



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

OLGA DAZZO
DIRECTOR

August 5, 2011

Dear 10 Mile/Lange/Revere Canal Homeowner:

On May 24, 2011, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) sent you a letter regarding a “do not eat” fish advisory for all fish in the Lange/Revere canals and for carp and catfish in Lake St. Clair. The advisory was based on preliminary findings of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the canal fish. This follow-up letter is to let you know more about the fish analysis results, fish sampling done this summer and actions MDCH has taken.

Canal Fish Results (2010 Sampling)

The PCB analysis of the fish samples collected in 2010 from the 10 Mile/Lange/Revere canals is complete. The results indicate that the “do not eat” advisory established in May 2011 will remain in effect for all fish caught in the 10 Mile/Lange/Revere canals. In addition, the precautionary “do not eat” advisory for carp and channel catfish will remain in effect for fish caught in Lake St. Clair. The fish testing results are summarized below and on the attached graphs.

10 Mile/Lange/Revere Canal Fish Tissue Data Summary (parts per million [ppm])

Fish	Number sampled	Median ¹ Total PCB Concentration	“Trigger” Level for General Population ²
Carp	12	88.0	2.0
Largemouth bass	13	3.2	2.0
Black crappie	8	15.1	2.0
Pumpkinseed	5	12.1	2.0

Lake St. Clair Fish (2010 Results and 2011 Sampling)

During the regular fish sampling conducted by the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program in 2010, the following fish were collected from Lake St. Clair: channel catfish, freshwater drum, muskellunge, northern pike, pumpkinseed, rock bass, and yellow perch. Seven to ten samples of each species were collected. Results for PCB analysis ranged from not being detected (the lowest concentration was 0.001 ppm) to 0.35 ppm. Note that these fish were taken from Anchor Bay, in northern Lake St. Clair.

In July 2011, additional fish samples were collected from Lake St. Clair from an area up to five miles north and four miles south of the 10 Mile/Lange/Revere canals. During this sampling effort, 238 fish were collected including carp, bullhead, channel catfish, walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, bluegill, and pumpkinseed. Processing of the fish samples has begun;

¹ “Median” is the middle value in a set of values, not the mean (average). The median is less sensitive to extremely low or extremely high values within the data set.

² “Trigger” levels for women and children, who are more susceptible to the effects of PCBs, are lower than those for the general population. However, the data indicate that the concentrations are potentially harmful to *all* groups of people. Therefore, the “do not eat” advisories are applicable to all.

however, results will not be ready for another 6 to 12 months. The precautionary “do not eat” advisory for carp and channel catfish in Lake St. Clair will be reevaluated when the analyses are complete and interpreted.

Public Health Actions

To communicate the fish advisories, MDCH has posted signs near the 10 Mile/Lange/Revere canals, specifically on the black railings where Lange crosses the canal near Jefferson, in the parking lot behind West Marine, and at the mouth of the north canal. MDCH has additional signs and encourages homeowners along the canals who are willing to have signs placed on their property to contact Christina Bush at 517-335-9717 or bushcr@michigan.gov.

Also, MDCH has printed a St. Clair Shores-specific “Eat Safe Fish” brochure to help people make informed choices about the fish they keep and eat from the area. The brochure is available on the web at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish and locally at City Hall, Macomb County Public Works Office, Macomb County Health Department, West Marine, and Lakeside Fishing Shop.

This information in this letter is being shared with city officials at the August 15, 2011 city council meeting.

- For questions regarding fish sampling, please contact Joseph Bohr at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (bohri@michigan.gov or 517-373-4704).
- For questions regarding the fish advisories, please contact Christina Bush at MDCH (bushcr@michigan.gov or 517-335-9717).

Sincerely,



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CC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) – Superfund Section
MDEQ – Water Bureau
Macomb County Health Department
City of St. Clair Shores
Macomb County Public Works Office