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## **NYSDEC: Statement to WaterFront, Feb. 10, 2023**

New York State is continuing its nation-leading actions to investigate, document, and address emerging contaminants and prevent potential exposure to the public. **Since 2017 DEC, in coordination with the State Department of Health, collects fish samples for multiple waterbodies, with PFOS being a chemical of primary concern.** The Department of Health updates its health advice annually due to concerns about different contaminants in fish.

### **ON BACKGROUND:**

DEC is committed to helping prevent public exposure to persistent contaminants like PFAS as part of New York State's nation-leading efforts to reduce the potential for exposure to harmful chemicals in the environment. **Contaminants like PFAS pose long-term threats to public health** and the environment and New York's ongoing response to PFAS contamination in communities and other impacted areas across the state demonstrated the need for lasting, workable solutions to address contamination.

Most recently, Governor Kathy Hochul's 2023-24 Executive Budget includes a proposal to aid municipalities in investigating and remediating sites contaminated with emerging contaminants to protect the public's drinking water from "forever chemicals".

Additionally, DEC is soon finalizing [new water quality guidance values](#) that will advance the State's regulation of PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane to reduce human and environmental exposure to these emerging contaminants.

Please contact DOH for additional information about PFAS in consumption advisories.