



Statewide Patterns in Methylmercury

Methylmercury concentrations in sport fish at lakes sampled by SWAMP in 2007 and 2008. Each point represents the highest average methylmercury concentration among the species sampled in each lake. In northern California, high-elevation trout lakes in the Sierra Nevada and Trinity Alps (above two thousand feet), commonly had low concentrations. In contrast, methylmercury concentrations were higher than the 440 ppb threshold for considering a no consumption recommendation, published by the Cal/EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), in 48% of the lower elevation lakes (below two thousand feet) surveyed in northern California. Southern California had moderate methylmercury contamination, with 15% of the sampled lakes above 0.44 ppm. Data from this screening study are insufficient for OEHHA to be able to develop new fish consumption recommendations.