

RESTORING FISHING



*We're not all contaminated!
Fish smart! Cook smart!*



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What are DDTs and PCBs?

They are toxic mixtures of chemicals that breakdown very slowly in the environment. DDT was once a widely used pesticide in the United States. One of the largest DDT manufacturing factories, owned by the Montrose Chemical Corporation, was located in Torrance, CA. PCBs are a group of chemicals that are resistant to heat and pressure. They were used by many companies for making products such as paints and for cooling electronic parts.

Where did they come from?

Most of the DDTs and PCBs contaminating the marine environment near Los Angeles came from companies that dumped their waste products into the local sewer system many years ago.

Wastewater from these factories was discharged into the ocean through pipes offshore of the Palos Verdes peninsula. Although releases of DDTs and PCBs ended in the 1970s, over 100 tons of these chemicals still contaminate the sediments and living organisms of the Southern California marine environment.

What is being done?

Cleaning Up The Environment The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is studying ways to cap, clean or remove the contaminated sediment. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/region9/features/pvshelf/, or call (800)231-3075.

Survey Of Contaminated Fish The Montrose Settlements Restoration Program (MSRP) and EPA conducted an extensive survey of contaminated fish along Southern California. MSRP has provided the results to the public and they have been used to update local fishing advisories. The data is being used to plan restoration projects and will serve as a basis for EPA cleanup decisions.

Public Outreach and Education MSRP has joined with EPA, government health agencies and local community groups to give the public accurate information about the contaminated fish in the Los Angeles-Orange County area. Find out more at www.pvsfish.org or by calling (800)231-3075.

Restore Healthier Fishing MSRP has developed several projects to provide anglers with more opportunities to fish for clean fish. Find out more at www.montroserestoration.gov.

What can I do?

Fish Smart! Cook Smart! Eat Only The Filet!

Some of the common fish along the Los Angeles and Orange County coasts are contaminated with the toxic chemicals DDTs and PCBs. The State of California has issued advisories to limit consumption of certain species in parts of the southern California coast. DDTs and PCBs build up in the fatty parts of fish. Try to cook in ways that reduce your exposure to these chemicals such as grilling instead of frying or boiling.