

Press Release

California Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment David Edwards, PhD, Acting Director

For Immediate Release:

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Tina.Cox@oehha.ca.gov

Updated Fish Advisory Reflects Renaming to Xanyō Xamshré

SACRAMENTO – Today, the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) issued an updated fish consumption advisory for Xanyō Xamshré, located near the California-Arizona border, in Imperial County. The update was issued to remove the use of the derogatory term "squaw" in all documents issued by the office.

Formerly known as "Squaw Lake," the water body name was changed to Xanyō Xamshré in 2022 by the US Bureau of Land Management per Secretary Orders 3404 and 3405. Similar legislation (AB2022) was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom the same year. Serving recommendations remain the same as in the previous advisory released in 2019, which provides safe-eating advice for black bass species, Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Flathead Catfish, Striped Bass, and sunfish species.

OEHHA's <u>Good Catch California program</u> routinely develops fish advisories so Californians can make healthy choices about the fish they catch in waterbodies across the state.

"OEHHA is committed to addressing historical injustices and respecting the voices of California's tribes," said OEHHA Acting Director Dr. David Edwards. "This update serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving and respecting indigenous communities and ensuring a California that is representative of all cultures."

The Xanyō Xamshré advisory is part of more than 150 other OEHHA advisories that provide site-specific, health-based fish consumption advice for many places where people catch and eat fish in California, including lakes, rivers, bays, reservoirs and the California coast. Advisories are available on OEHHA's Fish Advisories webpage.

OEHHA's mission is to protect and enhance the health of Californians and the environment through scientific evaluations that inform, support, and guide regulatory and other actions in the state.