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Essay - I
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The Natural Food of Man is Contaminated

The natural resources of our planet are becoming gradually inedible. The industrialism that began in the late nineteenth century has

slowly overtaken nature in the magnitude order of the human species' thinking. Within global areas of high population and manufacturing

density the human refuse and manufacturing wastes degrades the quality of nourishment harvested from the oceans, seas, lakes, and

waterways. In Florida, the third most populous state of the union of America, as well as being the largest and most fecund sport fishing

region on the planet, the levels of the element Hg (Mercury, Quicksilver, Hydragyrum (I.)) have become so profound, that only between

one and four fish per month are recommended for consumption by adults from any waterway or body of water in the Florida fishing

domain. The source of natural sustenance has been significantly contaminated, and should be a great concern to all persons.

The heavy metal poison enters the natural ground water system of waterways by several means. Geologic formations with

naturally occurring deposits account for some of the found mercury. Industrial factories exude mercury with waste water and cooling water

into the lakes and rivers, and are a second source. The thermal transformation of coal, which is the primary source of electrical power in

the State of Florida, also releases heavy elements into the atmosphere, being a third initial entry point into the organic world of the

biosphere. Incinerators, such as those used in hospitals also release mercury vapor into our circum-terrestrial gas bubble. These vapors

then condense or form compounds with other elements, and rain down upon the Earth into the ground water system. According to the

"Florida Fishing Regulations 2007-2008" developed and written by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Division of

Freshwater Fisheries Management all water bodies in the Florida managed water system contain mercury.

The biological chain of the contaminant begins in the detritus, which are mainly bacteria feeding upon dead and decaying

matter. These same microscopic organisms then take up the elemental form of the metal and bond this

organically with the organism. A

process of accumulation then occurs, as the smaller organisms are eaten by the larger and the percentage of the contaminant grows with

each ascension upward within the food-chain. Consequently, the large, long lived organisms, namely predatory fish, contain more of the

metal within it's muscle tissue where the organically bound metal is concentrated. The benefits of eating fish have been touted for years.

The high protein content as well as the minerals and oils feed the human body the nutrients it need to grow and repair itself. The fact

that the maximum recommended ammount of consumed fish has gradually been reduced over the years, and that the recommended

levels have been assessed so low that humans would not be able to sustain themselves from the harvested fish without highly possible

detrimental heath consequences to the brain and nervous system should have to be a great burdon on future humans.

The lacksidascal attitude of industries and the persons who manage them, as well as the education of persons regarding the

proper disposal of the mercury containing electronics and electrical appliances that have already become a permanent feature in the past

decade, is of vital importance if the society is to become aware of the fact that food is being contaminated. For example, many of the

large lamps which light the warehouses and work areas in the industrial world are of the Mercury Vapor type. When these are broken

upon replacement, and or thrown into the municipal waste, the metal within is released into the environment, and will eventually be

absorped my the ground water system. Secondly, the liquid crystal displays of many of the laptops in use contain mercury lamps used as

lighting. There are oftern disposed of improperly, which adds to the accumulation of heavy metals at waste facilities, rather than being

recycled or being dosposed of in a more proper manner.

If the prioroties of the human race is to continue to live and develop on the planet Earth, then there will be several large concerns

within the next fifty years. Global warming, loss of clean water, and contaminated food supplies will only exascerbate the existing

problems which many countries and peoples face. It is no longer a question of whether or not man harms his environment, but rather is,

if he is intelligent enough to change and adapt without creating further damage. Nature is forgiving, but man has perhaps taunted her to

the point of retribution. Beware of your environment, and care for it as it were your own. For it is.