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## Trout containing 1080 safe to eat – DOC

THE Department of Conservation (DOC) says trout caught in areas where 1080 aerial operations have taken place are safe to eat.

Fishing groups warned last week that there was a low risk to people eating trout caught in the area if the fish had eaten mice contaminated with the 1080 poison, and anglers who had concerns could take a "zero risk" approach and not eat their catch.

DOC media adviser Reuben Williams said there was no risk and anglers could still eat their catch, but if they were concerned

**'We don't believe there's a risk. You can still eat your catch.'**

they could catch and release. "We don't believe there's a risk. You can still eat your catch," he said. "Because of that we don't feel the need to go out and put signs up."

Research by DOC, the Federation of Freshwater Anglers, and Fish & Game showed trout took up small amounts of 1080 into their flesh after eating mice infected with the poison.

That included at Piano Flat in northern Southland, where DOC conducted a 1080 drop in the 10,500-hectare Waikaia Forest.

The research involved feeding trout high levels of 1080 in a laboratory. Preliminary results found small amounts of 1080 in the trout's flesh, but it broke down over several days.

Researchers calculated that at those levels, an 80-kilogram adult would need to eat more than 14 tonnes of trout flesh in one serving to have a 50 per cent chance of receiving a fatal dose.

Williams said none of the fish force-fed 1080 gel died. Fairfax NZ