

Vermont Fish Contaminant Monitoring Committee Meeting Minutes

Public link to FCMC meeting: <https://libraries.vermont.gov/node/10956>

1. Call to order

Pam Wadman called the annual meeting of the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Committee (FCMC) at 12:30 on Friday November 19, 2021 on Microsoft Teams.

1. Roll call

Pam Wadman conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

FCMC Members: Pam Wadman (Health), Rick Levey (DEC), Jim Deshler (DEC), Jud Kratzer (F&W), Bernie Pientka (F&W), Margaret Murphy (F&W)

Guests: Pete Emerson (F&W), Sarah Vose (Health), Karen Knaebel (DEC)

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Pam Wadman discussed the new public face of the FCMC in lieu of past minutes which are not available.

Future meetings will be warned, and minutes will be provided on Health Department website.

3. Agenda

12:45-1:00 DEC Rick Levey - Update on study of PFAS in fish

Levey presented to Memphremagog steering committee yesterday, and shared PPT used for that meeting. This presentation reviews PFAS data for Lake Memphremagog.

Wadman and Levey discussed fish screening values.

1:00-1:15 Agency updates

F&W: Funding for bullhead melanoma- they will look into possibility of contaminants. They will work with UVM on this. They will present plan to FCMC.

DEC: Levey summarized PFAS work, testing plan going forward. Knaebel described the importance of interagency involvement and that Dartmouth will use the safe eating guidelines in their efforts to make the fish advisory more accessible. Outreach is planned to sensitive populations.

Health: Wadman:

- Working on analysis of Lake Memphremagog fish contaminant data and will circulate draft report
- Circulated revised 2021 Fish Mercury Report 11/17 and hopes to have comments by 12/17
- Met with UVM for Lake Champlain Sea Grant project
- Submitted Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Questionnaire questions

1:15-1:30 Discussion of fish advisory communications

Wadman reviewed updated EPA guidance on terminology “safe eating guidelines” should replace “fish advisory.”

1:30-2:15 Review of draft Fish Mercury Report & Safe Eating Guidelines

Wadman reviewed draft fish report, including updated safe eating guidelines. Kratzer discussed distinguishing stocked trout by observing deformed dorsal fins, and looking at the website for waterbodies with stocked trout. Wild brook trout are common and native, likely low in mercury. A length limit may work to point people to trout low in mercury.

2:15-2:30 Discussion of next steps

Health will finalize fish mercury report by end of 2021, then focus on communication and revised fish materials.

4. Adjournment

Pam Wadman called the annual meeting of the FCMC adjourned at 2:25 pm