

PFAS in New York State Fish, 2010 – 2018

Jesse Becker, Wayne Richter & Larry Skinner

jesse.becker@dec.ny.gov

Bureau of Ecosystem Health
Division of Fish and Wildlife



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

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Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Acids		Sulfonates	
PFBA	4	PFBS	4
PFPeA	5	PFHxS	6
PFHxA	6	PFOS	8
PFHpA	7		
PFOA	8		
PFNA	9		
PFDA	10		
PFUnA	11		
PFDoA	12		

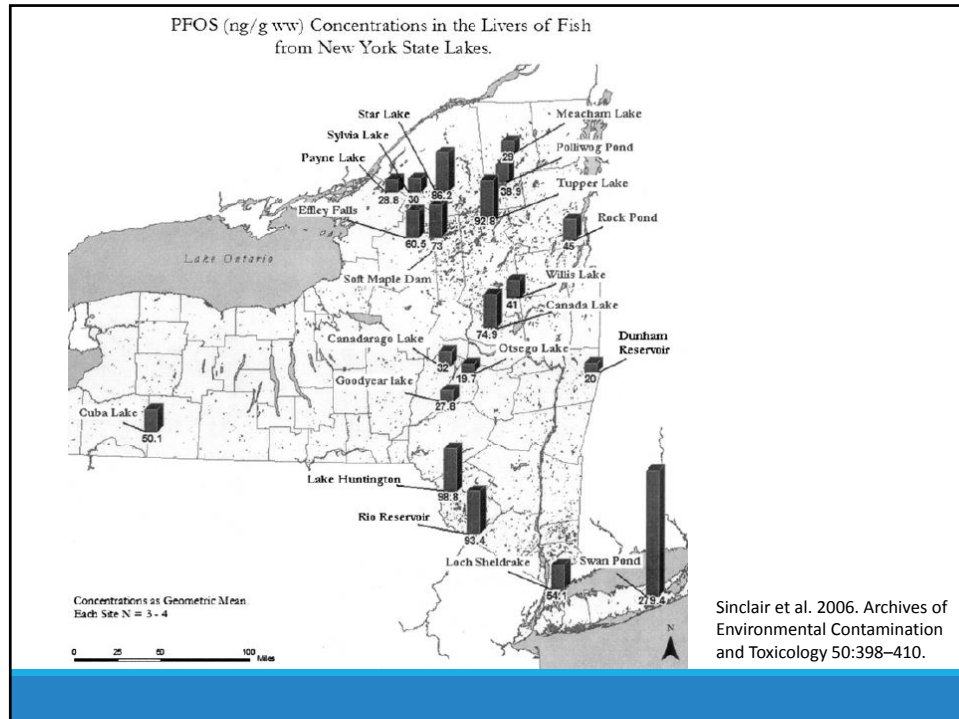
ONLY WHAT WE TEST FOR!
1000s of possible compounds!

Sulfonamide	
PFOSA	8

Not our (grand)parents' pollutants...

PCBs, Pesticides, PCDD/Fs	→	lipids	→	
Mercury	→	muscle	→	
PFAS	→	serum, viscera, liver	→	?

