

St. Lawrence Valley Region

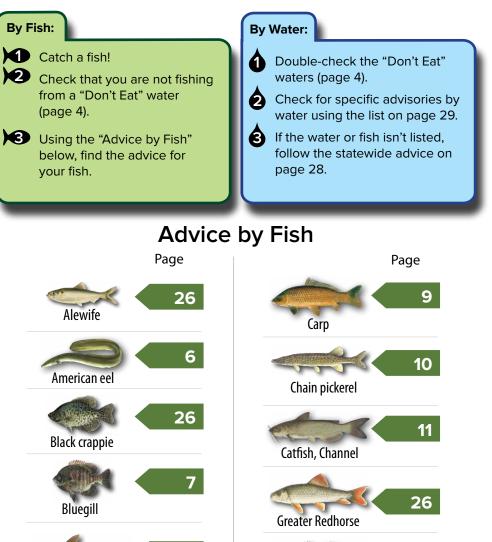
Health Advice on Eating Fish You Catch

Advice by Fish! Don't Skip How to Use this Guide on page 2.

Including Jefferson and Oswego counties and parts of Clinton, Franklin, and St. Lawrence counties.

Fishing is a fun, healthy activity for the whole family and fish are a great choice for a healthy diet. However, some fish contain chemicals at levels that can be harmful. This guide can help you make healthier choices about eating the fish you catch. There is different advice based on who you are, where you fish, what you catch, and how much fish you eat.

How to Use This Guide



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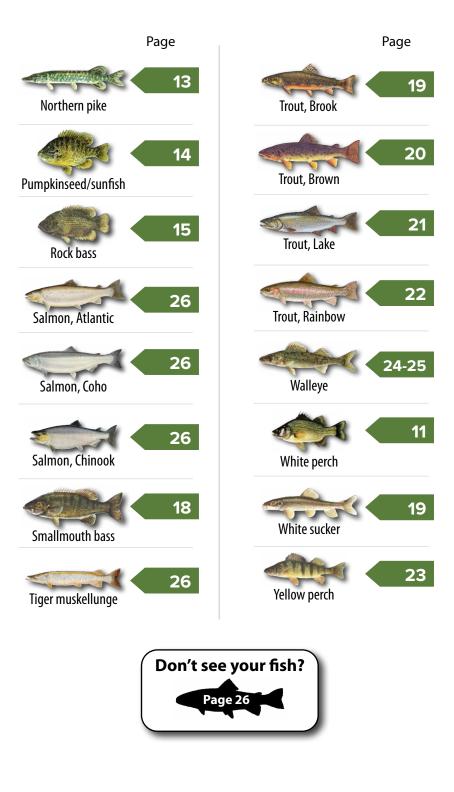
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Largemouth bass

Muskellunge

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Brown bullhead

Burbot

"Don't Eat" Waters



These waters have been more affected by industrial contamination than others. While they can be fun places to fish, no one should eat fish from them.

		General	Sensitive
Waterbody	Fish	Population	Population
Grasse River, mouth to Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence) St. Lawrence River, from Seaway International Bridge (Including Turtle Creek Cove) downstream to north end of Raquette Point (Navigation Light Number 11) (St. Lawrence)	All Fish	DON'T EAT	DON'T EAT

The specific health advisories for the waters listed above also apply to tributaries and connected waters if there are no dams, falls, or barriers to stop the fish from moving upstream.

The sensitive population refers to people who can become pregnant (under age 50) and children under 15. The general population refers to everyone else.

Understanding the Advice

Who you are



People who can become pregnant (under age 50) and children under age 15 should eat less fish. They are the **Sensitive Population** in our advice tables.

Chemicals in fish can have a greater effect on childhood development and babies. Many of these chemicals can stay in the body for decades. People who eat highly contaminated fish and become pregnant may be at a higher risk of having children who are

slower to develop and learn. Some chemicals also can be passed on to a child in breast milk.



Everyone else may have fewer health risks from eating fish. They are the **General Population** in our advice tables.

What you catch



Each fish has specific advice for how much to eat. Some fish species have higher levels of chemicals than others, even if they are caught in the same waters. Smaller fish usually have lower levels of mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) than larger, older fish of the same species.

