conditions and is affected by other water quality characteristics such as pH. Methylmercury accumulates in the phytoplankton and zooplankton at the bottom of the food chain and biomagnifies up and through the food web reaching the highest concentrations in top predator fish such as walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge (Figure C-1). Differences between aquatic systems can result in wide variation in mercury concentrations in the same fish samples collected from different waterbodies.

Mercury is stored in the muscle meat of the fish, rather than in the lipid tissue. It cannot be trimmed or cooked away. All of the data presented in this document represent concentrations of mercury in edible fish tissue, typically the filet. Fish skin may be left on the filet if that is the typical preparation method.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program (FCMP) has demonstrated that mercury contamination in fish is common. The available data indicate either static or increasing trends in mercury concentration in Michigan fish, with few locations showing any decline[18].

The EGLE data analysis includes all mercury results between 1984 and 2010 from inland lakes, impoundments and rivers that are not known to have received point-source mercury contamination. It included commonly eaten species with available datasets for multiple waterbodies. Deer Lake (Marquette County) fish data were not included in the analysis because of legacy point-source mercury pollution.

Each species-specific mercury dataset was reviewed for the number of samples and the representativeness of the fish length range. For all waterbodies combined, EGLE calculated summary statistics including the 95% upper confidence limit (UCL) on the mean, the median (i.e., 50th percentile) and the coefficient of variation (cv) for each fish species. Additionally for

[17] Hesse, JL. 1998. *Criteria used by the Michigan Department of Community Health for Sportfish Consumption Advisories*. Summary prepared by John. L. Hesse, consultant to the Michigan Environmental Science Board.
[18] MDEQ Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program. 2008 Report. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wb-swas-fcmp-2008report_284691_7.pdf

each species, EGLE constructed a lognormal cumulative distribution of mercury concentrations versus length of the fish and conducted a linear regression analysis.

The MDHHS, together with EGLE, evaluated the data variability in the mercury datasets and identified the 50th percentile of the lognormal distribution as the preferred statistic to determine statewide advisories. The 50th percentile was chosen because, as the middle of a statewide dataset, it represents the typical mercury concentration that might be found in fish in Michigan waterbodies. Because of the wide variability in the data, use of the UCL would have resulted in statewide guidelines that were overly restrictive for most Michigan waterbodies.

Size breaks (e.g., walleye over 20 inches) were used for those species where longer lengths of fish can approach or exceed the *Do Not Eat* mercury meal category. The use of size breaks, with Guidelines that allow for more frequent consumption of the smaller fish that contain lower levels of mercury, provides anglers with additional information to make safe fish consumption choices.

Information about the health effects of exposure to mercury in fish can be found in the "Technical Support Document for a Methylmercury Reference Dose as a Basis for Fish Consumption Screening Values (FCSVs)" available at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under "Reports and Science." Table C-1 provides the FCSVs for mercury.

Table C-1. Mercury Fish Consumption Screening Values (FCSV) by meal category.

Meal Category	**FCSV Ranges**
meals per month[a]	*µg/g (ppm)*[b]
16	≤ 0.07
12	>0.07 to 0.09
8	>0.09 to 0.13
4	>0.13 to 0.27
2	>0.27 to 0.53
1	>0.53 to 1.1
6 meals per year	>1.1 to 2.2
Do Not Eat	>2.2

[a] Units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.

[b] micrograms of chemical per gram of wet weight fish tissue (µg/g) that is the same as parts per million (ppm).

Statewide Mercury Guidelines for Walleye

No one should eat more than one meal per month of walleye over 20 inches in length or more than two meals per month of legal-size walleye under 20 inches in length.

Mercury concentrations appear to be higher in fish larger than 20 inches in length: therefore, separate consumption guidelines are provided for walleye over 20 inches and legal-size walleye under 20 inches in length.

Walleye over 20 inches

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentration in walleye longer than 20 inches is shown in Figure C-2. The 50th percentile (median) mercury concentration falls within the one meal per month category.

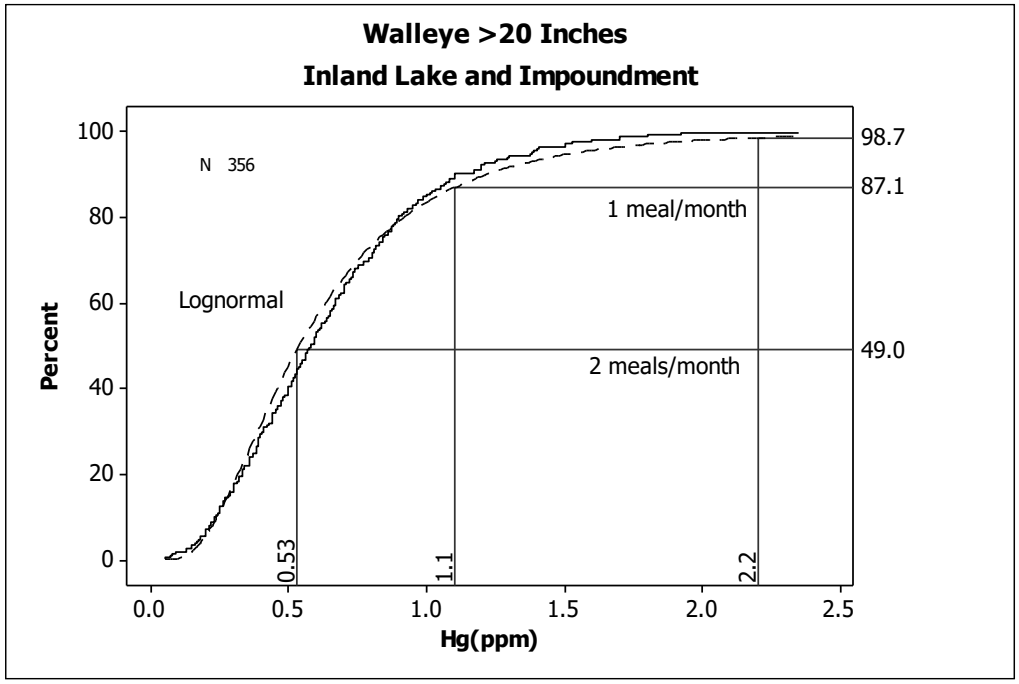

Figure 0-1. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in walleye larger than 20 inches with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Walleye under 20 inches

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentration in walleye 15 to 20 inches in length is shown in Figure C-3. The 50th percentile (median) mercury concentration falls within the two meal per month category.

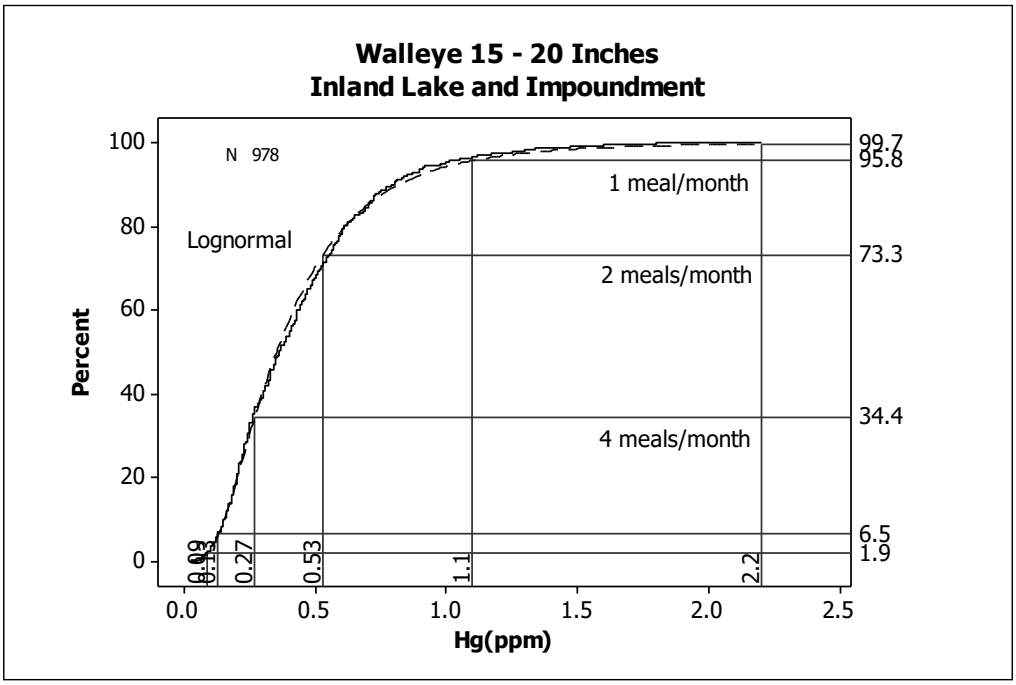

Figure 0-2. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in walleye between 15 and 20 inches with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Additional Analyses for Walleye

Mercury concentrations in walleye collected from rivers are generally lower than the concentrations in walleye collected from inland lakes and impoundments (Table C-2).

Table C-2. Estimated mercury concentration (ppm) in filets of walleye from Michigan rivers and inland lakes based on samples collected from 1984 through 2010. Estimates are based on results of linear regression.

	Lakes/Impoundments		Rivers	
Length (inches)	Estimated Concentration	Meals/Month	Estimated Concentration	Meals/Month
15	0.33	2	0.21	4
18	0.46	2	0.27	4
20	0.55	1	0.32	2
22	0.64	1	0.39	2
28	0.91	1	0.68	1
30	1.00	1	0.81	1
32	1.08	0.5	0.98	1

Linear regression of walleye length versus mercury concentration was highly significant (p-value approaching zero), although the R^2 was only 0.17 (Figure C-4). The 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration is 0.49 ppm. The walleye mercury data are moderately variable (cv = 0.67).

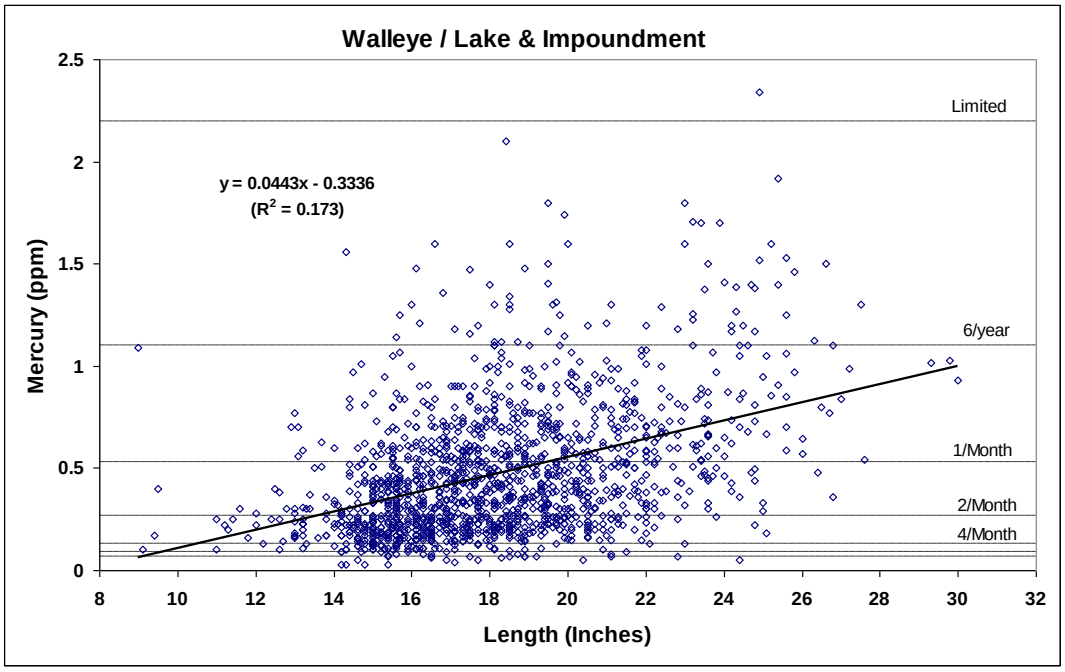

Figure 0-3. Mercury concentration in filets versus length of walleye collected from Michigan inland lakes and impoundments between 1984 and 2010.

As shown in Figure C-2, an estimated 87% of walleye larger than 20 inches have mercury concentrations below the one meal per month FCSV, about 73% of walleye between 15 and 20 inches have mercury concentrations below the two meal per month FCSV (Figure C-3). Nearly 94% of legal walleye have mercury concentrations below the one meal per month FCSV and about 67% of all legal sized walleye have mercury concentrations below the two meals per month FCSV (Figure C-5). The median mercury concentration in walleye is 0.42 ppm.

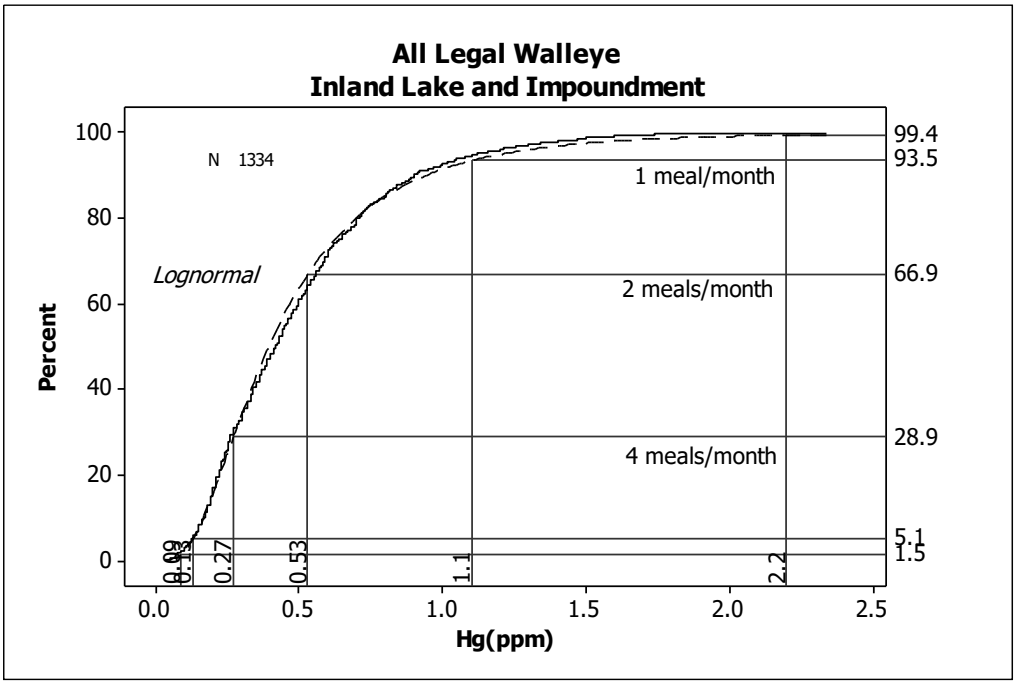

Figure 0-4. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in all legal sized walleye with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Statewide Mercury Guidelines for Northern Pike

No one should eat more than 1 meal per month of northern pike over 30 inches or more than two meals per month of northern pike under 30 inches in length.

