

# SAFE EATING GUIDELINES

Based on mercury in fish from the

## SOUTH DELTA

Including the San Joaquin River from the Sacramento River to the Port of Stockton, and all rivers, sloughs, and flooded tracts in the Delta south of the San Joaquin River



**Women of Childbearing Age, Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women, and Children 17 Years and Younger**



**Women Beyond Childbearing Age and Men**

### Best Choices

Bluegill and other sunfish, catfish, clams, or crayfish

**Eat up to 4 servings\* a week**  
(Total of 12 ounces cooked fish a week)

**OR**

### Good Choices

Crappie; carp; sucker; largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass

**Eat up to 2 servings\* a week**  
(Total of 6 ounces cooked fish a week)

### Avoid

Striped bass (18-27 inches) or sturgeon

**No more than 2 servings\* a month**  
(Total of 6 ounces cooked fish a month)

Striped bass over 27 inches

**Do Not Eat**

### Best Choices

Bluegill or other sunfish

**Daily**

(Total of 21 ounces cooked fish a week)

OR

Clams, crayfish, crappie, or carp

**Eat up to 6 servings\* a week**

(Total of 18 ounces cooked fish a week)

OR

Catfish; sucker; largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass

**Eat up to 4 servings\* a week**

(Total of 12 ounces cooked fish a week)

### Avoid

Striped bass (18-35 inches) or sturgeon

**No more than 4 servings\* a month**  
(Total of 12 ounces cooked fish a month)

Striped bass over 35 inches

**Do Not Eat**

**Follow the “No Consumption” warnings where signs are posted for the Port of Stockton area**

\* The recommended serving size for adults is three ounces of cooked fish (four ounces prior to cooking)

For more information, call OEHHA at (510) 622-3170 or visit [www.oehha.ca.gov](http://www.oehha.ca.gov) and click on “Fish”

## **ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION**

Fish are nutritious and are recommended as part of a healthy, balanced diet. The American Heart Association advises healthy adults to eat at least two 3-ounce portions of cooked fish, preferable fatty fish, each week. It is important, however, to choose your fish wisely. OEHHA recommends that you choose fish to eat that are low in mercury and other contaminants. The recommended options are presented as "Good Choices" and "Best Choices." When fish contain high levels of mercury or other chemicals, OEHHA recommends that you avoid eating these fish.

- **MEAL SIZE DEPENDS ON BODY WEIGHT.** The safe eating guidelines are based on a recommended serving size of three ounces of cooked fish or shellfish (four ounces prior to cooking) — about the size of a deck of cards. If you weigh less than the average (about 160 pounds), it is best to eat smaller servings. Serve smaller servings to children — about half as much as adults for children 12 and under.
- **CONSIDER THE FISH YOU BUY FROM STORES AND RESTAURANTS.** Women of childbearing age and children can safely eat up to 12 ounces a week of a variety of fish purchased in stores or restaurants, or use this guide for eating fish caught from the San Joaquin River and South Delta. Commercial fish such as shrimp, king crab, scallops, farmed catfish, wild ocean salmon, oysters, tilapia, flounder, and sole generally contain some of the lowest levels of mercury. Women of childbearing age and children should not eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel, or tilefish, which contain the most mercury.
- If you also eat fish that you buy from stores and restaurants during a week that you eat local sport fish, choose the local sport fish that you eat from "Best Choices."
- **FISH FROM OTHER WATER BODIES MAY ALSO CONTAIN MERCURY.** Not all water bodies in California have been tested. With the exception of ocean or river-run salmon or steelhead, which may be consumed more frequently, you can eat up to two servings a week of fish caught from places currently without an advisory — one serving is three ounces of cooked fish (four ounces prior to cooking).