

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

2008 Advisory Listing

The 2008 NLFA database lists 4,249 advisories in 50 states, the District of Columbia, two of the four U.S. Territories, and 5 Native American tribes. The number of waterbodies under advisory represents:

- 43% of the Nation's total lake acres (*excluding the Great Lakes*), or approximately 18 million lake acres
- 39% of the Nation's total river miles, or approximately 1.4 million river miles
- 42% of the Nation's contiguous coastal waters (*79% including Alaska and Hawaii*)
- 100% of the Great Lakes and their connecting waters.

There were 38 states with statewide advisories in effect in 2008. Idaho, Oregon, and Wyoming reported new statewide advisories in 2008, and Alaska issued a statewide coastal advisory in 2007.

In addition, 2% of the Nation's river miles and 8% of the Nation's lake acres had safe eating guidelines in effect in 2008.

Increased Monitoring by States

- Beginning in the early 1980s, states have monitored fish in more and more of their waters. Where they find high levels of contaminants, they issue fish consumption advisories.
 - As a result, increases in advisories result primarily from increased sampling of previously untested waters by states and tribes and are not necessarily due to increased levels or frequency of contamination.
 - At the same time, EPA develops - and states implement - environmental regulations designed to reduce pollutant emissions into the waters, and we will continue to work to reduce emissions.
 - There were more advisories in 2008 than in 2006. This does not mean that contaminant levels in fish are increasing nationwide, but rather that states are doing more monitoring of their waterbodies.