Mercury concentrations appear to be higher in larger fish that exceed 30 inches in length: therefore, separate consumption guidelines are provided for northern pike larger than 30 inches and those of legal size under 30 inches.

Northern Pike >30 inches

The cumulative lognormal distribution of mercury concentration in northern pike over 30 inches is shown in Figure C-6. The 50th percentile, or median, mercury concentration falls within the one meal per month category.

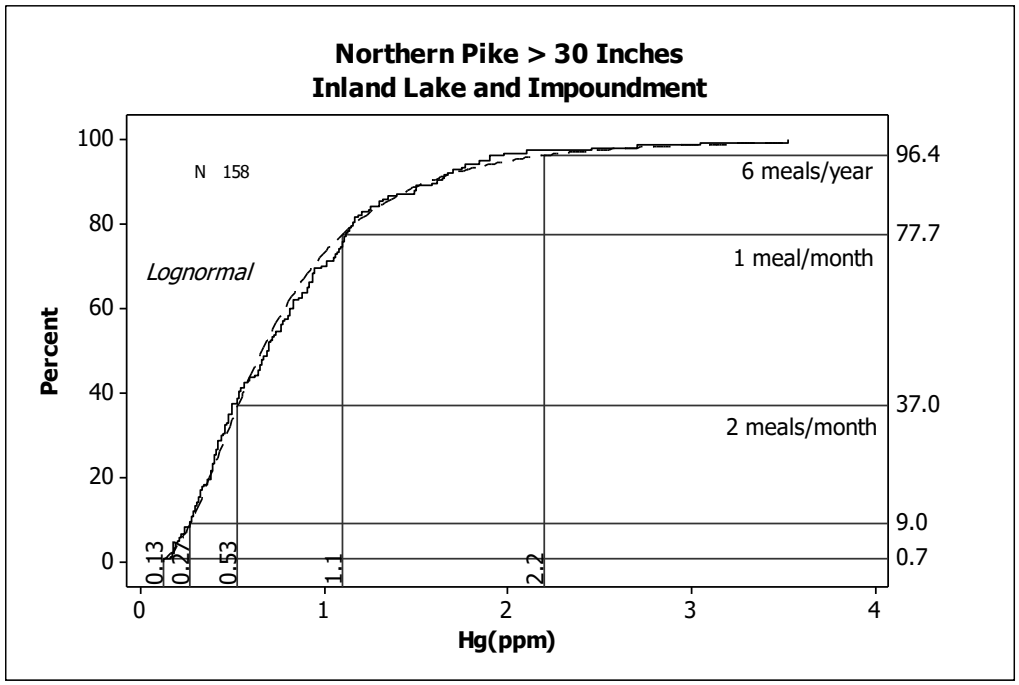

Figure 0-1. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in northern pike at least 30 inches in length with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Northern Pike 24 to 30 inches

The cumulative lognormal distribution of mercury concentration in northern pike 24 to 30 inches is shown in Figure C-7. The 50th percentile, or median, mercury concentration falls within the two meal per month category.

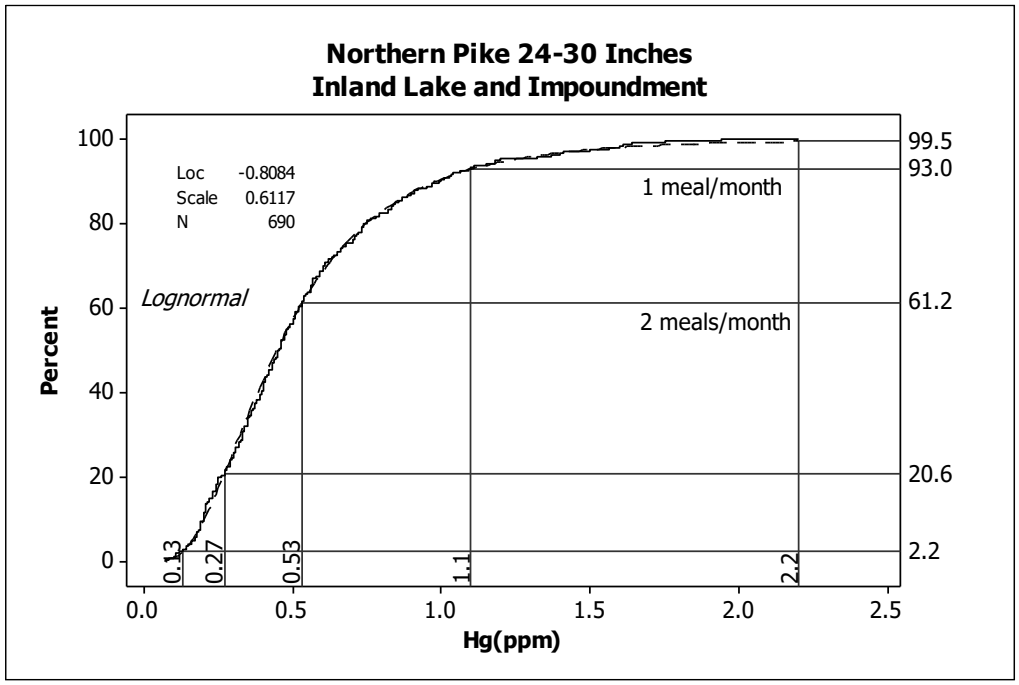

Figure 0-2. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in northern pike between 24 and 30 inches in length with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Additional Analyses for Northern Pike

Mercury concentrations in northern pike collected from rivers are generally lower than the concentrations in northern pike collected from inland lakes and impoundments (Table C-3).

Table C-3. Estimated mercury concentration (ppm) in filets of northern pike from Michigan rivers and inland lakes based on samples collected from 1984 through 2010. Estimates are based on results of linear regression.

	Lakes/Impoundments		Rivers	
Length (inches)	Estimated Concentration	Meals/Month	Estimated Concentration	Meals/Month
24	0.51	2	0.25	4
26	0.57	1	0.27	4
28	0.63	1	0.28	2
30	0.69	1	0.3	2
32	0.75	1	0.32	2
34	0.81	1	0.33	2
36	0.87	1	0.35	2
38	0.92	1	0.37	2
40	0.98	1	0.39	2
42	1.04	1	0.41	2

Linear regression of northern pike length versus mercury concentration was highly significant (p-value approaching zero), although the R^2 was only 0.13 (Figure C-8). The 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration is 0.53 ppm. The northern pike mercury data are moderately variable (cv = 0.69).

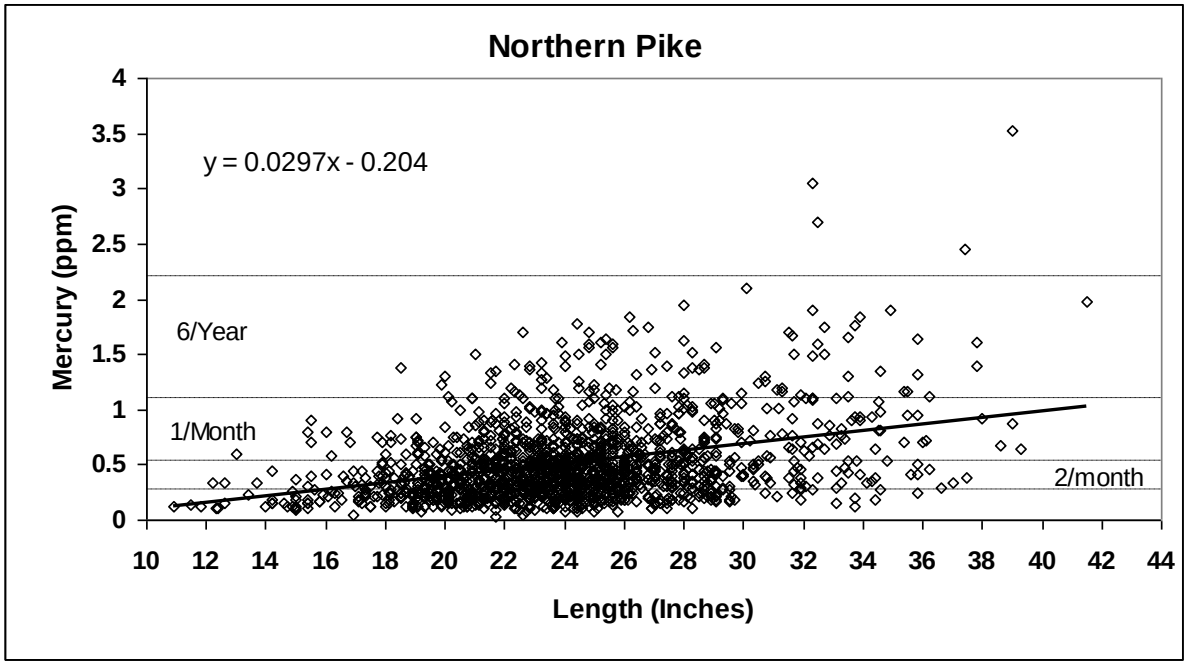

Figure 0-3. Mercury concentration in filets versus length of northern pike collected from Michigan inland lakes and impoundments between 1984 and 2010.

As shown in Figure C-6, an estimated 78% of northern pike larger than 30 inches have mercury concentrations below the one meal per month FCSV, about 61% of northern pike between 24 and 30 inches have mercury concentrations below the two meal per month FCSV (Figure C-7). Nearly 90% of legal northern pike have mercury concentrations below the one meal per month FCSV and about 55% of all legal-size northern pike have mercury concentrations below the two meals per month FCSV (Figure C-9). The median mercury concentration in northern pike is 0.43 ppm.

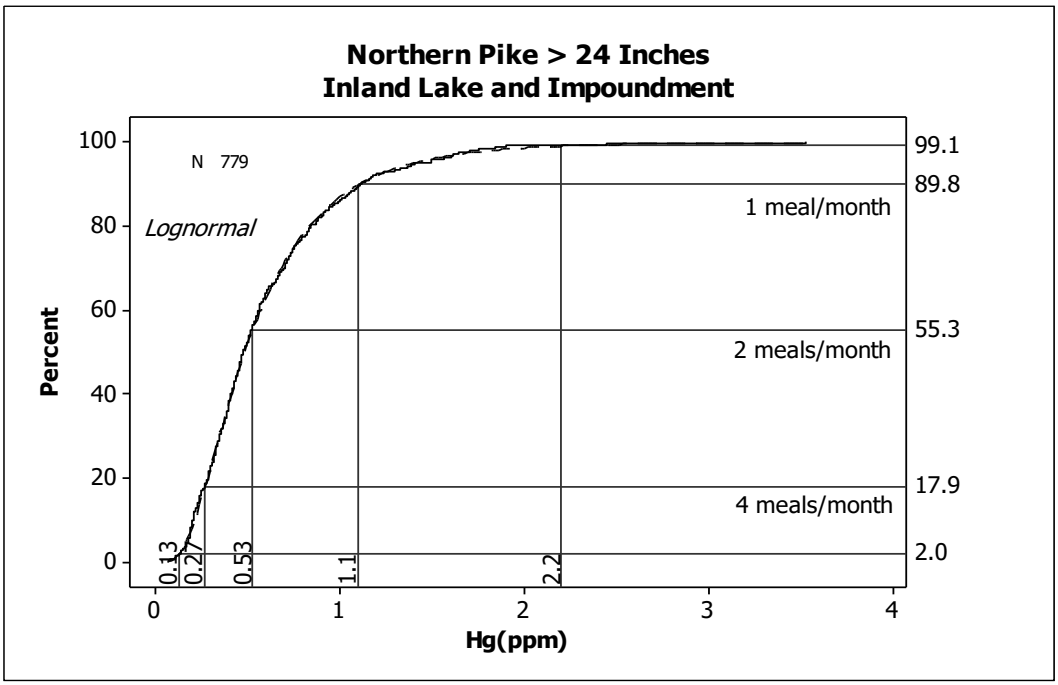

Figure 0-4. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in northern pike at least 24 inches in length with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Statewide Mercury Guidelines for Muskellunge

No one should eat more than one meal per month of muskellunge.

Muskellunge are a long-lived top predator fish that must be at least 42 inches in length to be harvested in Michigan. Muskellunge have been found to live up to 20 years, but most that have been harvested are between 3-15 years old. Muskellunge are in the same genus (Esox) as northern pike. Not all waters have muskellunge and harvest regulations can differ by waterbody; however, the typical possession limit is one fish.

From 1985 to 2010, 25 muskellunge samples from four Michigan waterbodies were analyzed for mercury: 18 of the 25 samples were collected from Lake St. Clair. Only eight samples were from fish equal to or greater than 42 inches in length. Mercury concentrations ranged from 0.1 to 3.7 ppm, with a mean concentration of 1.3 ppm and increased with the length of the fish (Figure C-10).

The existing dataset is insufficient to create a representative cumulative distribution due to both the small sample size and limited number of waterbodies sampled. However, given its similarity to northern pike and documented ability to accumulate mercury, MDHHS, as a public health protective measure, has issued a statewide guideline of one meal per month for muskellunge of any size.

