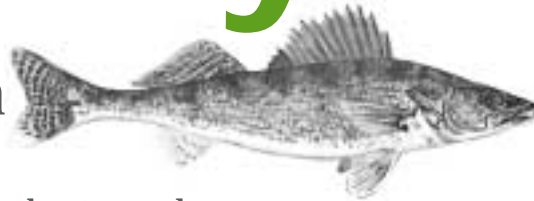


Get the Toxic Mercury out of

Wisconsin



Fish

Mercury is very dangerous to the brain and nervous system.

Pregnant women and young children have to be especially careful about what fish they eat. The National Academy of Sciences estimates that **60,000 children are born in the U.S.** each year that **may have trouble in school** because their mothers ate mercury-contaminated fish.

Walleye, small and largemouth bass, northern pike and muskie have the highest mercury levels. Panfish have the lowest levels.

Mercury can also be toxic to **fish** and **wildlife**. Studies have linked mercury to lower reproduction in fish like walleye and rainbow trout and fish-eating wildlife like loons.

The biggest mercury **polluters** in Wisconsin are coal-burning power plants. Waste incinerators and one chemical plant are also large sources of mercury (these three sources add up to 80% of WI's mercury pollution).



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lists 341 lakes and rivers with fish that are unsafe to eat because of mercury pollution.



ACT NOW

This spring, the DNR Board will decide how much mercury pollution should be reduced. We need strong rules. We need to get rid of 90% of the toxic mercury to make fish in Wisconsin safe to eat for everyone. You have a golden opportunity to help Wisconsin lead the nation in cleaning up lakes and fish!

What YOU Can Do:

Letters are the most helpful! Write a letter to Jon Heinrich at the DNR - tell him you want a 90% reduction in mercury pollution from coal-burning power plants. Call Jon at the DNR - 608-267-7547 - with the same message.

The postal address is:

101 S. Webster St.
Madison, WI 53707

E-mail address is:

heinrj@dnr.state.wi.us

Many **sport fishing** and **environmental** groups petitioned the DNR to reduce mercury emissions 90% by 2010.

Those groups include:

- *WI B.A.S.S. Federation*
- *Muskellunge Club of WI*
- *WI Division of the Izaak Walton League of America*
- *WI Council of Sport Fishing Organizations*
- *WI's Environmental Decade*
- *WI Wildlife Federation*
- *Sierra Club*

Good News: The petition convinced the DNR Board to make rules that put limits on the mercury pollution that enters our lakes and fish from coal-burning power plants.

Bad News: Electric utility lobbyists are pushing for weak mercury rules- they want only a maximum 40% reduction in mercury pollution over ten years.

For more information or to get more involved, please contact Marc Looze at Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, phone 608-251-7020 or e-mail mlooze@chorus.net.