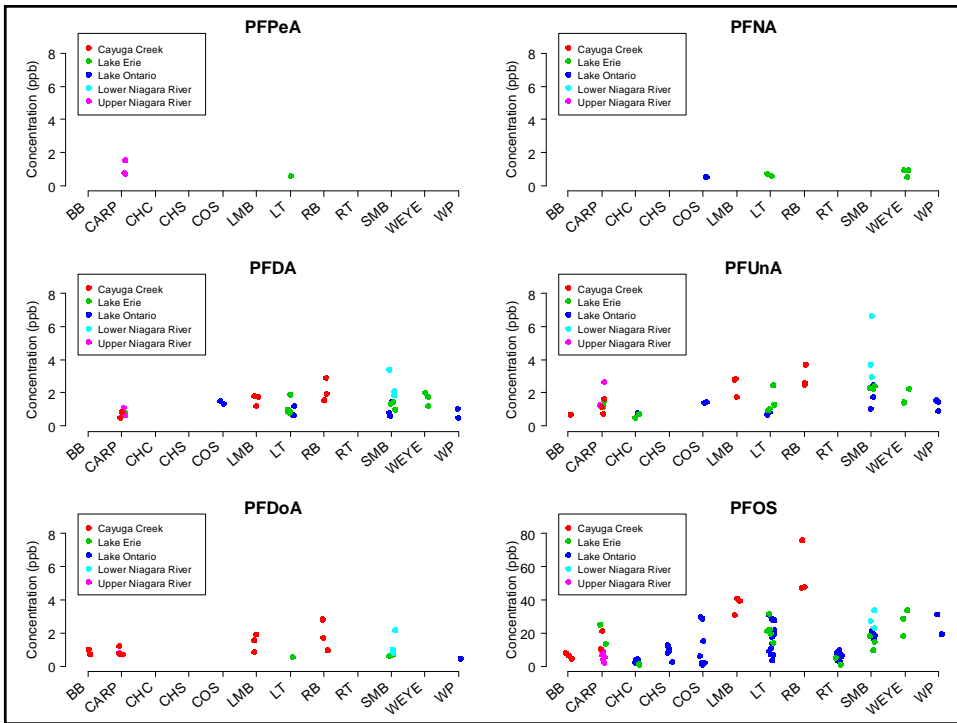
Common Carp, copyright Duane Raver
Largemouth Bass, copyright Joseph Tomelleri



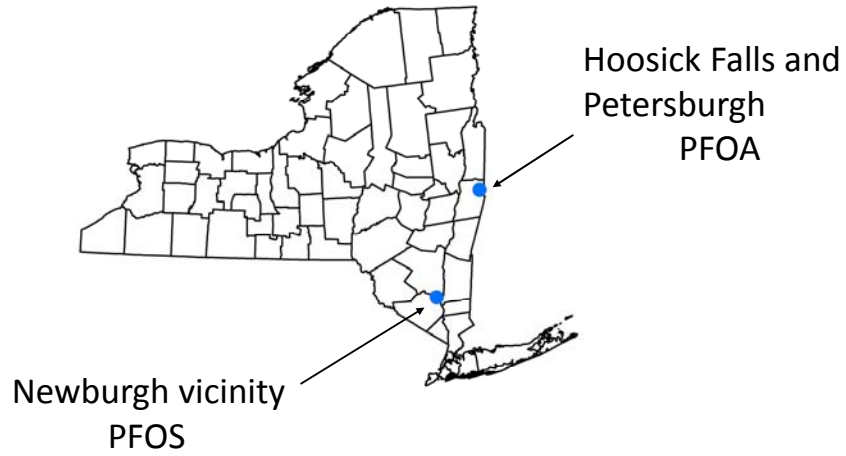
Goals

- Understand prevalence across the state.
- Develop an informed position on the risks of human fish consumption where PFAS contamination might be found.
- Provide information to the public about PFAS in fish.
- Evaluate food chain risks from the consumption of contaminated fish by fish-eating wildlife.
- Better understand the relationship between PFAS concentrations in water/sediments and in fish.

2010 Fish Sampling – NY Great Lakes



2016-2017 Fish Sampling



Targeted Sampling



Sportfish: two to five species per location, 10 individuals per species. (n=345)



Forage fish: one species per location, 10 samples per species. (n=140)