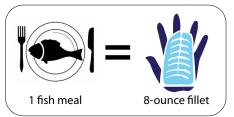
Where you fish



This guide can help you choose better waters if you are eating the fish you catch. Some waters have higher levels of chemicals than others due to industrial and commercial sources of pollution.

How much you eat

If you eat an 8-ounce serving of fish every week, you can reduce health risks by carefully following our health advice.



To learn more about chemicals commonly found in fish and how advisories are set, visit www.health.ny.gov/fish.



American eel

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Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)		
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	4 meals/month	DON'T EAT
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)		DONTLAI
Lake Champlain, bay within Cumberland Head Southwest to Peru Boat Launch (Clinton)	DON'T EAT	DON'T EAT
All Other Waters	4 meals/month	1 meal/month

Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population
Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)		
Lake Ontario (multiple counties)		
Oswego River, mouth to Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8)*		
Raquette River, downstream of Raymondville Dam (St. Lawrence)	4 meals/month	1 meal/month
Salmon River, mouth to Salmon River Reservoir*		
St. Lawrence River, whole river, excluding area listed in "Don't Eat" waters (multiple counties)		
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)		
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	4 meals/month	DON'T EAT
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)		
All Other Waters	4 meals/month	4 meals/month

*Same advice as Lake Ontario

The specific health advisories for the waters listed above also apply to tributaries and connected waters if there are no dams, falls, or barriers to stop the fish from moving upstream.



Don't eat any fish from Grasse River, mouth to Massena Power Canal, and St. Lawrence, Seaway International Bridge area. See page 4.







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Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population
St. Lawrence River, whole river, excluding area listed in "Don't Eat" waters (multiple counties)	4 meals/month	4 meal/month
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)		
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	4 meals/month	DON'T EAT
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)		
All Other Waters	4 meals/month	1 meal/month

Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)		
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)	4 meals/month	DON'T EAT
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)		
Lake Ontario (multiple counties)		
Oswego River, mouth to Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8)*		
Raquette River, downstream of Raymondville Dam (St. Lawrence)	1 meal/month	DON'T EAT
Salmon River, mouth to Salmon River Reservoir*		
St. Lawrence River, whole river, excluding area listed in "Don't Eat" waters (multiple counties)		
All Other Waters	4 meals/month	1 meal/month

*Same advice as Lake Ontario

The specific health advisories for the waters listed above also apply to tributaries and connected waters if there are no dams, falls, or barriers to stop the fish from moving upstream.

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Don't eat any fish from Grasse River, mouth to Massena Power Canal, and St. Lawrence, Seaway International Bridge area. See page 4.





Chain pickerel

		(Å)
Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population
Kelsey Creek (Jefferson)	1 meal/month	Greater than 20"; DON'T EAT Less than 20"; 1 meal/month
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)	Greater than 20"; 1 meal/month Less than 20"; 4 meals/month	
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)		DON'T EAT
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)		
Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)	1 meal/month	DON'T EAT
All Other Waters	Greater than 20"; 1 meal/month Less than 20"; 4 meals/month	1 meal/month

Advice by fish

Channel catfish



White perch

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Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population
Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)	4 meals/month	1 meal/month
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)	1 meal/month	
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)		DON'T EAT
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)		
All Other Waters	1 meal/month	1 meal/month

The specific health advisories for the waters listed above also apply to tributaries and connected waters if there are no dams, falls, or barriers to stop the fish from moving upstream.



Don't eat any fish from Grasse River, mouth to Massena Power Canal, and St. Lawrence, Seaway International Bridge area. See page 4.







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Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)	Greater than 15",	
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	1 meal/month;	
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)	Less than 15", 4 meals/month	DON'T EAT
Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)	1 meal/month	DON'T EAT
Salmon River Reservoir (Oswego)	Greater than 15", DON'T EAT; Less than 15", 1 meal/month	DON'T EAT
All Other Waters	Greater than 15", 1 meal/month; Less than 15", 4 meals/month	1 meal/month

Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)	Greater than 26",	
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	1 meal/month;	DON'T EAT
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)	Less than 26", 4 meals/month	
Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)	1 meal/month	DON'T EAT
All Other Waters	Greater than 26", 1 meal/month; Less than 26", 4 meals/month	Greater than 26", DON'T EAT; Less than 26", 1 meal/month

The specific health advisories for the waters listed above also apply to tributaries and connected waters if there are no dams, falls, or barriers to stop the fish from moving upstream.



