



Is your fish

INVESTIGATIONS

TOXIC?

Toxic pollution is impacting one of our region's greatest food resources. This is a major problem for people who rely on local fish as a healthy food source. Fish advisories are not the answer. People have the right to eat fish from the Columbia without the fear of getting sick.

Our formula: Personal stories + laboratory analysis + smart advocacy = less pollution



What's in our fish?

In fish bound for the dinner table, we found:

- PCBs 27,000% above EPA safe levels
- Mercury 300% above EPA safe levels
- Heavy metals such as chromium and lead
- Endocrine disrupting toxic flame retardants

The Problem:

Toxics in the Columbia River

- ▶ Heavy metals: mercury from factories and coal burning;
- ▶ PCBs from stormwater runoff, municipal discharge, and dirty industrial sites;
- ▶ Emerging Pollutants: flame retardants (PBDEs), pharmaceuticals, and endocrine disrupting chemicals

Solutions:

- ▶ Enforce laws that protect clean water
- ▶ Reduce industrial pollution
- ▶ Use non-toxic products
- ▶ Support organizations that protect our rivers and our fish



These toxic chemicals can increase cancer risk and harm immune, reproductive, endocrine, and nervous systems in humans and aquatic life.



Meet the Fishermen



NAME: Giorgi

FACT: 68-year-old Russian-speaking immigrant from Krygyzstan, catches and eats carp twice a week

FISH: Carp, Vancouver Lake

IN HIS FISH:

- PCBs 30 times safe levels
- Mercury 3.5 times safe levels
- Toxic flame retardants
- Heavy metals (Cadmium, Copper, Chromium, and Lead)

NAME: Greg

FACT: Loves fishing for his dinner

FISH: Bass, Columbia Gorge

IN HIS FISH:

- Arsenic 120 times safe levels
- Mercury 4 times safe levels
- Heavy metals



NAME: Daniel

FACT: Grew up in Romania and fishing for carp, catfish, and perch

FISH: Sucker, Columbia Slough

IN HIS FISH:

- PCBs 270 times safe levels
- Arsenic 100 times safe levels
- Mercury 2.5 times safe levels
- Toxic flame retardants



"Fish advisories are sometimes posted in the Columbia Slough, but people do not heed the signs," says Daniel.

NAME: Bob

FACT: Fishing Guide in Astoria, OR.

FISH: Sturgeon, Columbia River estuary

IN HIS FISH:

- PCBs 74 times safe levels
- Arsenic 270 times safe levels
- Mercury 2 times safe levels
- Heavy metals (Selenium, Barium, Chromium, and Copper)



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