

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PFAS FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

DATE ISSUED: FEBRUARY 2024

WHERE

The Wisconsin River downstream from the Rhinelander Dam to the Hat Rapids Dam (Hat Rapids Flowage) in Oneida County.

WHAT

A new consumption advisory for bluegill, pumpkinseed, rock bass and yellow perch of one meal per week for everyone.

WHY

Recent sampling shows elevated levels of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in the fish tissue of bluegill, pumpkinseed, rock bass and yellow perch taken from the Hat Rapids Flowage. As a result, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) are recommending a new consumption advisory.

PREVIOUS ADVISORY

Bluegill, pumpkinseed, rock bass and yellow perch in the Hat Rapids Flowage previously followed the statewide safe-eating guidelines of one meal per week for women under the age of 50 and children under 15 and was unrestricted for women over the age of 50 and men.

PFAS DEFINITION

PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) is one of many per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products, including non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays and certain types of firefighting foam. These contaminants have made their way into the environment in a variety of ways, including spills of PFAS-containing materials, discharges of PFAS-containing wastewater to treatment plants, and certain types of firefighting foams. PFAS are very resistant to breaking down. **PFOS, in particular, builds up in fish tissue, but how it builds up is hard to predict.**

HEALTH BENEFITS & RISKS

Fish are high in protein, a great source of Omega-3 fatty acids, and are low in unhealthy saturated fats. However, since PFAS can be stored in your body for years, health risks may increase if you eat more fish than recommended. PFOS detection is one of the driving forces behind establishing fish consumption advisories. **You can get the health benefits from eating fish while reducing unwanted contaminants by following this advisory.**

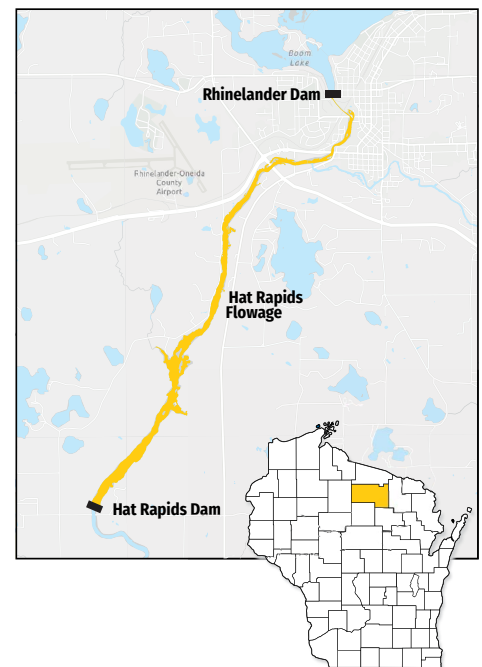
Exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may:

- Increase cholesterol levels
- Decrease how well the body responds to vaccines
- Increase the risk of thyroid disease
- Decrease fertility in women
- Increase the risk of serious conditions like high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women
- Lower infant birth weights
- Cause cancer

SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY FOR Wisconsin River downstream from the Rhinelander Dam to the Hat Rapids Dam (Hat Rapids Flowage)

GUIDELINES FOR EVERYONE (PFOS)

Species	Up to 1 meal per week
Bluegill	All sizes
Pumpkinseed	All sizes
Rock bass	All sizes
Yellow perch	All sizes



Find consumption advice in the DNR's [Choose Wisely: A Health Guide For Eating Fish In Wisconsin](#).