Don't eat any fish from Grasse River, mouth to Massena Power Canal, and St. Lawrence, Seaway International Bridge area. See page 4.







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Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population
Black River, downstream of Herrings Dam (Jefferson)		
Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)		
Lake Ontario (multiple counties)		
Oswego River, mouth to Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8)*		4
Raquette River, downstream of Raymondville Dam (St. Lawrence)	4 meals/month	1 meal/month
Salmon River, mouth to Salmon River Reservoir*		
St. Lawrence River, whole river, excluding area listed in "Don't Eat" waters (multiple counties)		
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)		
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	4 meals/month	DON'T EAT
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)		DONTER
All Other Waters	4 meals/month	4 meals/month

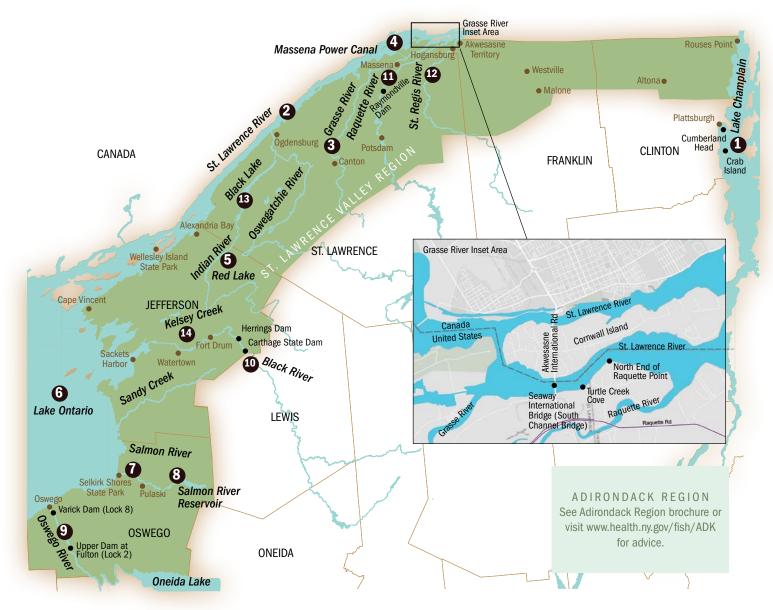
*Same advice as Lake Ontario.

Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population	
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)			
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	1 maala (manth		
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)	4 meals/month	DON'T EAT	
Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)	1 meal/month	DON'T EAT	
All Other Waters	4 meals/month	1 meal/month	

The specific health advisories for the waters listed above also apply to tributaries and connected waters if there are no dams, falls, or barriers to stop the fish from moving upstream.



St. Lawrence Waters with Specific Advice



KEY	
Lake Champlain	1
St. Lawrence River	2
Grasse River	3
Massena Power Canal	4
Red Lake	5
Lake Ontario	6
Salmon River	7
Salmon River	8
Reservoir	0
Oswego River	9
Black River	10
Raquette River,	
downstream of	11
Raymondville Dam	
St. Regis River	12
Black Lake	13
Kelsey Creek	14

What about tributaries and connected waters?

The specific advice applies to tributaries and connected waters if there are no dams, falls, or barriers to stop the fish from moving upstream or downstream. This is because chemicals remain in fish when they move from one waterbody to another.



Smallmouth bass

Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population	
Lake Ontario (multiple counties) Oswego River, mouth to Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8)* St. Lawrence River, whole river,	4 meals/month	1 meal/month	
excluding area listed in "Don't Eat" waters (multiple counties) Black River, Carthage State Dam to			
Herrings Dam (Jefferson) Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)		DON'T EAT	
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence) Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)	1 meal/month		
Salmon River, mouth to Salmon River Reservoir (Oswego) Salmon River Reservoir (Oswego)			
All Other Waters	1 meal/month	Greater than 15", DON'T EAT; Less than 15", 1 meal/month	

*Same advice as Lake Ontario.

