

Is It Safe to Eat Seafood?

YES. In general, it *IS* safe to eat seafood.

There has never been a case of illness from eating finfish or shellfish exposed to *Pfiesteria*. There is no evidence of *Pfiesteria*-contaminated finfish or shellfish on the market. There is no evidence that illnesses related to *Pfiesteria* are associated with eating finfish or shellfish.

The following common-sense precautions are recommended:

Obey public health advisories. Do not harvest or consume fish or shellfish from areas that are closed by the state.

Do not handle or consume finfish or shellfish that you have caught that are already dead or dying; that have sores, or other signs of disease.



Is It Safe to Swim and Boat in Coastal Waters?



YES. In general, swimming, boating, and other recreational activities in coastal waters **ARE** generally safe. The following common-sense precautions are recommended:

Obey public health advisories. Do not go into or near the water in areas that are closed by the state.

If you notice significant numbers of fish that are dead or that have sores, avoid contact with the fish and water, and report the incident to your state's environment or natural resource agency.

If you have health problems after being exposed to fish, water, or air at the site of a fish kill or suspected toxic *Pfiesteria* outbreak, contact your physician and your state or local public health agency right away.

What is Being Done About Pfiesteria?

State and federal agencies are working closely with local governments and academic institutions to address the problems posed by Pfiesteria. Federal agencies involved in the effort include the:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Food and Drug Administration
- U.S. Geological Survey, and
- U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Together with state departments of health and natural resources, these agencies are working to:

- manage the risk of human health effects by monitoring and rapid response through river closures and public health advisories
- direct funding and technical expertise to Pfiesteria-related research and monitoring
- make current and accurate information widely available to the public, and
- understand and address the causes of Pfiesteria outbreaks.

