



# **Proceedings of the 2009 National Forum on Contaminants in Fish**

**The Governor Hotel  
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\* RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

## **Introduction**

From November 2–5, 2009, representatives of states, U.S. territories, tribes, federal agencies, and other interested organizations and individuals attended the 2009 National Forum on Contaminants in Fish in Portland, Oregon. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Environmental Public Health, co-sponsored the Forum.

The 2009 Forum was the tenth National Fish Forum to be held. The first Forum was convened in 1989, and regular Forums have been held every 15 to 18 months since 1995. The location of the Forum has rotated around the country and has included Alexandria, Virginia (1999); Chicago, Illinois (2001); Burlington, Vermont (2002); San Diego, California (2004); Baltimore, Maryland (2005); Portland, Maine (2007); and Portland, Oregon (2009).

Early Forums were attended by representatives from states and tribes, but as public interest in fish consumption advisories increased, additional groups became involved. Attendees now include local and national environmental groups; fishing industry representatives; fish marketing firms; fish and shellfish aquaculture groups; members of the medical and allied health communities; the national press; and interested private citizens. In addition, representatives from several federal U.S. agencies, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), as well as representatives from other countries, routinely participate in the Forum.

The agenda for each of these Forums is developed by a steering committee, generally composed of representatives of state, tribal, and federal agencies. The agendas are developed to provide a variety of perspectives and approaches to assessing and communicating public health risks associated with consumption of contaminated fish. The Forums present the latest science and public health policies.

Topics for the 2009 Forum on Contaminants in Fish included:

- Regional Issues Focusing on the Northwest Region
- Sampling and Analysis Issues
- Risk Assessment/Toxicology
- Risk Communication
- Risks and Benefits
- Risk Management.

In addition to the technical presentation sessions, states and tribes met in workshops to discuss issues pertinent to their regions. A poster session also was held to further the exchange of ideas and share state and tribal outreach materials related to fish advisories.

This document contains the proceedings of the Forum, including the agenda, abstracts of presentations, and slides used by the presenters.

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