

Question

I'm just after a statement in regards to the EPA's findings and warning not to eat – or to limit eating - six species found in Currumbene Creek, as well as a reaction to the national PFAS Taskforce into the management of the chemicals.

Response

As part of the ongoing HMAS Albatross PFAS Investigation, Defence took fish samples from Currumbene Creek. PFAS was detected in some of these samples at varying concentrations.

Defence has been working closely with the New South Wales (NSW) Government throughout the Investigation and has provided the NSW Environment Protection Authority with all sample results. After considering the Defence sample results, the NSW Government PFAS Taskforce recommended that people who frequently catch fish from Currumbene Creek limit their intake of certain species, as a precaution.

Defence is currently preparing an addendum to the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment, which will assess the risks to fishers in Currumbene Creek. Defence is committed to keeping the community informed about the investigation findings and will present the results of the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment Addendum, to the community, once it is finalised. This addendum is due to be released in mid-2018.

The PFAS Taskforce announcement on support for PFAS Management aligns with Defence's current program of investigations and management activities at affected sites. Defence will continue to work with government agencies and affected communities to investigate and implement management strategies to reduce PFAS exposure.