

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

2003 Advisory Listing

The 2003 NLFWA database lists 3,089 advisories in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and the US Territory of American Samoa. The number of waterbodies under advisory represents:

- 35% of the Nation's total lake acres, or approximately 101,818 lakes
- 24% of the Nation's total river miles, or approximately 846,310 river miles
- 71% of the Nation's contiguous coastal waters including 92% of the Atlantic coast and 100% of the Gulf coast
- 100% of the Great Lakes and their connecting waters.

There were 31 states with statewide advisories in effect in 2003, including new statewide advisories for all rivers and lakes in Montana and Washington, and a advisory for marine fish in Hawaii.

In addition, 1.9% of the Nation's river miles and 11% of the Nation's lake acres had Safe Eating Guidelines in effect in 2003.

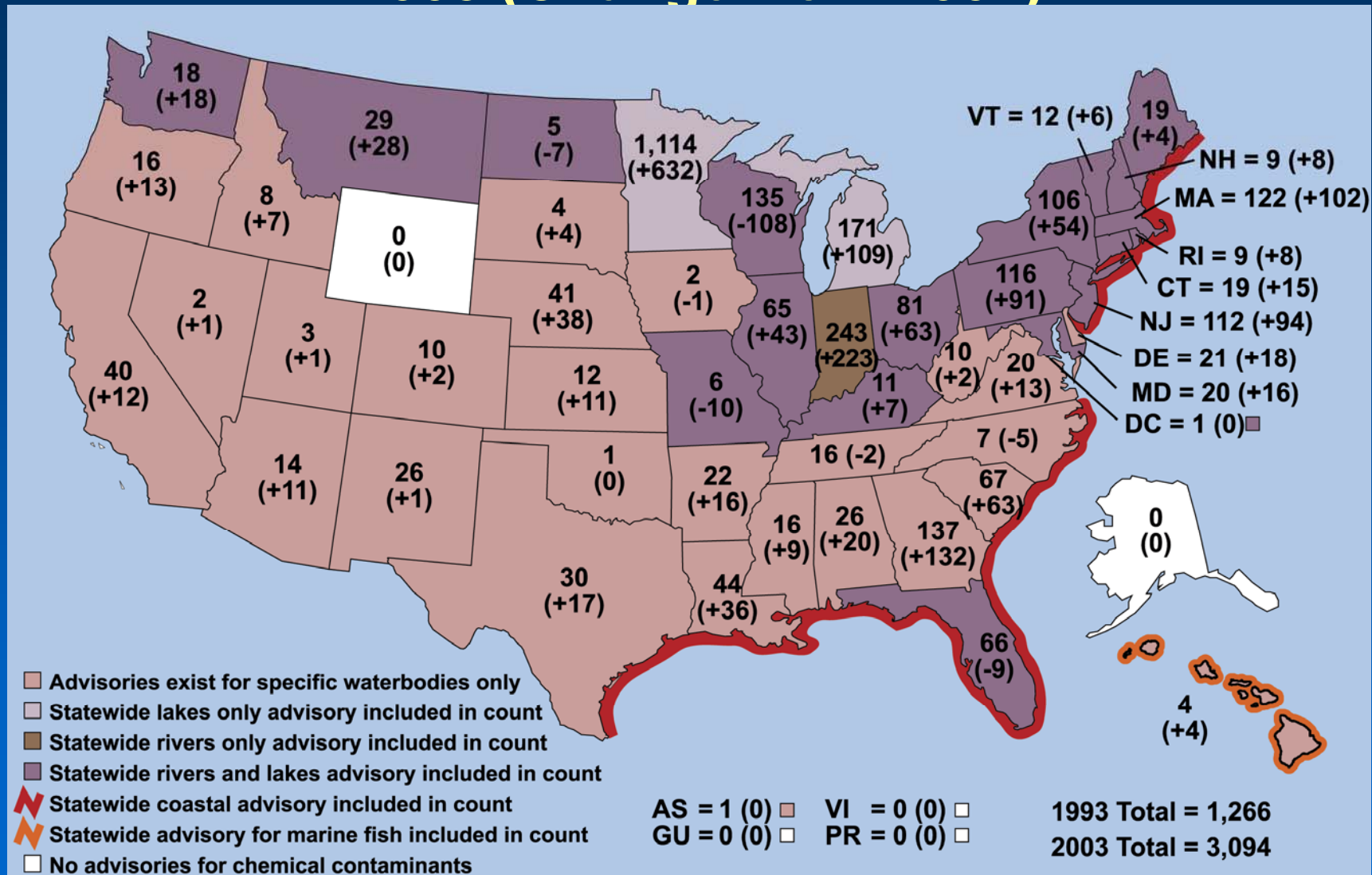
Bioaccumulative Pollutants

Although current advisories in the United States have been issued for 40 different pollutants, most advisories involve five primary bioaccumulative contaminants:

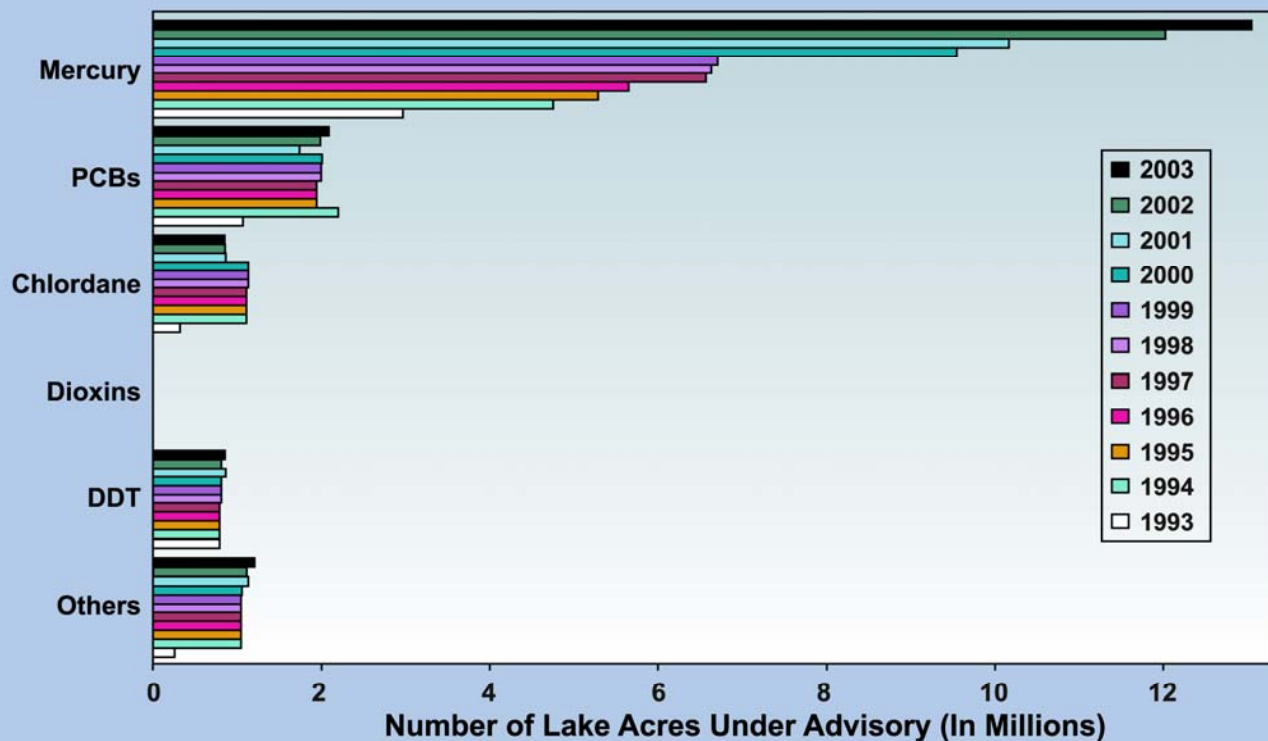
- **Mercury** 2,362 advisories active in 2003 (up 10% from 2002)
- **PCBs** 884 advisories active in 2003 (up 9% from 2002)
- **Chlordane** 89 advisories active in 2003 (down from 97 advisories in 2002)
- **Dioxins** 90 advisories active in 2003 (up from 74 advisories in 2002)
- **DDT and metabolites** 52 advisories active in 2003 (up from 48 in 2002).

