

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
Bureau of Environmental Health  
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July 3, 2019

Nancy Ellis Ice, Director  
Brewster Health Department  
2198 Main St  
Brewster, MA 02631

Dear Ms. Ellis Ice:

The purpose of this letter is to inform your office of a new fish consumption advisory for Mill Pond in Brewster and Harwich. The Environmental Toxicology Program (ETP) within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health (DPH/BEH), routinely works with municipal health officials to understand the presence and nature of health hazards in the community. Consistent with this role, DPH is issuing a public health fish consumption advisory for Mill Pond based on elevated levels of mercury. Enclosed, please find a representative poster of the fish consumption advisory for Mill Pond; a brochure on eating fish safely; a list of the public health fish consumption advisories that are being issued in 2019; and a list of all the public health fish consumption advisories that have been issued at freshwater locations in Massachusetts. We recommend the posting of this waterbody upon receipt of this letter.

An interagency committee comprised of DPH, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, works cooperatively to generate fish consumption advisories. These agencies' activities include designing fish surveys and measuring concentrations of contaminants in freshwater fish samples. Data from these activities are evaluated, and if warranted, a DPH public health fish consumption advisory is issued. The advisory may suggest either limiting or refraining from consumption of fish from the water body.

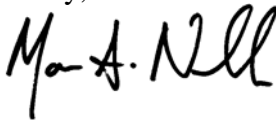
The mercury levels in the fish tested from Mill Pond were compared to the DPH guideline level of 0.5 parts per million (ppm). The mercury levels detected in largemouth bass were above the DPH guideline value and thus the regular consumption of these fish may pose a potential health concern.

Based on this, DPH recommends that children under 12, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women that may become pregnant should not eat any largemouth bass from Mill Pond and everyone else should limit consumption of largemouth bass to two meals per month.

This advisory should be posted at your municipal office and Mill Pond. We have included a representative poster and would be happy to provide you with any assistance you may need in conducting outreach, including translating the advisory into other languages.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (617) 624-5757.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc A. Nascarella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Marc A. Nascarella, PhD  
Director, Environmental Toxicology Program  
Bureau of Environmental Health

cc: Jana Ferguson, Director, DPH/BEH  
Jan Sullivan, Deputy Director, DPH/BEH  
Meggan Eldredge, RS, CHO, Health Director, Town of Harwich

Enclosures: 4