



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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January 3, 2025

Rae Dick, CP-FS, Health Director, Town of Westford
55 Main Street
Westford, MA 01886

SUBJECT: New Fish Consumption Advisory

The purpose of this letter is to inform your office of a new fish consumption advisory (FCA) for Long Sought For Pond in Westford. The Division of Environmental Toxicology, Hazard Assessment and Prevention within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (DPH/BCEH), routinely works with municipal health officials to understand the presence and nature of health hazards in the community. Consistent with this role, DPH has issued a FCA for Long Sought For Pond based on elevated levels of mercury measured in fish most recently sampled by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Mercury concentrations in fish sampled from Long Sought For Pond were above the DPH action level of 0.5 parts per million (mg/kg). This indicates that daily consumption of fish from the waterbody may pose a health concern. DPH is recommending that sensitive¹ populations should not eat Largemouth Bass from Long Sought For Pond and the general population should limit consumption of Largemouth Bass to 2 meals/month.

Enclosed, please find a representative sign identifying the contaminants present and the FCA for Long Sought For Pond. A brochure on Eating Fish Safely in Massachusetts is also enclosed with a link to access all FCAs that have been issued at freshwater locations in Massachusetts. We recommend that the sign be placed at your municipal office, as well as waterfront locations that afford access to the water.

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

Sincerely,

¹ Sensitive Populations - Children under 12; and people who are nursing, pregnant, or may become pregnant



Meg Blanchet, M.S., REHS
Director, Division of Environmental Toxicology, Hazard Assessment and Prevention
Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health

cc: Nalina Narain, PhD, Director, DPH/BCEH

Enclosures: 2