

Note

Some people eat turtles from Watts Bar Reservoir. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation believes that sites with PCBs in fish are likely to have PCBs in turtles, shellfish, and mussels. Until more information is available, people should avoid eating turtles, turtle eggs, and shellfish at Watts Bar Reservoir.



Questions

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**Tennessee Department of Environment
and Conservation**

Division of Water Pollution Control
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 532-0699

**Tennessee Department of Environment
and Conservation**

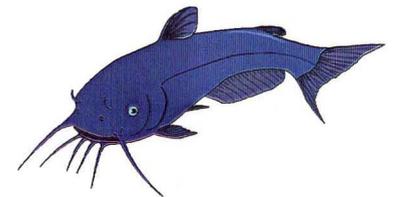
2700 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, TN 37921
(423) 594-6035

Jack Hanley

**Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry (ATSDR)**

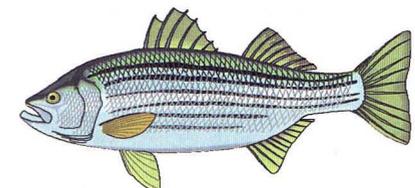
1600 Clifton Road NE (E56)
Atlanta, GA 30333
(404) 639-6024

WATTS BAR RESERVOIR



FISH ADVISORY POINTERS

Information about fish
and PCB contamination



This brochure is the result of the collaborative efforts of the following:

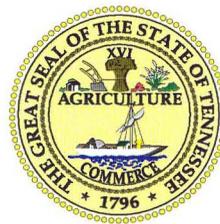
Tennessee Department of Environment
and Conservation

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Tennessee Department of Health

Oak Ridge Reservation
Local Oversight Committee, Inc.

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry



WATTS BAR RESERVOIR FISH ADVISORY POINTERS

The State of Tennessee currently has a fish advisory on certain fish in Watts Bar Reservoir. The fish advisory provides information so people can make informed decisions regarding the types and amounts of fish they eat from the reservoir.

Most fish contain traces of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in their bodies, especially in their fat. However, Watts Bar Reservoir catfish, hybrid striped bass-whitebass and striped bass—especially older, larger fish are more likely to contain higher levels of PCBs. People who eat these fish increase their exposure to PCBs. Following the fish advisory is the best way for you and your family to minimize your intake of PCBs and reduce risk of potential health problems including cancer and developmental effects on children.

Watts Bar Reservoir is a good place to...

🐟 Enjoy swimming, boating, or other water activities.

It is fun for people to be near or in Watts Bar Reservoir.

🐟 Catch and eat crappie or bluegill.

These are good fish to eat.

🐟 Enjoy catch and release fishing.

Catch and release is a good way to enjoy the thrill of the catch.

State of Tennessee advisories...

Tennessee River portion of Watts Bar Reservoir:

🐟 Warns people **not** to eat **catfish, hybrid striped bass-whitebass, and striped bass.**

🐟 Urges pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children **not** to eat any **carp, largemouth bass, sauger, smallmouth buffalo, and whitebass,** along with **not** eating **catfish, hybrid striped bass-whitebass, and striped bass** from the reservoir. All others can safely eat 1 meal per month of these fish.

Clinch River portion of Watts Bar Reservoir:

🐟 Warns people **not** to eat **striped bass.**

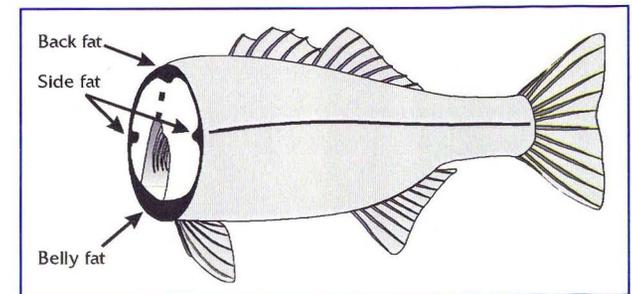
🐟 Urges pregnant women, nursing mothers and children not to eat **catfish** and **sauger** along with **not** eating **hybrid striped bass-whitebass, and striped bass** from the reservoir. All others can safely eat 1 meal per month of these fish.

Things you can do...

An occasional meal of Watts Bar Reservoir fish by local residents or tourists will not measurably increase your risks. In fact, fish are an excellent, low-fat source of protein. If you decide to eat these types of fish, you can decrease the amounts of PCBs in your food by:

🐟 **Cutting out the fat;** PCBs are stored in the fatty tissue of fish. By cutting out the fatty tissue, a person takes in less PCBs. You can do this by:

Removing all skin from fish to be eaten.
Cutting away the fatty parts of the meat that contain the most PCBs.



🐟 **Let the big ones get away**

Throw back the big fish and keep the smaller ones.

🐟 **Label your catch**

If you freeze your fish, label the fillets so those who cook the fish will know whether it is safe for the entire family to eat.