

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

FACT SHEET

Update: National Listing of Fish Consumption Advisories

A new database, The National Listing of Fish Consumption Advisories (NLFCA), is available from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. This database includes all available information describing State-issued fish consumption advisories in the United States. The database contains information provided to the EPA by the States as of September 1994.

Fish consumption advisories are issued by State government agencies to reduce health risks associated with exposure to chemical contaminants (for example, mercury and PCB's) in freshwater noncommercial fish and shellfish. Advisories are recommendations to limit consumption of certain species of fish taken from waters where chemical contaminants are present.

Included in the database is information on the types of advisories (such as restricted consumption or fishing bans), the species of fish and the chemicals that are included in each advisory, segments of the population that are affected, the geographic location of each advisory (including landmarks, river miles, and latitude - longitude coordinates of the waters included), dates of issue, and State government agency contact and phone numbers. It can also generate maps that illustrate any combination of these parameters. Future revisions of the database will also include the percentage of waterbodies under advisory for each State.

As reported, 46 States have fish consumption advisories in effect. Seven States issued statewide advisories and 39 issued advisories for 1,250 specific waterbodies. These waterbodies represent approximately 14% of the nation's total lake acreage, 4% of the nation's river miles, all of the Great Lakes, and a large portion of the nation's coastal areas.

The number of advisories reported to EPA in 1994 represents a 20% increase in the total number of advisories that were issued by the States in 1993. The increased number of advisories issued by the States in 1994

resulted from an increase in the number of assessments that were performed by the States. These additional assessments were conducted as a result of the increased awareness of health risks associated with the consumption of chemically contaminated fish. A map of the United States showing the number of advisories reported by each State is printed on the reverse side of this fact sheet.

The database used to generate these figures was developed by EPA to assist federal, State, and local government agencies and Indian Tribes assess the potential for human health risks that are associated with exposure to chemical contaminants in noncommercial fish and shellfish. The data contained in this database may also be used by the general public to identify locations and specific information for each body of water for which an advisory has been issued.

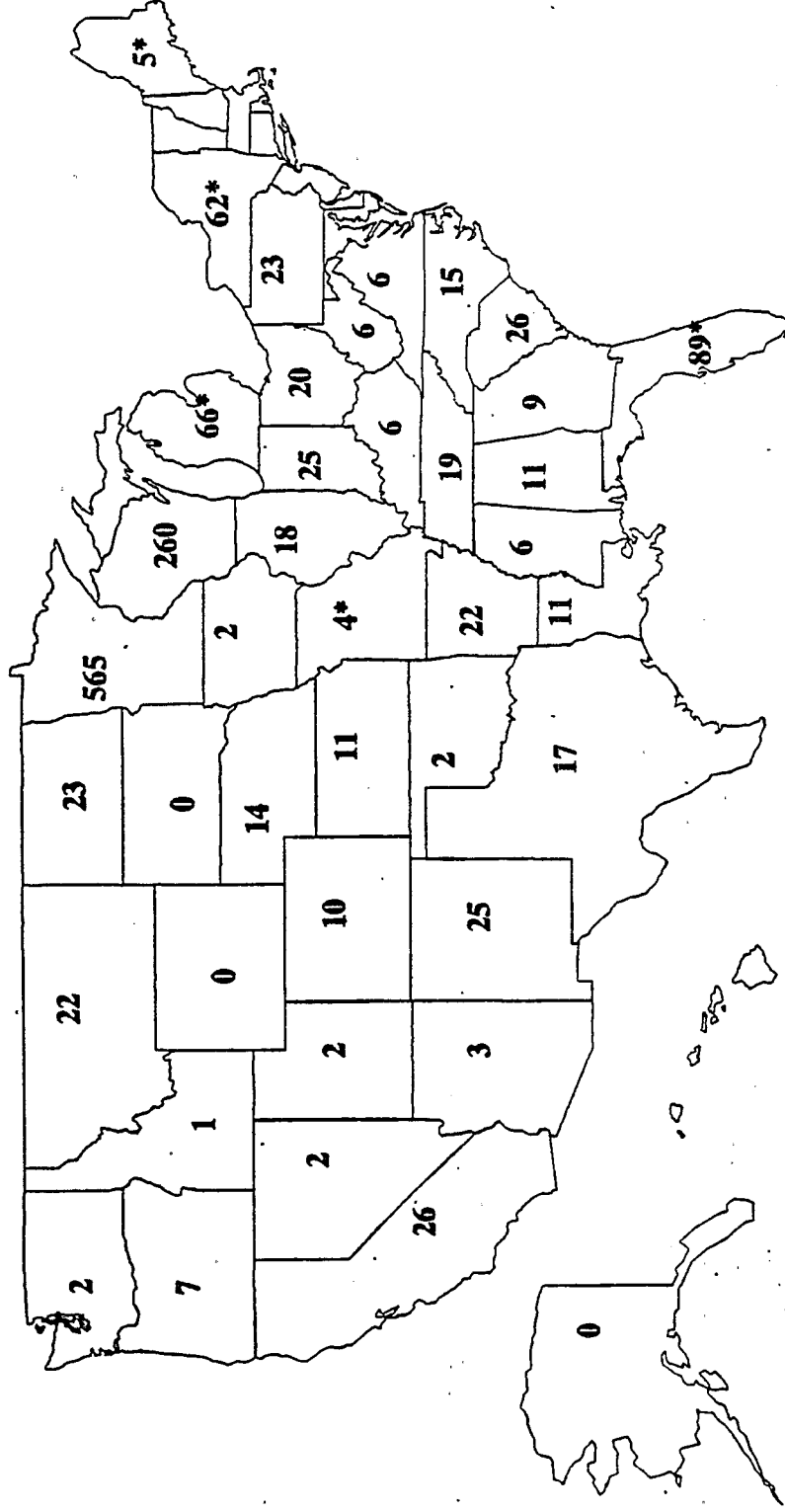
The NLFCA is PC-based and is available to the public free of charge on five 3.5 inch diskettes. There is no written report summarizing this information. For copies of the diskettes, you may call the United States Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Publications and Information, 11029 Kenwood Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45242 (513-489-8190) and refer to document number EPA-823-C-95-001.

In October 1995 EPA will make this database available for downloading from Internet through the following URL:

<http://www.epa.gov/water>

For more information regarding fish consumption advisories, you may contact Jeffrey Bigler, EPA, at 202-260-1305.

Waterbodies with Fish Consumption Advisories



HI=0, NH=4, VT=2, MA=47*, RI=1, CT=5, NJ=19*, DE=6, DC=1, MD=3

Note: This map depicts the number, by State, of waterbodies where fish consumption advisories were in effect in 1994 based on information reported to EPA by the States in September 1994. Because of the variability of the information reported, the numbers depicted here do not reflect the geographic extent of chemical contamination of fish tissue in each State. An asterisk (*) denotes States that have issued statewide advisories for particular pollutants or types of waterbodies.