The increase in advisories issued by the states generally reflects an increase in the number of assessments of contaminants in fish and wildlife tissues.

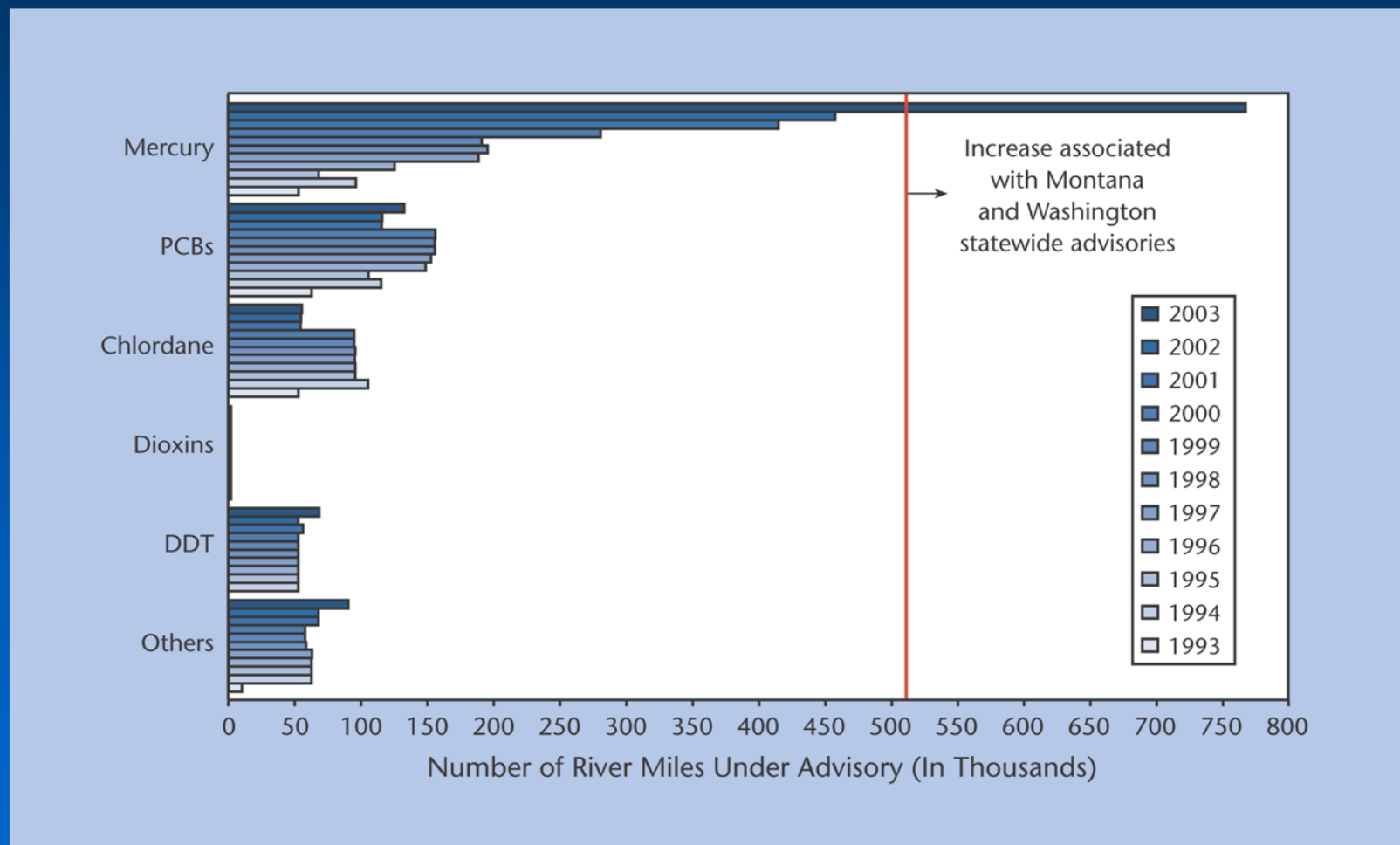
Total Number of Fish Consumption Advisories – 2003 (Change from 2002)



