



Figure 1. Average total mercury concentration (µg/kg, wet weight) found in the adductor muscles of 350 crayfish across 15 watersheds. **Green**=Idaho, **Blue**=Montana, **Light Blue**=Washington, **Orange**=Oregon

EDIBLE	AVOID	GOOD CHOICE	BEST CHOICE
SCREENING VALUE µg/kg	X>460	460>X>150	<150

Table 1. U.S. EPA mercury food advisory values relative to fish consumption. All crayfish collected during the 2021 campaign were safe to consume as they fell into either the “Good choice” or “Best choice” categories.

The Crayfish Project at the University of Idaho had its first field season during the summer of 2021. This community driven campaign included volunteers from the Boise River Enhancement Network (BREN), Montana Fish and Game, Spokane RiverKeeper, Salish School of Spokane, The River Mile, Engaging Every Student, and the Columbia River Inter Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). In the 3-month sampling period, over 100 volunteers captured 350 crayfish from 15 watersheds across 4 states. Mercury concentrations within crayfish muscle provided a snapshot of mercury distribution across the Columbia River Basin (Figure 1). While geographic location influenced mercury distribution, none of the watersheds contained crayfish with inordinately high mercury concentrations. The Crayfish Project at the University of Idaho is motivated to use crayfish in community based participatory research. For more information, contact us through our interactive website.



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