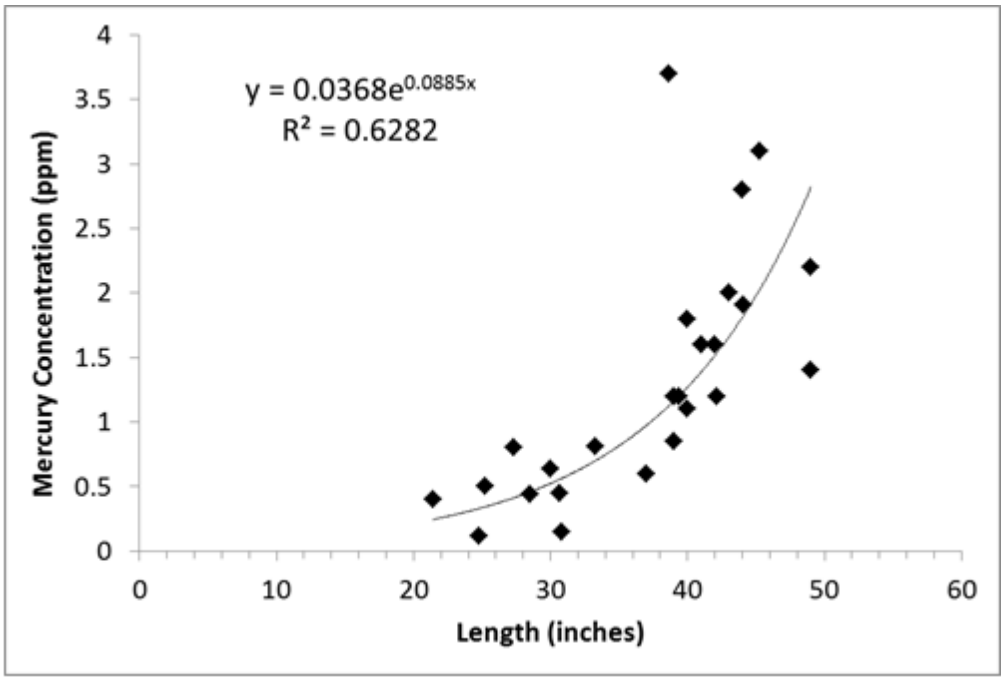

Figure 0-1. Mercury concentrations in filets versus length of muskellunge collected from four Michigan waterbodies between 1985 to 2010.

Statewide Mercury Guidelines for Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass

No one should eat more than two meals per month of legal size largemouth or smallmouth bass under 18 inches or more than one meal per month of largemouth or smallmouth bass over 18 inches.

Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass were combined for this analysis because the two species are very similar in habit and physiology and tend to have very similar contaminant concentrations. Also, people may mistake one species for the other.

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentration in all largemouth and smallmouth bass samples is shown in Figure C-11. The 50th percentile (median) of the entire dataset falls within the two meals per month category; however, the dataset includes few fish over 18 inches in length. Larger fish generally exhibit greater mercury concentrations, therefore MDHHS chose one meal per month as the Guideline for largemouth and smallmouth bass over 18 inches.

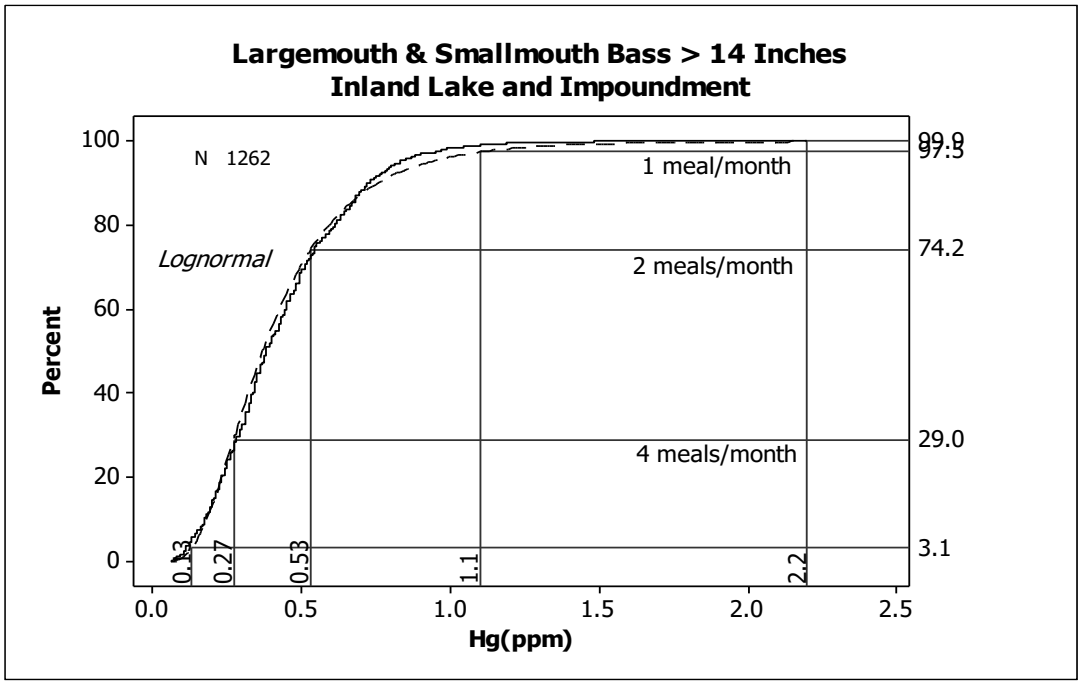

Figure 0-1. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in largemouth and smallmouth bass at least 14 inches in length with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Additional Analyses for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

Mercury concentrations in bass collected from rivers are generally lower than the concentrations in bass collected from inland lakes and impoundments (Table C-4).

Table C-4. Estimated mercury concentration (ppm) in filets of largemouth and smallmouth bass from Michigan rivers and inland lakes based on samples collected from 1984 through 2010. Estimates are based on results of linear regression.

	Lakes/Impoundments		Rivers	
Length (inches)	Estimated Concentration	Meals/Month	Estimated Concentration	Meals/Month
14	0.37	2	0.26	4
16	0.46	2	0.36	2
18	0.55	1	0.47	2
20	0.64	1	0.57	1
22	0.72	1	0.67	1
24	0.81	1	0.77	1
26	0.90	1	0.87	1

Linear regression of bass length versus mercury concentration was highly significant (p-value approaching zero), although the R^2 was only 0.19 (Figure C-12). The 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration in largemouth and smallmouth bass is 0.39 ppm. The bass mercury data are moderately variable (cv = 0.55).

As shown in Figure C-11, an estimated 97% of legal size largemouth and smallmouth bass (≥ 14 inches) have mercury concentrations under the 1 meal per month FCSV; approximately 74% of legal-size bass have mercury concentrations less than the 2 meals per month FCSV. The median mercury concentration measured in legal size bass was 0.38 ppm, however nearly 75% of the legal-size bass sampled from inland waters were 16 inches or less; based on the linear regression for lakes/impoundments bass larger than 16 inches are likely to have mercury concentrations in the one meal per month range.

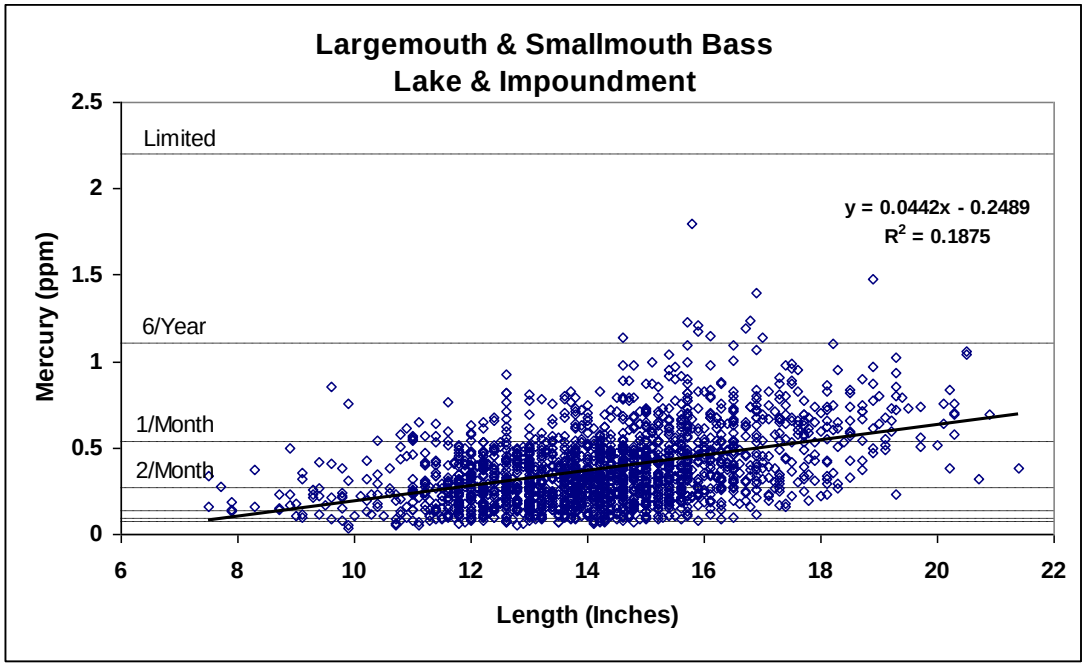

Figure 0-2. Mercury concentration in filets versus length of largemouth bass and smallmouth bass collected from Michigan inland lakes and impoundments between 1984 and 2010.

Statewide Mercury Guideline for Yellow Perch

No one should eat more than four meals per month of yellow perch from inland waters.

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentration in yellow perch over ten inches in length is shown in Figure C-13. The 50th percentile (median) falls in the four meals per month category.

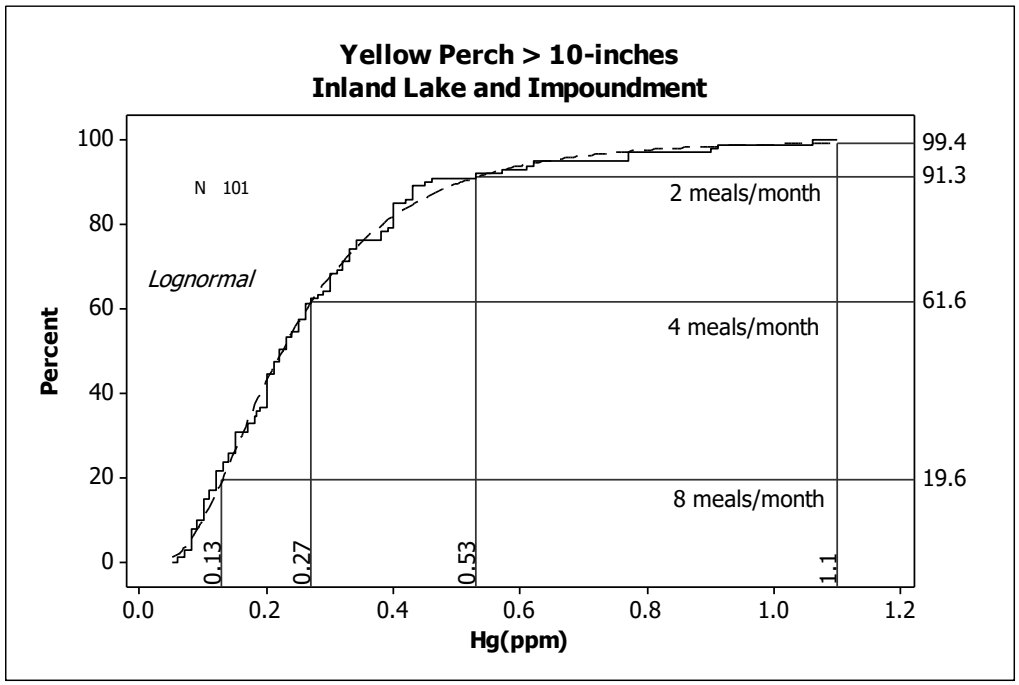

Figure 0-1. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in yellow perch ten inches or larger with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Additional Analyses for Yellow Perch

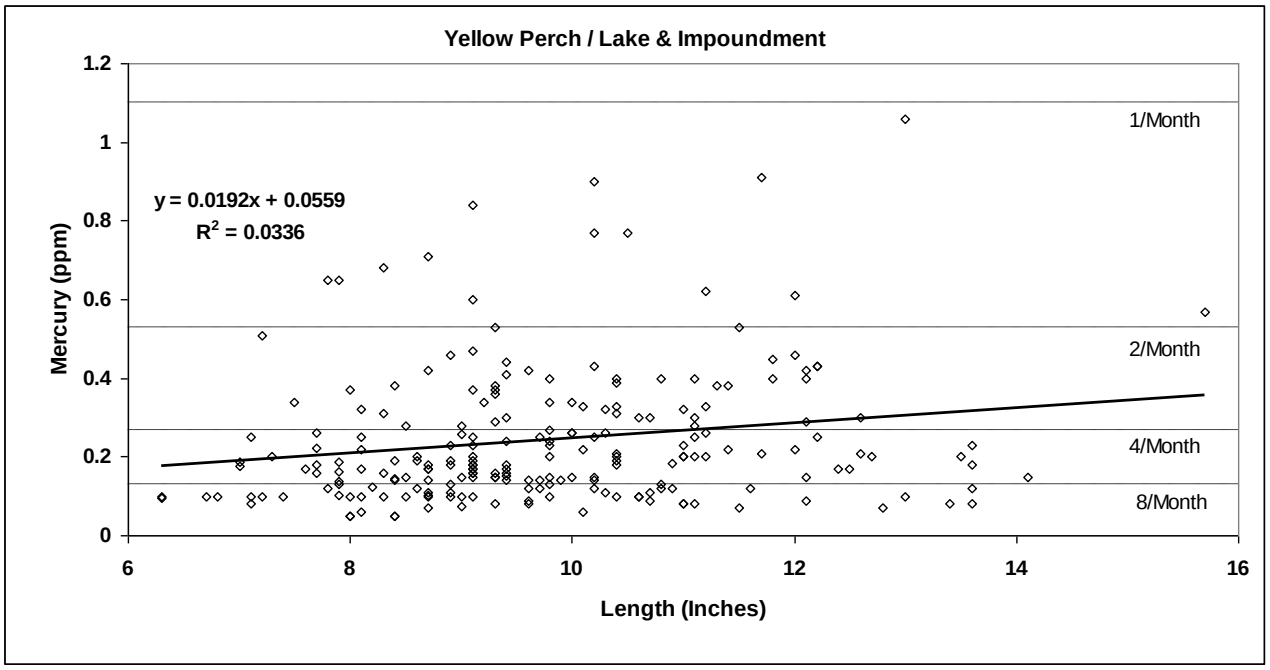

Figure 0-2. Mercury concentration in filets versus length of yellow perch collected from Michigan inland lakes and impoundments between 1984 and 2010.

