

**Table 4.22 Average concentrations of contaminants in fish<sup>1</sup>, by species and by area: 1983-1996**

United Kingdom		mg/kg wet weight													
		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<b>North Sea (Southern Blight)</b>															
Cod	Mercury	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.06	..	0.07	0.07	..	0.07
	Copper	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	..	0.1	0.2	..	..
	Zinc	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.2	..	3.0	3.8	..	..
	Total DDT <sup>2</sup>	0.4	..	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	..	0.2	0.2	..	0.2
	Dieldrin	0.2	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	..	0.1	0.1	..	< 0.1
	Total HCH <sup>3</sup>	< 0.1	..	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1	..	0.1	0.1	..	< 0.1
	PCBs <sup>4</sup>	5.7	..	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.9	2.2	2.1	2.1	..	1.4	2.3	..	1.6
Plaice	Mercury	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	..	0.05	0.05	..	..
	Copper	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	..	0.2	..	..	..
	Zinc	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.1	3.7	4.9	..	4.3	4.1	..	..
	Total DDT	0.03	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	..	0.01	< 0.01	..	..
	Dieldrin	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	..	0.01	< 0.01	..	..
	Total HCH	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	..	< 0.01	< 0.01	..	..
	PCBs	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	..	0.1	0.1	..	..
<b>Irish Sea (Liverpool Bay)</b>															
Whiting	Mercury <sup>5</sup>	0.17	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.11	..	0.13	..	..	..
	Copper	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	..	..	0.3	..	..	..
	Zinc	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.4	4.3	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.4	..	4.5	..	..	..
	Total DDT	..	0.6	0.4	..	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	..	0.4	..	..	..
	Dieldrin	..	0.2	0.1	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	..	0.1	..	..	..
	Total HCH	..	0.1	< 0.1	..	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	..	< 0.1	..	..	..
	PCBs	..	4.2	4.6	..	3.3	4.4	3.5	2.5	2.8	..	1.9	..	..	..
Plaice	Mercury	0.14	0.11	0.09	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.1	..	..	0.1	0.09	..	0.09	..
	Copper	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	..	..	0.2	0.3	..	0.3	..
	Zinc	5.8	5.6	5.2	5.5	4.6	5.2	5.2	..	..	4.7	5.3	..	5.3	..
	Total DDT	0.11	0.13	0.03	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.06	..	..	0.04	0.07	..	0.04	..
	Dieldrin	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.02	..	..	0.01	0.01	..	0.01	..
	Total HCH	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	..	..	0.01	0.02	..	< 0.01	..
	PCBs	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	..	..	0.3	0.4	..	0.3	..

Source: CEFAS

<sup>1</sup> Metal contaminants are analysed in fish muscle. Pesticides and PCBs are analysed in fish liver.

<sup>2</sup> Total DDT = ppDDE + ppTDE + ppDDT.

<sup>3</sup> Total HCH = a HCH + g HCH.

<sup>4</sup> PCBs are measured on a formulation basis (as Arcolor 1254).

<sup>5</sup> For 1993 data, only larger fish were available.

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 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/des/index.htm>