

Friday, 25 September 2020

West Lakes fish testing results

Laboratory testing of fish from West Lakes has revealed that per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are not present at levels that would make fish unfit for human consumption.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) conducted the testing following the discovery of elevated concentrations of PFAS in soil, groundwater and sewage sludge near the former Port Adelaide wastewater treatment plant at West Lakes.

The area was also previously identified as having elevated metal concentrations, particularly cadmium.

EPA Director Regulation Peter Dolan said while some PFAS compounds were found in the fish samples, they were not at concentrations that would trigger investigation under the Foods Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

“We also tested for heavy metals in the samples, because cadmium has been a concern in West Lake soils.

“Those results revealed that cadmium is not a problem, but lead was present at levels above the FSANZ trigger point for investigation in the whole fish and mussels tested.

“As a result, SA Health has advised that fish fillets from West Lakes are safe to eat, but whole or macerated fish and mussels are not recommended for human consumption.”

In summary:

- PFAS in fish and mussels from West Lakes were at levels considered safe for human consumption.
- Fish fillets from West Lakes are considered safe for consumption.
- The concentration of lead in whole fish and mussels was at levels considered unsafe for consumption.

The taking of mollusc, which includes mussels and all bivalve shellfish, has been banned for several decades in the waters of West Lakes under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.

Note for media:

For further background please refer to [West Lakes given all clear for swimmers, rowers](#) (8 September) and [West Lakes residents notified of PFAS contamination](#) (25 August); also available at https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/media_room/media_releases