Advice by fish		Brook Trout	
		White sucker	
		(A)	
Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population	
Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)	4 meals/month	1 meal/month	
Raquette River, downstream of Raymondville Dam (St. Lawrence)	4 measy monut	1 meal/month	
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)			
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	4 meals/month	DON'T EAT	
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)			
All Other Waters	4 meals/month	4 meals/month	

Advice by fie

The specific health advisories for the waters listed above also apply to tributaries and connected waters if there are no dams, falls, or barriers to stop the fish from moving upstream.







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Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population	Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population
Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)			Lake Ontario (multiple counties)		
Raquette River, downstream of Raymondville Dam (St.	4 meals/month	1 meal/month	Oswego River, mouth to Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8)*	Greater than 25"; 1 meal/month Less than 25"; 4 meals/month	1 meal/month
Lawrence)			Salmon River, mouth to Salmon River Reservoir (Oswego)*		
Lake Ontario (multiple counties)			St. Lawrence River, whole river, excluding area listed in "Don't Eat"		
Oswego River, mouth to Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8)*	Greater than 20", 1 meal/month; Less than 20", 4 meals/month	1 meal/month	waters (multiple counties)		
Salmon River, mouth to Salmon River Reservoir			Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)		
(Oswego)*			Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	4 meals/month	DON'T EAT
St. Lawrence River, whole river, excluding area listed in "Don't Eat" waters (multiple counties)			Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton		
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson)	4 meals/month	DON'T EAT	(Lock #2) (Oswego) Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)	1 meal/month	DON'T EAT
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)			All Other	4 meals/month	1 meal/month
Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)			Waters		
All Other Waters	4 meals/month	Greater than 20", 1 meal/month; Less than 20", 4 meals/month	The specific health advisories for the wa connected waters if there are no dams, f The sensitive population refers 50) and children under 15. The g	alls, or barriers to stop the	e fish from moving upstr ne pregnant (under age

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*Same advice as Lake Ontario.

Don't eat any fish from Grasse River, mouth to Massena Power Canal, and St. Lawrence, Seaway International Bridge area. See page 4.

Rainbow trout		Y	ellow perch	
Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population	Waterbody	General Population
Champlain, whole lake iple counties) Ontario (multiple counties) go River, mouth to Varick at Oswego (Lock #8)* ette River, downstream of ondville Dam (St. Lawrence) on River, mouth to Salmon Reservoir (Oswego)*	4 meals/month	1 meal/month	Black Lake (St. Lawrence)Black River, downstream of Herrings Dam (Jefferson)Grasse River, upstream of Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)Kelsey Creek (Jefferson)Red Lake (Jefferson)Salmon River Reservoir (Oswego)St. Regis River (St. Lawrence)	Greater than 10", 1 meal/month; Less than 10", 4 meals/month
River, Carthage State Dam ings Dam (Jefferson) na Power Canal (St. ce)	4 meals/month	DON'T EAT	Lake Champlain, whole lake excluding area below (multiple counties)	Greater than 10", 1 meal/month; Less than 10", 4 meals/month
go River, Varick Dam at go (Lock #8) to Upper Dam Iton (Lock #2) (Oswego)	4 meals/month	4 meals/month	Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson) Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence) Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)	4 meals/month

The specific health advisories for the waters listed above also apply to tributaries and connected waters if there are no dams, falls, or barriers to stop the fish from moving upstream.



Don't eat any fish from Grasse River, mouth to Massena Power Canal, and St. Lawrence, Seaway International Bridge area. See page 4.



Lake Champlain, bay within Cumberland Head Southwest to

Peru Boat Launch (Clinton)

All Other

Waters

The sensitive population refers to people who can become pregnant (under age 50) and children under 15. The general population refers to everyone else.