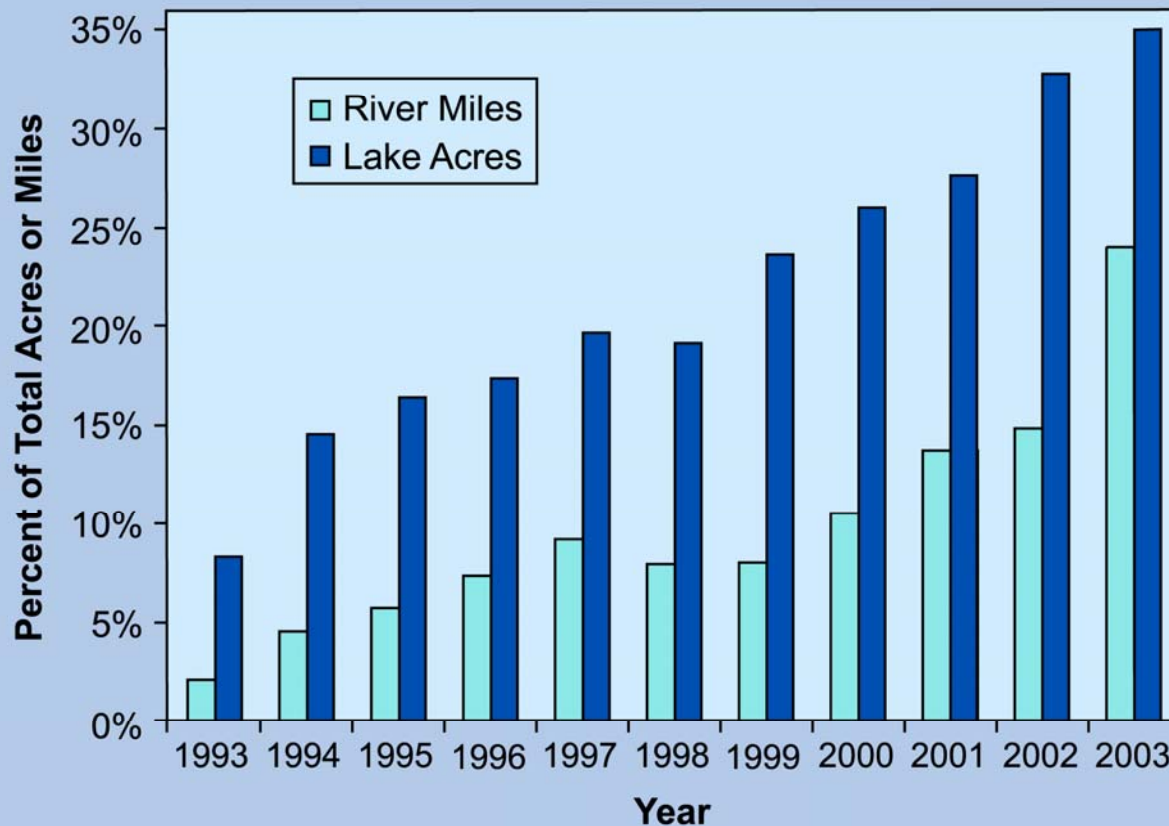
Trends in Number of Lake Acres Under Advisory for Various Pollutants – 2003



