

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PFAS FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

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## WHERE

The Wisconsin River at Lake Wausau from the Wausau Dam downstream to the Schofield Dam and Rothschild Dam, including the Big Rib River until it crosses Hwy 29.

## WHAT

New consumption advisories for everyone for black crappie, bluegill, rock bass and yellow perch of one meal per week.

## WHY

Recent sampling shows elevated PFOS in the fish tissue of several fish species. 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

The general statewide advice for black crappie, bluegill, rock bass\* and yellow perch was one serving per week for women under 50 and children under 15 and unrestricted for women over 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 RISKS

PFAS can be stored in your body for years. Health risks may increase as you eat more fish that are high in PFAS. PFOS detection is one of the driving forces behind establishing fish consumption advisories. Following these consumption advisories will help protect you from excess PFAS exposure and other contaminants found in fish, including mercury and PCBs.

Exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may:

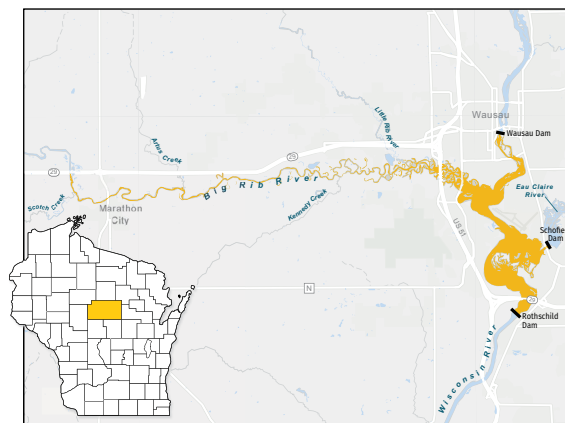
- Increase cholesterol levels
- Decrease how well the body responds to vaccines
- Increase the risk of thyroid disease
- Decrease fertility in women
- Increase the risk of serious conditions like high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women
- Lower infant birth weights

\*Note: Rock bass are considered a type of panfish when it comes to fish consumption and previously followed the general statewide safe-eating guidelines for other panfish species (i.e., bluegill, crappie, sunfish).

## SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY FOR Wisconsin River at Lake Wausau

### GUIDELINES FOR EVERYONE (PFOS)

Species	Up to 1 meal per week
Black crappie	All sizes
Bluegill	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](#).