4 meals/month

DON'T EAT

DON'T EAT

Greater than 10", 1 meal/month;

Less than 10", 4 meals/month

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Waterbody St. Lawrence River, whole river, excluding area listed in "Don't Eat" waters (multiple counties)	General Population 4 meals/month	Sensitive Population 1 meal/month
Lake Ontario (multiple counties)Oswego River, mouth to Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8)*Salmon River, mouth to Salmon River Reservoir (Oswego)*	1 meal/month	1 meal/month
Grasse River, upstream of Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	1 meal/month	Greater than 19", DON'T EAT; Less than 19", 1 meal/month
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson) Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence) Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego)	Greater than 19", 1 meal/month; Less than 19", 4 meals/month	DON'T EAT

*Same advice as Lake Ontario.

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Waterbody	General Population	Sensitive Population
Black Lake (St. Lawrence)	1 meal/month	DON'T EAT
Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)	Greater than 19", DON'T EAT; Less than 19", 1 meal/month	DON'T EAT
All Other Waters	Greater than 19", 1 meal/month; Less than 19", 4 meals/month	Greater than 19", DON'T EAT; Less than 19", 1 meal/month

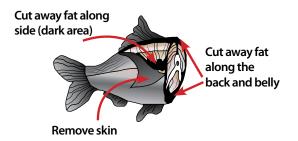
The specific health advisories for the waters listed above also apply to tributaries and connected waters if there are no dams, falls, or barriers to stop the fish from moving upstream.



All Other Fish Alewife Atlantic salmon Black crappie Burbot Chinook salmon Coho salmon Tiger muskellunge Muskellunge Greater redhorse and all other fish not listed Waterbody **General Population Sensitive Population** Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson) Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence) 4 meals/month DON'T FAT Oswego River, Varick Dam at Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego) **All Other** 1 meal/month 4 meals/month Waters **«**

Tips for Healthier Eating

- Try to space out your fish meals. For example, if the advice is that you can eat up to four meals a month, don't eat them all in the same week. This is particularly important for the Sensitive Population.
- Bacteria, viruses, or parasites can be in or on fish. Keep harvested fish cold. Wear gloves when skinning and trimming. Wash hands and surfaces often when preparing fish, and keep raw foods separate. Cook fish and shellfish thoroughly before eating.
- PCBs, chlordane, dieldrin, and dioxin are found at higher levels in the fat of fish. Reduce fat by properly trimming, skinning, and cooking your catch:



- Cooking or soaking fish cannot eliminate the chemicals, but heat from cooking melts some of the fat. Broil, grill, or bake the trimmed, skinned fish on a rack so that the fat drips away. Do not use drippings in sauces or gravies.
- Trimming and skinning will not reduce the amount of mercury in a fish meal.
- The main way to reduce how much mercury you get from fish is to avoid certain species or eat smaller fish within a species.

For more tips and healthy fish recipes visit www.health.ny.gov/fish/tips.htm

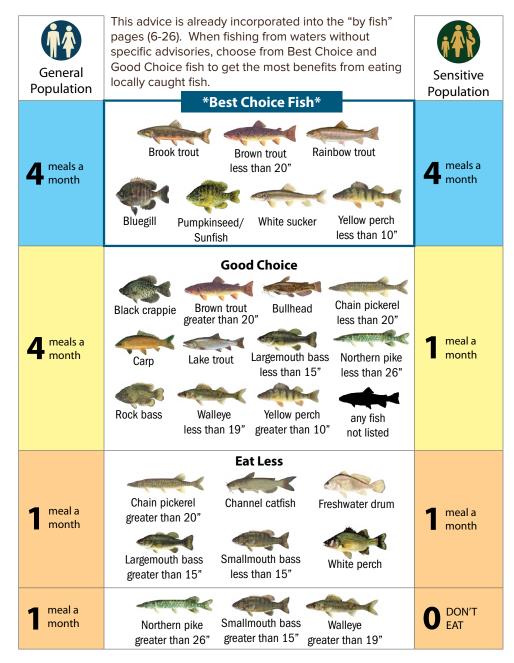


The sensitive population refers to people who can become pregnant (under age 50) and children under 15. The general population refers to everyone else.



Don't eat any fish from Grasse River, mouth to Massena Power Canal, and St. Lawrence, Seaway International Bridge area. See page 4.

Statewide Advice



Alphabetical Listing of Specific Advisory Waters

Use this list to find out if your waterbody has a specific advisory. The more page numbers listed, the more advisories that water has.

