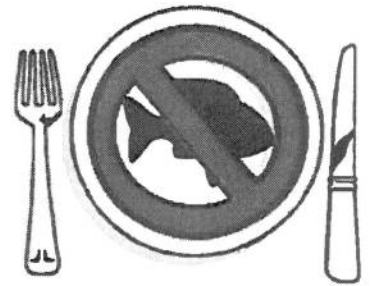


Fish Advisory for Clark's Marsh & Lower Au Sable River

Iosco County, Michigan



What is the fish advisory for Clark's Marsh?

Until further notice, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) strongly recommends **no one eat any of the fish caught in Clark's Marsh**. Unsafe levels of perfluorinated chemicals, or PFCs, were found in the filets of fish from the marsh.

What is the fish advisory for the lower Au Sable River?

Unsafe levels of PFCs were also found in fish from the lower Au Sable River. Until further notice, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) strongly recommends **no one eat any resident fish caught in the lower part of the river from Foote Dam to the river's mouth at Lake Huron**. Resident fish are those that live year round in the river and include perch, bass, bluegill, and pumpkinseed.

Migratory fish from Lake Huron are not expected to have high levels of PFCs. Migratory fish are those that move from Lake Huron into the river to spawn and include walleye, salmon, and trout.

There have been advisories on some fish from the lower Au Sable River and Lake Huron.

MDCH would like to remind you about existing advisories on fish from the lower Au Sable River and Lake Huron due to high levels of mercury, PCBs, and dioxins. These advisories have been in place for many years.

- Children and women who are pregnant, nursing, or of childbearing age should eat walleye only once a month. It's safe for boys over age 15, men, and women past childbearing age to eat walleye smaller than 26" in length as often as they'd like, and 26" or larger once a week.
- Children and women who are pregnant, nursing, or of childbearing age should not eat carp. Everyone else should eat carp only once a week.
- Many other fish from Lake Huron have advisories. Visit www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish to find the Eat Safe Fish Guide and advice on eating the fish.

What are PFCs?

PFCs are a group of manmade chemicals that have been used for many years in products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease and water. Products with these chemicals include nonstick cookware, stain-resistant carpeting, and fire-fighting foam. PFCs are very stable and stay in the environment for a long time.

Fire-fighting foam containing PFCs was used by the Air Force at the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base during training and to fight fires. PFCs from the foam have moved through the soil and into the ponds in Clark's Marsh which drains to the lower part of the river. One of the chemicals in the PFC group, perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS, has been found in very high levels in the fish in Clark's Marsh and the lower part of the river.

Can PFCs harm your health?

Eating fish that have PFCs will not make you sick right away and does not mean that you will become sick. But, over time, eating fish with high levels of PFCs can be harmful to your health.

PFCs can affect how your thyroid and liver work, possibly leading to thyroid disease or unhealthy cholesterol levels. Children, women who are pregnant or might become pregnant, and breastfed babies are most likely to be harmed.

Catch and release fishing is fine. Touching the fish will not hurt you.

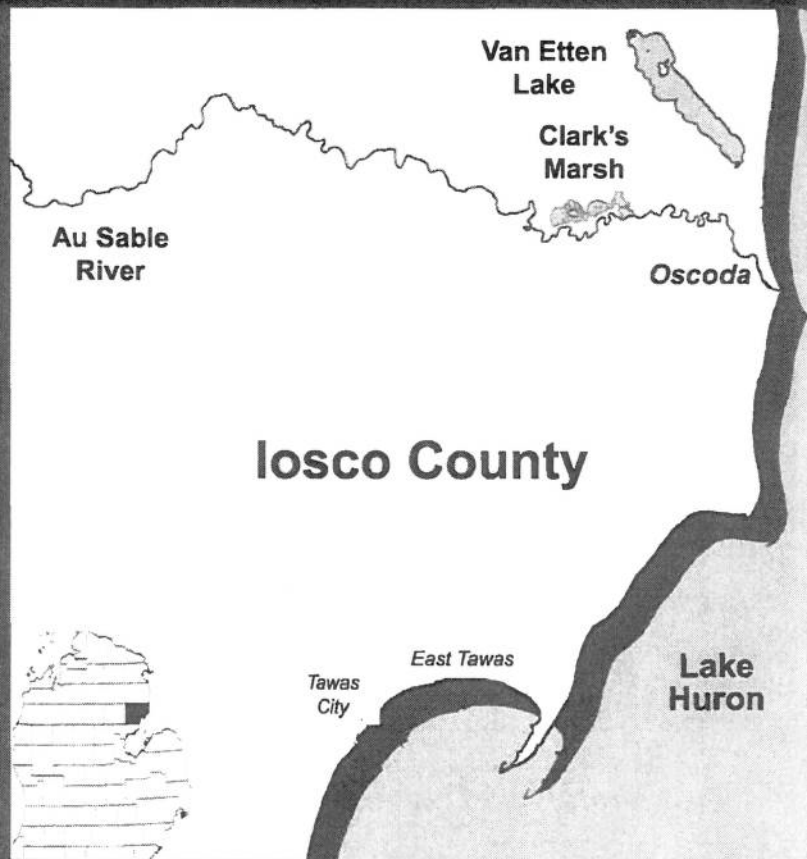
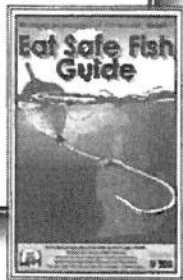
To learn more about testing and cleanup activities at the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base, visit the U.S. Air Force website at www.afcec.af.mil/brac/wurtsmith/index.asp. To learn more about the public health activities, visit www.michigan.gov/mdch-toxics. Look for the (Former) Wurtsmith Air Force Base link under *Health Assessments and Related Documents*.



MDCH is working with the Air Force and leadership in your community to protect your health from the harm due to PFCs.

Check the Eat Safe Fish Guide to find other lakes and rivers with fish that are safer to eat.

To get your guide, visit www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish or call MDCH at 1-800-648-6942.



To learn more about eating safe fish, visit www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish or scan this quick read (QR) code with your smartphone.



QR Code

Michigan Department of Community Health

