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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "AGENCY: NO RISK FROM PNSY FISH" NSY PORTSMOUTH ME  
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## Agency: No risk from PNSY fish

By Stephen Mazurka  
Herald Correspondent

**KITTERY** — The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease has concluded that the general population is not at risk from eating fish and shellfish taken during a first round of sampling from areas around the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

But it said that further review is necessary regarding fish and shellfish eaten by fishermen and pregnant women.

The initial sampling, which included sublegal-size lobsters, was taken in the fall of 1991. A second round of sampling, completed in summer 1993, used legal-size lobsters and is still being evaluated.

That was the status of a report made yesterday, at Days Inn, to the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), a group made up of community members, shipyard officials and regulators assigned the task of reviewing environmental issues affecting the shipyard.

In his report, Simeon Hahn, whose title is biologist-risk assessor for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, said samples of flounder, mussels and lobsters were taken from more than a dozen sites around the shipyard plus the Gulf of Maine, and York and Portsmouth Harbors. Lobsters of the legal size were taken by divers and flounder was purchased from fishermen. Some flounder came from three miles offshore.

Hahn said testing showed contamination in sediment and water too minuscule to be of concern making the risk of swimming or walking in sediment negligible. Contaminants, if any, would be through consumption of seafood, but that is a not a concern for the general population, he said.