

## Mercury Levels in Fish – Recent FDA Data

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### Recent FDA Assignments to Measure Mercury in Fish

- Two new assignments to measure mercury in fish in United States commerce completed in 2003
  - 12 different species of fish – total of 224 samples
  - Canned tuna
    - 170 samples of albacore/white
    - 119 samples of light

## 12 Different Species of Fish

- Grouper (i.e., Grouper black, Gag, Gulf, Grouper yellowfin, Yellowmouth, Tiger, Scamp)
- Red Snapper
- Orange Roughy
- Seabass Black
- Trout, saltwater (common names Seatrout Spotted, Seatrout Sand, Weakfish)
- Croaker, Atlantic
- Tilefish, Golden
- Trout, freshwater (Lake and/or Rainbow Trout)
- Bluefish
- Whitefish
- Sardines (Pacific, Spanish)
- Crawfish (Crayfish)

## Mercury Assignment on 12 species

- Fresh, refrigerated, frozen
- Approximately one third domestic imports
  - Baltimore, Chicago, Florida, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, South West
- Approximately two thirds domestic samples
  - Atlanta, Florida, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New England, New York, San Francisco

## Mercury Assignment

- Each sample tested was a composite of 12 individual samples.
- Tested in FDA laboratories
- Used standard methods to measure total mercury

## Mercury data in fish and shellfish

	OLD DATA			NEW DATA		
	MEAN	RANGE	n	MEAN	RANGE	n
Bluefish	0.30	0.20-0.40	2	0.318	0.139-0.479	21
Croaker*	0.28	0.18-0.41	15	0.054	0.013-0.096	21
Grouper*	0.27	0.19-0.33	48	0.569	0.072-1.205	20
Crawfish/crayfish	NA	NA	NA	0.028	0.014-0.047	20
Trout Freshwater	0.42	1.22 (max)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Farm Raised Trout	NA	NA	NA	0.033	0.015-0.110	15
Orange Roughy	0.58	0.42-0.76	9	0.485	0.013-0.762	20
Red Snapper	0.60	0.07-1.46	10	0.154	0.077-0.395	12
Trout Seawater	0.27	ND-1.19	4	0.328	0.022-0.744	20
Tilefish*	1.45	0.65-3.73	60	NA	NA	NA
Golden Tilefish	NA	NA	NA	0.208	0.055-1.123	20
Whitefish*	0.16	ND-0.31	2	0.068	0.027-0.137	14
Black Sea Bass	NA	NA	NA	0.127	0.058-0.352	20
Sardine	NA	NA	NA	0.016	0.004 - 0.035	21

\*Unknown Species

## Tuna Mercury Assignment

- 75% major brands
- 25% store, local, and other brands
- Representative of the volume and type of major and local brands and packing medium (e.g. spring water, broth, and oil) available in the area.
- Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, Dallas, New England, New York, Florida.

## Mercury data in canned tuna

	OLD DATA			NEW DATA		
	MEAN	RANGE	n	MEAN	RANGE	n
Canned tuna	0.17	0.000-0.75	248	NA	NA	NA
White tuna	0.29	ND-0.49	17	0.358	0.03-.85	170
Light tuna	0.12	ND-0.75	225	0.123	0.00-0.53	119

## Future Assignments

- FDA will continue to monitor mercury levels in tuna and a variety of other fish species during FY04.