Linear regression of yellow perch length versus mercury concentration was significant (p-value =0.006), but the R^2 was only 0.03 and the slope indicates that concentrations increase only modestly with increase in length (Figure C-14). The 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration in yellow perch is 0.27 ppm. The yellow perch mercury data are moderately variable (cv = 0.71).

As shown in Figure C-13, an estimated 62% of yellow perch larger than 10 inches have mercury concentrations less than the four meals per month screening value of 0.27 ppm. Approximately 69% of all yellow perch have mercury concentrations lower than the four meals per month screening value (Figure C-15) and the median mercury concentration is 0.19 ppm.

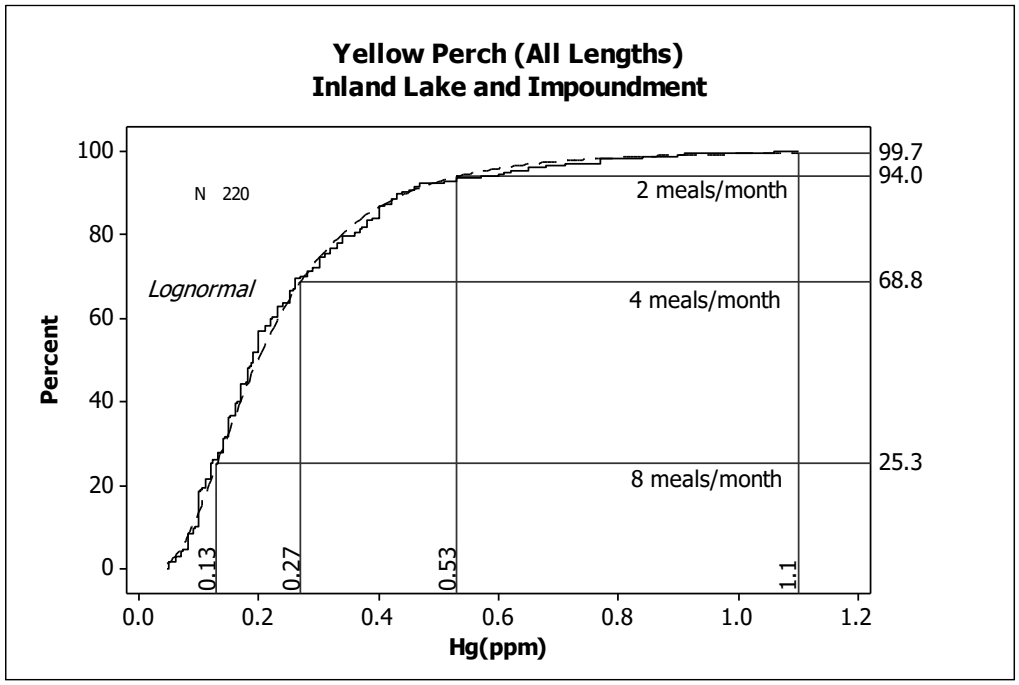

Figure 0-3. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in yellow perch with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Statewide Mercury Guideline for Rock Bass

No one should eat more than four meals per month of rock bass from inland waters.

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentration in rock bass is shown in Figure C-16. The 50th percentile (median) falls in the four meals per month category.

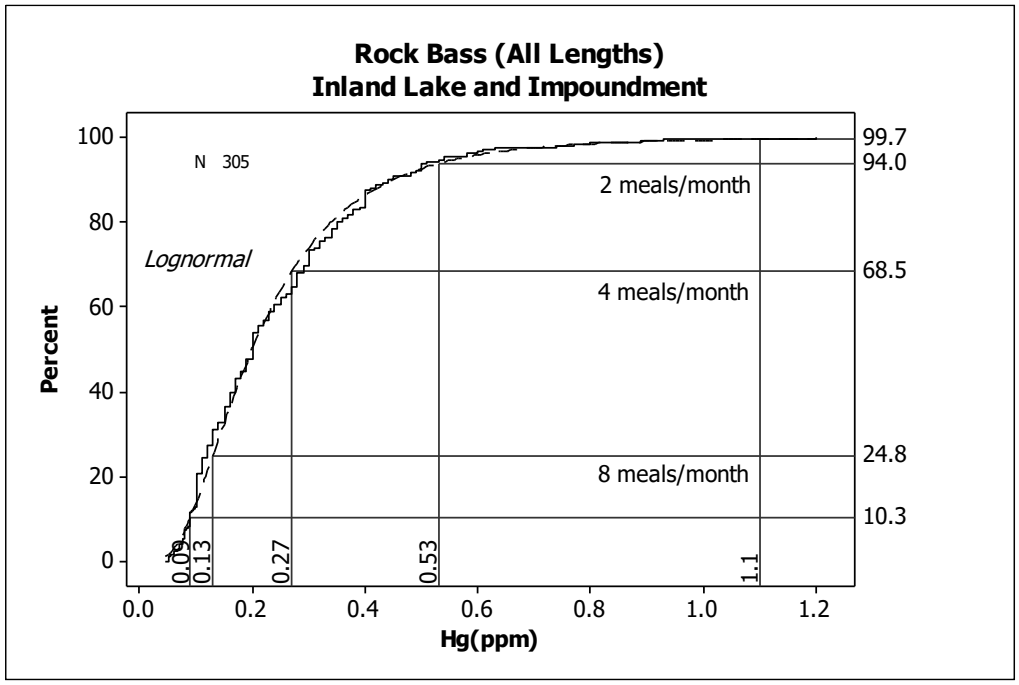

Figure 0-1. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in rock bass with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Additional Analyses for Rock Bass

Linear regression of rock bass length versus mercury concentration was significant (p-value approaching zero), although the R^2 was only 0.15. As shown in Figure C-17, an estimated 68% of rock bass had mercury concentrations less than the four meals FCSV and the median mercury concentration is 0.20 ppm. The 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration in rock bass is 0.26 ppm. The rock bass mercury data are moderately variable (cv = 0.68).

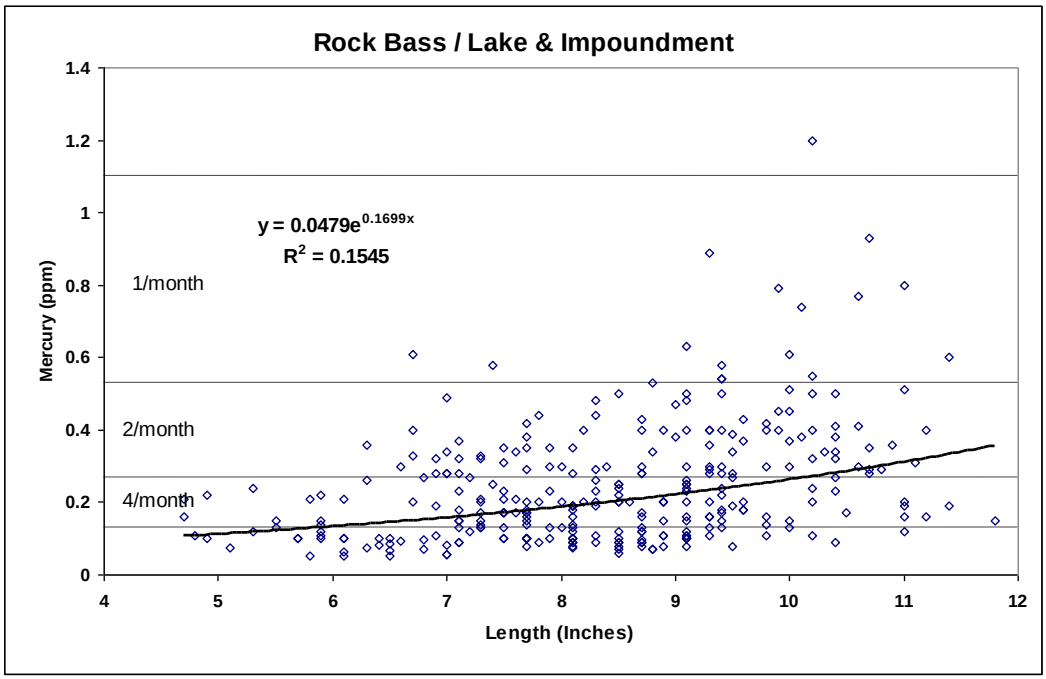

Figure 0-2. Mercury concentration in filets versus length of rock bass collected from Michigan inland lakes and impoundments between 1984 and 2010.

Statewide Mercury Guidelines for Crappie

No one should eat more than four meals per month of crappie from inland waters.

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentration in crappie is shown in Figure C-18. The 50th percentile (median) falls in the four meals per month category.

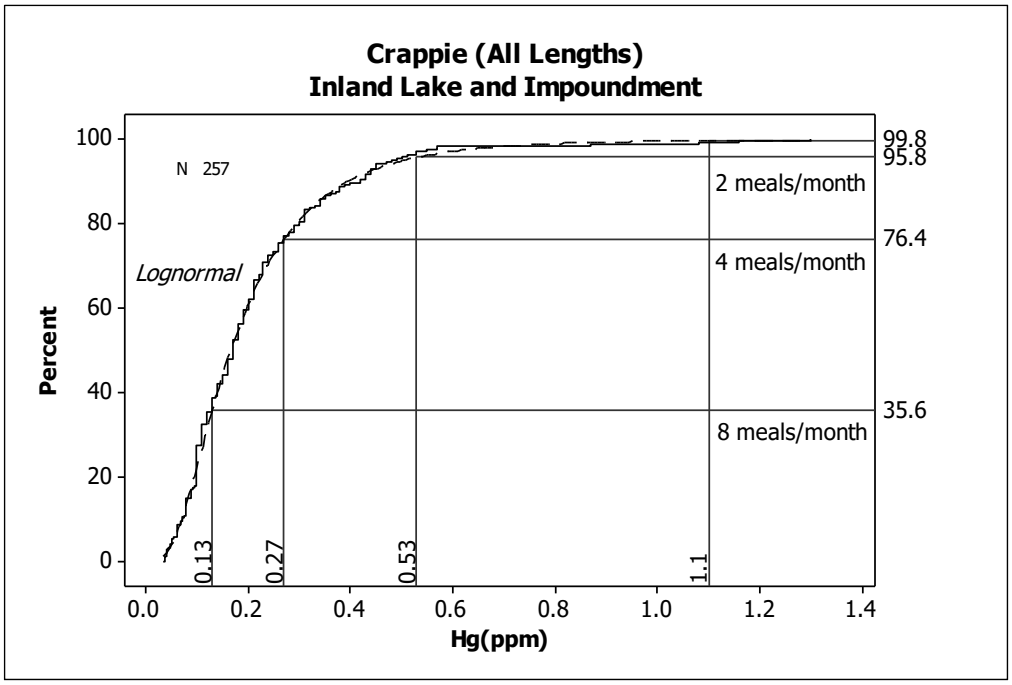

Figure 0-1. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in crappie with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Additional Analyses for Crappie

Black crappie and white crappie were combined for this analysis. Linear regression of crappie length versus mercury concentration was significant (p-value approaching zero), although the R^2 was only 0.28 (Figure C-19). The 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration in crappie is 0.23 ppm. The crappie mercury data are moderately variable (cv = 0.79).

As shown in Figure C-18, an estimated 76% of crappie had mercury concentrations less than the four meals per month FCSV and the median mercury concentration is 0.17 ppm. Approximately 38% of the fish sampled were larger than 10 inches.

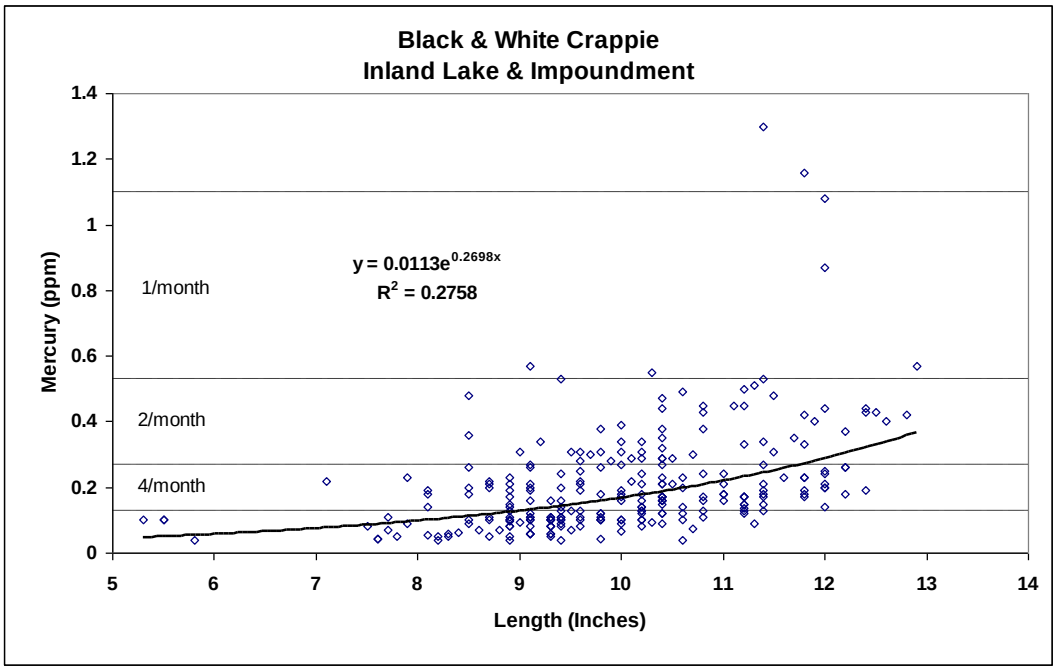

Figure 0-2. Mercury concentration in filets versus length of crappie collected from Michigan inland lakes and impoundments between 1984 and 2010.