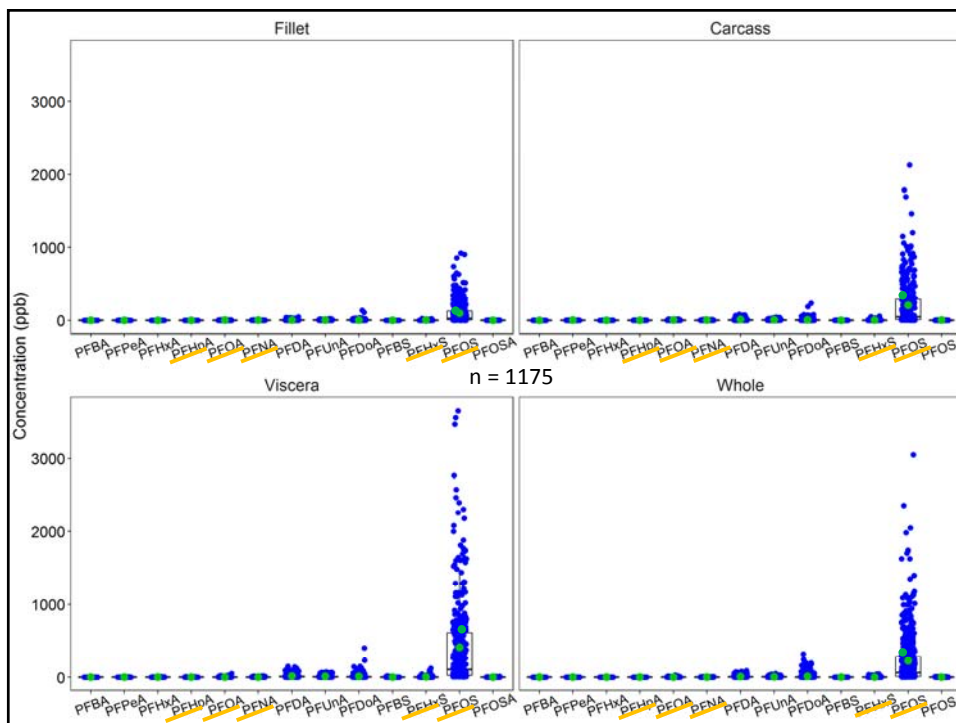
Targeted Sampling

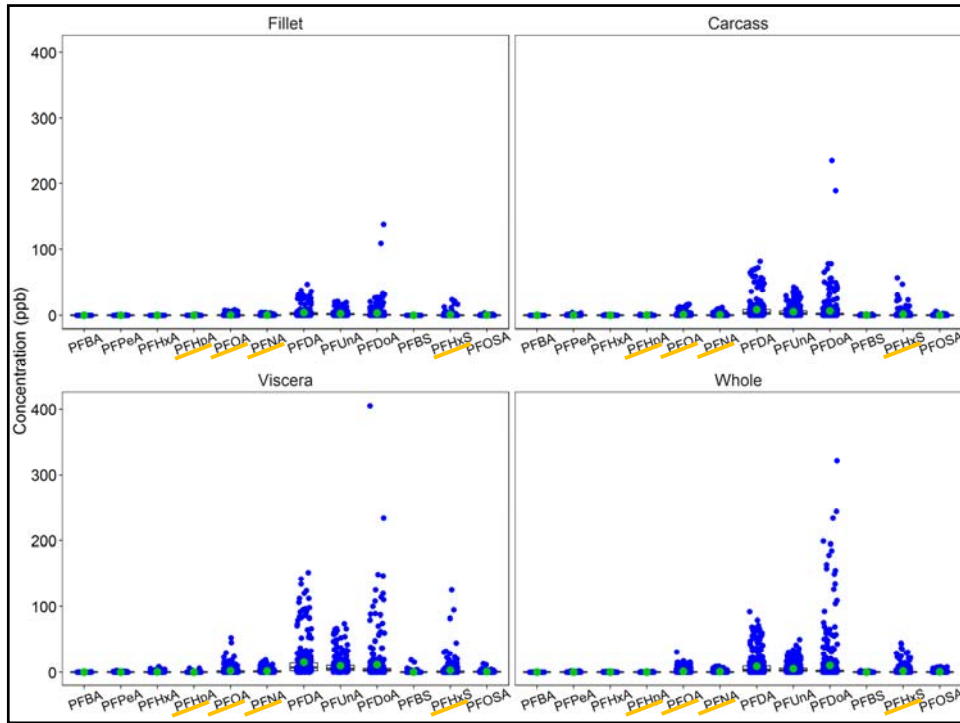


Sportfish: two to five species per location, 10 individuals per species. (n=345)

