

Catch and Release or ...

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

Are My Fish Safe to Eat?

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

How To Use the Consumption Advisory Chart

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

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

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

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

Northwest Consumption Advisory⁽¹⁾

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

NA * No Advisory

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

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Northwest Consumption Advisory—continued⁽¹⁾

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

NA*: No Advisory

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

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

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

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Northeast Consumption Advisory—continued⁽¹⁾

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

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

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

NA* No Advisory

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

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

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

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE							CONTAMINANT
		<10"	10-14"	14-18"	18-22"	22-26"	26-30"	30"+	
Brantley Lake	Channel catfish		4	4	2	½			Mercury, DDT
	Largemouth bass		2	2					Mercury, DDT
	White bass	½	½	1					Mercury, DDT
Carlsbad Municipal Lakes (Lake Carlsbad and Bataan Lake)	Carp			4	4				DDT, PCBs
	Channel catfish			1	4				DDT
	Spotted bass			NA*					Mercury, DDT, PCBs
Pecos River (North boundary of Brantley WMA to US 70)	Carp		NA*	NA*					DDT, PCBs
	Channel catfish		NA*	NA*	NA*				DDT, PCBs
Pecos River (Brantley WMA)	Channel catfish		4	4	2	½			Mercury, DDT
	Largemouth bass		2	2					Mercury, DDT
	White bass	½	½	1					Mercury, DDT
Pecos River (Texas border to Carlsbad Municipal Lakes)	Carp		NA*	NA*	NA*				DDT, PCBs
	Channel catfish			4					DDT, PCBs
Santa Rosa Lake	Bluegill	3							Mercury
	Channel catfish		3	2	2	2	1		Mercury
	Crappie	3	3						Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		2						Mercury
	Walleye			3	1	1	1		Mercury
Sumner Lake	Carp		4	4	4				Mercury
	Channel catfish	4	3	3	2				Mercury
	Flathead catfish		4		2				Mercury
	Walleye			3	1	½	0		Mercury
	White bass	3	2						Mercury

NA* No Advisory

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