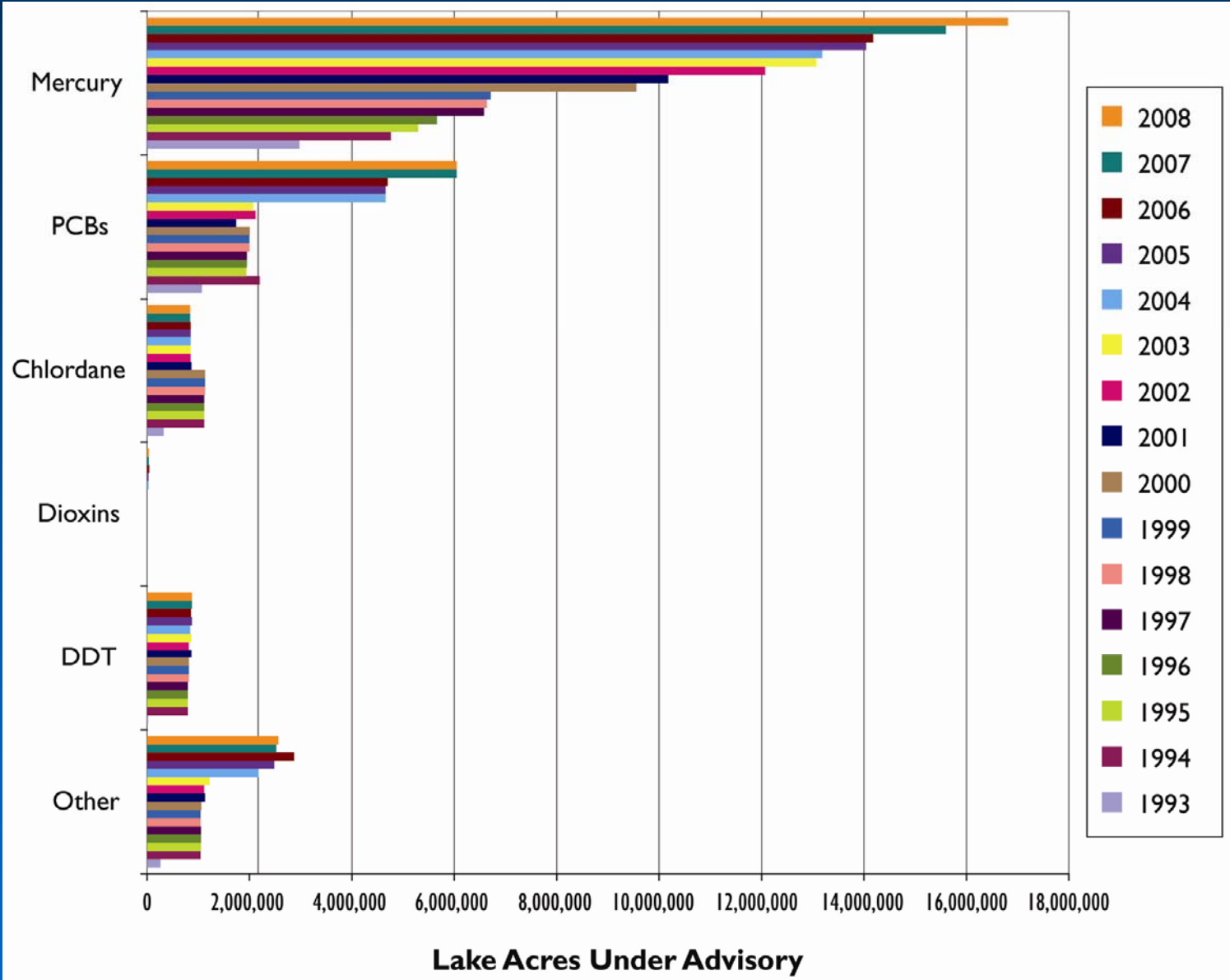
Bioaccumulative Pollutants

Although current advisories in the United States have been issued for 34 different pollutants, most advisories involve five primary bioaccumulative contaminants:

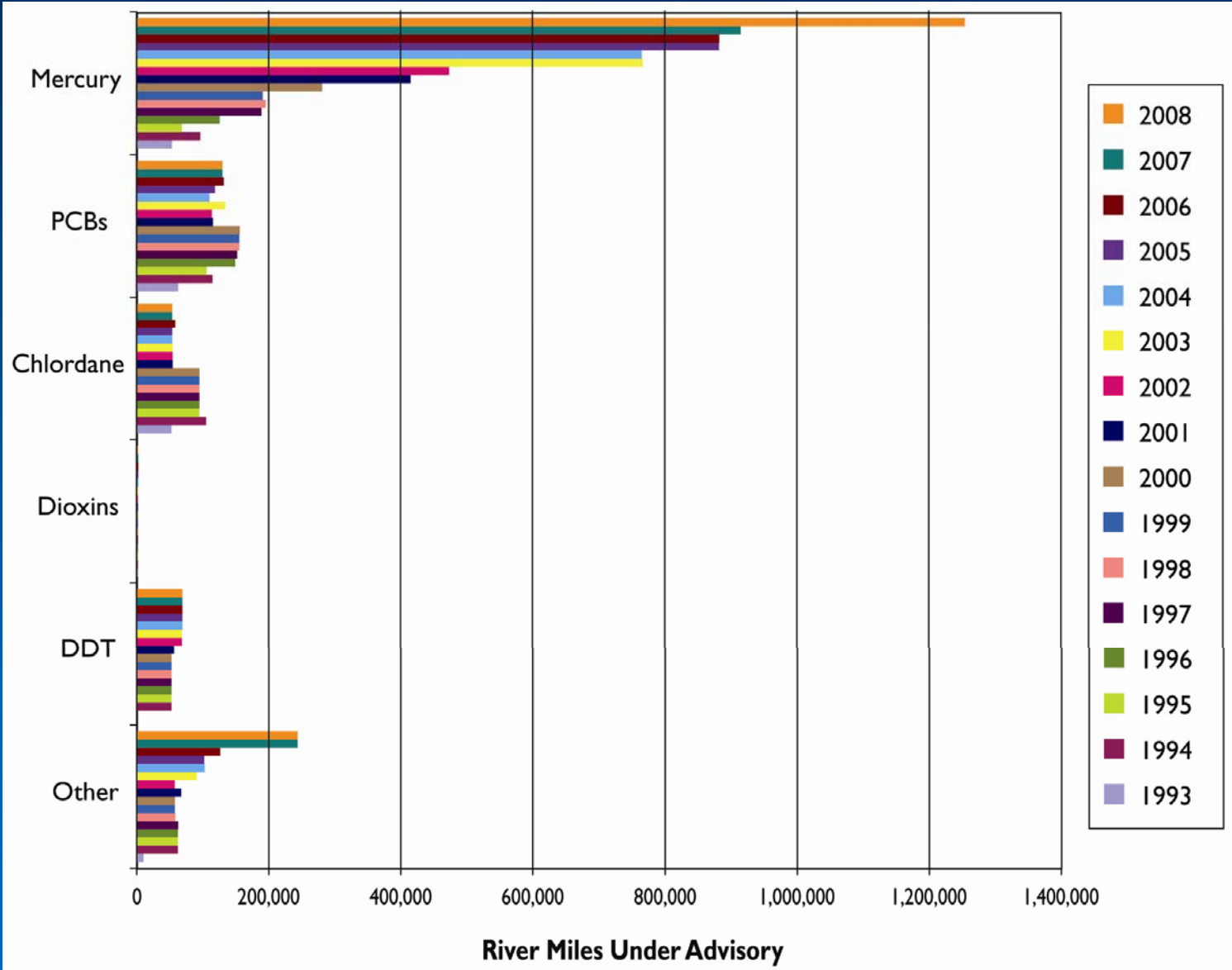
- **Mercury** 3,361 advisories in 2008 (*3,080 advisories in 2006*)
- **PCBs** 1,025 advisories in 2008 (*1,023 advisories in 2006*)
- **Chlordane** 67 advisories in 2008 (*105 advisories in 2006*)
- **Dioxins** 123 advisories in 2008 (*125 advisories in 2006*)
- **DDT** 76 advisories in 2008 (*84 advisories in 2006*)

