



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Environmental Health
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October 11, 2011

John L. Ciccotelli, Director of Public Health
Canton Board of Health
79 Pleasant Street
Canton, MA 02021

Dear Mr. Ciccotelli,

Enclosed, please find copies of four new or updated Public Health Fish Consumption Advisories.

- One is for Reservoir Pond based on elevated levels of mercury (new advisory).
- One is for the stretch of the Canton River flowing between the Neponset River and the Neponset Street Dam based on elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs] and DDT (update).
- The third is for Ponkapoag Pond based on elevated levels of mercury (new). Since the pond is on land managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), a separate letter has been sent to inform DCR of this advisory
- Lastly, there is an advisory for the stretch of the Neponset River between the Hollingsworth & Vose Dam in Walpole and the Walter Baker Dam in Boston based on elevated levels of PCBs and DDT. Part of the river runs through land managed by DCR, and they have been notified.

We have also enclosed a brochure on eating fish safely, a copy of the current state-wide advisory for mercury, a list of the Public Health Fish Consumption Advisories that are being issued in October, 2011, and a list of all the Public Health Fish Consumption Advisories that have been issued state-wide for Massachusetts freshwater bodies. The Department would like to work collaboratively with you to advise persons who may eat fish from these waterbodies of the health risks associated with consumption. These advisories, like all other fish advisories being issued, go into effect upon receipt of this letter and subsequent posting.

Generating an advisory involves the cooperative efforts of the Department of Public Health, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. These agencies' activities include designing fish surveys and analyzing contaminant concentrations in fish samples. Data generated from the monitoring activities are evaluated, and if significant levels of a contaminant are detected, a Public Health Fish Consumption Advisory is issued. The advisory may suggest either limiting or refraining from consumption of fish from the water body.

We would appreciate if you could arrange to post this important advisory information at your office and at the waterbodies themselves as soon as possible. We have attached representative posters and will be happy to provide you with any assistance you may need in accomplishing local notification. We would be happy to assist with translating the advisories into any languages you feel are relevant to these water bodies based on the types of populations that you may know of who utilize these resources. For questions or concerns regarding posting or health education and outreach activities, we can be reached at (617) 624-5757 for follow-up assistance.

Sincerely,



Martha Steele, Acting Director
Environmental Toxicology Program (ETP)
Deputy Director, Bureau of Environmental Health (BEH)

cc: Suzanne K. Condon, Associate Commissioner / Director, BEH
Greg Tocco, Director, BEH -Health Education and Outreach Program
Michael Celona, Senior Environmental Analyst, BEH-ETP
Samantha Overton, Deputy Director, MA DCR-Division of Urban Parks
John Shea, Director of Environmental Hazards Program, Boston Public Health Commission
Catherine Cardinale, Director, Dedham Health Department
Michael Blanchard, Health Director, Milton Board of Health
Sigalle Reiss, Director, Norwood Health Department
Linda Rosen, Administrator, Sharon Board of Health
Robin L. Chapell, Health Director, Walpole Board of Health
Linda R. Shea, Health Director, Westwood Board of Health