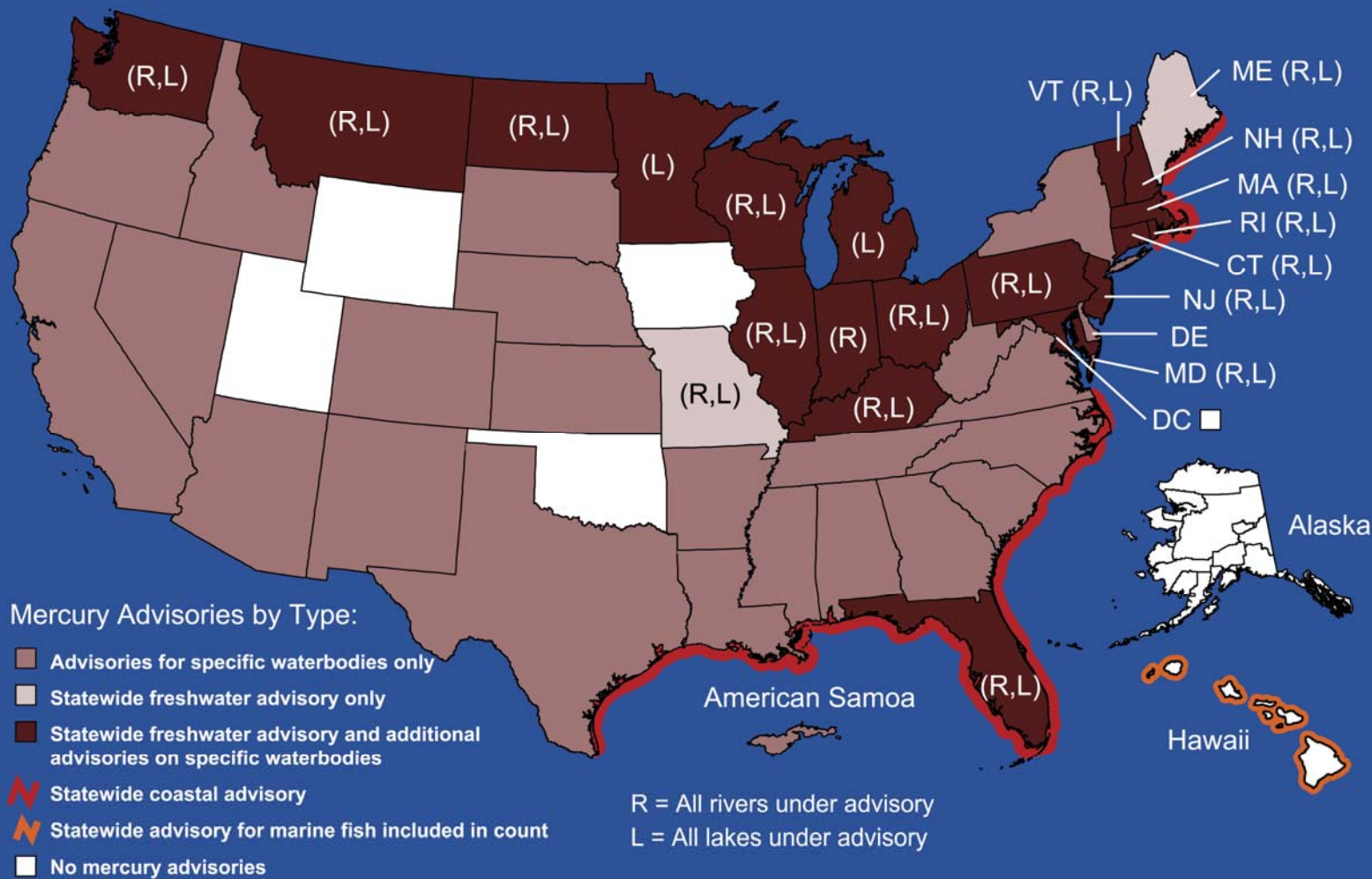
Trends in Number of River Miles Under Advisory for Various Pollutants