Statewide Mercury Guideline for Sunfish

No one should eat more than eight meals per month of sunfish from inland waters.

Bluegill, pumpkinseed, redear sunfish, and hybrid sunfish were combined for this analysis. The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentration in sunfish is shown in Figure C-20. The 50th percentile (median) falls in the eight meals per month category.

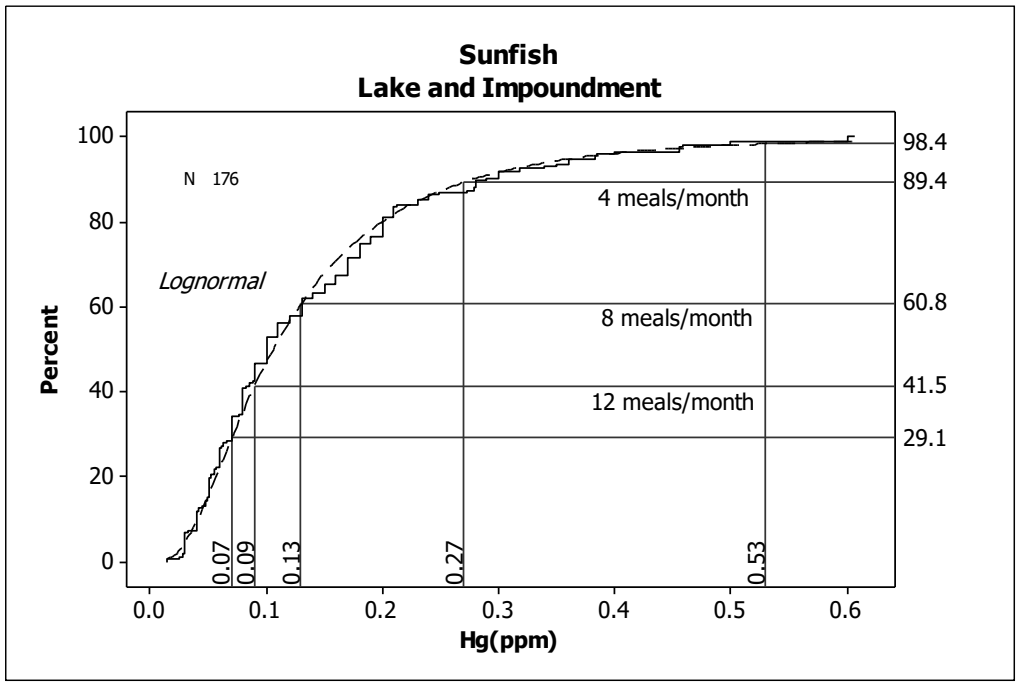

Figure 0-1. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in sunfish with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Additional Analyses for Sunfish

Linear regression of sunfish length versus mercury concentration was significant (p-value approaching zero), although the R^2 was only 0.14 (Figure C-21). The 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration is 0.16 ppm. The sunfish mercury data are moderately variable (cv = 0.80).

An estimated 89% of sunfish had mercury concentrations less than the four meals per month screening value of 0.27 ppm and 61% had mercury concentrations lower than the eight meals per month screening value of 0.13 ppm (Figure C-20). The median mercury concentration is 0.10 ppm.

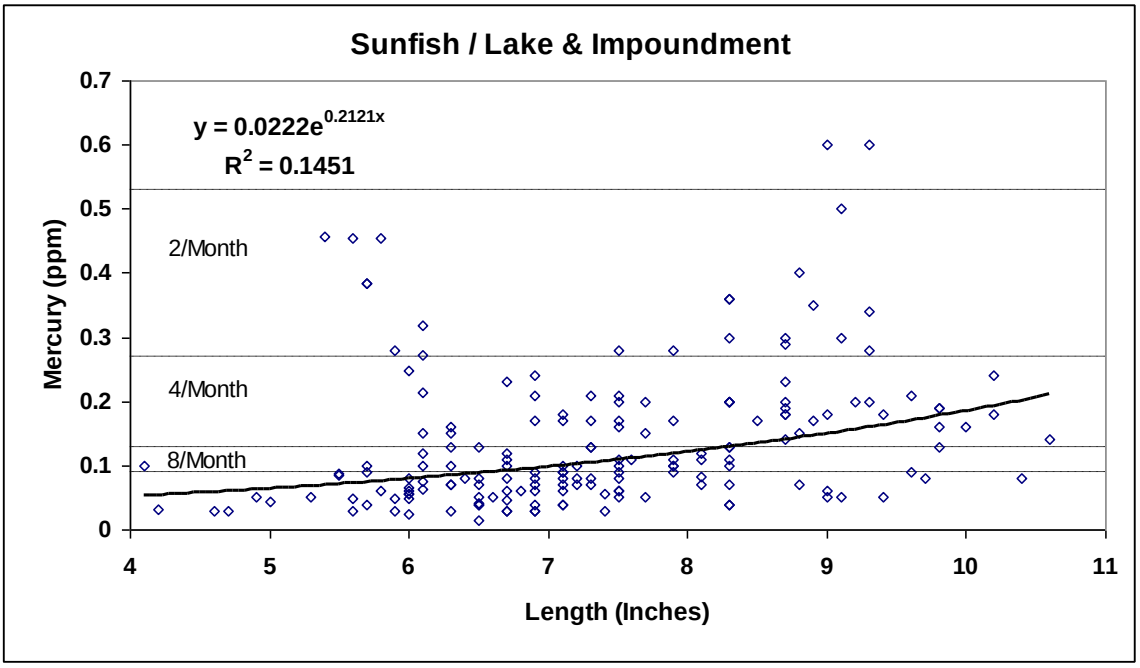

Figure 0-2. Mercury concentration in filets versus length of sunfish collected from Michigan inland lakes and impoundments between 1984 and 2010.

Statewide Mercury Guideline for Sucker

No one should eat more than eight meals per month of sucker from inland waters.

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentration in sucker is shown in Figure C-22. The 50th percentile (median) falls in the eight meals per month category.

Mercury concentrations for a total of 1,103 samples of four species (white sucker, redhorse sucker, longnose sucker and northern hogsucker) collected between 1984 and 2010 were available for this evaluation. Samples were collected from rivers, inland lakes and impoundments. Approximately 76% of the samples were white sucker and 23% were redhorse sucker. The general public is not likely to differentiate between these species, so the results were combined for the purpose of developing guideline recommendations.

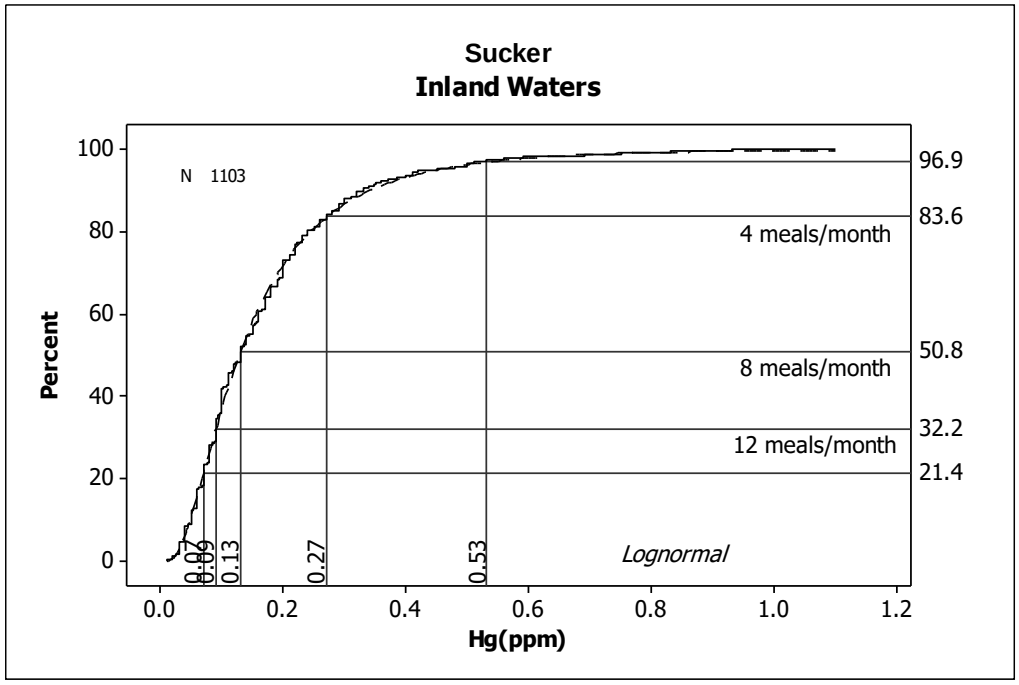

Figure 0-1. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in sucker with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Additional Analyses for Sucker

Linear regression of sucker length versus mercury concentration was significant (p-value approaching zero), but the R^2 was only 0.25 (Figure C-23).

As shown in Figure C-22, an estimated 51% of sucker have mercury concentrations less than the eight meals per month FCSV. Approximately 84% of all sucker have mercury concentrations lower than the four meals per month FCSV and the median mercury concentration is 0.13 ppm.

The 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration in sucker is 0.18 ppm. The sucker mercury data are moderately variable (cv = 0.83).

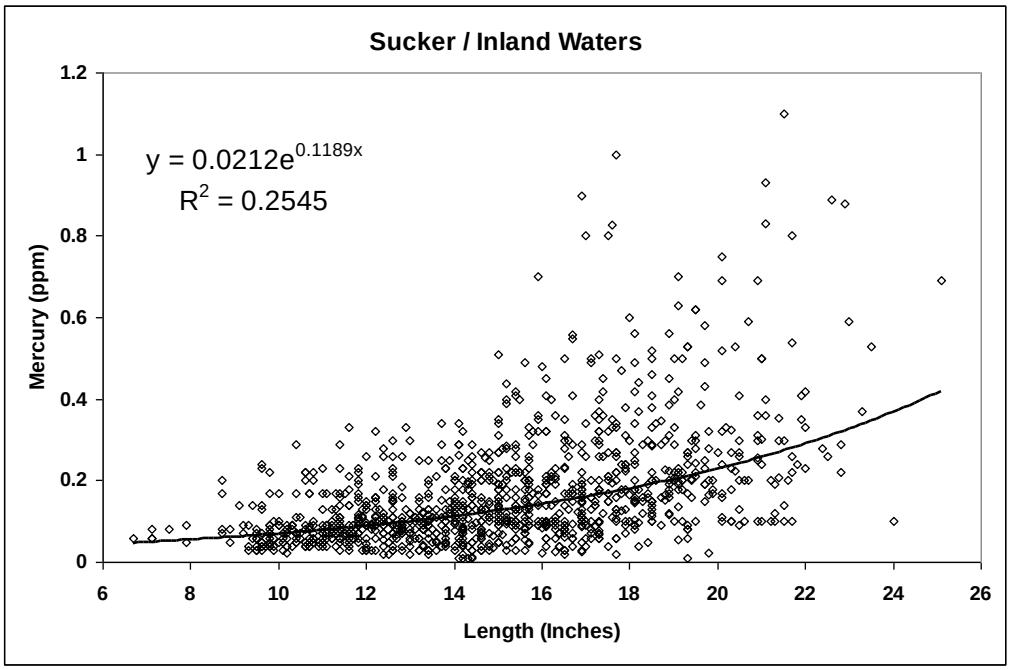

Figure 0-2. Mercury concentration in filets versus length of sucker collected from inland waters of Michigan between 1984 and 2010.

Statewide Guidelines for Bullhead

No one should eat more than four meals per month of bullhead from inland waters.

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentration in bullhead is shown in Figure C-24. The 50th percentile (median) falls in the eight meals per month category but approaches the lower boundary of the four meals per month category.

