



Fish Contamination Education Collaborative

The Fish Contamination Education Collaborative works to protect the public from the health risks of consuming contaminated fish caught near the Palos Verdes Shelf Superfund Site.

www.pvsfish.org



NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2025

The Collaborative met in September 2025 to review achievements and program changes aimed at effectively minimizing public health risks associated with consumption of contaminated fish.

- The Collaborative continues to conduct outreach to anglers every week and attend local events in collaboration with pier authorities.
- EPA began installing new informational Do-Not-Consume signs at popular piers and fishing areas along the coast of Los Angeles.
- Ten locations from Santa Monica to Seal Beach now have new fish advisory signs. The next step is to install Do-Not-Consume signs at seven more beach and coastal areas.

The Collaborative successfully transitioned to electronic data collection for pier sign inspections and angler outreach interactions, and these data are now managed and visualized using an online dashboard. The Collaborative also provided outreach materials to the 36 bait shops that currently participate in the program.

REDUCE YOUR RISK

PCBs are a group of man-made chemicals historically found in lubricants, coolants, and hydraulic fluids. DDT is a pesticide historically manufactured at a former Torrance, California chemical plant. These chemicals stay in the environment for a very long period of time and have resulted in locally contaminated fish. The United States banned the use and manufacturing of PCBs and DDT in the 1970s because they were found to harm both human health and wildlife. Fish contaminated with PCBs and DDT do not look, taste, or smell any different than fish that are not contaminated. Eating fish contaminated with PCBs and DDT can lead to serious health issues, such as cancer, liver damage, and problems with the immune, hormonal, nervous, and reproductive systems. Ways we can reduce our health risks include:

- **Follow local fish advisories:**
Avoid eating fish with unsafe amounts of PCBs and DDT.
- **Eat only the skinless fillet:**
PCBs and DDT build up in the fatty parts of the fish.
- **Bake, broil, steam, or grill fish:**
These cooking methods let PCBs and DDT drip away.

RECENTLY ATTENDED COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Nhan Hoa Comprehensive Health Care Clinic, Health and Wellness Fair on October 11, 2025
- Monterey Park Health Fair on October 18, 2025

ANGLER OUTREACH

Pier Angler Outreach

In-person outreach occurs at nine popular fishing piers along the coast of Los Angeles and is an effective way of educating anglers of the health risks associated with consumption of contaminated fish. From August 2024 through July 2025, the Collaborative's pier outreach talked with 6,703 anglers about fish contamination, of which:

- 3,818 anglers were new contacts (57%).
- 3,764 (56%) anglers reported being aware of contamination.

GET INVOLVED

- Check out the 2023-2024 Angler Outreach, Do-Not-Consume Sign, and Enforcement reports, available at www.pvsfish.org/resources/partner-documents. **The 2024-2025 reports are also coming soon!**
- Learn more at a local community event! Check out our upcoming events at www.pvsfish.org
- Visit a local pier to see our new signs!
- Sign up for our electronic newsletter (sent twice a year)!



www.pvsfish.org/resources/newsletters

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

The past year, outreach educators with the Collaborative attended 13 local events. At the 13 events, it's estimated that:

- **44,650 people** attended the 13 local events
- **3,161 people** interacted with outreach educators
- **1,011 tip cards** handed out
- **2,368 other materials** handed out



**Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
World Ocean Day
June 7, 2025**



**City of Garden Grove
National Night Out
August 8, 2025**

PROGRAM UPDATES

New Do-Not-Consume Signs

Look out for new signs installed across the outreach piers and coastal areas! Sign replacement was completed in July 2025 at highest priority angler outreach areas and continues through 2026 at other beach and coastal locations.

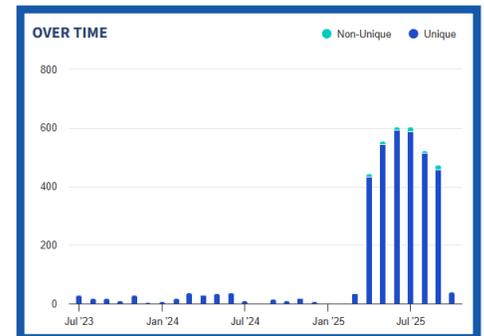
Locations with new pier signs:

- Santa Monica Pier
- Venice Pier
- Manhattan Beach
- Hermosa Beach Pier
- Redondo Beach Pier
- Cabrillo Pier
- Pier J
- Rainbow Harbor
- Belmont Pier
- Seal Beach Pier



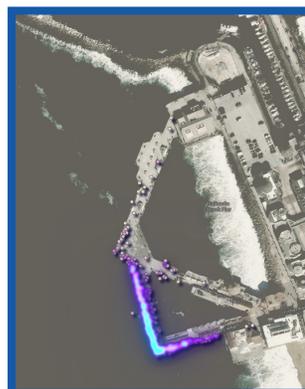
Do-Not-Consume Sign Scans

The new Do-Not-Consume signs have a convenient quick response (QR) code that directs anglers to the Collaborative's website at www.pvsfish.org. Since the new signs have been installed, QR code scans have increased drastically, allowing for passive outreach to the public who see these signs. The graph below shows a significant increase in QR code scans since the new signs were installed. This means people are interacting with our signs!



Electronic Data Collection

The Collaborative now uses electronic data collection for documenting Do-Not-Consume sign conditions and collecting angler outreach responses during engagement. This allows the EPA to know which signs need replacement or cleaning, and quickly summarize angler outreach data on angler awareness, intent to consume fish, and the locations where high-risk species are caught.



Electronic forms allow EPA to see where most anglers are reached. Redondo Beach Pier is busy!

Outreach Materials

The EPA and the Collaborative updated outreach materials, including new fish and magnets for the community event fishing game and fish ID cards in four languages!