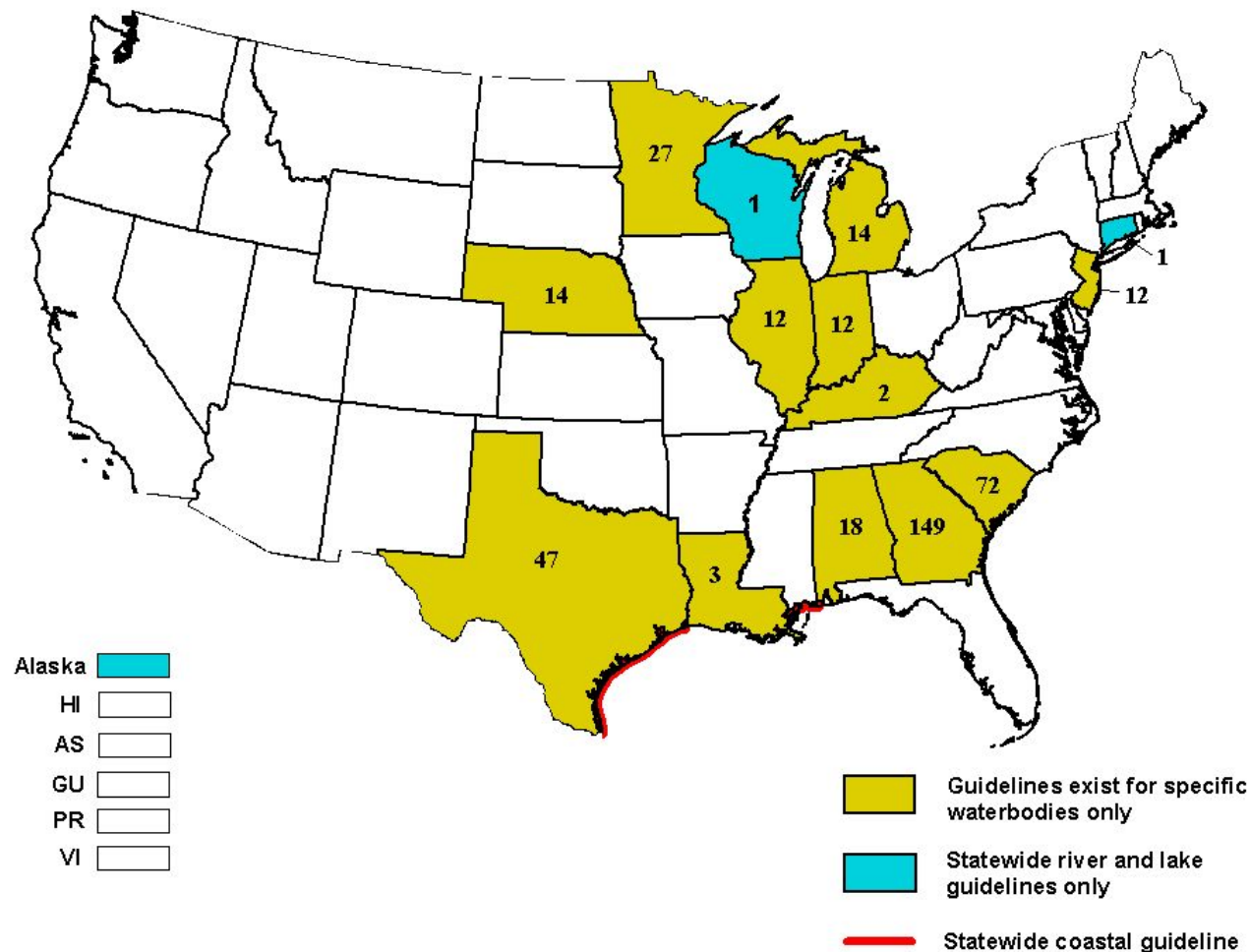
Percentage of River Miles and Lake Acres Under Advisory, 1993-2003



Fish Consumption Advisories for Mercury



Number of Safe Eating Guidelines by State (2003)

