



Fishing Near Bradford Island

A Guide to Protecting Your Health from Toxic Pollution Near Bonneville Dam

Fish advisories warn people not to eat resident fish—like bass and sturgeon—caught in the Columbia River between Bonneville Dam and Ruckel Creek. Why? For decades, the United States government released toxic pollution, like cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), into the Columbia River and on Bradford Island, located within the Bonneville Dam complex.¹ Fish caught from Bonneville Dam to Ruckel Creek contain elevated levels of mercury, a potent neurotoxin, and PCBs.

Use this factsheet to:

- make informed decisions if you fish near the Bonneville Dam complex, and
- learn how you can get involved to protect the Columbia River.

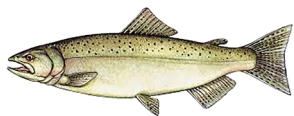
"The tribes are well aware of the situation [with contaminated fish near Bradford Island] and have been working to address the cause, which is water pollution. The tribes believe that the long-term solution to this problem isn't keeping people from eating contaminated fish—it's keeping fish from being contaminated in the first place."

—Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission²

HEALTHY TO EAT

According to Oregon and Washington health authorities, migratory fish caught below and above Bonneville Dam are safe to eat.³

Salmon



Steelhead



Shad



FISH TO AVOID

Oregon and Washington fish advisories warn people not to eat resident fish caught between Bonneville Dam and Ruckel Creek, in Oregon, and the North Bonneville (Ft. Raines) Treaty Fishing Access Site, in Washington, due to high levels of contaminants, including high to moderate levels of mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).⁴

Bass



Bluegill



Carp



Walleye



Lamprey



Sucker



Catfish



Crappie



Sturgeon

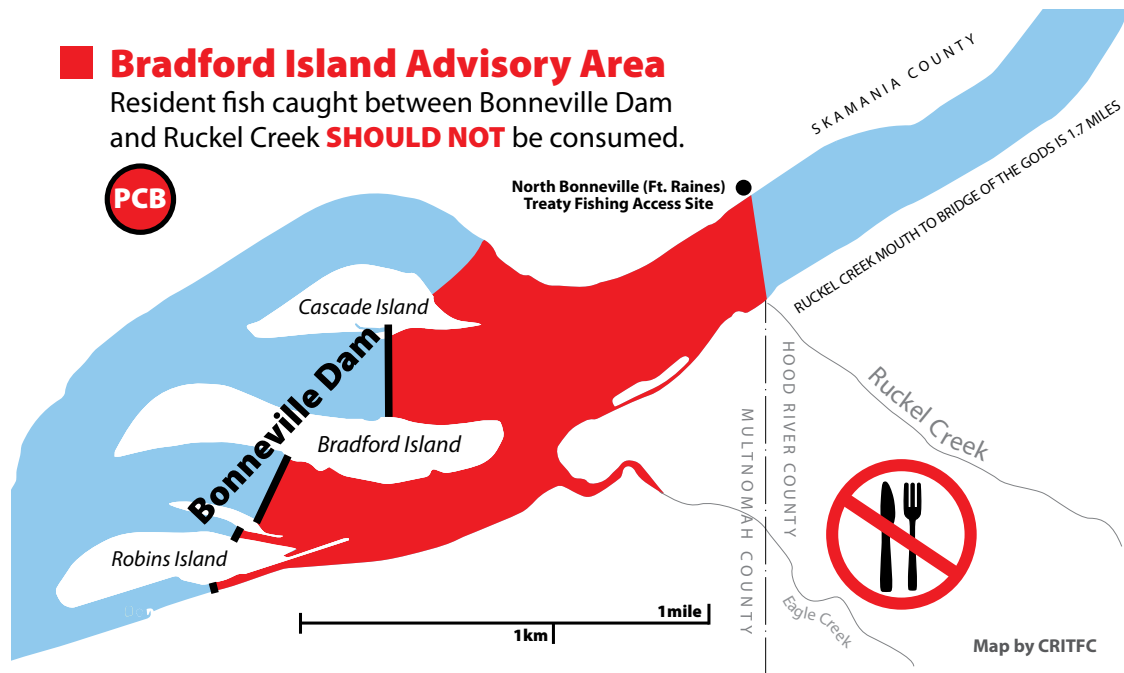


Crayfish



■ Bradford Island Advisory Area

Resident fish caught between Bonneville Dam and Ruckel Creek **SHOULD NOT** be consumed.



"It is especially important for babies, children, women who are pregnant, plan to become pregnant and/or are nursing to follow this [fish] advisory. Health effects of eating contaminated fish can include lifelong learning problems and cancer."

– Oregon Health Authority and Washington Department of Health⁵

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As one of the most popular fishing areas in the Middle Columbia River, Bradford Island supports rich, diverse fishing traditions. You can stand up for clean water. In 2019 and 2020, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will make important decisions about cleaning up toxic pollution at and around Bradford Island.

LEARN

- **Bradford Island Cleanup:**
columbiariverkeeper.org/bradford-island-cleanup
- **Fish Advisories on the Columbia River:**
www.doh.wa.gov
www.oregon.gov/OHA

ACT

Tell the Corps and DEQ
you support cleanup. Visit
bit.ly/CleanUpBradfordIsland

ENGAGE

Contact Community
Organizer Ubaldo Hernández at
ubaldo@columbiariverkeeper.org
or **541.490.7722** to stay informed
about upcoming community
forums and public hearings.

Columbia Riverkeeper thanks the East Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District Partners in Conservation Grant Program, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, and the Oregon Community Foundation for supporting public engagement in Bradford Island cleanup.

1 Oregon Health Authority Advisories, <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/RECREATION/FISHCONSUMPTION/Pages/Bonneville.aspx>; Yakama Nation Advisories, <http://yakamafish-nsn.gov/sites/default/files/BNV-mid-Columbia-advisories%5B2%5D.pdf>.

2 Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, <https://www.critfc.org/blog/2013/09/24/mid-columbia-fish-consumption-advisory/>

3 Oregon Health Authority https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/RECREATION/Documents/Bonneville%20Dam/BonnevilleDamFlyer_final.pdf; Washington State Department of Health, <https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Food/Fish/Advisories/Publications>.

4 Yakama Nation Advisories, <http://yakamafish-nsn.gov/sites/default/files/BNV-mid-Columbia-advisories%5B2%5D.pdf>.

5 Oregon Health Authority and Washington Dept. of Health Bonneville Dam Fish Advisory Flyer, https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/RECREATION/Documents/Bonneville%20Dam/BonnevilleDamFlyer_final.pdf