

Mercury in Halibut

Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) requested a *different* approach to the problem of mercury in halibut.

At the present time, the Food and Drug Administration has set up guidelines for the fishing industry which establish a maximum acceptable level of mercury in halibut at .5 parts per million.

Under the "blending" approach, halibut with different levels of mercury would be blended and then tested. Stevens said he is informed that Canada uses this approach.

"The public is protected and the fishermen of my state would be able to continue fishing for halibut on an economically feasible basis."