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

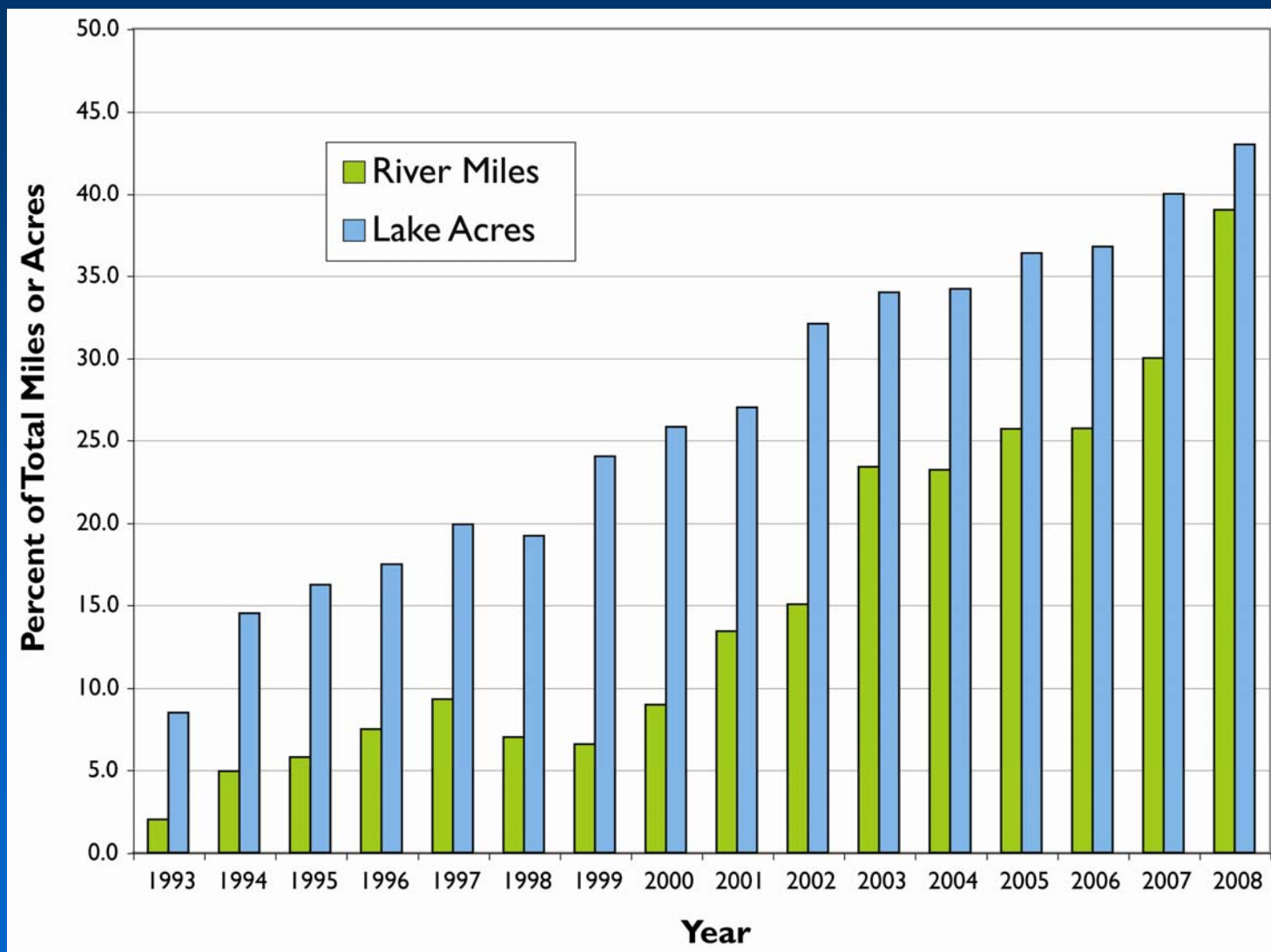
Number of Lake Acres Under Advisory for Various Pollutants, 1993-2008



