

March 10, 2004

Robert E. Brackett, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
Room 3B-004, HFS-32
5100 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, MD 20740-3835

Dear Dr. Brackett,

Listed on the following page are recommendations that the Food Advisory Committee has come to agreement in reference to the joint FDA/EPA advisory on methyl mercury in fish.

It is the view of the committee **not** to delay a revised advisory, but continue to explore the following recommendations. While there are several areas of importance, the first recommendation to address would be that FDA should address the impact of canned tuna on the risk assessment.

As Chairman of the Food Advisory Committee, I respectfully submit these recommendations supported by myself and the members in attendance at the December 10 - 11, 2003 meeting.

Respectfully,



Sanford A. Miller, Ph.D.
Chairman
Food Advisory Committee

Recommendations

Specifically address the impact of canned tuna on the risk assessment

More resources for research, to include; working with industry to get industry data, acquire better consumption data, the need for more fish data on species, sub species, and geography

Make the joint FDA/EPA advisory positive

Make portion size consistent between variety and frequencies of consumption

Clarify the portion size to make it easier to understand

Include a list of low-level mercury content fish that are safe to eat

Include a list of common names of fish (for clarity)

Design 1 advisory to be understood by more than just original target audience (avoiding multiple advisories)

Include website in the advisory (for those who wanted additional information)

Reconsider what fish should be included on the “do not eat” list