

Guide to NYS DOH Fish Advisory Maps by County

To help people make healthier choices about which fish to eat, the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) issues advisories/advice about eating fish they catch. The advisories tell people which fish to avoid and how to reduce their exposures to contaminants in the fish they do eat.

All waters in NYS have some type of health advisory. These maps provide anglers and fish consumers a visual guide to the different types of advice.

The waters highlighted on these maps show public access fishing waters and their advice. These waters have either New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP), or County/Town access. There may be other waters in your county with public access that are not highlighted in these maps.

Blue waters (General Advisory)

Everyone in the family can enjoy up to four fish meals a month from waters highlighted in blue.

This general advice is important because not all fish have been tested, fish may contain unidentified contaminants, and there are some chemicals (such as mercury and PCBs) that are commonly found in NYS fish. The general advisory applies to any water in New York State that doesn't have a regional or specific advisory.

Green waters (Adirondack/Catskill Regional Advisory)

The Adirondack and the Catskill Regions have additional advisories to limit or not eat certain kinds of fish for women under 50 and children under 15 because some fish tend to have higher levels of mercury. These waters are highlighted in green.

Women under 50 and children under 15 can eat up to four meals a month of all fish except northern pike, pickerel, walleye and large and smallmouth bass from waters highlighted in green. Some of the better choices include brook trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, pumpkinseed, bluegill, rock bass and smaller yellow perch (under 10 inches).

Men and women over 50 can eat up to four meals a month of all fish from green highlighted waters. They may face fewer health risks from mercury.

Red waters (Specific Advisory)

Women under 50 and children under 15 should not eat any fish from waters highlighted in red.

Waters highlighted in red have stricter advice because contaminant levels in some fish are higher. Families may want to consider catch and release fishing.

Men and older women can find the advice for these waters at www.health.ny.gov/fish. Most waters with specific advisories have restrictions on only a few species of fish for men and older women.



Some waterbody names are **underlined and bolded** and some are not. The waters that are underlined and bolded have specific advisories because testing showed higher contaminant levels in some fish. Although their tributaries and connected waters are not underlined and bolded, follow the same advice because chemicals remain in fish when they move from one waterbody to another.

Connected tributary

All waters in NYS have some type of advisory, as listed above. Tributaries share the advisory of the water they are connected to unless there is a barrier, such as a dam or waterfall, that stops fish from moving upstream or downstream. Some of the streams and rivers in this county are shown as black lines. They may or may not have access.

Help us make the maps more accurate

These maps show the advisory locations to the best of our knowledge, however, local knowledge of streams/ lakes and barriers can help us improve the maps. If you are aware of any additional natural or man-made barriers preventing fish passage (or barriers that have been removed), or if you have questions, please contact us at HRFA@health.ny.gov or call 518-402-7530. We appreciate all feedback.

How and why does NYS DOH set advisories?

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/background.htm

Why are there special advisories for women and children?

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/background.htm#risks

I don't see the place where I fish highlighted on the map – does it have advice?

All New York State waters have some type of advisory. If you are fishing a water not listed on these maps, follow the general advice (eat up to four meals/month of fish) unless it is connected to a water with specific advice (red) or is in the Adirondack or Catskill Region (green). If it is connected to a red water visit www.health.ny.gov/fish to find the specific advice for that waterbody (underlined/bolded in red).

Where can I find boat launches in my area?

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7832.html>

Where can I find more information about NYS DEC public access waters and places to fish?

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7749.html>

Where can I look up public fishing rights to access streams?

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9924.html>



www.health.ny.gov/fish
HRFA@health.ny.gov