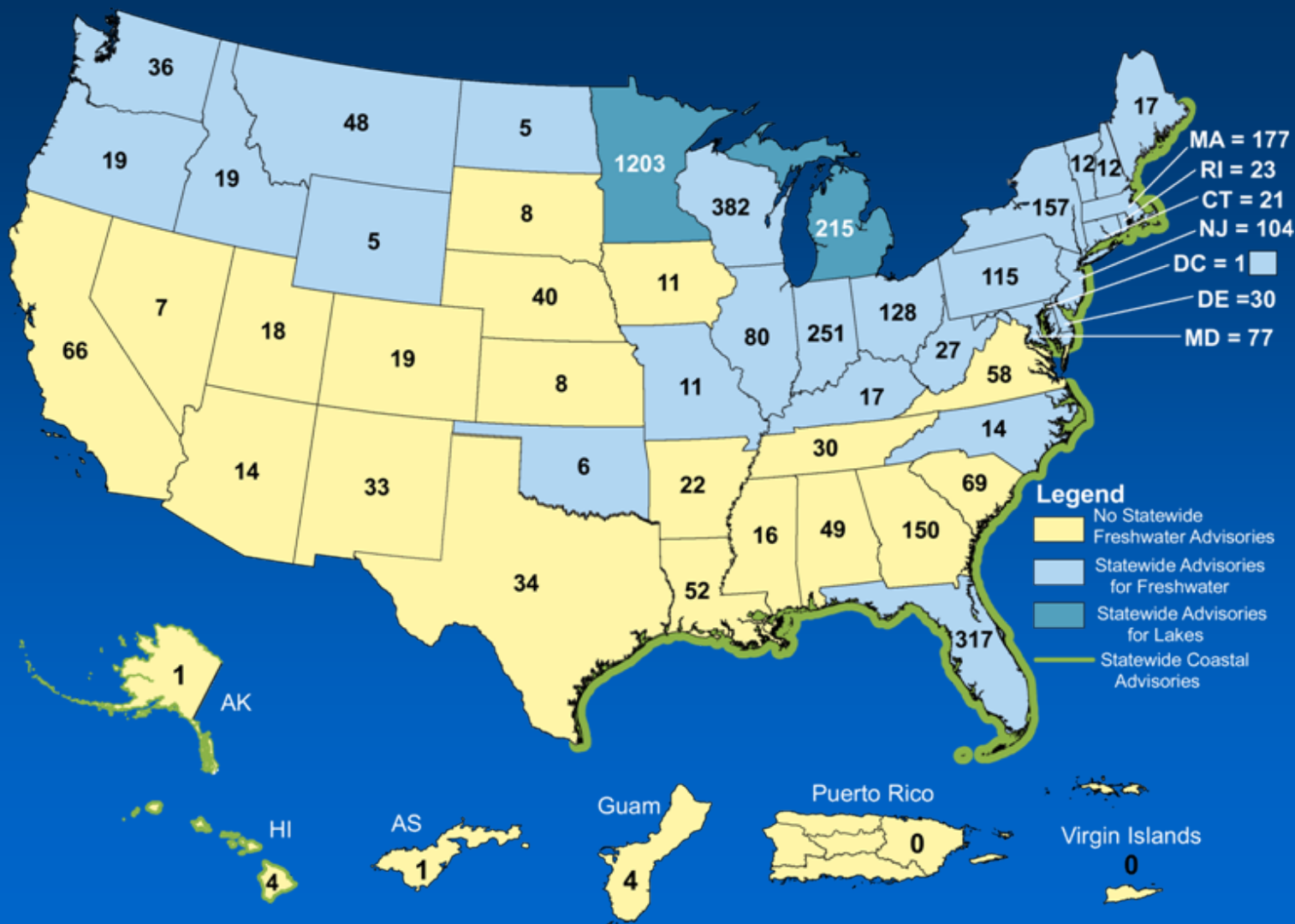
Number of River Miles Under Advisory for Various Pollutants, 1993-2008



