



**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWN HALL
21 SOUTH MAIN STREET, ROOM #204
UXBRIDGE, MA 01569
508-278-8604**

**UPDATED PUBLIC HEALTH FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY:
RICE CITY POND**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has reviewed fish toxics data generated by the Department of Environmental Protection for Rice City Pond. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), as well as the pesticide DDT and its derivatives, have been detected in carp and white sucker caught from Rice City Pond. The average PCB levels in carp and white sucker are above the Food and Drug Administration Action Level for PCBs of 2.0 mg/kg. The average concentration of DDT and its derivatives in white sucker were above a level that MDPH considers safe for unlimited consumption. PCBs and DDT may accumulate in individuals who frequently eat fish contaminated with PCBs and DDT, thus leading to an increased risk of health effects. Fetuses, nursing infants, and young children are particularly sensitive to the developmental and health problems associated with PCB and DDT exposure. PCBs were detected in fish sampled in 1993, which led to the original fish consumption advisory. Because of health concerns associated with exposure to PCBs and DDT, MDPH offers the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Children under 12, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women of childbearing age who may become pregnant should refrain from consuming carp and white sucker from Rice City Pond to prevent exposure of developing fetuses, nursing infants and young children to PCBs or DDT.
2. The general public should not consume any carp or white sucker caught from Rice City Pond.
3. The general public should limit consumption of all other fish species caught from Rice City Pond to two meals per month.

This advisory does not apply to fish that are stocked. MDPH has issued other important health recommendations for fish consumption. To find out more information, please call 617-624-5757 or visit our website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/mercury>.

December, 2007