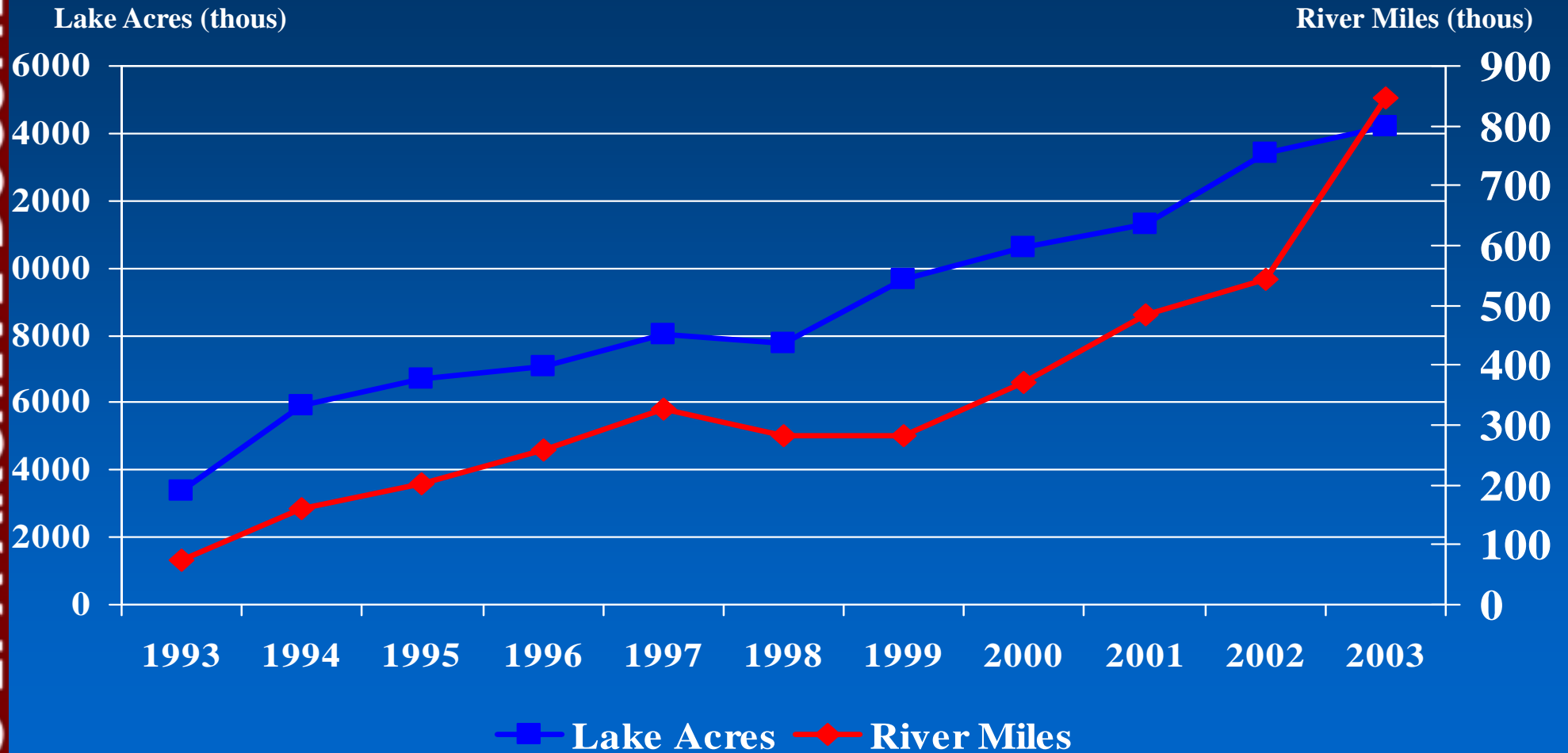


- Safe-eating guidelines are issued to inform the public that certain species of fish from specific waterbodies have been tested and have been shown to contain very low levels of contaminants. Guidelines can also be issued for all waterbodies in a state.
- Safe-eating guideline data should not be used for:
 - Characterizing geographic distribution of chemical contaminants
 - Making interstate or international comparisons.
- Safe-eating guidelines in the NLFWA database are updated as new information is provided to USEPA's National Fish Contamination Program.

