

Local fish consumption advisory

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JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- The Duval County Department of Health has issued a fish consumption advisory for two bodies of water near downtown.

Hogan's Creek begins just north of UF and Shands Jacksonville, running southeast through downtown, and meeting the St. Johns River near Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. Long Branch Creek begins southeast of Main and 27th Streets, running northeast along Evergreen Cemetery to the river.

Dr. Aaron Hilliard of the Department of Health says the creeks were tested by the Environmental Protection Agency following complaints from residents that fish from both creeks were making them sick.

"The EPA found polyaromatic hydrocarbons - or PAH's - in Hogan Creek and pesticides in Long Branch," he explained. "Symptoms can include headaches, nausea, vomiting, and more."

Residents are advised to avoid largemouth bass and striped mullet from Hogan Creek, and largemouth bass and blue tilapia from Long Branch. Symptoms from exposure are not immediate, and the health department is mainly concerned with residents who consume fish from either creek more than once per week. They advise residents to catch fish in other area waterways, and avoid the creeks altogether.

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