

PFAS DETECTED IN FISH SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM THE HOCKANUM RIVER

AT A GLANCE

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), in collaboration with the Department of Public Health (DPH) has issued a **Do Not Eat Advisory** for all species of fish in the Hockanum River based on levels of a chemical compound in a class known as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). The do not eat advisory includes all tributaries and ponds connected to the Hockanum River from the Shenipsit Lake to the Connecticut River.

Additional information on DPH fish consumption advisories can be found at: portal.ct.gov/fish or by calling a DPH staff person at **1-877-458-FISH (3474)**.



PFAS BACKGROUND

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of synthetic chemicals manufactured and used worldwide since the 1940s. PFAS are known for their chemical stability, heat resistance, and oil- and water-repellence, which result from their unique chemical composition. These qualities make PFAS useful in thousands of industrial processes and consumer products, including: nonstick cookware, food packaging materials, detergents, water-resistant apparel, and firefighting foams to extinguish liquid fires.

HEALTH CONCERNS

After decades of widespread use, we now know PFAS to be persistent contaminants that have serious adverse impacts on human health, even at low levels. Because they are highly mobile and are not broken down by natural processes, PFAS are found throughout the environment as well as in drinking water, foods, consumer products, indoor dust, and the human bloodstream. Research on their potential human health and ecological impacts is rapidly evolving, but PFAS have been strongly linked to a wide variety of health risks, including: kidney and testicular cancer, immune system effects, developmental effects in fetuses and infants, and reproductive effects.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What recreational activities are allowed on the Hockanum River?

Individuals can enjoy most recreational activities on the Hockanum River, including catching and releasing fish, boating, swimming, and hiking the trails along the river. At this time, the only concerns involve eating fish caught from the river based on high levels of PFAS detected in several species of fish collected from the river.

How long will the do not eat advisory be in place for the Hockanum River?

The advisory will remain in place until additional testing reveals PFAS levels detected in fish tissue samples drops to a level considered safe for consumption. State and local environmental officials will advise the public when the advisory is removed.