



Related Programs

FCEC's public outreach and education program works in conjunction with Monitoring and Enforcement efforts:

The **Monitoring** program involves ocean, fish and commercial market monitoring. EPA evaluates the status of the contaminated sediments and contamination levels of fish commonly caught in the area. Ethnic markets are also monitored for the sale of contaminated white croaker.

Enforcement efforts are carried out by state and local agencies through the establishment of restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing for white croaker. Enforcement measures include the daily catch limit for white croaker (10 per day) and the commercial no-take (catch ban) zone for white croaker near the Palos Verdes Shelf. Local county health officials conduct market monitoring for contaminated white croaker as a local enforcement measure.



» WHAT YOU CAN DO

DDTs and PCBs build up in the fatty parts of fish. Protect your health by following these guidelines:



Eat only the fillet of the fish.



Remove and throw away the head, guts, kidneys, liver and fatty parts such as the skin and belly flap before cooking.



Bake, broil, steam or grill fish, letting fatty juices drip away.

Contact us: www.pvsfish.org | info@pvsfish.org



THE FISH CONTAMINATION EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND REDUCING RISK

Reaching out to fishermen, families and communities



Creating awareness of contaminated fish from the Los Angeles and Orange County coasts



Educating the public on safer fish choices



» PALOS VERDES SHELF CONTAMINATION

For decades, the Montrose Chemical Corporation, located near Torrance, released the chemical DDT into the sewer system, which eventually emptied into the ocean off the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Another group of chemicals, called PCBs, were also released by local industries.

Although these chemicals are no longer used, they remain in the ocean sediment and have contaminated fish that live there. People who regularly eat fish caught near the contaminated area face greater health risks because of prolonged exposure to toxic chemicals.

» HEALTH EFFECTS OF DDTs AND PCBs

Health problems associated with prolonged exposure to DDTs and PCBs include:

- Cancer
- Liver disease
- Growth and development problems
- Effects on the immune system

» WHO'S AT RISK

- Children
- Nursing mothers
- Pregnant women
- Women who can become pregnant

MAP OF CONTAMINATED AREA.



» ADDRESSING THE CONTAMINATION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Fish Contamination Education Collaborative (FCEC) to educate the public on the health risks posed by chemically contaminated fish and to encourage the public to adopt safer fish consumption practices.

Through outreach and education, FCEC engages three programs to protect public health.

Angler Outreach Program

The Angler Outreach Program is a key component of FCEC's public outreach and education campaign. Angler outreach workers educate pier and shoreline fishermen in Los Angeles and Orange counties on the dangers of consuming white croaker contaminated with DDTs and PCBs.

FCEC focuses outreach efforts on nine piers in proximity to the contaminated area:



- Santa Monica
- Venice
- Hermosa
- Redondo
- Cabrillo
- Pier J
- Belmont
- Seal Beach
- Huntington Beach

Family and Community Outreach Program

The Family and Community Outreach Program builds local capacity to reduce exposure to contaminants in fish caught off the Los Angeles and Orange County coasts. FCEC conducts family and community outreach in a variety of ways including giving presentations at community-based organizations, schools, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, churches, health fairs and community events.

Community members who receive outreach are educated about the health risks of eating contaminated fish and proper preparation.



Commercial Outreach Program

The Commercial Outreach Program works to minimize the sale of contaminated white croaker in fish markets throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties. Three key points are conveyed during commercial outreach:

- Buy fish only from approved sources;
- Know where fish were caught; and
- Keep and file all invoices when fish are purchased.