Common Subsistence and Sport Fish of Southern California

- Pacific bonito
- Yellowtail
- Pacific barracuda
- Opaleye
- Yellowfin croaker
- Barred surfperch
- Black perch
- Barred sandbass
- California scorpionfish, sculpin
- Kelp (Calico) bass
- Pacific (Chub) mackerel
- Shovelnose guitarfish
- Topsmelt
- Pacific sardine
- Copper rockfish
- Sargo
- White croaker, kingfish, tomcod
- Queenfish
- Spotfin croaker
- California halibut
- California corbina
- White seabass

These fish have chemicals in them and should not be eaten if caught along the coast between Santa Monica and Seal Beach Piers. Visit www.pvsfish.org for more details.

* Additional bag or size limits or other restrictions apply to these species. Please see California Department of Fish and Wildlife Sport-Fishing Regulations for more information.

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Montrose Settlements Restoration Program
Restoring natural resources injured by DDTs and PCBs

1. What are DDTs and PCBs?
DDTs and PCBs are toxic mixtures of chemicals that break down very slowly in the environment.

DDT was once a widely used pesticide. One of the largest DDT factories in the United States, Montrose Chemical Corporation, was located in Torrance, California.

PCBs were a group of chemicals that were resistant to heat and pressure. They were used by many companies for things like making paints and cooling electrical parts.

2. 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 outfall pipes offshore of White Point, between San Pedro and Palos Verdes.

Although releases of DDTs and PCBs ended in the 1970s, these chemicals still contaminate the sediments, water, and living organisms of Southern California.

3. What is being done?
Cleaning Up the Environment
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is studying ways to clean up the contaminated sediments. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/region09/superfund/pvshelf/

Survey of contaminated fish
The Montrose Settlements Restoration Program (MSRP) and EPA conducted an extensive survey of contaminated fish along Southern California. Results have been used to update local fishing advisories. The data will also be used to plan restoration projects, and will serve as a basis for EPA cleanup decisions. For information about local fish advisories visit www.oehha.ca.gov/fish.html

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 and Orange County areas. Find out more at www.pvsfish.org

Restoring healthier fishing
Each year MSRP funds Fishing Outreach Programs for youth to introduce them to the wonderful sport of fishing and to teach them about safe fishing practices. MSRP is also currently working on building artificial reefs that should provide safer fish for people to catch and eat. Find out more at www.montroserestoration.noaa.gov

What can I do?
Fish Smart!
A few of the commonly caught fish along the Los Angeles and Orange County coasts are contaminated with the toxic chemicals DDTs, PCBs and mercury. The State of California has issued advisories to limit consumption of certain species from the Seal Beach Pier to the Santa Monica Pier. Here are ways to Fish Smart:

- Use this card to know the fish you catch.
- Look for signs posted at local piers.
- Talk to the members of community groups distributing information about contaminated fish at fishing areas, health clinics, and community events.
- Visit www.pvsfish.org to get more information about fish advisories, healthy eating, and California fishing.

Cook Smart!
DDTs and PCBs build up in the fatty parts of fish. Try to cook in ways that reduce your exposure to these chemicals.

- Before cooking, remove and throw away the head, guts, kidneys, liver, skin, fat and belly area.
- Eat only the filet, especially when making soups, stews or chowder.
- Bake, broil, steam or grill fish, instead of frying.
- Throw away the cooking juices, which can contain higher concentrations of these chemicals.

Eat only the filet!