



Palos Verdes Shelf Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Pacific Southwest Region • San Francisco, CA

The undersea Palos Verdes Shelf site is part of the Montrose Chemical Corporation Superfund site, located in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Los Angeles County, California. In the 1940s-80s, the former Montrose Chemical plant (and other industries) in Torrance, California released waste into the Los Angeles County sanitation system.

This system eventually released waste into the ocean on the Palos Verdes Shelf. As a result, the near-shore ocean floor was contaminated with:

- **DDT** (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), a pesticide widely used to control insects, and
- **PCBs** (polychlorinated biphenyls), a group of chemicals often used in industrial processes.

Both PCBs and DDT were banned in the U.S. in the 1970s because they were found to harm human health. While the ocean floor is generally too deep for human contact, PCBs and DDT can build up in fish that feed on the Palos Verdes Shelf and (at certain levels) make them unsafe to eat.



Do Not Eat



White Croaker



Barred Sand Bass



Black Croaker

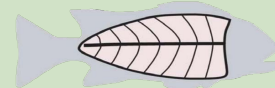


Topsmelt



Barracuda

Reduce your risk!



Eating too much contaminated fish may harm your health.

Eating fish with DDT and PCBs does not make people sick right away. The more contaminated fish you eat, the greater the amount of these chemicals build up in your body over time. To protect the health of you and your family:

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

Note: Swimming, surfing, and snorkeling in the area are considered safe

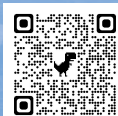


For more information and upcoming outreach events:

Fish Contamination Education Collaborative Webpage: www.pvsfish.org

EPA Webpage: www.epa.gov/superfund/montrose

Fish Advisories: www.oehha.ca.gov/fish



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