

**U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Office of Seafood
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Mercury Levels in Seafood Species

The following tables provide the mean and range of mercury levels in a variety of fish and shellfish

**Table 1
Fish With Highest Mercury Levels**

SPECIES	MEAN (PPM)	RANGE (PPM)	NO. OF SAMPLES
Tilefish	1.45	0.65-3.73	60
*Swordfish	1.00	0.10-3.22	598
King Mackerel	0.73	0.30-1.67	213
*Shark	0.96	0.05-4.54	324

**Table 2
Fish and Shellfish With Much Lower Mercury Levels**

SPECIES	MEAN (PPM)	RANGE (PPM)	NO. OF SAMPLES
Grouper (Mycteroperca)	0.43	0.05-1.35	64
Tuna (fresh or frozen)	0.32	ND-1.30	191
*Lobster Northern (American)	0.31	0.05-1.31	88
Grouper (Epinephelus)	0.27	0.19-0.33	48
*Halibut	0.23	0.02-0.63	29
*Sablefish	0.22	ND-0.70	102
*Pollock	0.20	ND-0.78	107
*Tuna (canned)	0.17	ND-0.75	248
*Crab Blue	0.17	0.02-0.50	94
*Crab Dungeness	0.18	0.02-0.48	50
*Crab Tanner	0.15	ND-0.38	55
*Crab King	0.09	0.02-0.24	29
*Scallop	0.05	ND-0.22	66
*Catfish	0.07	ND-0.31	22
*Salmon (fresh, frozen or canned)	ND	ND-0.18	52
*Oysters	ND	ND-0.25	33
*Shrimps	ND	ND	22

Table 3
Fish and Shellfish With Mercury Levels Based on Limited Sampling

Data presented in Table 3 are based on limited sample sizes and therefore have a much greater degree of uncertainty

SPECIES	MEAN (PPM)	RANGE (PPM)	NO. OF SAMPLES
*Red Snapper	0.60	0.07-1.46	10
Marlin	0.47	0.25-0.92	13
Moonfish	0.60	0.60	1
Orange Roughy	0.58	0.42-0.76	9
Bass Saltwater	0.49	0.10-0.91	9
Trout Freshwater	0.42	1.22 (max)	NA
Bluefish	0.30	0.20-0.40	2
Croaker	0.28	0.18-0.41	15
Trout Seawater	0.27	ND-1.19	4
*Cod (Atlantic)	0.19	ND-0.33	11
Mahi Mahi	0.19	0.12-0.25	15
*Ocean Perch	0.18	ND-0.31	10
Haddock (Atlantic)	0.17	0.07-0.37	10
Whitefish	0.16	ND-0.31	2
Herring	0.15	0.016-0.28	8
*Spiny Lobster	0.13	ND-0.27	8
Perch Freshwater	0.11	0.10-0.31	4
Perch Saltwater	0.10	0.10-0.15	6
Flounder/Sole	0.04	ND-0.18	17
*Clams	ND	ND	6
Tilapia	ND	ND	8

* Fish and shellfish among the most consumed of the domestic seafood market

Sources of mercury data:

FDA database FY 85-99

EPA Mercury Study Report to Congress, 1997

A Survey of the Occurrence of Mercury in the Fishery Resources of the Gulf of Mexico Report (2000)

NMFS 1976, 1978 Report