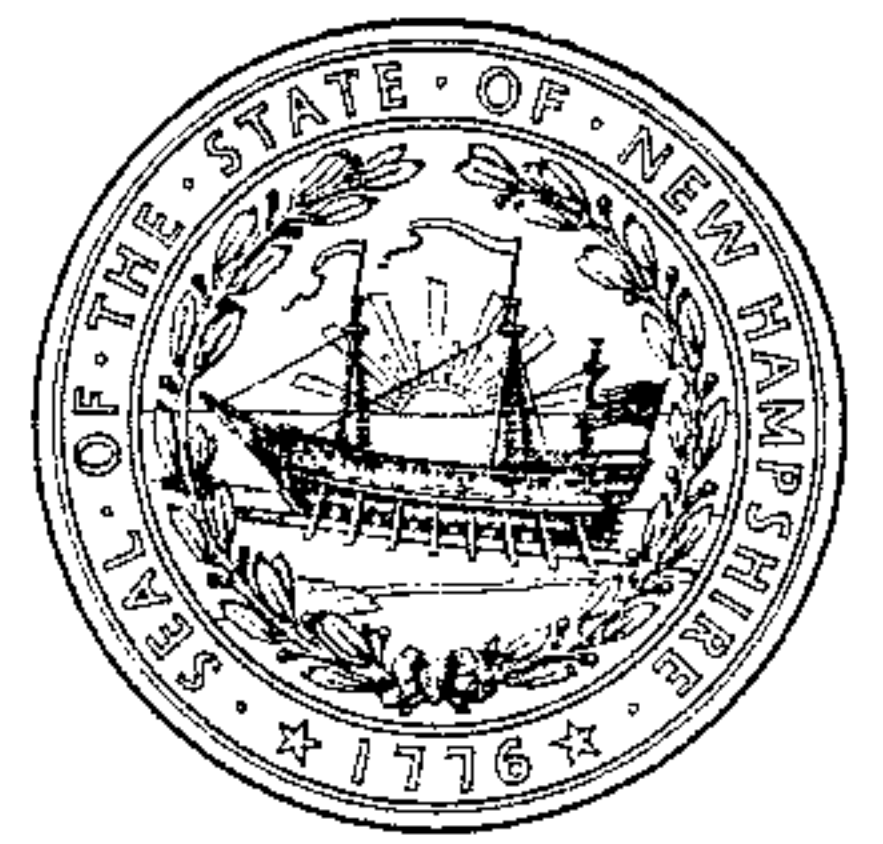




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

June 1, 2010

Volunteer monitors, along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game, and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) have played a significant part in collecting fish throughout the state for mercury analyses. DES now processes the fish specimens and provides the data to make some very important decisions that have serious implications to both human and animal populations. The purpose of this effort is two-fold: To better characterize the levels of mercury that are accumulating in the fish that live in our state's waterbodies, and to develop fish consumption advisories to protect human health.

DES is now able to report the mercury results from two fish submitted from **Province Lake in Effingham** during 2009.

LAKE	TOWN	COLLECTION DATE	FISH TYPE	LENGTH (cm)	WEIGHT (grams)	MERCURY (ppm)
PROVINCE LAKE	EFFINGHAM	13-Jun-09	Eastern chain pickerel	42.5	332	0.2769
PROVINCE LAKE	EFFINGHAM	13-Jun-09	Pumpkinseed	20	186	0.1264

In general, small and large mouth bass, eastern chain pickerel, and yellow perch tend to have higher mercury levels. Trout in general tend to have lower mercury levels because they are raised in fish hatcheries and later released into water bodies. Landlocked salmon also tend to have low levels (however, this is based on limited information). It is recommended to avoid consuming small/large mouth bass, eastern chain pickerel and yellow perch greater than 12 inches in length.

DES recommends the following mercury level ranges as guidance:

<u>Mercury Levels (ppm)*</u>	<u>Guidance Category*</u>
< 0.6	Safe to consume
0.61 - 0.99	Caution
> 1.0	Red Flag

*Note these recommended ranges and categories are not officially established as such, but were developed as a relative guidance for New Hampshire.