**Paper:** Impacts of Country Food Consumption Advisories: Compliance, Changes in Diet and Loss of Confidence in Country Foods

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**Reviewer:** Ave Dersch

**Strengths:**

This paper represents a significant gap in the literature and brings grey literature into a broader viewership.

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**

1. The discussion of fish advisories in the Great Lakes (e.g., Imm et al. and Jakus et al.) does not seem specific to Aboriginal peoples. The authors should consider not including this literature as Aboriginal peoples have unique variables impacting the implications of food advisories that are not relevant to the non-Aboriginal population.

2. Was a literature review of academic sources completed? The authors state that: “Our review was not conducted as a formal systematic comprehensive review; rather, we focused on primary and grey literature presenting academic, health practitioner and First Nations viewpoints on the topic” (Methods, page 2). Could the authors provide more information on methodology including what information was reviewed? This would be useful in helping understand how thorough this article can be considered?

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

1. The authors state that: “Our overview suggests that when communicated effectively and clearly, and when community members are involved in the process, consumption advisories can result in a decrease in contaminant load in people” (Results, page 1). Could the authors elaborate on what they consider to be effective and clear communication with regards to consumption advisories?

2. The authors state that: “A number of variables need to be recognized during the development and implementation of advisories in order to ensure a balance between human health, maintenance of cultures and industrial activity” (Conclusions, page 2). Could the authors outline these variables?

3. The authors state that: “Further, industrial activity can disrupt migratory paths and feeding grounds of commonly harvested wildlife leading to decreased availability for First Nations” (Background, page 3). This sentence does not seem to fit into this paper and the authors should consider removing it or explaining its relevance.

4. Did the authors encounter any information regarding impacts from food advisories in Fort Chipewyan? Perhaps Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and Mikisew Cree Nation could be contacted to ask if such information exists.
Discretionary Revisions:

1. Could the authors draw on the literature they reviewed and their professional opinions to make a series of specific recommendations regarding how impacts from food advisories should be considered prior to their release?

Such recommendations may include the following:

- Food advisories need to include information on the dietary risks associated with alternative food options (e.g., provide statistics on the fat content of beef and pork compared to moose and fish).

- Government agencies need to work with communities to define appropriate communication strategies and target groups (e.g., pregnant women, caregivers of small children, individuals who rely more heavily on traditional foods).

2. Authors should consider discussing the importance of working with communities to collect information relevant to producing the most accurate risk assessment. Such research may include:

- Community consumption quantities of specific resources and consumption quantity as influenced by age, gender, socio-economic position, seasonality and other factors.

- The portion of specific resources consumed (flesh, fat, or organs of wildlife and fish; flowers, leaves or roots of plants, etc.).

- How specific resources are prepared (boiling, frying, drying wildlife and fish; making tea from plants or consuming dried or fresh etc).

Such research can help define if a community is exposed to the risk at all and can thus inform if a food advisory is even required.

3. The authors could also consider discussing the concept of a holistic risk assessment that considers the physical risks of the consumption of contaminated food and weighs them against the risks of obesity, heart disease and diabetes that may result from shifts away from traditional resources to grocery store foods. The risks associated with cultural and social impacts resulting from a decline in traditional food consumption should also be considered. Only after all of the risk factors are assessed can a decision regarding the necessity of a food advisory be made.