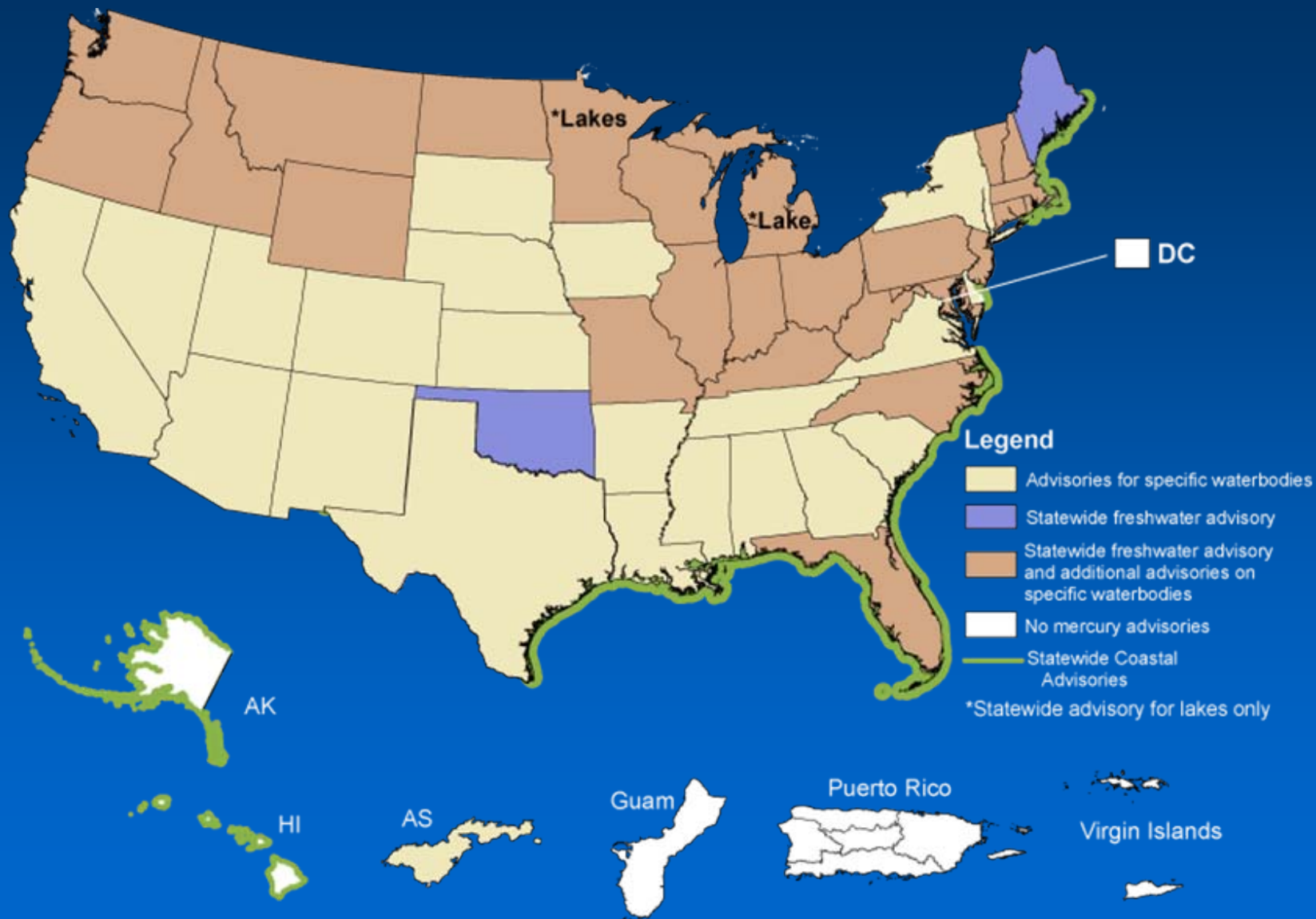
Percentage of River Miles and Lake Acres Under Advisory, 1993-2008



