

Fukushima. Radiactive Cesium Contamination of Japan's Food Chain.

Almost all edibles contain radioactive cesium. Rivers and lakes are contaminated

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Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Environment](#)

The Japanese people are beset by a food chain that has been thoroughly compromised by radioactive cesium.

As a result, there is no longer any public confidence in the integrity of Japan's food inspection system.

Almost all edibles tested in Japan contain radioactive cesium, and it has now been verified that shiitake mushrooms in Miyoshi City, Hiroshima Prefecture have tested above the statutory limit for radioactive cesium. Thus, radioactive cesium has now spread far beyond Fukushima Prefecture.

Like the HIV-tainted blood scandal of the 1980's, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has once again been blindsided due to the lack of a proactive plan.

Radioactive cesium has been detected in the food chain numerous times.

A partial listing includes:

tap water, milk, eggs, rice, plankton, fish, *Iwana* mountain trout (*Salvelinus pluvinus*), smelt (*Hypomesus nipponensis*), seals, cabbage, spinach, parsley, green onions, cucumbers, *shiitake* and *nameko* mushrooms, broccoli, bamboo shoots, *wasabi*, plums, green tea, rice straw, hares (*Lepus brachyurus angustidens*), wild boar, bear, beef, baby formula, and mothers' milk. However, I doubt that a soil decontamination project will be attempted due to the huge expense.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* reported on January 27, 2012 that beef contaminated with radioactive cesium (at least 300 becquerels per kilogram) from thousands of head of cattle had been sold, and most likely already consumed. According to radioactivity testing results published by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare on January 31, 2012, *Iwana* mountain trout (*Salvelinus pluvinus*) from Maebashi City, Gunma Prefecture had high contamination levels for both cesium-134 (328 becquerels per kilogram) and cesium-137 (440 becquerels per kilogram). Wild boar has exceeded the government's limit (100 becquerels per kilogram for solid foods as of April 1, 2012) in numerous prefectures. There is now virtually continuous testing of edibles in many prefectures of Japan, and more than 2,300 samples (as of August 2, 2012) have tested over the statutory limits for radioactive iodine and/or cesium.

Radioactive cesium is also now being detected in food products manufactured in Japan. Therefore, there is extreme concern about short selling of food sector equities listed on Japanese stock exchanges.

Half-Lives of Radioactive Isotopes

Radioactive Isotope

Half-Life

Tritium (Hydrogen-3)

12.32 years

Carbon-14

5,730 years

Strontium-89

50.57 days

Strontium-90

28.9 years

Yttrium-91

58.5 days

Technetium-99

211,100 years

Iodine-131

8.02070 days

Cesium-134

2.0648 years

Cesium-137

30.17 years

Polonium-210

138.39 days

Uranium-238

4,468,000,000 years

Plutonium-239

24,100 years

Plutonium-240

6,500 years

Plutonium-241

14 years

Americium-243

7,370 years

Contaminated Rivers, Lakes and Bays

In Fukushima Prefecture, Lake Akimoto, Lake Hibara, Lake Onogawa, Lake Numazawa, Lake Inawashiro, Mano River, Nagase River, Ota River, Abukuma River, Niida River, Su River, Tadami River, and the Nippashi River have produced contaminated fish. As of April 17, 2012, the Hitachi-Tone River and Hanazono River in Ibaraki Prefecture have also produced contaminated fish.

Lake Chuzenji and the Kinu River, Naka River, Kuro River, Oashi River, and Yosasa River in Tochigi Prefecture have also produced contaminated sockeye salmon, brown trout, masu salmon, and Japanese dace as of April 25, 2012. Lake Onuma and the Numao River in Gunma Prefecture have produced contaminated masu salmon. The Otsu River, Tone River, and Edo River (all in Chiba Prefecture), the Ubugasawa River, Surikami River, and Takamori River (all in Fukushima Prefecture), and the Mogami River (Yamagata Prefecture) are also on the Watch List.

Prefecture

Watch List of Contaminated Rivers, Lakes and Bays

Aomori

Hachinohe Bay

Yamagata

Mogami River

Iwate

Iwai River, Satetsu River, Kesen River, Koromo River, Unosumai River, Wayama River, Yahagi River, Hirose River, Miyako City Bay, Sakari River, Kamaishi City Bay, Sarugaishi

River

Miyagi

Okura River, Kijio River, Sumi River, Yoko River, Uchi River, Kinkazan Bay, Yuriage Bay (Natori City), South Sanriku Bay, Ninokura Bay (Iwanuma City), Shobudahama Bay, Watari-Arahama Bay, Natori River, Oh River, Sanhasama River, Oda River, Handa River, Takakura River, Shiroishi River, Ofukazawa River, Matsu River, Nigori River, Ara River, Yu River, Eai River, Hamaichi Bay (Higashi-Matsushima City), Sendai Bay, Nihasama River, Tozawa River, Yamamoto-cho Bay, Kitakami River, Goishi River, Taro River, Ichihassama River, Yoshidahama Bay, Arao River, Watari Bay, Abukuma River

