

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
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Department of Public Health  
Bureau of Environmental Health  
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June 9, 2021

Fred Sears, Health Agent  
Hinsdale Board of Health  
39 South St  
Hinsdale, MA 01235

Dear Mr. Sears:

The purpose of this letter is to inform your office of a new fish consumption advisory for Plunkett Reservoir in Hinsdale. The Environmental Toxicology Program (ETP) within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health (DPH/BEH), routinely works with municipal health officials to understand the presence and nature of health hazards in the community. Consistent with this role, DPH is issuing a public health fish consumption advisory for Plunkett Reservoir based on elevated levels of mercury. Enclosed, please find a representative poster of the fish consumption advisory for Plunkett Reservoir; a brochure on eating fish safely; a list of the public health fish consumption advisories that are being issued in 2021; and a list of all the public health fish consumption advisories that have been issued at freshwater locations in Massachusetts. We recommend the posting of this waterbody upon receipt of this letter.

An interagency committee comprised of DPH, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, works cooperatively to generate fish consumption advisories. These agencies' activities include designing fish surveys and measuring concentrations of contaminants in freshwater fish samples. Data from these activities are evaluated, and if warranted, a DPH public health fish consumption advisory is issued. The advisory may suggest either limiting or refraining from consumption of fish from the water body.

The mercury levels in the fish tested from Plunkett Reservoir were compared to the DPH guideline level of 0.5 parts per million (ppm). The mercury levels detected in largemouth bass were above the DPH guideline value and thus the regular consumption of these fish may pose a potential health concern.

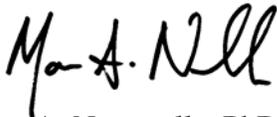
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Based on this, DPH recommends that children under 12, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women that may become pregnant should not eat any largemouth bass from Plunkett Reservoir and everyone else should limit consumption of largemouth bass to two meals per month.

This advisory should be posted at your municipal office and conspicuously at Plunkett Reservoir. We have included a representative poster and would be happy to provide you with any assistance you may need in conducting outreach, including translating the advisory into other languages.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (617) 624-5757.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc A. Nascarella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc A. Nascarella, PhD  
Director, Environmental Toxicology Program  
Bureau of Environmental Health

cc: Jan Sullivan, Acting Director, BEH

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