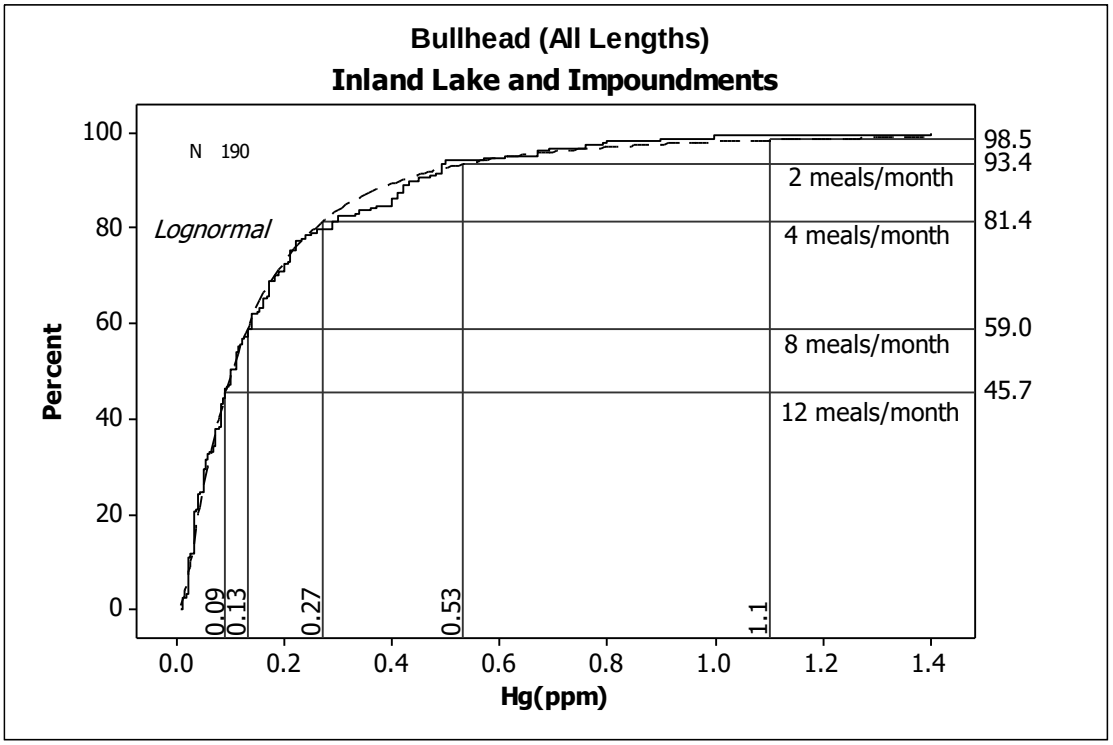

Figure C-24. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in bullhead with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Additional Analyses for Bullhead

Black, brown and yellow bullhead were combined for this analysis. A total of 190 bullhead collected from 21 lakes and impoundments between 1985 and 2006 were analyzed for mercury. Linear regression of bullhead length versus mercury concentration was not significant (Figure C-25). The 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration in bullhead is 0.21 ppm and the median concentration is 0.10 ppm. The bullhead mercury data are quite variable (cv = 1.16).

The PCBs are low in bullhead from most inland waters. Of 130 bullhead analyzed for PCBs between 2002 and 2014, 121 (93%) had concentrations less than 0.01 ppm, 8 (6%) had concentrations between 0.01 and 0.02 ppm and 2 (2%) had concentrations higher than 0.02 ppm. The maximum PCB concentration (1 fish) was 0.054 ppm and the 95% UCL was 0.004 ppm. The bullhead total PCB data are quite variable (cv = 1.93).

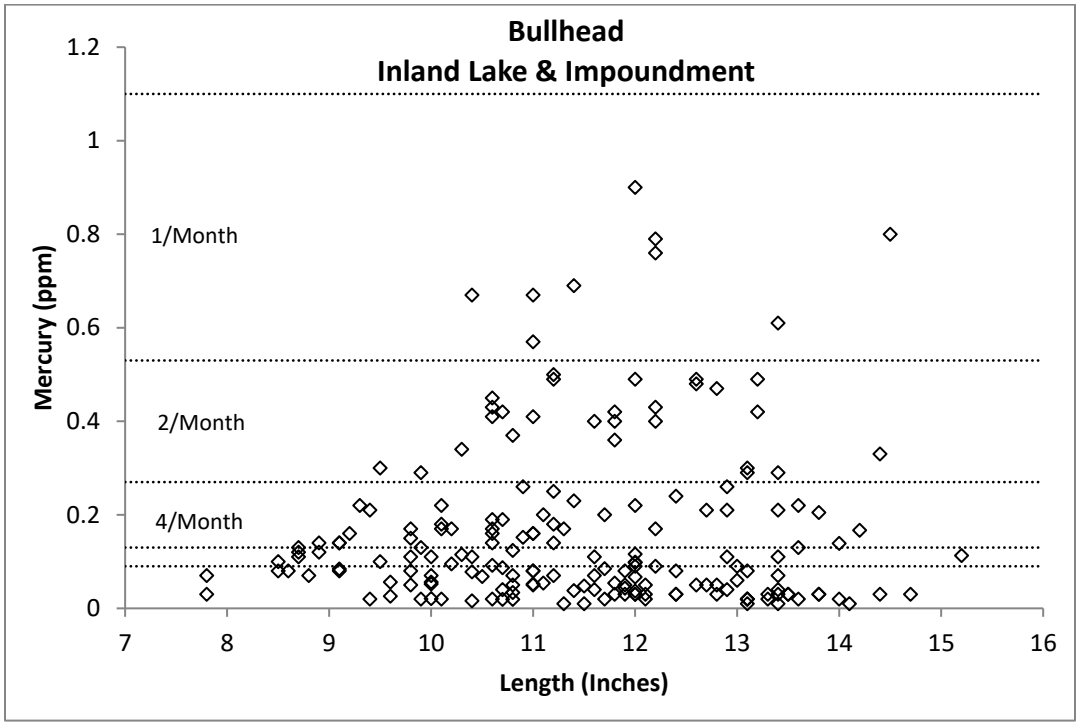

Figure C-25. Mercury concentrations in filets versus length of bullhead collected from Michigan inland lakes and impoundments between 1985 and 2006.

Statewide Guidelines for Brown Trout

No one should eat more than four meals per month of brown trout from inland waters.

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentration in brown trout is shown in Figure C-26. The 50th percentile (median) falls in the four meals per month category.

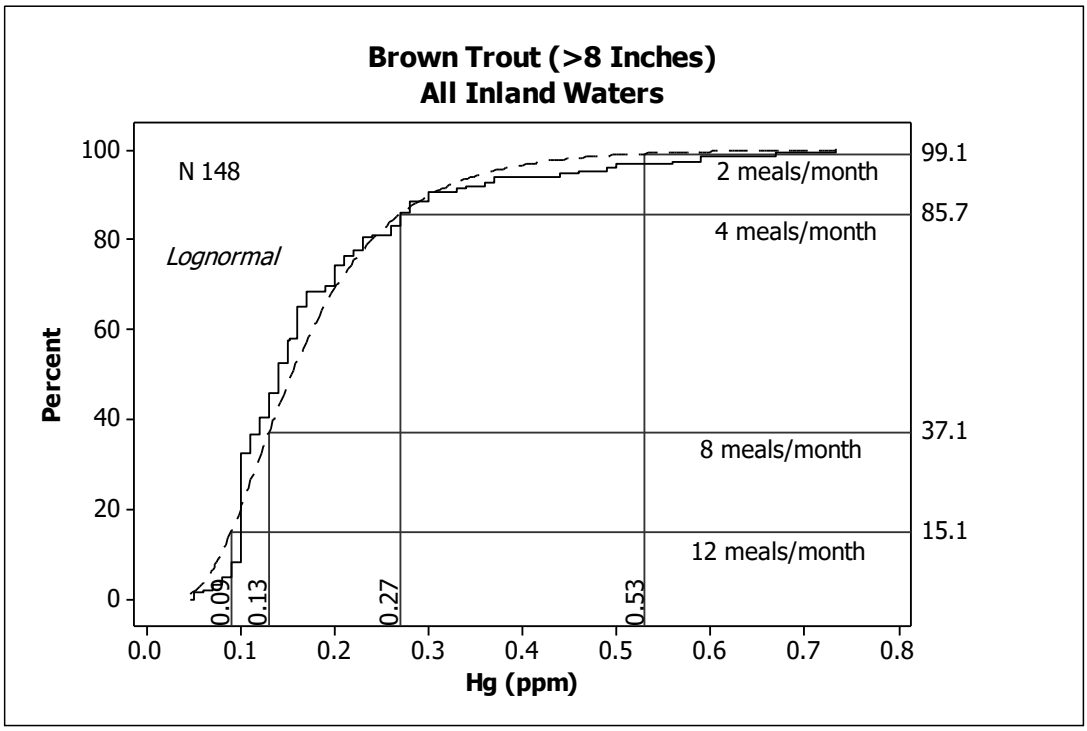

Figure C-26. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in brown trout with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Additional Analyses for Brown Trout

A total of 150 brown trout collected from 19 lakes, impoundments and rivers between 1986 and 2006 were analyzed for mercury. Linear regression of brown trout length versus mercury concentration was significant (p-value approaching zero), although the R^2 was only 0.27 (Figure C-27). The 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration in brown trout is 0.20 ppm and the median concentration is 0.14 ppm. The brown trout mercury data are moderately variable (cv=0.67).

There are not sufficient data available to evaluate PCBs in brown trout from inland waters on a statewide basis. A total of 40 inland water brown trout were analyzed for PCBs since 2004; 30 of those were samples collected from the Pere Marquette watershed which has somewhat elevated PCB concentrations relative to other inland waters. All other brown trout PCB data are from 1996 and earlier.

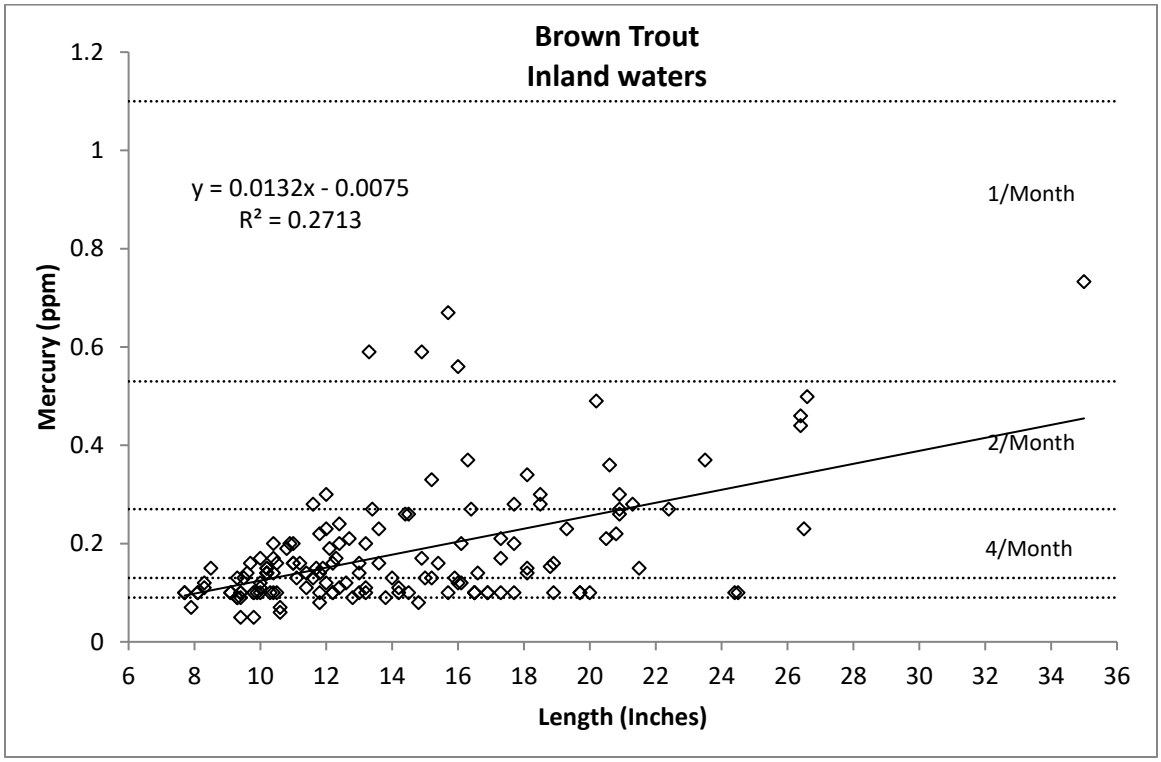

Figure C-27. Mercury concentrations in filets versus length of brown trout collected from Michigan inland lakes, impoundments and rivers between 1986 and 2006.

Appendix D. Supporting Documentation for Statewide Eat Safe Fish Guidelines for Carp and Catfish from Inland Waters Contaminated with Mercury and PCBs.

Introduction

Fish consumption guidelines (hereafter referred to as "Guidelines") are public health advisories issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) under the authority of the Michigan Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978). Statewide consumption guidelines may be issued when a chemical of concern (COC) is found in one or more fish species from multiple waterbodies dispersed across a wide geographic range in Michigan. A statewide advisory generally applies to all rivers and inland lakes but not to the Great Lakes. Lake-wide advisories may be issued for an entire Great Lake if a COC is found throughout the waterbody.

The purpose of this document is to provide technical support for the statewide consumption guidelines for carp and channel catfish. Guidelines that are issued for specific species and waterbodies should be followed rather than the statewide guidelines when they differ.

The MDHHS will issue statewide fish consumption guidelines when:

- A COC prompts guidelines for waterbodies that are dispersed across a wide geographic range; and
- The data support the conclusion that guidelines are appropriate for many species and waterbodies, including those without existing data; and
- The species-waterbody specific guideline approach is not feasible for every affected waterbody and species given the statewide extent of the contamination.

Statewide consumption guidelines are not predicated on COC data for every location and species for which the guidance is issued. These guidelines are not evaluated on an annual basis but may be re-evaluated if temporal trend data suggest chemical concentrations in the environment have changed.

Background

Some chemicals, such as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), are widely dispersed in Michigan's environment. These chemicals are persistent and bioaccumulative in aquatic systems and may also biomagnify in the foodweb. These COCs may enter Michigan surface waters from both wet and dry atmospheric deposition and non-point source runoff.

Michigan has about 76,000 miles of streams and rivers and 46,000 inland lakes and ponds greater than 0.1 acre in size, many of which do not have public access. It is not feasible, therefore, to develop species- and waterbody-specific fish consumption guidelines for every fish and location in Michigan.

Several species of carp and catfish are commonly found in Michigan's inland waterbodies. These fish are omnivorous (eating both plants and animals) and feed off the bottom of lakes and streams where persistent and bioaccumulative COCs are most often found. Samples of these species, regardless of location, are commonly contaminated with both mercury and PCBs; however, the PCBs concentrations are most likely to prompt waterbody specific *Eat Safe Fish Guidelines*.

Discussion

Mercury and PCBs are atmospherically deposited COCs found in nearly all carp and catfish samples collected from Michigan waterbodies. The available data indicate that, while mercury concentrations are either static or increasing, PCB fish concentrations are declining at a minimum of 3% per year in waters with no known point source of PCB contamination.

