



April 3, 2020

RE: NHDES Issues New Fish Consumption Advisory for Squam Lake

On March 30, 2020, NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) issued new fish consumption guidelines for Squam Lake. The recent sampling of Smallmouth Bass and Yellow Perch found high levels of PCB contaminants, further restricting limits of how much wild fish should be eaten.

The PCB contaminants were found in lake sediments, and are not harmful to activities like swimming, boating or catch and release fishing. This is not a contact issue. This is a bioaccumulation issue, meaning fish and birds higher in the food chain accumulate more PCBs. We advise the public to follow the new consumption guidelines, or put the fish back and let them grow. SLA is actively leveraging the updated Watershed Management Plan to find funding for shoreland restoration and protection projects that will reduce the amount of nutrients and contaminants entering into Squam Lake.

More information can be found on the SLA website (<https://www.squamlakes.org/water-quality-monitoring/persistent-organic-pollutants-squam-watershed>) and in the DES press release (<https://www.des.nh.gov/media/pr/2020/20200330-squam-lake-fish.htm>).

If you have any further questions regarding our ongoing work or how to get involved, please contact Tyson Morrill, SLA's Director of Conservation at tmorrill@squamlakes.org.

Sincerely,

Tyson Morrill, Director of Conservation