Fukushima

Lake Akimoto, Lake Hibara, Lake Onogawa, Lake Numazawa, Lake Inawashiro, Mano River, Nagase River, Ota River, Abukuma River, Niida River, Su River, Tadami River, Nippashi River, Ubugasawa River, Surikami River, Takamori River, Nojiri River, Yuzawa River, Oshio River, Aga River, Ichinoto River, Araumi River, Funatsu River, Kuchibuto River, Gohyaku River, Oishi River, Kuji River, Shirako River, Miya River, Sugita River, Adatara River, Watarase River, Natsui River, Onahama Bay, Ena Bay (Iwaki City), Gofukuya River, Tatsusawa River, Kajiya River, Takiya River, Same River, Name River, Shakado River, Ebana River, Sasahara River, Otakine River, Ouse River, Rokkaku River, Ara River, Matsu River, Hirose River, Shiono River, Oguni River, Ina River, Masuzawa River, Fuzawa River, Amado River, Sanbyaku River, Tateiwa River, Karasu River, Otani River, Ishida River, Okura River, Ishimushiro River, Komaizawa River, Ubado River, Yata River, Fuzo River, Sakuma River, Shichise River

Ibaraki

Hitachi-Tone River, Hanazono River, Hitachi City Bay, Hitachinaka City Bay, Hokota City Bay, Kashima City Bay, Kita-Ibaraki City Bay, Oarai-machi Bay, Takahagi City Bay, Lake Kasumigaura, Naka River

Tochigi

Lake Chuzenji, Kinu River, Naka River, Kuro River, Oashi River, Yosasa River, Hoki River, Ojika River, Arai River, Nishi-Ara River, Ara River, Kobyaku River, Awano River, Mumo River, Yu River, Watarase River, Fukazawa River, Mikouchi River, Koshin River, Mochigase River

Gunma

Lake Onuma, Numao River, Shima River, Kanai River, Kamisawatari River, Nakuta River, Kenjo River, Ima River, Sakura River, Karasu River, Usune River, Agatsuma River, Momonoki River, Konaka River, Nuru River

Chiba

Otsu River, Tone River, Edo River, Tega River, Tega Marsh

Kanagawa

Lake Ashino

Saitama

Naka River

Continuous Testing of Edibles

Source

Item

Testing Organization

Sample

Collection

Date

Results

Confirmation

Date

Test Results (Becquerels/Kg)

Cesium-134

Cesium-137

Miyoshi City, Hiroshima Prefecture

Raw

Shiitake mushrooms

Health and Environment Center, Hiroshima Prefectural Technology Research Institute

Unreported

Unreported

380

Koriyama City, Fukushima Prefecture

Asian black bear

Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Center of Fukushima

06/28/2012

08/02/2012

51.7

83

Kawamata-machi, Fukushima Prefecture

Wild boar

Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Center of Fukushima

06/24/2012

08/02/2012

170

249

Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture

Asian black bear

Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Center of Fukushima

06/29/2012

08/02/2012

213

322

Tamura City, Fukushima Prefecture

Wild boar

Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Center of Fukushima

07/01/2012

08/02/2012

450

691

Hanawa-machi, Fukushima Prefecture

Wild boar

Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Center of Fukushima

07/01/2012

08/02/2012

73.9

121

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Wild boar

Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Center of Fukushima

07/03/2012

08/02/2012

80

125

Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture

Wild boar

Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Center of Fukushima

07/13/2012

08/02/2012

162

244

Hanawa-machi, Fukushima Prefecture

Wild boar

Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Center of Fukushima

07/13/2012

08/02/2012

45.5

68.9

Minami-Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture

Wild boar

Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Center of Fukushima

07/20/2012

08/02/2012

794

1,220

Nihonmatsu City, Fukushima Prefecture

Wild boar

Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Center of Fukushima

07/23/2012

08/02/2012

264

409

Nasu-Shiobara City, Tochigi Prefecture

Tawny

milkcap mushrooms

Tochigi Prefectural Institute of Public Health and Environmental Science

07/28/2012

08/01/2012

390

600

Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture

Tawny

milkcap mushrooms

Tochigi Prefectural Forestry Research

Center

07/30/2012

08/01/2012

1,160

1,820

Moka City, Tochigi Prefecture

Tawny

milkcap mushrooms

Tochigi Prefectural Forestry Research

Center

07/31/2012

08/01/2012

60.2

116

Nakagawa-machi, Tochigi Prefecture

Tawny

milkcap mushrooms

Tochigi Prefectural Forestry Research

Center

07/31/2012

08/01/2012

227

353

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Ainame

Rock trout

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

118

202

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Stone

flounder

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

99.8

151

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Common

Skate

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

243

398

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Rockfish

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

87.8

147

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Slime

flounder

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

84.3

120

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Flounder

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/24/2012

07/31/2012

59.6

84.6

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Flounder

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

39.6

69.7

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Common Japanese conger

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

43.0

75.2

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Littlemouth flounder

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

57.3

93.3

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Marbled

sole

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/24/2012

07/31/2012

50.3

93.4

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Marbled

sole

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

125

163

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Flathead

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

62.1

83.9

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Spotbelly rockfish

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

149

239

Hirono-machi, Fukushima Prefecture

Ainame

Rock trout

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

125

210

Shinchi-machi, Fukushima Prefecture

Black

sea bream

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/26/2012

07/31/2012

48.3

61.7

Hirono-machi, Fukushima Prefecture

Sea

raven

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/30/2012

07/31/2012

55.2

90.4

Namie-machi, Fukushima Prefecture

Slime

flounder

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/24/2012

07/31/2012

118

199

Minami-Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture

Flounder

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/23/2012

07/31/2012

48.3

69.6

Abukuma River (Motomiya City, Fukushima Prefecture)

Japanese

eel

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/19/2012

07/31/2012

55.6

82.3

Sugita River (Otama-mura, Fukushima Prefecture)

Masu

salmon

Fukushima Agricultural Technology Center

07/22/2012

07/31/2012

93.6

147

***Jim Bartel** has been a Japanese-English translator for more than 20 years.*

The unabridged version of "The Tears of Sanriku" is available at:

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