The EGLE data analysis includes all mercury results between 1984 and 2010 from inland lakes, impoundments and rivers that are not known to have received point-source mercury contamination. Deer Lake (Marquette County) fish data were not included in the analysis because of legacy point-source mercury pollution. For PCBs, EGLE used only data collected after 2000 and excluded data from waters with a known point source of PCB contamination, including the Kalamazoo River (including Portage Creek), Rouge River, Huron River, Muskegon Lake and Thompson Lake (Livingston County).

The EGLE reviewed each dataset for the number of samples and the representativeness of the fish length range. The EGLE then calculated summary statistics including the 95% upper confidence limit (UCL) on the mean, the median (i.e., 50th percentile), and the coefficient of variation (cv) individually for carp and channel catfish. Additionally for each species, EGLE constructed a lognormal cumulative distribution of mercury and PCB concentrations versus length of the fish and conducted a linear regression analysis.

Information about the health effects of exposure to mercury in fish can be found in the "Technical Support Document for a Methylmercury Reference Dose as a Basis for Fish Consumption Screening Values (FCSVs)" available at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under "Reports and Science." Table D-1 provides the FCSVs for mercury.

Table D-1. Mercury Fish Consumption Screening Values by meal category.

Meal Category	**FCSV Ranges**
meals per month[a]	*µg/g (ppm)*[b]
16	≤ 0.07
12	>0.07 to 0.09
8	>0.09 to 0.13
4	>0.13 to 0.27
2	>0.27 to 0.53
1	>0.53 to 1.1
6 meals per year	>1.1 to 2.2
Do Not Eat	>2.2

[a]: Units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.
[b] micrograms of chemical per gram of fish tissue (µg/g) that is the same as parts per million (ppm).

Information about the health effects of exposure to PCBs in fish can be found in the "Technical Support Document for a Polychlorinated Biphenyl Reference Dose as a Basis for Fish Consumption Screening Values (FCSVs)" available at

www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish under “Reports and Science.” Table D-2 provides the FCSVs for PCBs.

Table D-2. Polychlorinated Biphenyls Fish Consumption Screening Values by meal category.

Meal Category	**FCSV Ranges**
meals per month[a]	*µg/g (ppm)*[b]
16	≤ 0.01
12	>0.01 to 0.02
8	>0.02 to 0.03
4	>0.03 to 0.05
2	>0.05 to 0.11
1	>0.11 to 0.21
6 meals per year	>0.21 to 0.43
Limited	>0.43 to 2.7
Do Not Eat	>2.7

[a]: Units are in meals per month unless otherwise stated.
[b] micrograms of chemical per gram of wet weight fish tissue (µg/g) that is the same as parts per million (ppm).

Statewide Consumption Guidelines for Carp

No one should eat more than two meals per month of carp from any river or inland lake: where available, waterbody-specific guidance should be followed if it differs from the statewide guidelines.

The statewide consumption guideline for carp is based on concentrations of PCBs in these fish. Consumption could be doubled if the consumer follows the MDHHS cleaning and cooking guidance provided in the *Eat Safe Fish Guide*.

Data Analysis

PCBs

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the PCB concentration in carp is shown in Figure D-1. The 50th percentile (median) concentration falls within the four meals per month category but closely approaches the lower boundary for the two meals per month category.

The carp PCB dataset is highly variable with a cv of 1.6. In addition, multiple discrete samples meet or exceed the lower FCSV for the *Limited* meal category. Therefore, MDHHS set the statewide consumption guideline at 2 meals per month. However, PCBs preferentially accumulate in the lipid (fatty) tissue. Trimming the fat from the muscle and cooking the fish in a way that lets the fat drip away (e.g., on a grate) may remove as much as 50 percent of the PCBs. Therefore, consumption can be doubled if the consumer follows the MDHHS cleaning and cooking guidance provided in the Eat Safe Fish Guide.

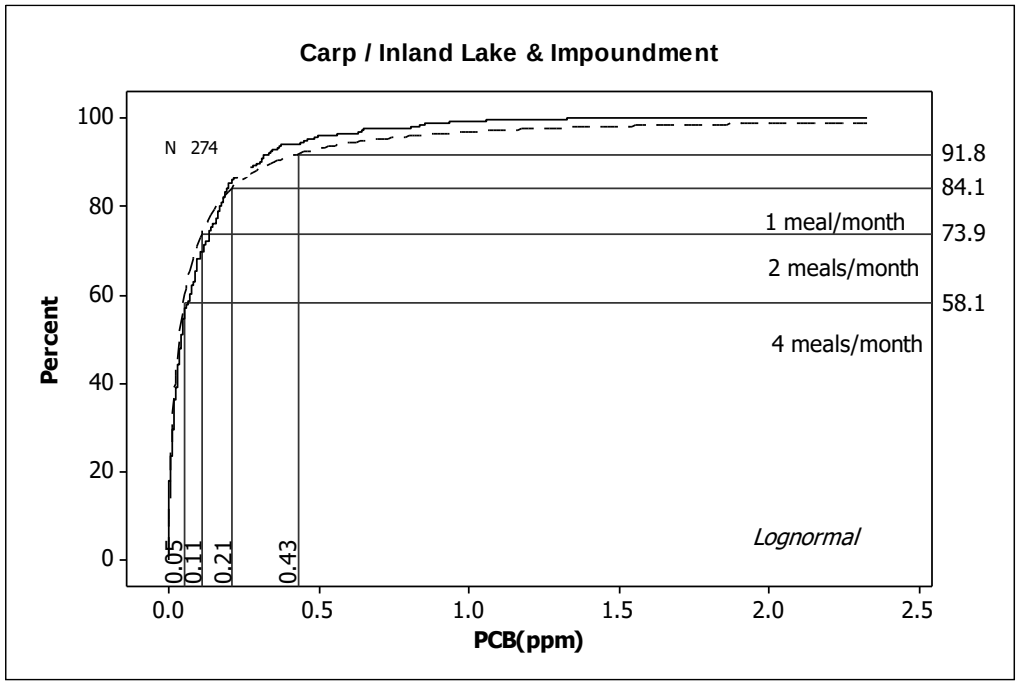

Figure 0-1. Cumulative distribution function of PCB concentrations in carp from inland waters of Michigan with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

As shown in Figure D-1, an estimated 58% of carp from inland waters have total PCB concentrations lower than the four meals per month screening value of 0.05 ppm. Nearly 74% of carp from inland waters have total PCB concentrations lower than the two meals/month screening value of 0.11 ppm. The median total PCB concentration in carp is 0.04 ppm. The 95% UCL on the mean total PCB concentration is 0.14 ppm.

Linear regression of carp length versus total PCB concentration was highly significant (p-value approaching zero), although the R^2 was only 0.12 (Figure D-2).

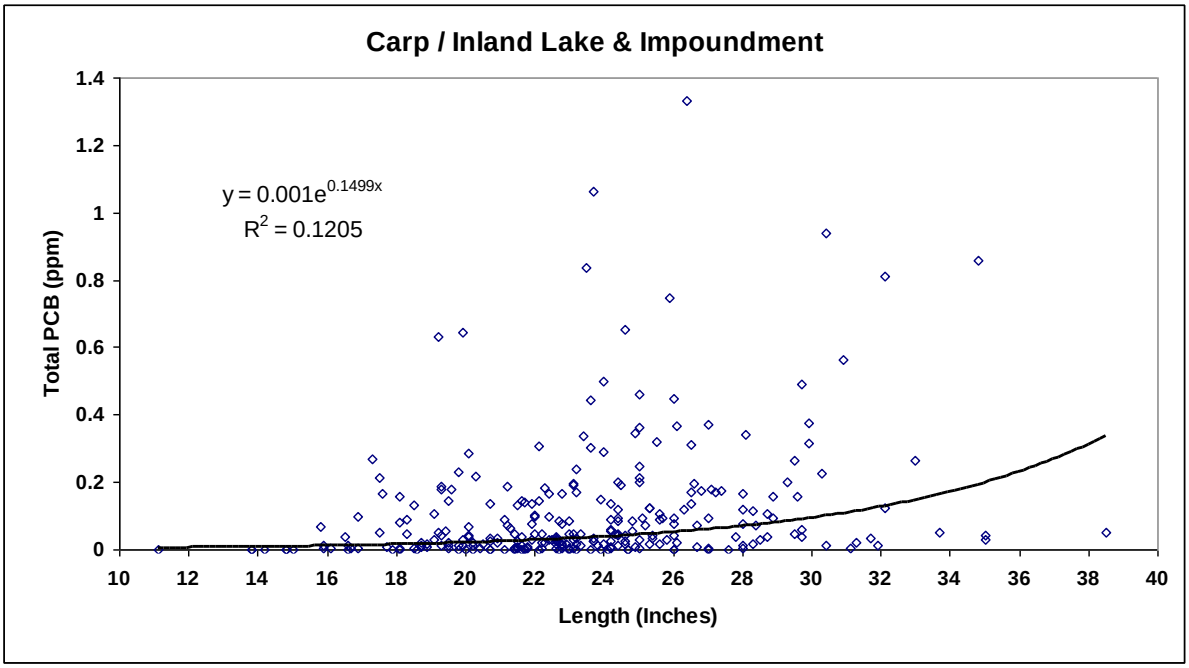

Figure 0-2. Total PCB concentration in filets versus length of carp collected from inland waters of Michigan between 2001 and 2010.

Mercury

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentration in carp is shown in Figure D-3. The 50th percentile (median) concentration falls within the eight meals per month category but closely approaches the lower boundary for the four meals per month category.

An estimated 84% of carp had mercury concentrations less than the four meals per month screening value of 0.27 ppm and an estimated 53% had mercury concentrations lower than the eight meals per month screening value of 0.13 ppm (Figure D-3). The median mercury concentration is 0.13 ppm and the 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration is 0.17 ppm. The carp mercury data variability was moderate (cv = 0.72).

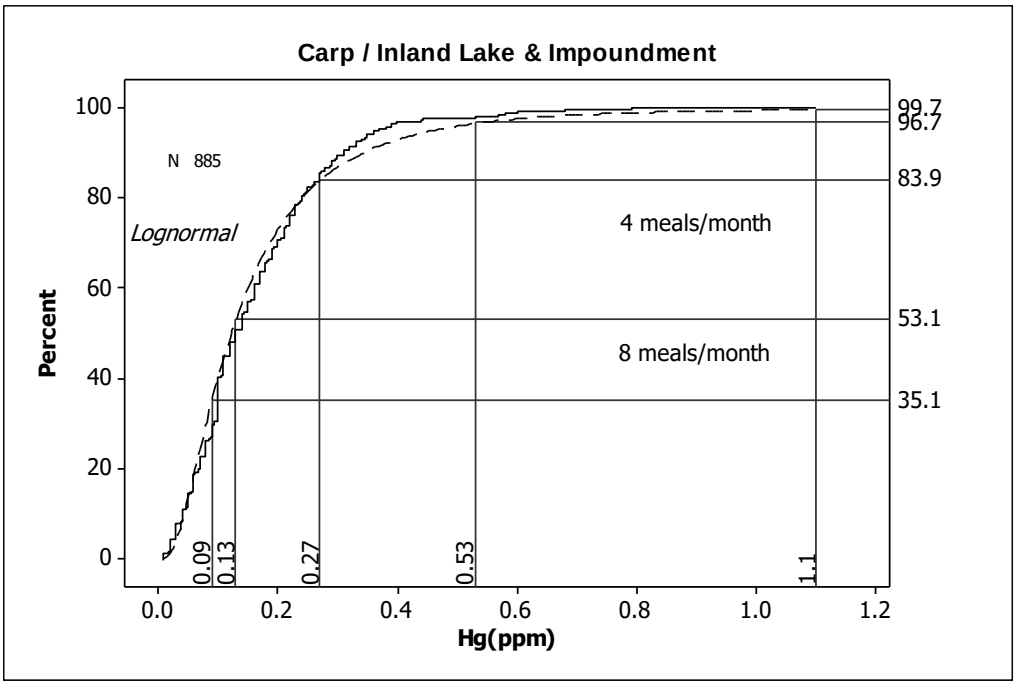

Figure 0-3. Total PCB concentration in filets versus length of carp collected from inland waters of Michigan between 2001 and 2010.

Linear regression of carp length versus mercury concentration was significant (p-value approaching zero), but the R^2 was only 0.2 (Figure D-4).

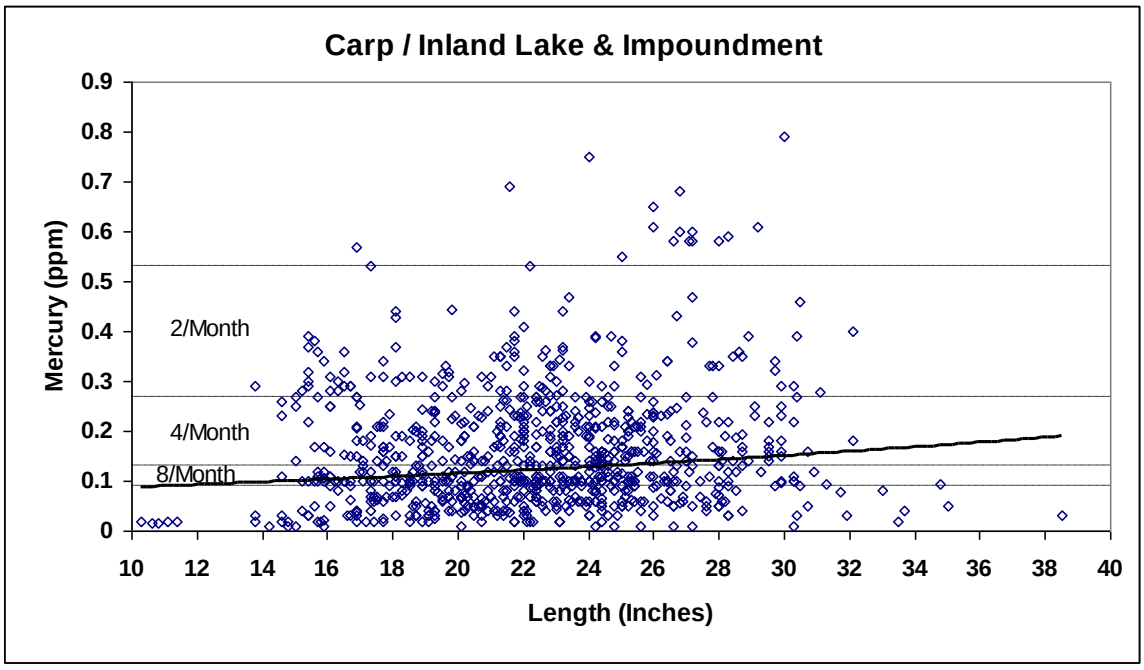

Figure 0-4. Mercury concentration in filets versus length of carp collected from Michigan inland lakes and impoundments between 1984 and 2010.