Specific Advisory Water (County)	Page	Specific Advisory Water (County)	Page
Black Lake (St. Lawrence)	23, 25	Oswego River, mouth to Varick Dam	7, 9, 14, 18,
Black River, Carthage State Dam to Herrings Dam (Jefferson) ¹	6-15, 18- 24, 26	at Oswego (Lock #8) Oswego River, Varick Dam at	20-22, 24 6-15,
Black River, downstream of Herrings Dam (Jefferson)	14, 23	Oswego (Lock #8) to Upper Dam at Fulton (Lock #2) (Oswego) ¹	18-24, 26
Grasse River, mouth to Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence)	4	Raquette River, downstream of Raymondville Dam (St. Lawrence)	7, 9, 14, 19-20, 22
Grasse River, upstream of Massena	23-24	Red Lake (Jefferson)	23
Power Canal (St. Lawrence)		Salmon River Reservoir (Oswego)	12, 18, 23
Kelsey Creek (Jefferson)	10, 23	Salmon River, mouth to Salmon	7, 9, 14, 18,
Lake Champlain, bay within	6, 23	River Reservoir (Oswego)	20-22, 24
Cumberland Head Southwest to Peru Boat Launch (Clinton)		St. Lawrence River, whole river, excluding area listed in "Don't	7-9, 14, 18, 20-21, 24
Lake Champlain, whole lake (multiple counties)	7, 10-15, 18-23, 25	Eat" waters (Franklin, Jefferson, St. Lawrence)	
Lake Ontario (Niagara, Oswego, Monroe, Jefferson, Orleans, Wayne, Cayuga)	7, 9, 14, 18, 20-22, 24	St. Lawrence, from South Channel Bridge (Including Turtle Creek Cove) downstream to north end of Degruette Daint (Navigation Light	4
Massena Power Canal (St. Lawrence) ¹	6-15, 18- 24, 26	Raquette Point (Navigation Light Number 11) (St. Lawrence)	
(or famorioo)	1	St. Regis River (St. Lawrence)	23

¹ For other fish not listed from these waters, follow the advice on page 26.

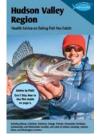


STOP Don't eat waters are listed in red. See page 4.

Other Free Publications Available:



Northern Hudson River Advice Advice for North of Corinth to Hudson Falls



Hudson Valley Advice Advice for Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Uister, Washington, and Westchester counties



Hudson River Advice

Advice from Hudson Falls to New York City Battery



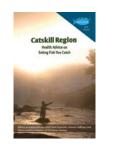
Adirondack Region Advice

Advice for Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington counties



New York State Blue Crab Cooking and Eating Guide

Blue crab advice for the Hudson River, New York City and Long Island



Catskill Region Advice Advice for Delaware, Greene, Sullivan and Ulster counties



Good Sanitary Practices While Fishing and Handling Fish

Information about fishing and cooking fish caught in waters with microrganism concerns

View and order publications online: www.health.ny.gov/fish/publications.htm

Fish from Stores and Restaurants



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the sale of commercial fish in markets. Due to concerns about mercury, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offer this advice. Pregnant and breastfeeding people, people who may become pregnant, and young children, avoid these

fish: shark, swordfish, king mackerel, tuna (bigeye), marlin,

orange roughy, and tilefish.

Visit www.fda.gov/fishadvice or www.epa.gov/fishadvice for more information.

More Information

New York State Fish Advisories

Department of Health www.health.ny.gov/fish (518) 402-7800 (800) 458-1158 BTSA@health.ny.gov

New York State Fishing

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/ freshwater-fishing

DEC Region 5

(Clinton and Franklin counties)

Raybrook Office (518) 897-1200 fwfish5@dec.ny.gov

New York State Fishing, cont.

DEC Region 6 (Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties)

Watertown Office (315) 785-2263 fwfish6@dec.ny.gov

DEC Region 7 (Oswego county)

Cortland Sub-Office (607) 753-3095 fwfish7@dec.ny.gov

The DEC fishing website listed above has a wealth of resources to help you find publicly accessible fishing sites, boat launches, what fish are found in different waterbodies, and fishing license information.



7/24