

FACT SHEET

March 28, 2002

BACKGROUND

- In May 2000, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for fieldwork in a Delta fish study
- In April 2001, MDEQ began using EPA's guidance for issuing fish advisories. This guidance is more protective than the federal Food and Drug Administration's guidance that had previously been used.
- In June 2001, based on the recent fish study data and the more protective EPA approach, MDEQ issued a fish-consumption advisory due to high levels of DDT and Toxaphene in certain fish.
- The advisory recommends that persons eat no more than two meals per month of buffalo, gar, carp, and large catfish (catfish greater than 22 inches in length) caught in Delta waters.
- Persons are advised not to eat any buffalo fish from Roebuck Lake in Leflore County.
- The advisory includes ALL water bodies east of the Mississippi River levee and west of the bluff hills.
- This advisory does **not** apply to waters located west of the mainstem Mississippi River levee. The Mississippi River is **not** covered by the advisory. The following specific waterbodies are **not** included in the advisory as well as many smaller unnamed lakes, bayous, and borrow pits located west (on the riverside) of the levee:

Bolivar County

Old River Lake
Legion Lake
Lake Beulah
Beulah Crevasse
Lake Vermillion
Lake Whittington
Mound Crevasse
Mud Lake

Coahoma County

Horsehoe Lake
Old River Chute
McWilliams Lake
DeSoto Lake
Ward Lake
Square Lake
Lake Charles

Desoto County

Horn Lake
Mud Lake
Horn Lake Pass

Issaquena County

Old River Chute
Blue Hole
Fitler Lake
Tennessee Lake
Airplane Lake
Albemarle Lake
Chotard Lake

Tunica County

Tunica Lake
Flower Lake
North Lake
Mud Lake
Duck Lake

Warren County

Pervis Lake
Halpino Lake
Forest Home Chute
Fish Lake
Brecount Lake
Centennial Lake

Washington County

Lake Ferguson
Lake Lee

Fish Included in Advisory

- Buffalo
- Carp
- Gar
- Large catfish (longer than 22 inches)

Fish NOT Included in Advisory

- Farm Raised Catfish
- Bass
- Bream
- Crappie
- Drum

Fish Consumption Advisory

- Eat no more than two meals per month of the affected fish
- For Roebuck Lake in Leflore County only, eat NO buffalo fish