ORSANCO

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
orsanco.org/water-quality-information

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission is a compact interstate agency. Since 1948, ORSANCO and its member states have cooperated to improve water quality in the Ohio River Basin ensuring the river supports its four designated uses. ORSANCO operates monitoring programs to check for pollutants and toxins that threaten water quality of the Ohio River.

4 Uses

Fish Consumption Advisories (FCAs)

To protect the health of anyone who eats fish, annual advisories for how often fish can be safely eaten are prepared by individual states in cooperation with state agencies. There are many benefits of including fish in a balanced diet for people of all ages. Additionally, fishing is a great source of recreation on the Ohio River and funds received from fishing licenses help to support wildlife conservation.

1 meal per week

1 meal per month

6 meals per year

Do not consume

How to Prepare Your Catch

Adult Serving
4-6 oz. cooked

An adult serving is about the size of the palm of an adult's hand

Child Serving
2-3 oz. cooked

A child serving is about half the size of the palm of an adult's hand

FCA by State:

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- West Virginia

Contaminants tend to build up in a fish's skin, fat, and guts (organs, including eggs) more so than the fillet. Always discard those parts before cooking and only eat the fillet

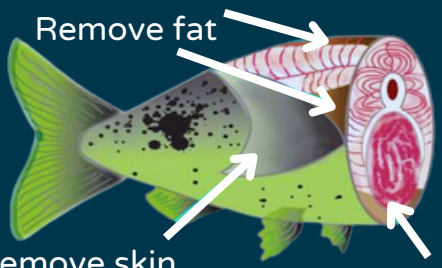

*Image credit Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory 2023

ORSANCO Fish Tissue Collection

- ORSANCO began collecting fish tissue samples for contaminant analysis in 1975
  - In 1987, the program began sharing data to state agencies to aid in the creation of fish consumption advisories for Ohio River fish.
  - ORSANCO's database spans from 1983- Current and contains over 2,400 composites comprising of 35 species
- ORSANCO samples for 5 types of contaminants including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), PFAS, Pesticides, and Metals (Total Hg, Pb, Cd, Se, MeHg)

Ohio River Basin