

Regarding Striped Bass Consumption Advisories: 4/6/16

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), not the Department of Natural Resources, provides water quality testing and fish consumption advisories for Maryland waters and Maryland citizens.

The District of Columbia's fish consumption advisories do not apply to fish caught recreationally or commercially in Maryland waters.

MDE's analysis of fish tissue has shown decreasing levels of contaminants in striped bass caught in the Chesapeake Bay, its Maryland tributaries, and Maryland coastal waters. This analysis conforms to EPA guidance and standards.

MDE's meals-per-month advisories are derived from a formula that considers factors such as the regular consumption of a particular species of fish over a 30-year period and are thus conservative in nature.

At present, MDE advises three striped bass meals a month of fish 28-inches or less for adult men and women. Those under age six should limit striped bass servings to two a month. If the fish are longer than 28 inches, limit consumption to one a month and one every other month for children.

Refer to the MDE website for fish consumption advice—
www.mde.maryland.gov,

The Maryland Department of the Environment wants citizens to know that they can be confident that their advisories are protective. Maryland has an excellent reputation for safe seafood, and MDE encourages people to enjoy Maryland fish, including striped bass.