

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: June 28, 2018 **End Date:** No End Date

CONTACT: Jim Henry
Environmental Health Director

PHONE: (810) 257-3618

RE: **PFAS Fish Advisory**

As part of the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) effort to address the emerging environmental contaminant [perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\)](#), GCHD wants to inform and remind residents of the “Eat Safe Fish Guidelines” for fish caught from the Flint River, including Mott Lake, Holloway Reservoir and Gilkey Creek. State of Michigan officials indicate that the River is safe for general recreation, but anglers should follow these [fish consumption guidelines](#).

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s. They have been used in non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, some firefighting foams, and products that resist grease, water, and oil. Concentrations of PFAS have been found in surface water samples taken from the Flint River and its tributaries.

Scientists are still learning about the health effects of exposures to mixtures of PFAS. The health effects of PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, and PFNA have been more widely studied than other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Some, but not all, studies in humans with PFAS exposure have shown that certain PFAS may:

- affect growth, learning, and behavior of infants and older children
- lower a woman’s chance of getting pregnant
- interfere with the body’s natural hormones
- increase cholesterol levels
- affect the immune system
- increase the risk of cancer

Recently, PFAS was tested in fish from the Flint River, including Mott Lake and Holloway Reservoir. Mercury was also tested as all fish have some amount of mercury. Guidelines have been set for these water bodies as a result of identifying elevated levels. While guidelines have previously existed for these water bodies, in April of 2018, the fish consumption advisory was updated to include the entire Flint River. The advisory can be found in the [“Eat Safe Fish Guide.”](#)

One serving size for adults is 6-8 ounces of fish (about the size of an adult’s hand) and for children it is 2-4 ounces of fish (about the size of an adult’s palm). Below are the current fish guidelines for each water body. For all other fish from these water bodies, follow the [Statewide Eat Safe Fish Guidelines.](#)

Flint River (downstream of Mott Dam, including Gilkey Creek)

Type of Fish	Chemicals causing MI Serving Guideline	Size of Fish (length in inches)	MI Servings per Month
Carp	PCBs	Any	<i>Limited (0-2 per Year)</i>
Largemouth Bass	PFOS	Any	6 per Year
Rock Bass	PFOS	Any	1
Smallmouth Bass	PFOS	Any	6 per Year

Flint River (upstream of Mott Dam, including the Mott and Holloway Reservoirs)

Type of Fish	Chemicals causing MI Serving Guideline	Size of Fish (length in inches)	MI Servings per Month
Black Crappie	Mercury	Any	4
Carp	PFOS	Any	2
Catfish	Mercury	Any	4
Largemouth Bass	PFOS	Any	6 per Year
Rock Bass	PFOS	Any	1
Smallmouth Bass	PFOS	Any	6 per Year
Walleye	PFOS	Any	1
White Crappie	Mercury	Any	4

For more information about PFAS go to: <https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/>

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