

Fish

# Consumption

For the Tar Creek Area Including Grand Lake Guide



# Fish Consumption Guide

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality has issued a series of fish consumption advisories for the Tar Creek Area, which includes Grand Lake. This fish advisory does not mean all fish caught from these waters are unsafe to eat. Instead, it provides guidelines for people to make informed choices about their health and diet.

The advisory is the result of studies conducted in 2003 and 2007. The study showed increased levels of lead in fish collected in Tar Creek area mill ponds, the Spring River, the Neosho River, and Grand Lake. The fish studied were grouped into five categories: Non-Game Fish, Game Fish, Sunfish, Catfish, and Paddle Fish.

The consumption of fish containing elevated levels of lead is a concern because chronic exposure to lead can cause health problems. Lead is particularly harmful to the developing brains and nervous systems of young children. The recommendations are calculated for the protection of children, but adults should also follow the guidelines.

Lead is known to collect in the bones and organs of fish. All advisories are for fish preparations containing bones except one advisory for boneless fillets for non-game fish caught on the Spring River.

People who wish to reduce their exposure to lead should eat portions that do not contain bones or skin. Fish are an important part of a healthy diet; however, not all fish should be consumed in unlimited quantities by everyone.

Residents living with the Tar Creek Area have different consumption advisory levels because they have a higher level of risk due to lead exposure from the Tar Creek Superfund Site. The following guidelines are formulated to provide information to both residents and non-residents of the Tar Creek Area.

For more information, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality at (405) 702-1000 or visit [www.deq.state.ok.us/csdnew/2007TCFishReport.pdf](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/csdnew/2007TCFishReport.pdf) to view the full 2007 study.



# **Tar Creek Area Resident Advisory**



## •• Non-Game Fish ••



Carp



Freshwater Drum

### Mill Ponds

- Not sampled

### Spring River

- 3 meals per month of preparations with bones
- 9 meals per month of boneless fillets

Resident



Redhorse Sucker



Smallmouth Buffalo

### Neosho River

- 8 meals per month of preparations with bones

### Grand Lake

- 6 meals per month of preparations with bones

## •• Game Fish ••



White Bass



Largemouth Bass

Resident

### Mill Ponds

- 14 meals per month of preparations with bones

### Spring River

- Unrestricted



Black Crappie



White Crappie

Neosho River

- Unrestricted

Grand Lake

- Unrestricted

\* Game fish also includes Spotted Bass



# •• Sunfish ••



Bluegill Sunfish



Green Sunfish

Resident

Mill Ponds

• 2 meals per month of preparations with bones

Spring River

• 5 meals per month of preparations with bones

Neosho River

• Unrestricted

Grand Lake

• Unrestricted

\* Sunfish also includes Hybrid Sunfish

# Catfish



Blue Catfish



Channel Catfish

Mill Ponds

• Not sampled

Spring River

• 9 meals per month of preparations with bones

Neosho River

• Unrestricted

Grand Lake

• Unrestricted

Resident

# •• Paddle Fish & Paddle Fish Eggs ••



Paddle Fish

Resident

Mill Ponds

• Not sampled

Spring River

• Unrestricted

Neosho River

• Unrestricted

Grand Lake

• Unrestricted



# **Tar Creek Area Non-Resident Advisory**



## Non-Game Fish



Carp



Freshwater Drum

Non-Resident

### Mill Ponds

- Not sampled

### Spring River

- 5 meals per month of preparations with bones



Redhorse Sucker



Smallmouth Buffalo

Neosho River

- Unrestricted

Grand Lake

- 11 meals per month of preparations with bones

Non-Resident

# •• Game Fish ••



White Bass



Largemouth Bass

Non-Resident

Mill Ponds

• Unrestricted

Spring River

• Unrestricted



Black Crappie



White Crappie

Non-Resident

Neosho River

- Unrestricted

Grand Lake

- Unrestricted

\* Game fish also includes Spotted Bass



# •• Sunfish ••



Bluegill Sunfish



Green Sunfish

Non-Resident

Mill Ponds

- 5 meals per month of preparations with bones

Spring River

- 8 meals per month of preparations with bones

Neosho River

- Unrestricted

Grand Lake

- Unrestricted

\* Sunfish also includes Hybrid Sunfish

# Catfish



Blue Catfish



Channel Catfish

Non-Resident

Mill Ponds

• Not sampled

Spring River

• Unrestricted

Neosho River

• Unrestricted

Grand Lake

• Unrestricted

# •• Paddle Fish & Paddle Fish Eggs ••



Paddle Fish

Non-Resident

Mill Ponds

• Not sampled

Spring River

• Unrestricted

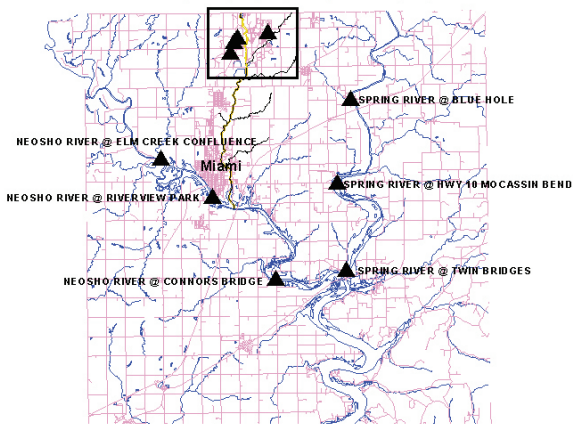
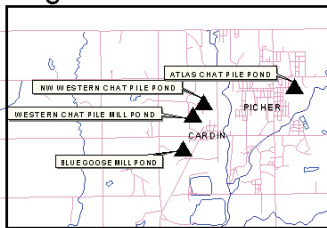
Neosho River

• Unrestricted

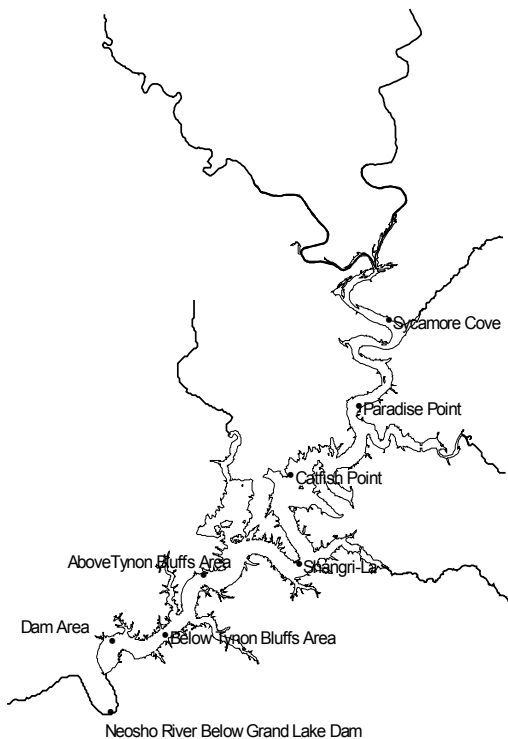
Grand Lake

• Unrestricted

# Tri-State Mining District Fish Tissue Study Area



# Grand Lake Sampling Stations





**Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality**

**707 North Robinson**

**Oklahoma City, OK 73101**

**[www.deq.state.ok.us](http://www.deq.state.ok.us)**

**405•702•1000**

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