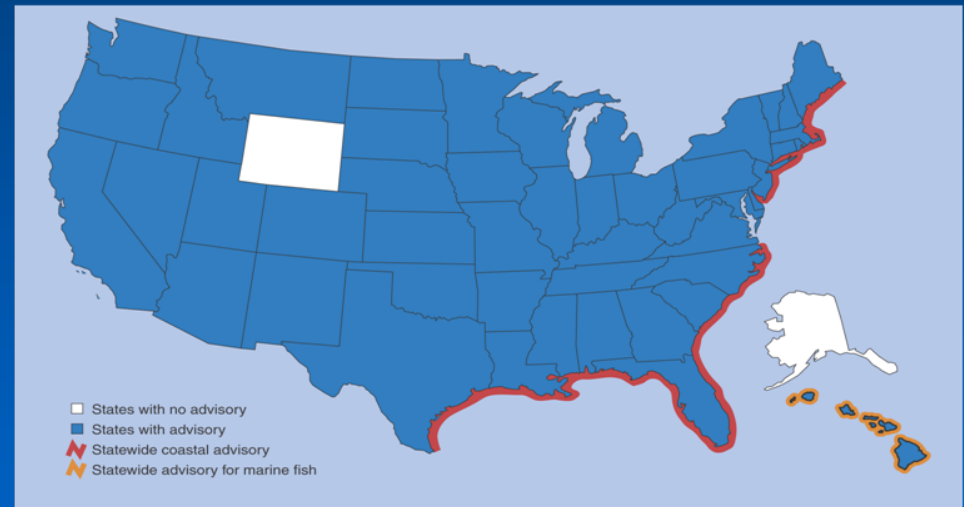
National Trends

Year	Percent National River Miles Under Advisory	Percent National Lake Acres Under Advisory	National Number of River Miles Under Advisory	National Number of Lake Acres Under Advisory
1993	2%	8%	74,505	3,381,722
1994	5%	14%	160,091	5,905,421
1995	6%	16%	200,832	6,714,645
1996	7%	17%	258,139	7,059,659
1997	9%	20%	327,424	8,001,140
1998	8%	19%	281,163	7,780,275
1999	8%	24%	282,645	9,654,240
2000	10%	26%	371,766	10,628,888
2001	14%	28%	485,205	11,277,276
2002	15%	33%	544,036	13,413,763
2003	24%	35%	846,310	14,195,187

Lake Acres and River Miles Under a Fish Advisory

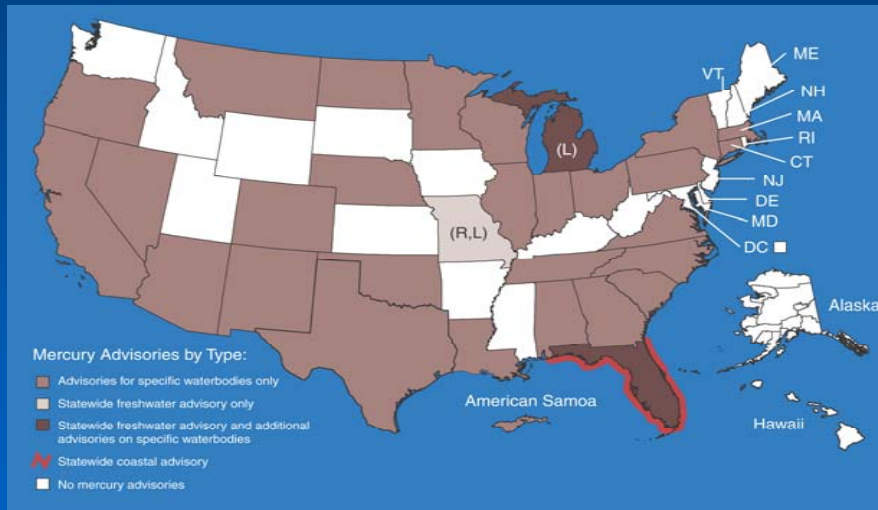


2003



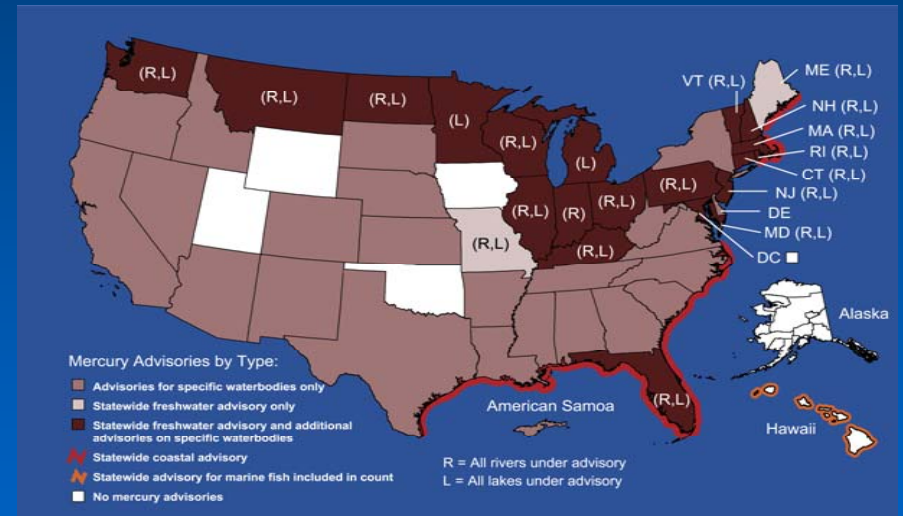
3,089 Advisories

1993



899 Advisories

2003



2,362 Advisories

Number of Fish Consumption Advisories in 2003 and Change from 1993

Number of
Advisories
Change
1993-2003

