



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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May 23, 2024

Heidi Porter, MPH, RS/REHS, Director, Bedford
Kristel Bennett, Director, Billerica
Linda M. Fantasia, Health Agent, Carlisle
Melanie Dineen, Director, Concord
Lisa Golden, Director of HHS, Lowell

SUBJECT: New Fish Consumption Advisory

The purpose of this letter is to inform your office of a new fish consumption advisory (FCA) for the Concord River in Bedford, Billerica, Carlisle, Concord, and Lowell. The Environmental Toxicology Program (ETP) within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (DPH/BCEH), routinely works with municipal health officials to understand the presence and nature of health hazards in the community. Consistent with this role, DPH is issuing a FCA for the Concord River based on elevated levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) measured in fish that were sampled in 2022 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and summarized in a [MassDEP report](#) issued in December 2023.

PFAS were measured in fish sampled from the Concord River at a level that exceeds the DPH action level of 0.22 parts per billion (ppb). This indicates that the daily consumption of fish from the waterbody may pose a potential health concern. DPH considers new sampling data and previous FCAs when issuing new fish advisories. The new advice is the most conservative FCA considering both previous and new advice based on measurements in fish from each waterbody. DPH is recommending that sensitive¹ populations should not eat any fish from the Concord River. The general population should not eat Largemouth Bass and limit consumption of other fish to 1 meal/month.

Enclosed, please find a representative poster identifying the contaminants present and the FCA for the Concord River. A brochure that describes PFAS in recreationally caught fish is also enclosed with a link to access all FCAs that have been issued at freshwater locations in Massachusetts. We recommend that the poster be placed at your municipal office, as well as waterfront locations that afford access to the water.

¹ Sensitive Populations - Children under 12; and people who are nursing, pregnant, or may become pregnant

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (617) 624-5757.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meg Blanchet", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Meg Blanchet, M.S., REHS
Director, Environmental Toxicology Program
Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health

cc: Nalina Narain, PhD, Director, MDPH/BCEH

Enclosures: 2