



High Rock Lake, Falls Reservoir, and Lake Tillery Health Risk Evaluation

Background

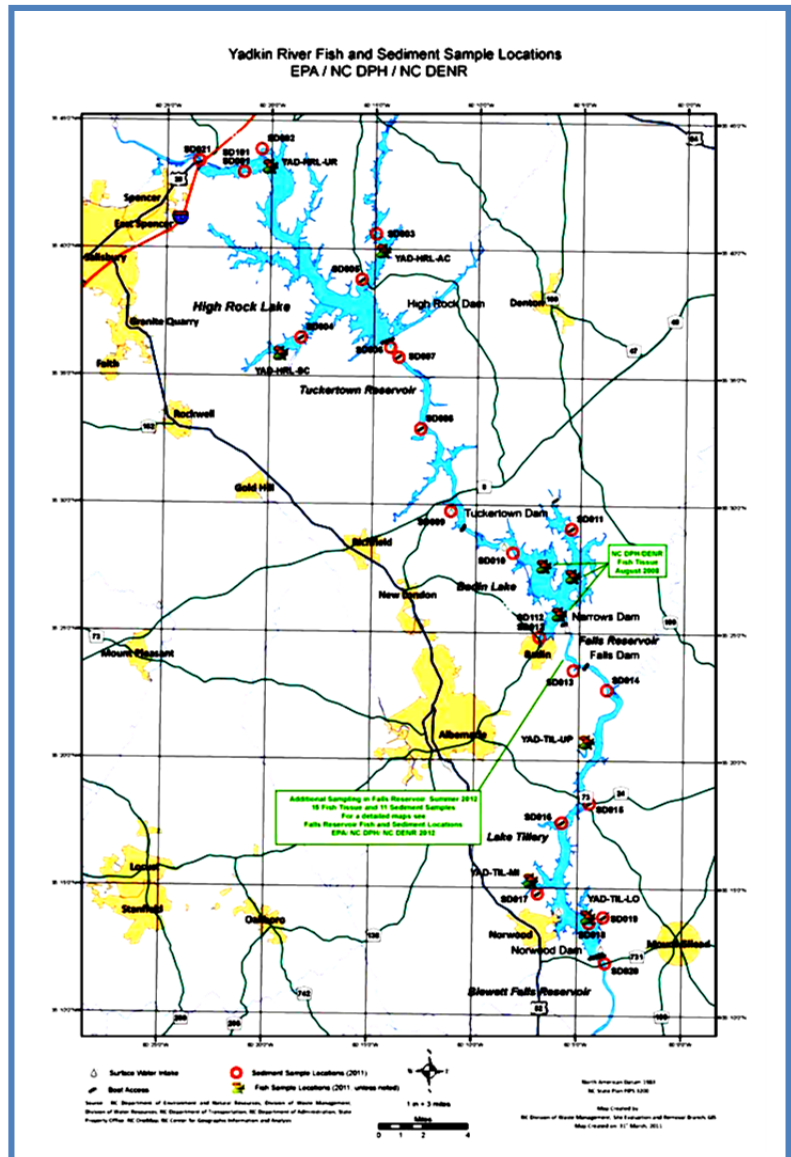
In 2009 the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) issued a fish consumption advisory for catfish and largemouth bass in Badin Lake as a result of the Badin Lake PCB-congener fish tissue study. This evaluation is a follow-up to the Badin Lake study.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the potential risk to human health from contact with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in sediment and fish in High Rock Lake, Falls Reservoir and Lake Tillery of the Yadkin-Pee Dee River system.

How was the study conducted?

This project was a collaboration effort between the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Waste Management and Division of Water Quality, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and DHHS. In 2011 and 2012 fish and sediment were collected from three water bodies in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River system (High Rock Lake, Falls Reservoir and Lake Tillery). Additional sediments were collected from the uppermost reaches of Blewett Falls. Sediments were analyzed for Aroclor PCBs. More than 100 fish samples were analyzed for 209-congener PCBs.



What are the study results?

Health effects are not expected from contact with sediments. Some catfish more than 18 inches in length had PCB concentrations above the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services' action level. We recommend that people follow the statewide advice for mercury in fish. The statewide mercury advisory already includes restrictions for catfish and will protect people from exposure to the levels of PCBs found in High Rock Lake, Falls Reservoir and Lake Tillery.

Mercury statewide fish eating limitations

Women who are pregnant, nursing, or of child-bearing age, and children younger than 15 should not eat any fish high in mercury. Other people should eat up to one meal per week of fish high in mercury.

Fish high in mercury: Statewide: Largemouth bass. South and east of Interstate 85: catfish, blackfish, chain pickerel, warmouth, and yellow perch. South and east of Interstate 95: black crappie. Lake Fontana & Lake Santeetlah: Walleye

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Additional Information

Full reports are available under Davidson, Montgomery, Rowan and Stanly counties
http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/oe/by_county.html



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