



## **Letters to the Editor**

*February 15, 2006*

### **Study's results are fishy**

Your warning last week that "area women" are "at risk" from high levels of mercury [news story, Feb. 9] was misleading.

It was based on a completely unscientific "study" by the Sierra Club. The participants were self-selected and tended to be "greater consumers of fish" than average Americans. Moreover, only 169 of the nearly 6,600 people who participated in the study were actually "area women." Even if this sample were randomly selected, which it wasn't, it simply isn't large enough to have any statistical significance.

Your report on the study also failed to mention that Illinois had some of the lowest mercury levels of the 20 participating states. The recent hysteria over mercury appears to have more to do with political agendas than sound science.

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