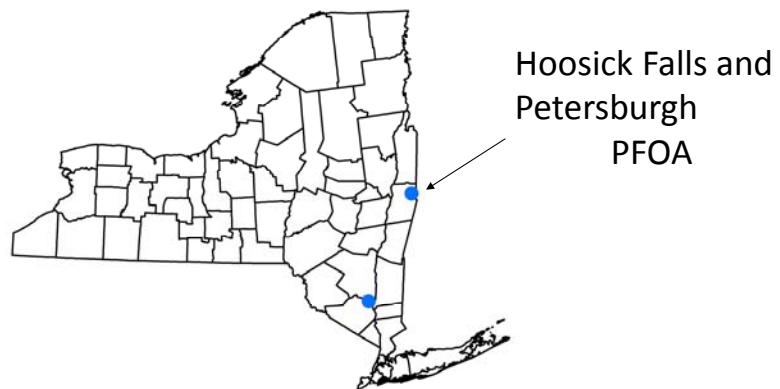
Standard fillet
 Viscera
 Remainder of fish

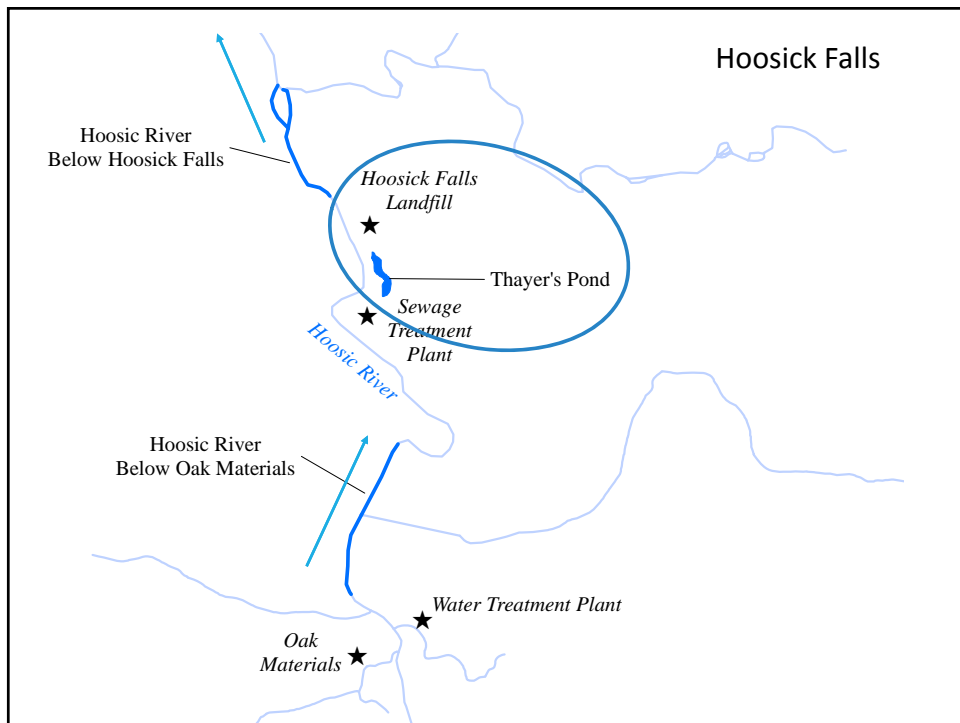
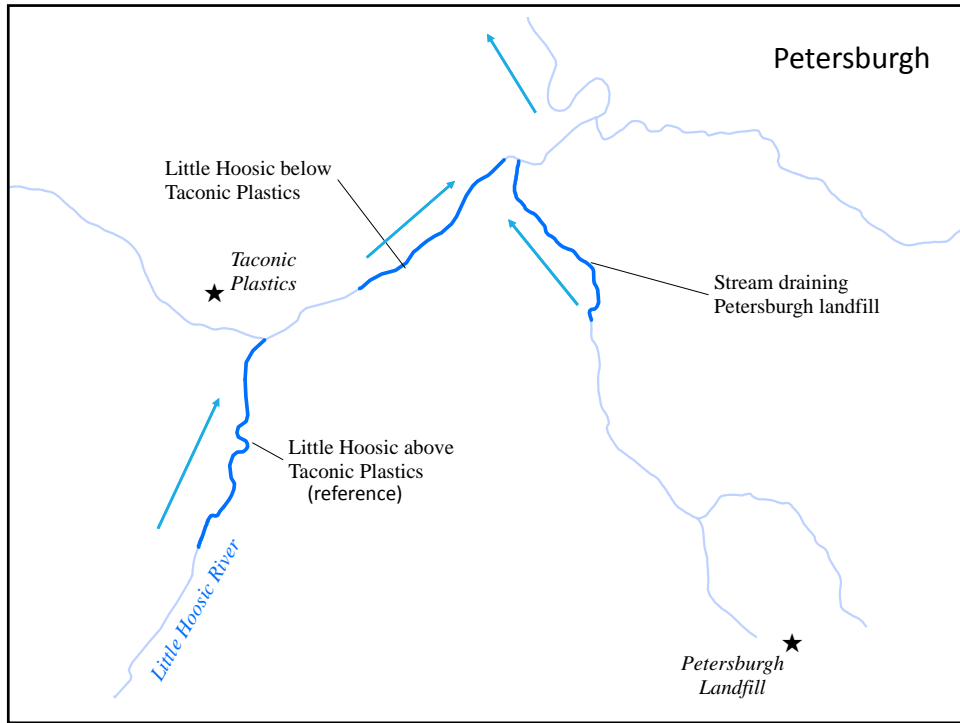
} Synthesized Whole

