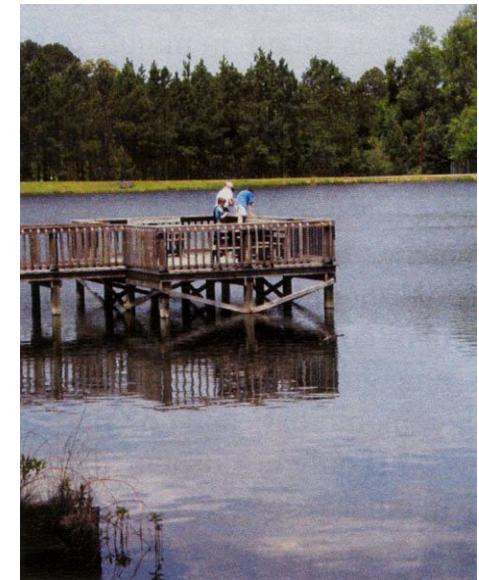




ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCES
DIVISION

A GUIDE FOR
EATING FISH
FROM ROBINS
AFB WATERS



For further information regarding guidelines for eating fish and ways to reduce the risk, please contact:
Bob Sargent at 926-1197 ext. 119 or Becky Crader at 926-1197 ext. 113 in the Environmental Resources Division.

The following offices can also be contacted for copies of "Guidelines for Eating Fish from Georgia Waters" and the "2001-2002 Sport Fishing Regulations."

**Environmental Protection Division
404/656-4713**

**Coastal Resources Division
912/264-7218**

**Wildlife Resources Division
770/918-6418**



MUCH OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS BROCHURE WAS TAKEN FROM THE "GUIDELINES FOR EATING FISH FROM GEORGIA WATERS" AND "GEORGIA 200-2001 SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS." PUBLISHED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAKE OCONEE

Species	Less than 12"	12-16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Cannot be legally retained	Cannot be legally retained	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

LAKE TOBESOFKEE (BIBB COUNTY)

Species	Less than 12"	12-16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	This size was not tested	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

Every year, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) samples fish for contaminants from the lakes, rivers and creeks in Georgia. The sampling is done simply as a precautionary measure because fish are generally safe to eat. Based on the results, the DNR may issue guidelines for eating fish from Georgia waters. Following DNR's lead, Environmental Management (EM) recently sampled fish for contaminants from Duck Lake, Luna Lake, Scout Lake and Horse Creek on Robins AFB. Mercury, a common contaminant in water bodies primarily, was found in minute quantities consistent with that found in fish from some other lakes and creeks in Georgia.

To err on the side of caution, the DNR recommends limits on how much fish an individual should consume depending on the level of contaminants found. Using these same guidelines, EM recommends that largemouth bass and bowfin from Robins AFB only be consumed once a week. In other words, consumption should be limited to one meal ($\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ pound) of fish per week. Consumption limits do not apply to other fish species such as catfish, bluegill and crappie.

The level of contaminants is very low in the fish sampled from Robins AFB and they are safe to eat, but a person could be at risk if large quantities of fish are eaten on a continuous basis.



How to Reduce Your Health Risk

- Eat small fish that are within legal size limits.
- Vary the kind of fish you eat. Contaminants may build up in certain species of fish such as largemouth bass.

Special Circumstances

If you plan to become pregnant in the next year or two, are pregnant now or are a nursing mother, you and your children under 6 years of age may be more sensitive to possible effects associated with trace amounts of mercury levels. For added protection, women in these categories and children may wish to limit consumption to a greater extent than that recommended by the DNR.

Fishing is a popular sport on Robins AFB as it is throughout Georgia. This is because fishing is a great form of recreation, and because fish are low in fat and high in protein.

If you haven't tried fishing, we encourage you to experience this popular Georgia pastime.



Examples of lakes and rivers where fish have been tested by the DNR in middle Georgia are from "2001 Guidelines for Eating Fish from Georgia Waters."

FLINT RIVER (MACON/DOOLY COUNTIES)				
Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical	
Largemouth Bass	Oglethorpe, Ga. Hwy 49	1 meal/week	Mercury	
Channel Catfish	Same as Above	No Restrictions		

OCMULGEE RIVER (BIBB COUNTY)

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	6 Miles Downstream of Tobeofkee Creek	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	Same as above	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish	Same as above	1 meal/week	Mercury PCB's