

## Virginia issues health alerts on Lake Anna carp, James River

Tuesday June 15, 2004

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- State health officials are advising limits on the consumption of carp in Lake Anna in Spotsylvania and Louisa counties because of elevated levels of PCBs found in the flesh of the bottom-feeding fish.**

The state Department of Health **also broadened existing advisories for the James River** and Knox Creek in Buchanan County.

The advisory for Lake Anna recommends limiting carp to no more than two meals per month. Carp are not a widely popular food fish.

The Health Department advisory follows recent tests conducted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality that showed levels of polychlorinated biphenyls in excess of the state's "level of concern," said Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube.

**The source of the PCBs in Lake Anna are not known**, Health Department spokeswoman Michelle Stoll said Tuesday.

PCBs, labeled a probable carcinogen by federal environmental officials, are oily, synthetic chemicals once used to insulate transformers and other electrical equipment. The manufacturing of PCBs was stopped in the United States in 1977, but the tough chemicals persist in mud and soil for decades.

**The James River advisory begins at the Interstate 95 James River Bridge crossing in Richmond and has been extended downstream approximately 110 miles to the Hampton-Norfolk Bridge Tunnel, the mouth of the James.** People should not eat any blue catfish and only two meals per month of carp from that stretch of the James.

The previous James River advisory extended south to Hopewell.

The extended advisory on Knox Creek involves waters from the Virginia-Kentucky state line, upstream for 17 miles to its headwaters near the West Virginia state line. People should not eat any smallmouth bass or suckers from the creek and should eat no more than two meals a month of any other fish taken from the creek.

Women who are pregnant or may become pregnant, nursing mothers and young children should not eat any fish from any of these waters, the Health Department said.

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On the Web:

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/HHControl/fishing--advisories.htm>