MERCURY

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Hg
Mercury

Mercury is naturally occurring in the environment, but excess levels can be harmful for humans and wildlife.

Human activities like mining and fossil fuel combustion lead to increased mercury levels in nature. This results in the bioaccumulation of mercury in the food web, from the smallest consumer to the largest predator.

HOW THE MAGIC HAPPENS

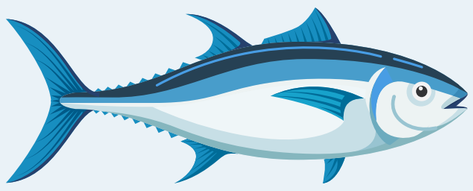
SAMPLE COLLECTION
Samples (e.g., sediment, soil, fish) are collected from the field and transported to the laboratory for analysis

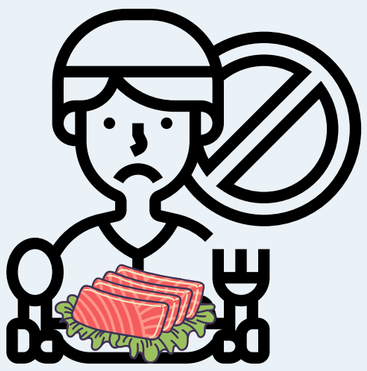
ANALYSIS
Total mercury concentrations are determined in the lab following standard method USEPA 7473

DATA INTERPRETATION
Data are finalized through quality control and are communicated to appropriate partners

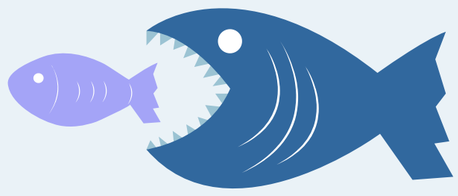
Adverse health effects
In humans: impacts the brain and central nervous system.

In animals: reproductive problems.

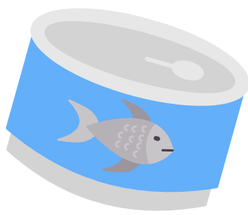




Did you know?
Mercury found in fish comes from their diet, so large predatory fish typically have the most mercury.



PROTECT YOURSELF
- **Be mindful** of local mercury advisories.
- **Inform others** of mercury advisories if present.



Is your fish safe? Scan here to find out!

Interested in learning more?
www.otterlab.org