



Public Health Advisory

Fish from Giauque and Thistlewaite Lakes unsafe to eat

April 2, 2007 – Dr. Kami Kandola, Acting Chief Medical Health Officer, has issued a notice recommending that people limit the quantity of fish they eat from Giauque and Thistlewaite Lakes. Fish collected from these two lakes were found to be contaminated with mercury. These lakes are 85 kilometres northeast of Yellowknife.

It is recommended that persons should limit consumption from Thistlewaite Lake. A person should not eat more than 561 grams (1.2lbs) of lake trout per week and 525 grams (1.16lbs) of northern pike per week.

For Giauque Lake a person should not eat more than 85 grams (1/5 lb) of lake trout per week, 123 grams (1/4 lb) of northern pike per week, 217 grams (1/2 lb) long nose suckers per week, and 500grams (1lb) of whitefish per week.

This not only applies to the fillets but also to the internal organs of the fish. The kidneys and livers of the fish are generally more contaminated than the fillet and consumption should be limited to 25 per cent of the amounts listed above.

The source of the mercury is the Discovery Mine, which operated from 1946 to 1969. In 1965 a dam on the tailings contaminant area was breached and tailings were deposited directly into Giauque Lake.

For more information:

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