Total Number of Fish Consumption Advisories – 2008

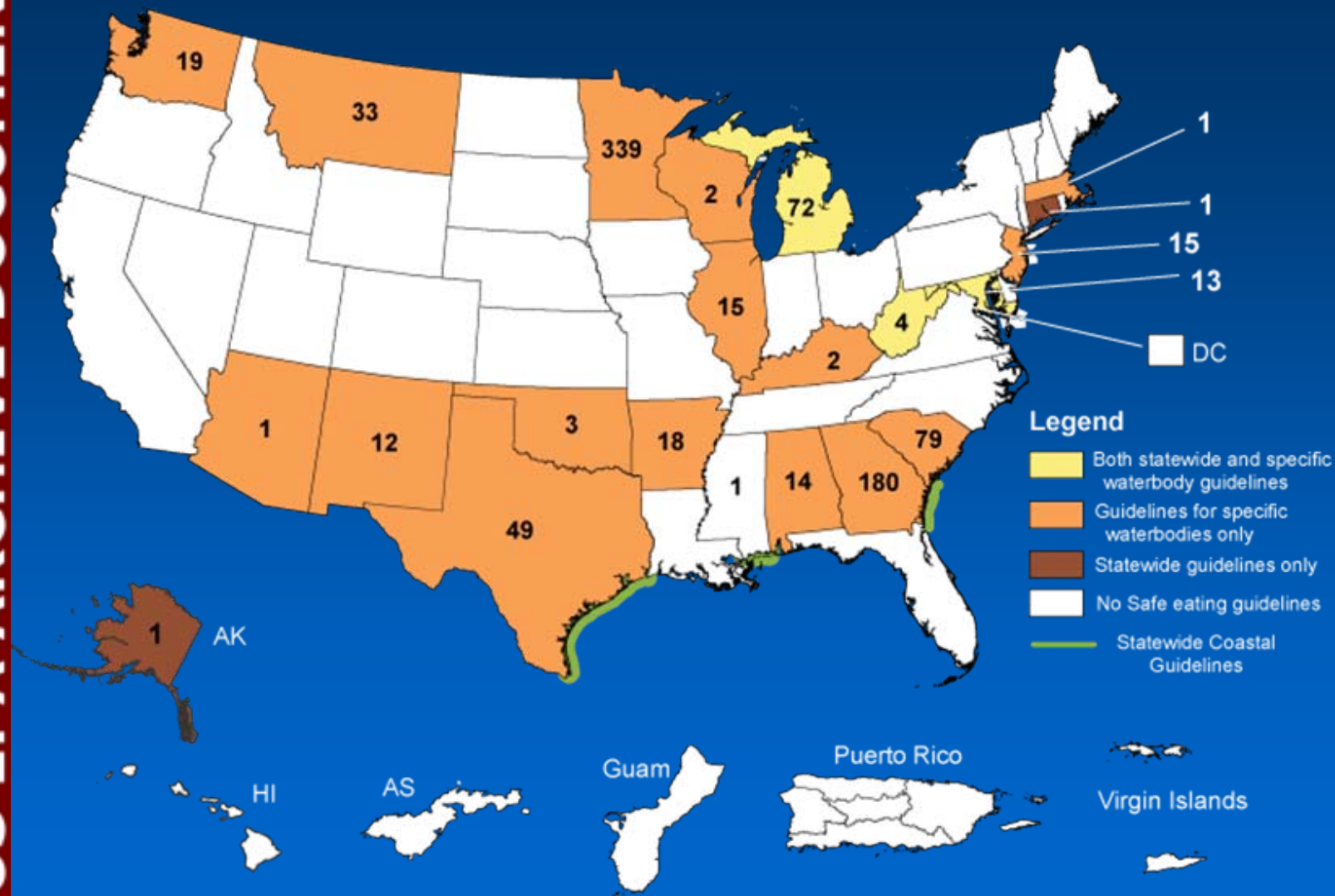


Fish Consumption Advisories for Mercury



NOTE: This map depicts the presence and type of fish advisories issued by the states for mercury as of December 2008. Because only selected waterbodies are monitored, this map does not reflect the full extent of chemical contamination of fish tissues in each state or territory.

Number of Safe Eating Guidelines by State (2008)



- 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 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 NLFA database are updated as new information is provided to USEPA's National Fish Contamination Program.