



Ashumet Pond Update - May 2005

Information on the Recreational Use of Ashumet Pond

Based on available data collected through May 2005, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has determined that **Ashumet Pond is safe for swimming, wading, boating, and catch-and-release fishing.**

Contamination from the Chemical Spill-10 (CS-10) and Ashumet Valley groundwater plumes has been found to be upwelling into the bottom sediments in the northwest portion of Ashumet Pond. **No plume-related contaminants have been detected in surface water samples collected from the pond.**

- AFCEE collects and analyzes pond water samples from Ashumet Pond twice a year as part of a regular monitoring program. Testing from beach areas occurred in May 2005. No plume-related contaminants were detected in the surface water of Ashumet Pond in 2005 during this sampling event.

Fish Consumption Advisory (mercury):

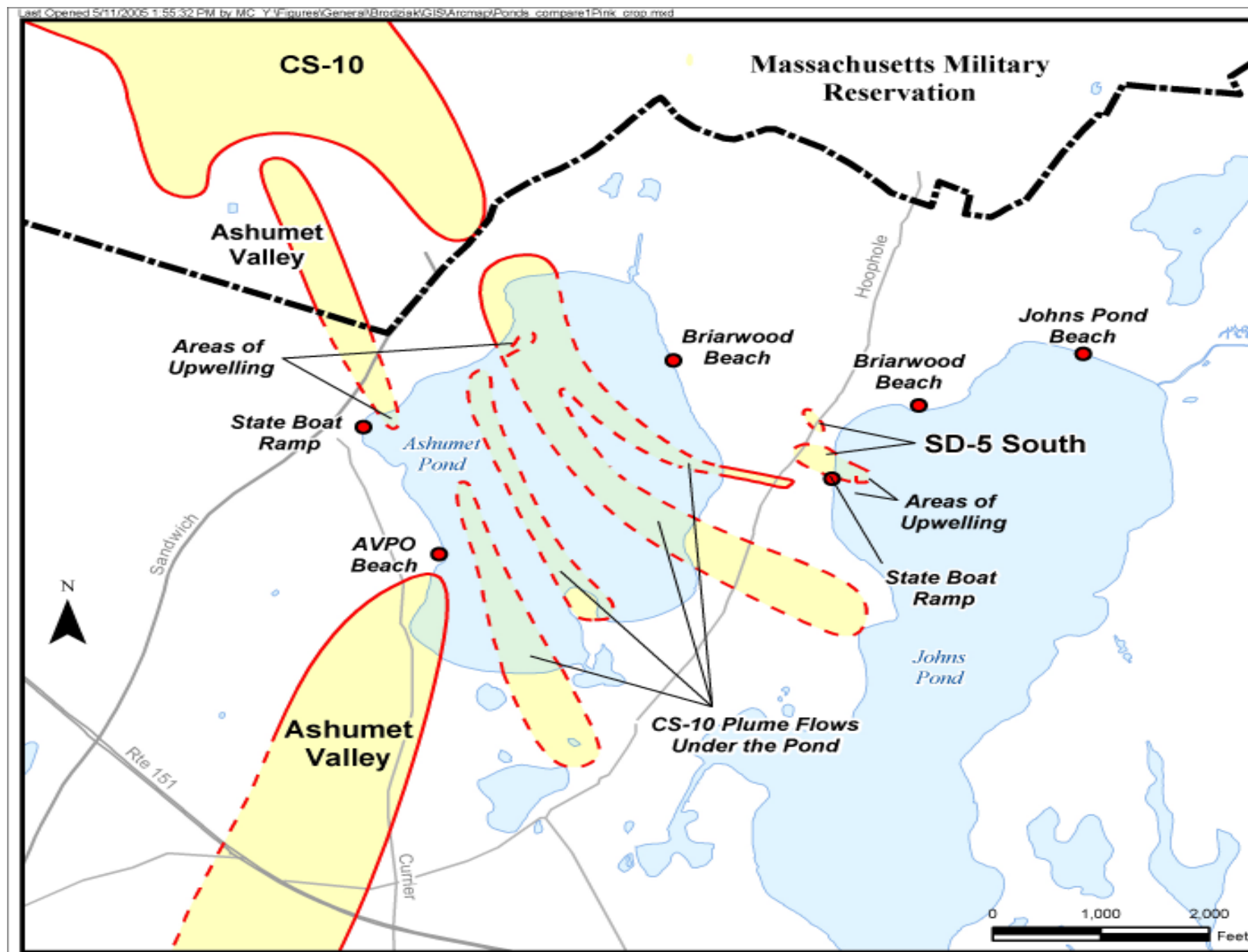
MDPH has issued a Public Health Fish Consumption Advisory for Ashumet Pond due to mercury levels in fish. This advisory includes a number of ponds in the Commonwealth and is **not related to any contamination from the Massachusetts Military Reservation.**

The advisory states:

- Children younger than 12 years, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women of child-bearing age who may become pregnant should not eat large-mouth bass from Ashumet Pond.
- The general public should limit consumption of large-mouth bass from Ashumet Pond to two meals per month.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the fish consumption advisory does not apply to any stocked trout species.

Some Bullhead Catfish in Ashumet Pond have wart-like growths called papillomas. The MDPH has determined that there are no known health risks from eating these fish.



Plume outlines based on Final SD-5 2003 Annual SPEIM Report, Draft CS-10 2004 Annual SPEIM Report, and Final Ashumet Valley Axial 2003 Annual SPEIM Report.

For More Information

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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued a 2005 fact sheet on the "Recreational Use Of Water Bodies On Or Near The Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR)."

For a copy of this fact sheet and/or the fish advisory, visit www.mmr.org, stop by the local Board of Health, or call one of the telephone numbers listed above.