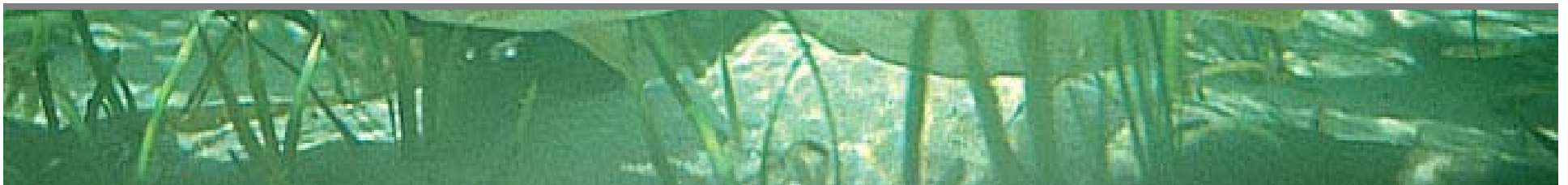




Mercury in Fish



Where Does Mercury Come From?

Natural Sources:

- Soils and rocks
- Wildfires



Man-Made Sources:

- Burning coal and medical waste
- Manufacturing chemicals

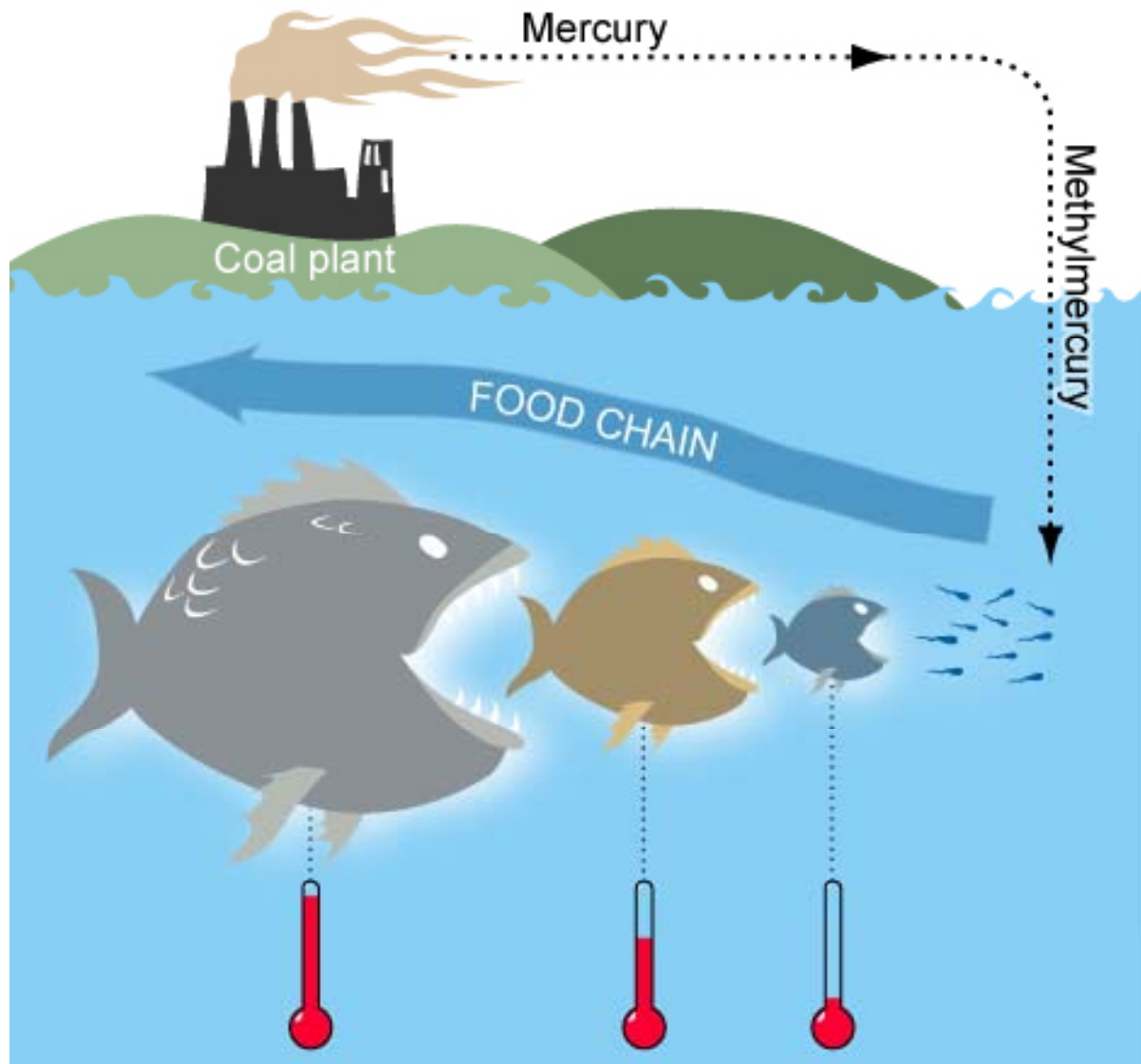


What Happens to Mercury?

