Mr Wayne Burley and Mr Peter Midson  
Bass Kempsey Inc  
PO Box 2255  
WEST KEMPSEY 2440

Dear Mr Burley and Mr Midson

Macleay Bass Sampling - March 2013

I am writing on behalf of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to thank you and the members of your organisation for assisting with the collection Australian Bass specimens for analysis as part of Macleay Bass Catch 2013. The assistance of you and your members was invaluable.

The EPA now has the results from the analyses of the specimens collected. Please accept my apologies for the time it has taken to provide you with feedback on the results of this sampling.

The objective of the EPA’s sampling program was to obtain a ‘snapshot’ of the levels of key metals present in Australian Bass in the upper Macleay River. This snapshot helps to identify any potential risk to human health through the consumption of Australian Bass from these waters and may inform whether a more detailed sampling program is warranted.

Australian Bass was chosen as the target species as it is the most commonly targeted fish species for consumption in the upper Macleay.

A total of 13 Australian Bass were collected in the sampling program and were taken between Georges Junction and Blackbird Flat. Each fish was analysed for metal content, with the data compared to ‘maximum levels’ and ‘generally expected levels’ set by Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

A table of the results from the analyses is provided in Attachment 1 to this letter. A map providing the approximate capture location of each fish is provided in Attachment 2.

In summary, the results of the analyses showed that the levels of all metals comply with the standards set by Food Standards Australia New Zealand. This is very encouraging.

The EPA forwarded this data to NSW Health, NSW Food Authority and NSW Fisheries for their review and advice. Those agencies confirmed that the information from these samples indicated that consuming Bass, which are caught in accordance with the bag limits from the upper Macleay River, does not pose a health risk.

The EPA understands that there is still concern amongst some residents and river users in the upper Macleay regarding water quality. In order to respond to any concerns it is important that the relevant agencies are provided with timely information regarding any pollution incidents or fish kills. I therefore encourage you or any other concerned residents who observe a pollution incident or fish kill to immediately contact the EPA’s Environment Line (131555).
I would be grateful if you would formally extend the EPA's appreciation to the members of Bass Kempsey Inc. It would not have been possible to collect the samples from these sites without your cooperation.

Please contact me on 6640 2501 should you wish to discuss the details of this study further.

Yours sincerely,

BRETT NUDD
Manager, North Coast Region
Environment Protection Authority

cc. NSW Fisheries, NSW Health, NSW Food Authority and Kempsey Shire Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Maximum Level (mg/kg)</th>
<th>Generally Expected Level (mg/kg)</th>
<th>Fish Sample Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antimony</td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arsenic</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadmium</td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromium</td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>0.5 – 2</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selenium</td>
<td>0.5 – 2</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc</td>
<td>5 – 15</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
1. Maximum levels (MLs) are levels of specified metals permitted in the edible content of a food. The MLs are set by Food Standards Australia New Zealand in Standard 1.4.1 – Food Standards Code, Contaminants and Natural Toxicants (2011).
2. Generally Expected Levels (GELs) of Metals in Fish is a guideline published by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (2001). These metals do not have Maximum Levels set by the Food Standards Code.
3. Food Standards Australia / New Zealand do not provide MLs or GELs for all metals, which is why some of the metals do not have a level listed.
4. Data with a 'less than sign' (<) indicates that the metal was recorded below the limit of detection. This is the smallest concentration at which a metal can be accurately and reliably measured.
5. Aluminium, Nickel, Palladium and Tin were also analysed in all flesh samples as these form part of a 'metals analysis suite' conducted by the contracted laboratory. These metals were not detected in any of the samples. Results for these metals were not included in the table as there is typically no health risk associated with these metals.
6. All analyses were conducted at the National Measurement Institute Laboratory, North Ryde.
UPPER MACLEAY RIVER AUSTRALIAN BASS SAMPLING SITES
23 & 24 MARCH 2013

Note: Insufficient capture detail was provided for Fish 5, 6, 7, & 8. Therefore the capture locations shown are based on the broader river reach that the angler was fishing. No locational data was provided for Fish 9.