

Dr. Rebekah E. Gee Secretary Department of Health P. O. Box 629 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0629 Dr. Chuck Carr Brown Secretary Department of Environmental Quality P. O. Box 4301 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301 Charlie Melancon Secretary Department of Wildlife & Fisheries P. O. Box 98000 Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

The following fish consumption advisory was issued on 11/17/2016 by the Department of Health, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. For more information, please contact:

LDH Shannon Soileau (888) 293-7020 DEQ Albert Hindrichs (225) 219-3189 <u>DWF</u> Bobby Reed (337) 491-2575

ADVISORY FOR THE UPPER CALCASIEU ESTUARY

In response to recent sampling and analysis of finfish and shellfish, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (DWF) are updating the advisory for the Upper Calcasieu Estuary. The area of concern includes the portion of the Calcasieu Estuary that lies north of channel marker #11 AND is not already covered by the Bayou D'Inde/Calcasieu Ship Channel Advisory (Bayou D'Inde and the Calcasieu Ship Channel between channel markers #31 and #33).

LDH, DEQ and DWF advise the following:

• DO NOT EAT CRAB FAT

This update is based on sampling data from 2011-2015. Shrimp, blue crab, oysters and finfish were collected throughout the estuary from just above the saltwater barrier to the Gulf of Mexico and tested for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins and furans. Unacceptable levels of PCBs, dioxins and furans were found in crab hepatopancreas (fat). This advisory supersedes a previous advisory for the Calcasieu Estuary from the saltwater barrier to the Gulf of Mexico issued on 4/7/1992.

This advisory is issued as a precaution. Any further sampling data from this area will be evaluated to determine the need for modifications to the current recommendations. For more information regarding this advisory, contact the Department of Health at 1-888-293-7020 or visit www.ldh.la.gov/EatSafeFish. The Department of Health has developed an informational brochure entitled *Eating Recreationally Caught Seafood in Louisiana: How to Choose, Clean and Cook Your Catch* which can be found at the following web address:

http://www.ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-EH/envepi/fishadvisory/Documents/Seafood Fat Brochure_2015.pdf. Call our toll free number to request paper copies of the brochure. If you have questions or concerns about your health, please consult a physician.

Dr. Jimmy Guidry

State Health Officer and Medical Director

Department of Health

Beth Scalco

Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Health

Department of Health

Dr. Rebekah E. Gee

Secretary

Department of Health

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown

Secretary

Department of Environmental Quality

CUC ()

Charlie Melancon

Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries