



City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Department of Health & Human Services

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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has issued a fish consumption advisory at South Watuppa Pond. This advisory is in response to a recent sampling [report](#) by the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) where per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were above the DPH Fish Action Level (FAL) of 0.22 parts per billion (ppb).

DPH also sampled surface water at these locations, and PFAS was not found at levels that would be unsafe for recreational activities at these locations. Additionally, it is important to be aware that there is no transfer of water or fish from South Watuppa Pond into the North Watuppa Pond, therefore this does not impact the drinking water supply.

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals manufactured and used in a variety of consumer products and industries worldwide. Based on studies of laboratory animals and people, exposure to certain PFAS has been associated with changes in liver and kidney function, changes in thyroid hormone and cholesterol levels, and immune system effects. In addition, PFAS exposure has been shown to cause developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy. Some studies also suggest an increased risk of developing cancer following long-term exposures to elevated levels of some PFAS.

DPH prioritized the testing of fish and surface water at these waterbodies because they are popular locations for swimming and fishing. They are also located in communities in or near [Environmental Justice Populations](#), where the existing burden of disease and exposure to sources of pollution are greatest.

Additional Resources:

- [Fish consumption advisories | Mass.gov](#) - Current list of Fish Consumption Advisories at all waterbodies tested including Searchable Lookup Table
- [Eating Fish Safely](#) - Factsheet with general information on Fish Consumption Advisories
- [PFAS Fish Advice](#) - Factsheet specific to PFAS in Fish