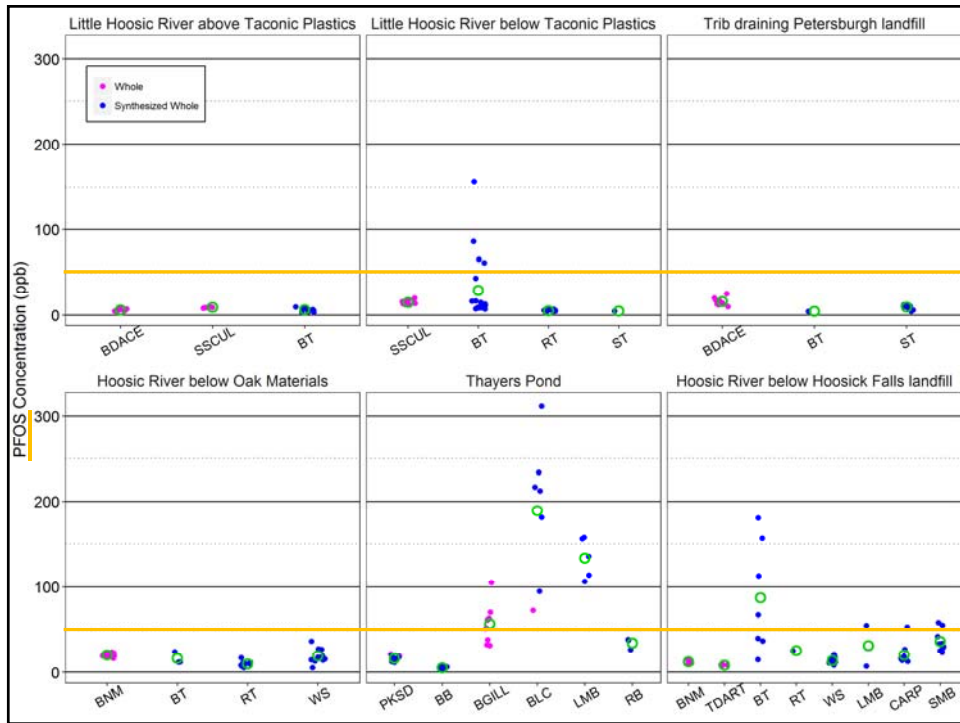
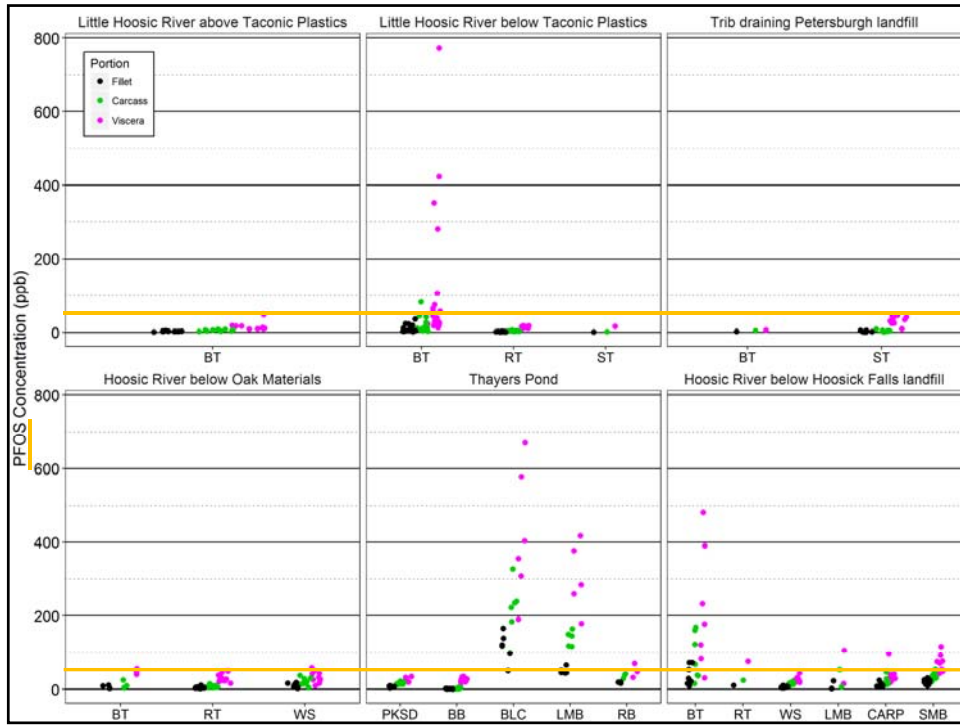