1. Rain and snow wash mercury out of the environment and into oceans, lakes, and rivers
2. In water, mercury becomes its toxic form, methyl mercury
3. Fish species eat methyl mercury when they eat other fish

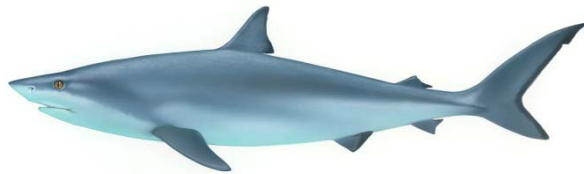


Up the Food Chain

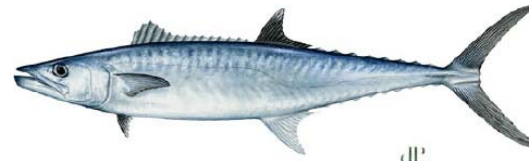


Top of the Aquatic Food Chain

Large, long-living predator fish



Shark



King mackerel



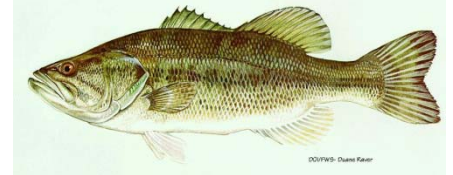
Walleye



Swordfish



Northern pike



Largemouth bass



Lake trout

Human Health Effects of Mercury

Damage to:

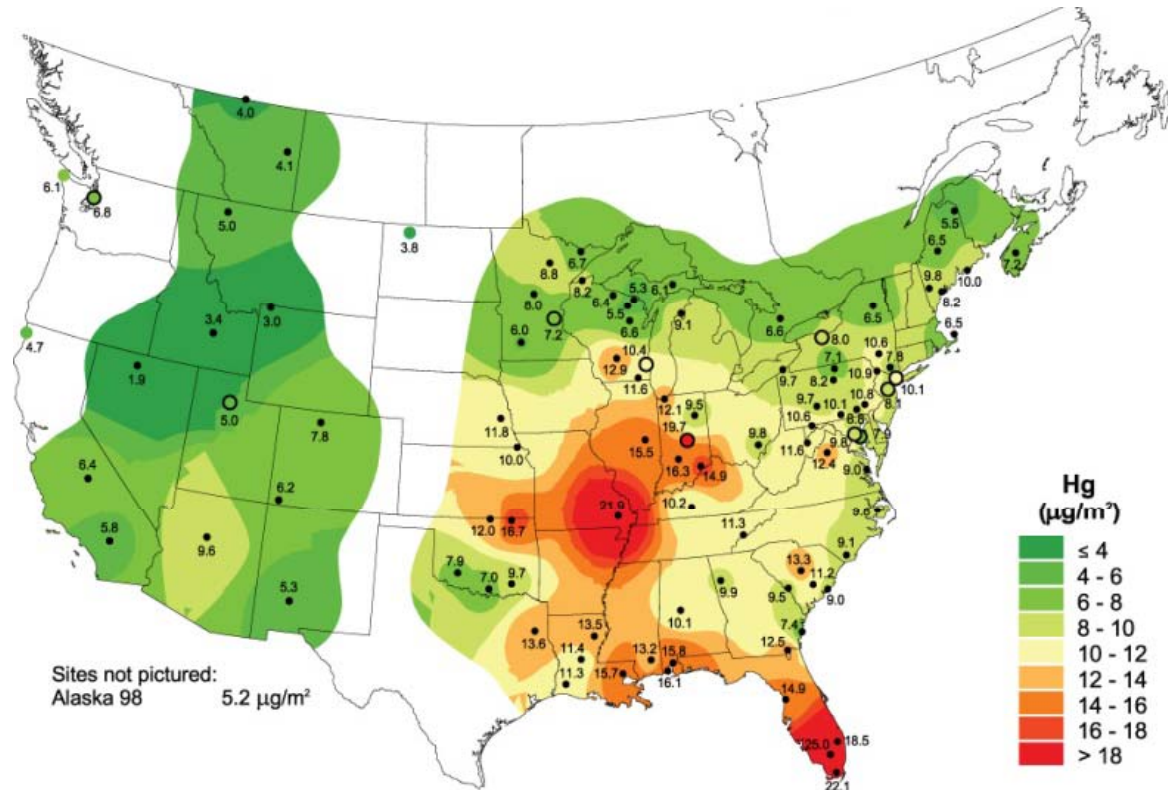
- Heart
- Kidneys
- Central Nervous System



Research

- Nearly all fish contain some amount of methyl mercury.
- Young children should follow government rules on eating fish.

NADP Mercury Deposition Network



MDN samples mercury in rain and snow to help researchers determine trends on mercury deposition: where it is deposited, at which rate, and at what concentration.

National Atmospheric Deposition Program/Mercury Deposition Network
total annual average mercury concentration in rainfall (top), and total annual mercury wet deposition (bottom) in 2008.



National Atmospheric Deposition Program

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- *The NADP is National Research Support Project-3: A Long-Term Monitoring Program in Support of Research on the Effects of Atmospheric Chemical Deposition. More than 250 sponsors support the NADP, including private companies and other nongovernmental organizations, universities, local and state government agencies, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, national laboratories, Native American organizations, Canadian government agencies, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture - National Institute of Food and Agriculture, under agreement no. 2008-39134-19508. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the sponsors or the Illinois State Water Survey.*