



Rogue Basin Toxics Monitoring Summary

This summary combines results from DEQ's Toxics Monitoring Program sampling in the Rogue River Basin from 2011 and 2015 in three media types: water, sediment and fish tissue. This is the first comprehensive report on DEQ's toxics sampling in the Rogue River Basin.

Key Objectives:

- Get a snapshot of pollutants in the Rogue River to help understand trends
- Use this information to identify potential sources
- Make this information available to the public
- Work with internal DEQ groups, community groups, and Oregon residents to identify opportunities for reducing these pollutants

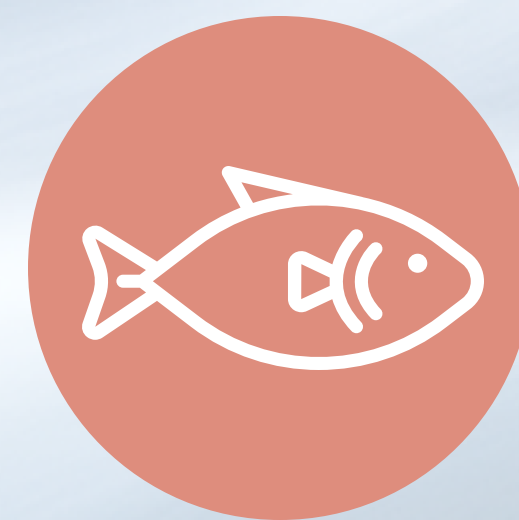
Sample Collection:



Water
60 samples
17 locations



Sediment
14 samples
13 locations



Tissue
21 samples
5 locations

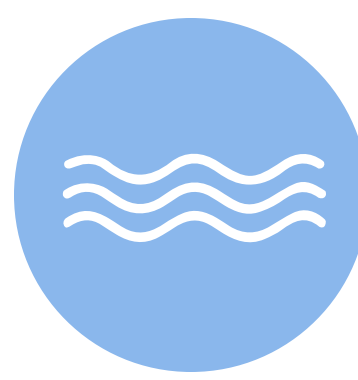
• **Chemical groups included:**

- Current-use pesticides, consumer use products, combustion by-products, dioxins and furans, flame-retardants, industrial chemicals, legacy pesticides, PCBs, and metals

Key Findings:

- DEQ did not find evidence of toxics that pose an immediate risk to human health or the environment
- It is safe to fish, boat, and otherwise recreate in the Rogue River
- Oregon Health Authority has issued fish consumption advisories for locations in the basin
- Findings support 2018/2020 Integrated Report 303(d) Category 5 listings for iron and methylmercury across the basin

Findings by Matrix:



Bear Creek at Kirtland Rd.



Seven chemicals found above human health and aquatic life criteria in water samples.

The number of PCBs and flame retardants found in sediment dropped from 2011 to 2015. Overall, PCBs dropped from 23 in 2011 to 0 in 2015. Flame retardants dropped from 14 in 2011 to 1 in 2015.

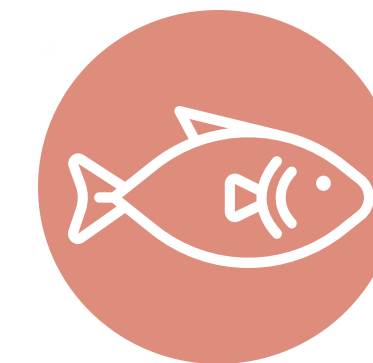


Across the basin

In 2015, Less than 30% contaminants included in the analysis were detected. Most of which were within safe for aquatic life, wildlife, and human health.

Iron Exceedances

Iron exceeded the DEQ Aquatic Life Criteria at two locations (Rogue River at Lobster Bridge and Bear Creek at Valley View Road). These results are reflected in the 2018/2020 Integrated Report 303(d) Category 5 listings.



Across the basin

Mercury concentrations in fish tissue exceeded the DEQ Human Health criterion at all five tissue monitoring locations included in the study.*

* DEQ's human health criterion for mercury assumes a consumption rate of 175 grams per day.

Next Steps:

Results from this study will be used to inform the programs and projects below, which may include additional sampling

Toxics Monitoring Network

A continuation of this sampling on a yearly, statewide basis that aims to identify trends in chemical concentrations

Permitting and Regulatory Programs

Data from this report will help inform and direct projects in the TMDL, NPDES, and stormwater programs

Toxics Reduction Strategy

The strategy complements and supports ongoing efforts in DEQ's air, land and water quality programs by improving integration, sharing best practices and filling any identified gaps

Integrated Report 303(d) list

A reporting of the status of Oregon's waters and a list of water bodies that do not meet water quality standards