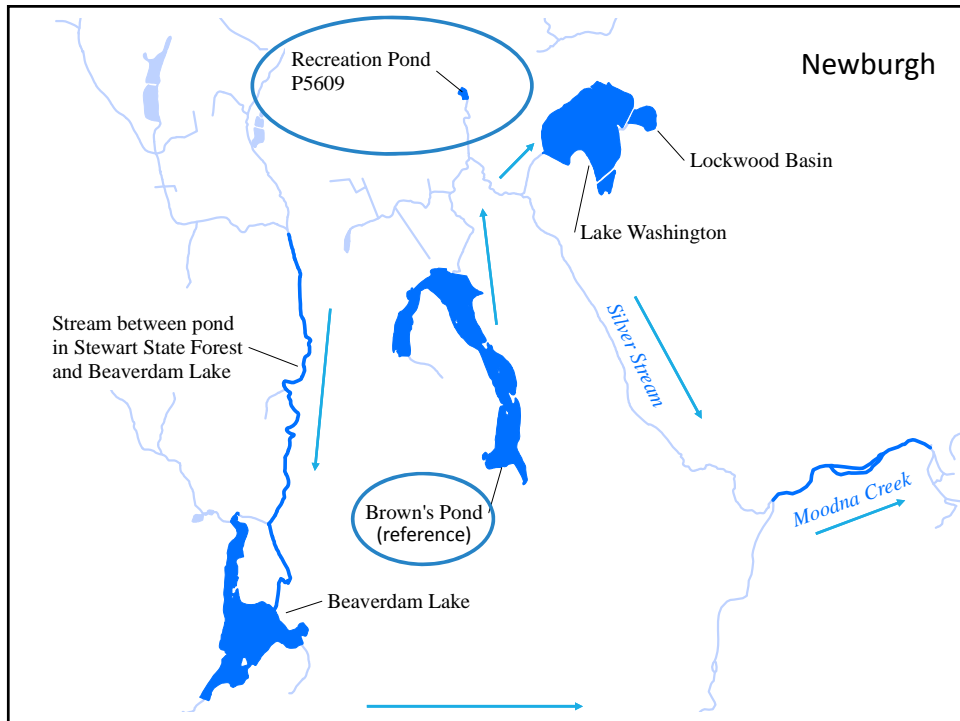
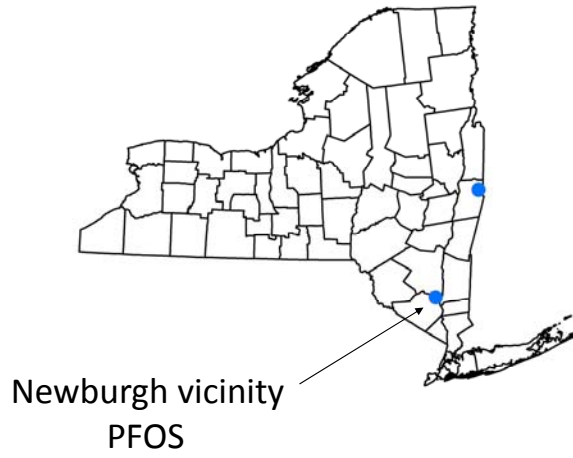
2016-2017 Fish Sampling

