

Piscataway Fish Consumption Advisory for PFOS

Purpose

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Water and Science Administration is issuing a Fish Consumption Advisory for the Piscataway Creek (tidal and non-tidal waters), a tributary of the Potomac River in Prince George's County, for elevated levels of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that exposure to PFOS over certain levels may increase the risk of developmental health effects during pregnancy or to breastfed infants, as well as the risk of cancer, immune system damage, damage to the liver, thyroid, or other organ systems. For additional information about PFOS, related compounds, and Maryland's efforts to reduce the risks posed by PFOS and similar chemicals in the State, please see the MDE per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Landing Page mde.maryland.gov/MDandPFAS.

Piscataway Creek Fish Consumption Advisory Areas

The Piscataway Creek is currently part of a much larger Consumption Advisory Area, Potomac River - 301 Bridge to the DC line. As part of the Standard Operating Procedures for a new advisory, MDE has determined that there is not enough data to apply this advisory to the much larger Potomac River - 301 Bridge to the DC line area. Therefore, Piscataway Creek (tidal and non-tidal) will be separated into two additional consumption advisory areas, known as "Tidal Headwaters of Piscataway Creek" and "Non-tidal Piscataway Creek". MDE is also expanding fish tissue and surface water sample collection in the larger Potomac area between fall 2021 and fall 2022.

Fish Tissue Results

MDE's evaluation of the fish tissue samples from Piscataway Creek includes a comparison of measured PFOS fish tissue concentrations to measured concentrations at a reference site (in Nanjemoy Creek) and to a range of MDE-calculated risk-based site-specific fish consumption screening concentrations. MDE found that fish tissue PFOS concentrations in redbreast sunfish and yellow bullhead catfish in the non-tidal portion of Piscataway Creek exceeded MDE derived site-specific fish consumption screening concentrations. Additionally, fish tissue PFOS concentrations in largemouth bass exceeded MDE site-specific fish consumption screening concentrations in the tidal headwaters of Piscataway Creek.

Recommendations for the Public

Based on the MDE fish tissue results, MDE recommends that adults and children should consume no more than 1 meal per month of Redbreast Sunfish from the affected area (see map for details and recommendations). MDE also recommends consumption of no more than 7 meals per month (for children only) of Yellow Bullhead Catfish. Finally, MDE recommends that adults should limit their consumption of Largemouth Bass to 3 meals per month, and children should be limited to 2 meals per month.

To protect public health, MDE has issued these advisories and strongly urges the public to avoid eating these fish, especially if you are pregnant or may become pregnant. For those unfamiliar with fish consumption advisories, please refer to the table in the figure below.

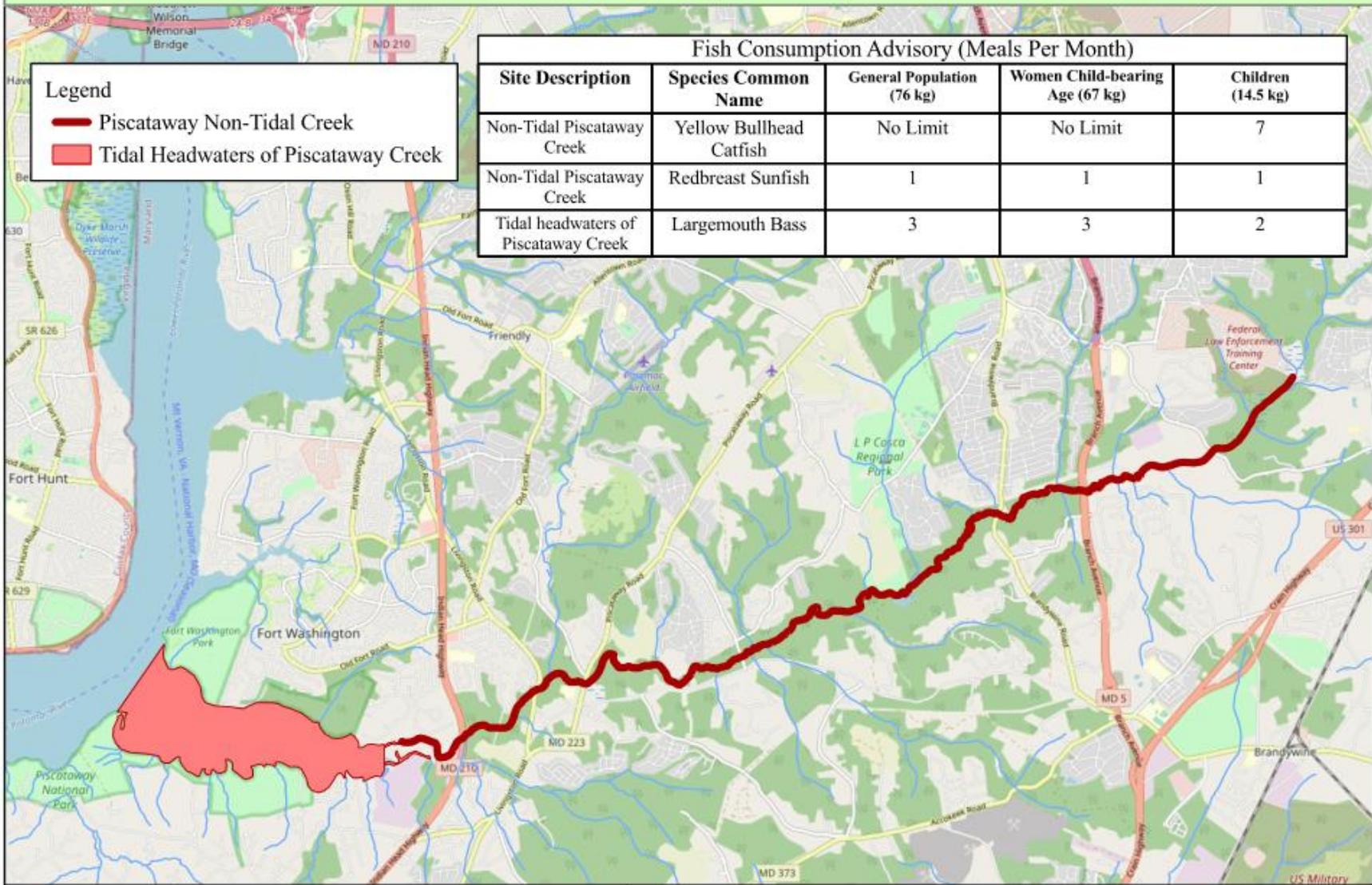
Piscataway Creek, Potomac River, Prince George's County
PFOS Fish Consumption Advisory

Legend

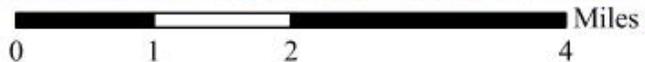
-  Piscataway Non-Tidal Creek
-  Tidal Headwaters of Piscataway Creek

Fish Consumption Advisory (Meals Per Month)

Site Description	Species Common Name	General Population (76 kg)	Women Child-bearing Age (67 kg)	Children (14.5 kg)
Non-Tidal Piscataway Creek	Yellow Bullhead Catfish	No Limit	No Limit	7
Non-Tidal Piscataway Creek	Redbreast Sunfish	1	1	1
Tidal headwaters of Piscataway Creek	Largemouth Bass	3	3	2



Larry Hogan - Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford - Lt. Governor
Ben Grumbles - Secretary



Scale: 1:80,000
Date: 10/13/2021