Statewide Consumption Guidelines for Channel Catfish

No one should eat more than four meals per month of channel catfish from any river or inland lake: where available, waterbody-specific guidance should be followed if it differs from the statewide guidelines.

The statewide consumption guideline for catfish is based on elevated concentrations of mercury in the muscle meat of these fish. Trimming and cooking methods cannot remove mercury from fish.

Data Analysis

PCBs

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the PCB concentration in channel catfish is shown in Figure D-5. The 50th percentile (median) concentration falls within the eight meals per month category but closely approaches the lower boundary for the four meals per month category.

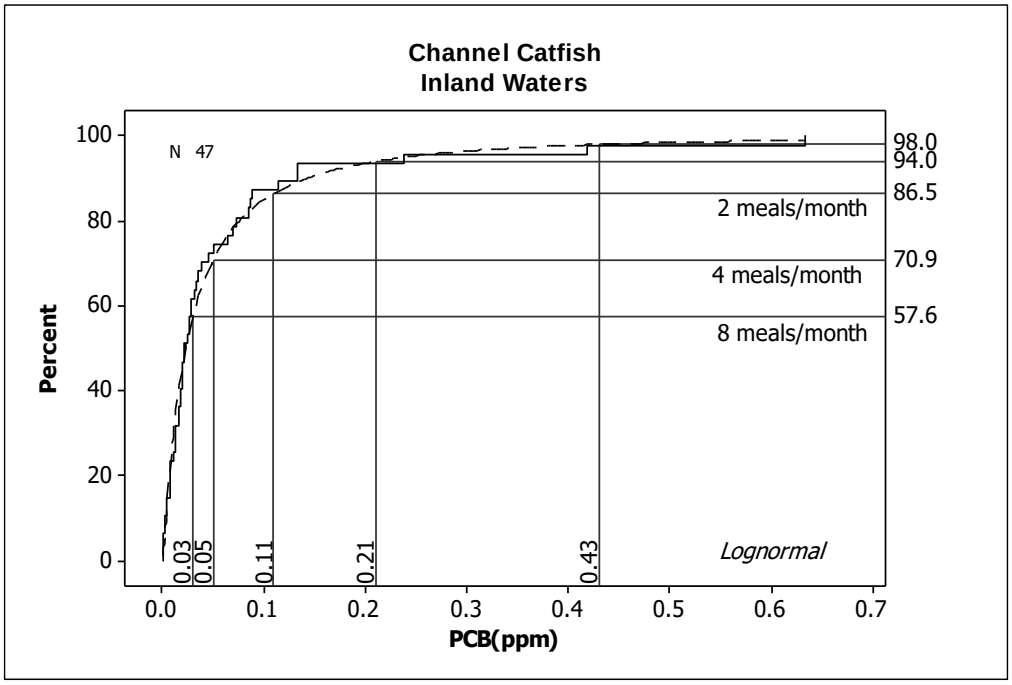

Figure 0-1. Cumulative distribution function of PCB concentrations in channel catfish with estimated percentiles for key fish consumption screening values.

Total PCB concentrations in 47 channel catfish samples collected between 2002 and 2010 from inland lakes and impoundments in Michigan were available for analysis. Results for waters with legacy PCB contamination problems were excluded, including the Kalamazoo River (including Portage Creek), Rouge River, Huron River, Muskegon Lake and Thompson Lake (Livingston County).

As shown in Figure D-5, an estimated 71% of channel catfish from inland waters have total PCB concentrations lower than the four meals per month screening value of 0.05

ppm. Nearly 58% of channel catfish from inland waters have total PCB concentrations lower than the eight meals/month screening value of 0.03 ppm. The median total PCB concentration in channel catfish is 0.02 ppm and the 95% UCL on the mean total PCB concentration is 0.08 ppm. The channel catfish PCB data are highly variable (cv = 1.9).

Linear regression of channel catfish length versus total PCB concentration was significant (p-value = 0.04), although the R^2 was only 0.09 (Figure D-6).

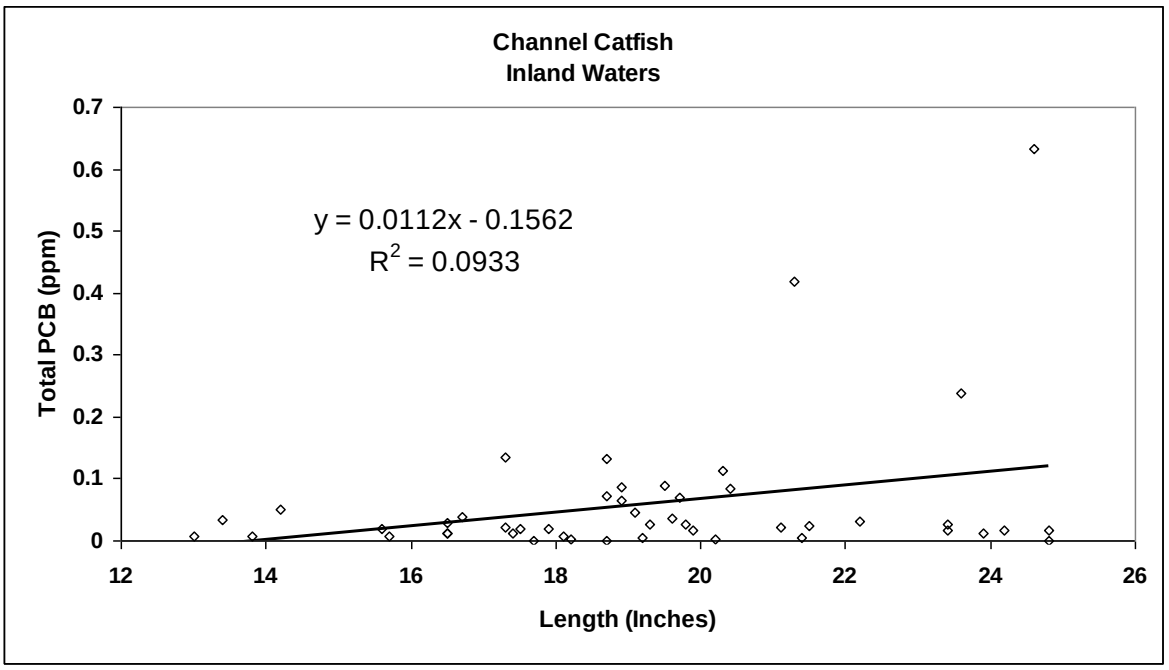

Figure 0-2. Total PCB concentration in filets versus length of channel catfish collected from inland waters of Michigan between 1985 and 2010.

Mercury

The cumulative lognormal distribution of the mercury concentrations in channel catfish is shown in Figure D-7. The 50th percentile (median) concentration falls within the four meals per month category.

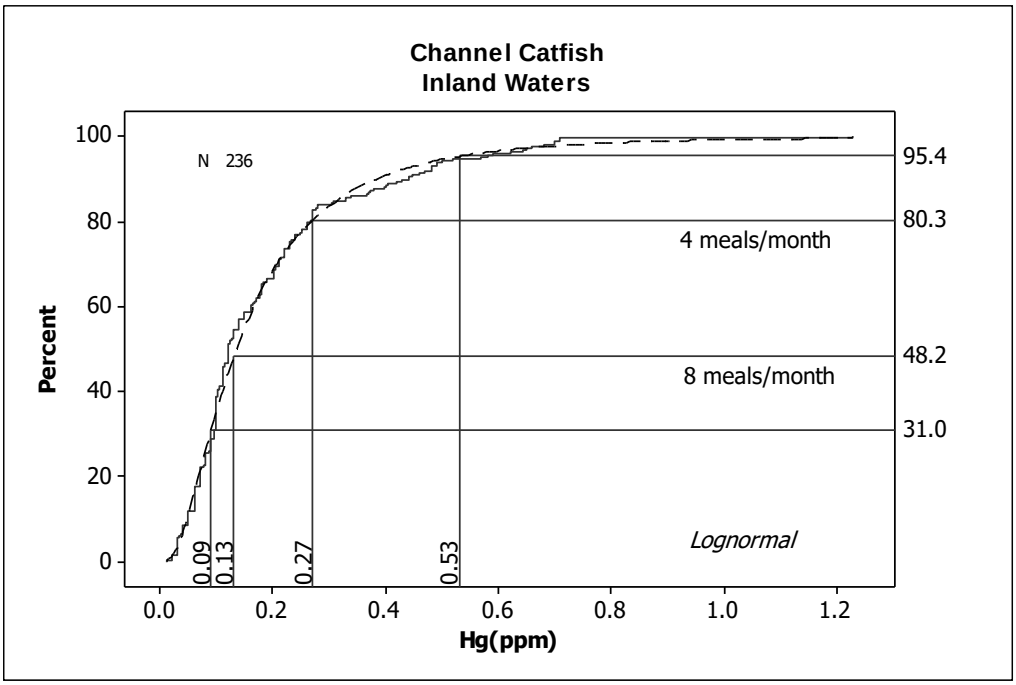

Figure 0-3. Cumulative distribution function of mercury concentrations in channel catfish with estimated percentiles for key mercury fish consumption screening values.

Mercury concentrations in 236 channel catfish samples collected between 1985 and 2010 from rivers, inland lakes and impoundments were available for analysis. Results for waters with legacy mercury contamination problems were excluded.

An estimated 80% of channel catfish had mercury concentrations less than the four meals per month screening value of 0.27 ppm and an estimated 48% had mercury concentrations lower than the eight meals per month screening value of 0.13 ppm (Figure D-7). The median mercury concentration is 0.12 ppm and the 95% UCL on the mean mercury concentration is 0.20 ppm. The channel catfish mercury data variability was moderate (cv = 0.90). Based on the 95% UCL the meal category for channel catfish would be four meals per month.

Linear regression of channel catfish length versus mercury concentration was significant (p-value approaching zero), but the R^2 was only 0.12 (Figure D-8).

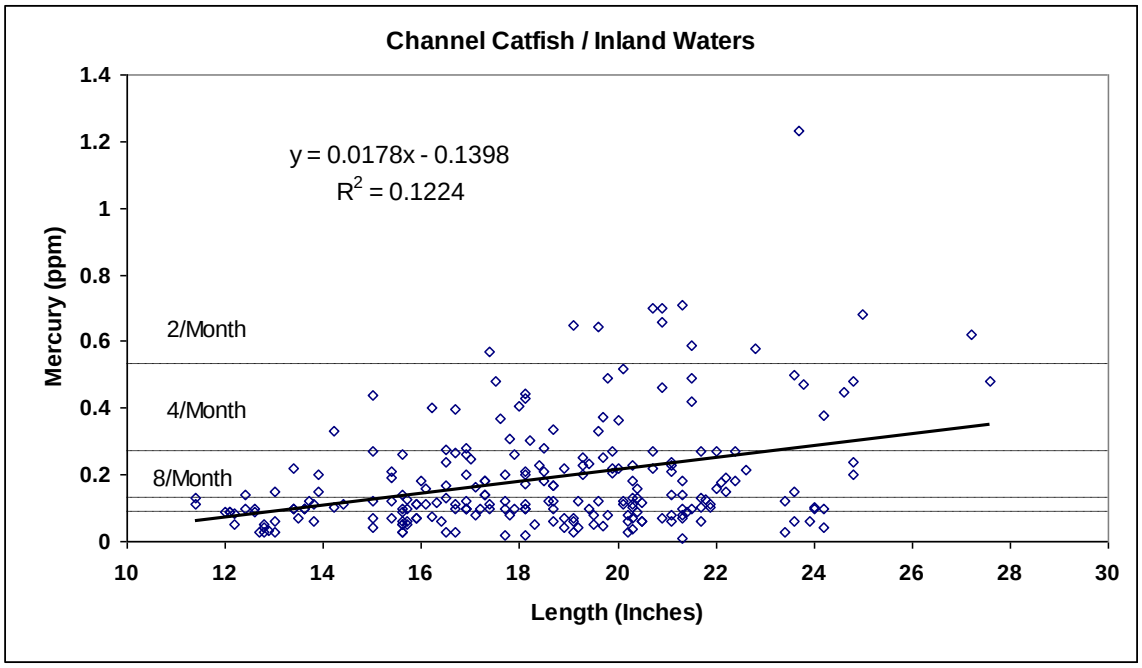

Figure 0-4. Mercury concentration in filets versus length of channel catfish collected from inland waters of Michigan between 2002 and 2010.

Appendix E. Document Version Log.

Version of Document	Date Final	Notes
1.0	April 30, 2013	Original Document
1.1	August 1, 2013	Added Executive Summary & Table 1 Added "wet weight" Grammar edits, updated web links
2.0	September 17, 2014	Updated PFOS FCSV Worksheet Grammar edits
3.0	September 4, 2015	Updated agency name Grammar edits
4.0	September 14, 2016	Added Statewide Guideline for Bullhead Added lack of mercury data as a dataset limitation
5.0	September 11, 2017	Added Statewide Guideline for Brown Trout
6.0	June 02, 2025	Updated agency names throughout Updated broken links for references Updated Table 1 with PFOS FCSVs Updated PFOS FCSV Worksheet Grammar edits