

Date: June 23, 2026

Fish Consumption Advisory for Largemouth Bass, Watson Lake in Yavapai County

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), in association with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), has issued a Red Light Fish Consumption Advisory for largemouth bass caught in Watson Lake.



ADEQ and AZGFD use a color-coded system to provide fish consumption guidance for fish caught in Arizona lakes, rivers and streams:

- Green Light: Fish may be consumed without limits per standard dietary guidelines¹
- Orange Light: Fish may be consumed within recommended limits
- Red Light: Do not consume fish

This Red Light Fish Consumption Advisory is based on fish tissue analysis indicating elevated levels of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) | [View Green Light Fisheries and Fish Consumption Advisories in Arizona >](#)

ADEQ and AZGFD collect and test fish for contaminants and compare results to recommended health thresholds. Contaminants can accumulate in fish primarily through a process called bioaccumulation, where the chemicals build up in the body faster than they can be excreted. Unless otherwise indicated in the Green Light Fisheries status, other types of fish found in Arizona with lower bioaccumulation factors remain good choices for consumption | [Learn More >](#)

Fish are an excellent source of protein and can be an important part of a healthy, balanced diet as they are low in saturated fat. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issue dietary guidelines for fish consumption that recommend adults consume about two servings (8 ounces total) of seafood per week.² For children and pregnant women, these recommendations vary to protect public health.³

Generally, any contaminant levels found in water are significantly lower than those found in fish tissue. Therefore, boating, bird watching, and other recreational activities at the lake are not affected by this advisory and are encouraged for enjoying the great outdoors.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/choose-fish-and-shellfish-wisely/epa-fda-advice-about-eating-fish-and-shellfish>

² <https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/>

³ <https://www.epa.gov/choose-fish-and-shellfish-wisely/epa-fda-advice-about-eating-fish-and-shellfish>

ADEQ and AZGFD will continue monitoring fish tissue data across Arizona waterbodies to protect public health and provide updated fish consumption guidance as new information becomes available.

Background

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals used since the 1940s to make many products, including fire-fighting foam and stain-resistant, water-resistant, and nonstick items. PFAS are released into waterways from industrial discharge, firefighting foams, and landfills, where they persist indefinitely. Scientific research indicates that exposure to certain PFAS is linked to various health risks | [Learn More >](#)