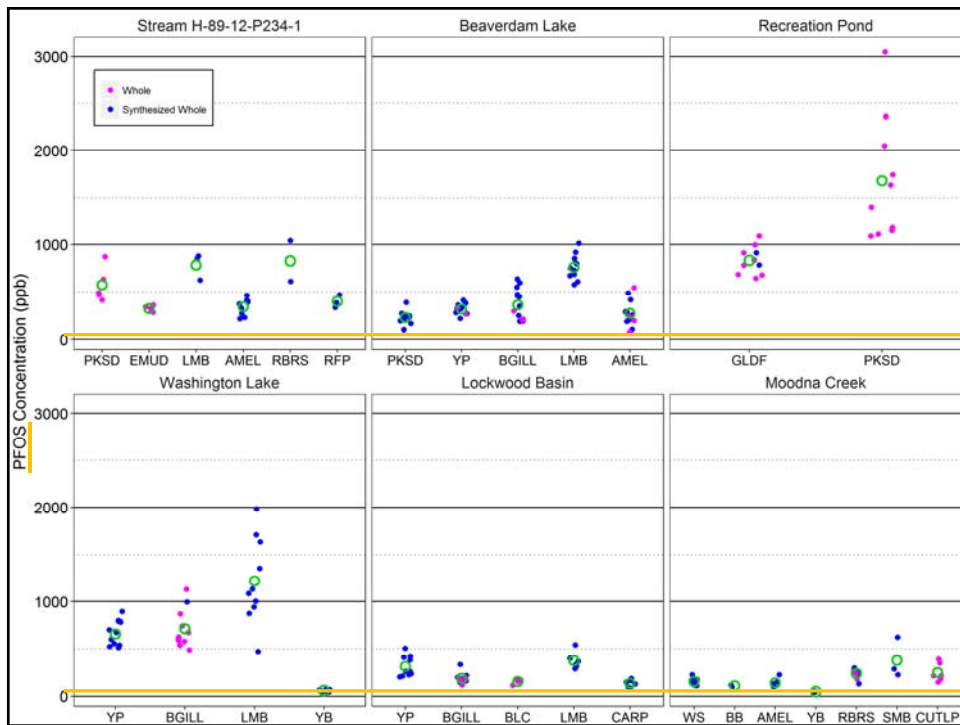
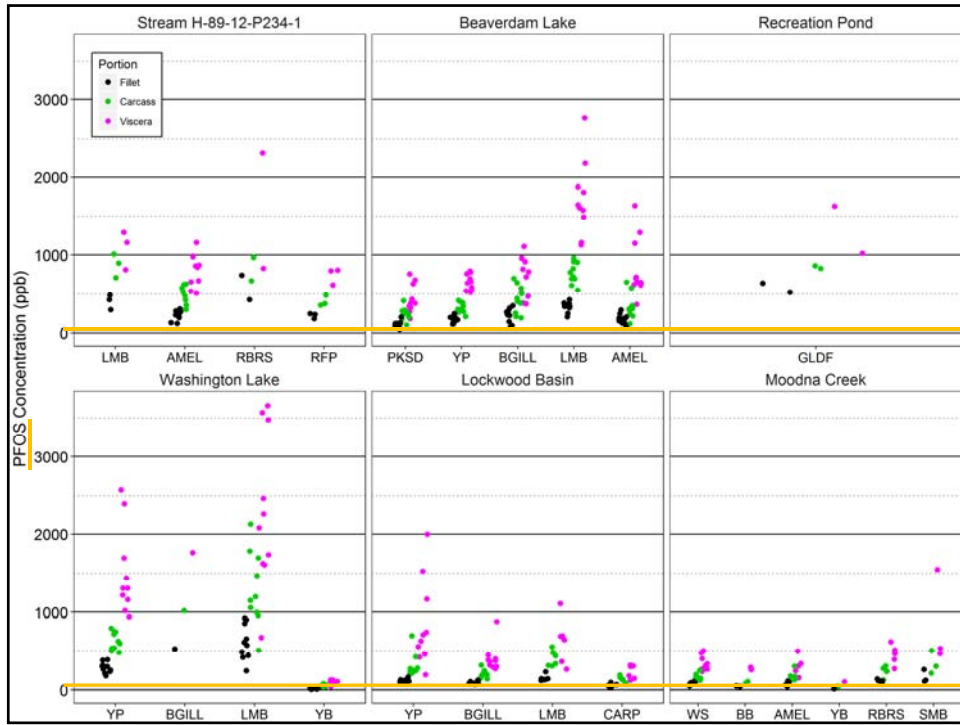




