

Ernie Edwards

Do you know that area expert, Floyd Gray, recently retired of USGS, recently completed a Sonoita Creek soil pollution analysis which was a part of a 2012 University Of Arizona thesis on metal accumulation in plants, showing that those metals originate from Harshaw Creek and other watersheds due to natural leaching and to legacy mine acid discharges?

So how is it that ADEQ can even consider such a high level of discharge of supposedly clean water approximating 6.5 million gallons per day which will be capable of great carrying capacity, to further metal mobilization from Harshaw Creek, putting all downstream aquifers at risk, including the one feeding the municipal water wells of the Town of Patagonia and eventually further contaminating Lake Patagonia?

Can you explain the science behind the recent ADEQ posting at the marina at Lake Patagonia suggesting a limit of fish consumption for adults to be 6 oz. per week, pregnant women and children at half that level with a recommendation even lower than those levels for consumption of catfish?

Conversations with ADEQ personnel have them telling me that there is no record of that poster showing low consumption levels. However, there are many people who distinctly remember that poster.

Now that original poster is replaced by a poster suggesting that with the exception of catfish, all species are now safe to eat with no limits.

Can you explain how Lake Patagonia went from impaired status to safe status?

Do you really expect the public to believe that they can eat as much fish as they want with no dangers to their health?

Having a friend who is a mental vegetable from eating too much fish contaminated by poisons in a lake, I find it hard to feel safe to follow your recommendations.

Can you please publish the science that substantiates your changing the Lake from impaired to safe?

Please accept my endorsement of the comments submitted by Patagonia Area Resource Alliance as they regard this permitting issue.