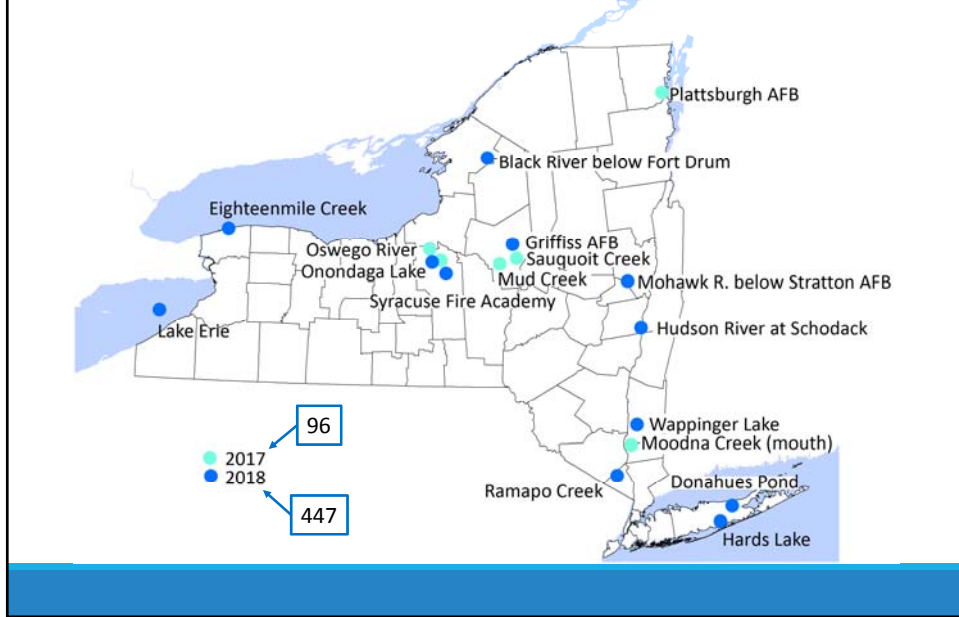


2016-2017 Fish Sampling





2017-2018 Statewide Fish Sampling



Provisional data. Do not distribute.

Conclusions:

- PFAS are pervasive in fish and can be at high concentrations – these contaminants are in the food chain!
- Concentrations are highest in the viscera but are also high in the edible portion (fillet).
- Low food chain species and small individuals can have high concentrations.
- Catfish and bullhead have relatively low concentrations, even in polluted sites.
- Concentrations can vary in a relatively short spatial distance.

Conclusions and Questions:

- PFOS is highly bioaccumulative while PFOA is much less so. But the 9-12 chain acids can be an important contributor to total PFAS.
- The compounds of concern for fish are likely to be different than those for water.
- The analysis suite is expanding – what else will we see? Expect surprises!
- We will be looking at the ecological implications.
- Our DEC laboratory is in method validation for the analysis of PFAS in tissues.