

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
June 3, 2022

Fish, Good for What Ails You?

Everybody knows that fish and seafood are good for you, what with those Omega 3 fatty oils and all. But did you know that if you pick the right fish—say [bonefish](#)—you can get more than wholesome goodness but an entire health plan on a plate? [Recent tests in Florida showed that Gulf of Mexico bonefish contain a lot more than fish.](#)

Pharmaceuticals to be specific. Though results can vary, the tested fish showed traces of up to 17 drugs including antidepressants, blood pressure medicine, antibiotics, prostate medicines, and pain killers. Before you cancel your prescription drug insurance in favor of a fishing license, keep in mind that these may not be the drugs or the dosage you need. More troubling, these may not be the fish you need either. [This is not the first study on this issue](#), and it is becoming clearer and clearer that our waters are contaminated with lots more than good ol' sewage and industrial waste, and that the impacts can be far reaching and enduring. Marine life and those who depend on it already have lots to worry about from exploitation, predation, habitat change, and toxic contamination so this is not welcome news, [especially when we know what this can lead to](#). Maybe those antidepressants will make it easier to deal with.

It's Not Easy Being Pink

What great times we live in when we can watch a classic movie like [Pink Flamingos](#) on our battery powered mobile devices. Flamingos themselves might have a different view if a [recent report](#) is correct that [mining for lithium and copper mining in Chile is harming the salt flats that flamingos depend on in order to reproduce](#). Chile is a major source of the lithium and copper that make modern battery technology possible. Chile is also a major source of flamingos, which help make life more beautiful and joyful—at the least. For now, flamingo populations are not crashing but if mining expands, the concern is that they might. As one might expect the mining industry sees little connection between what it does and whatever troubles face the flamingos. Regardless, couldn't this all be worked out by finding alternative sources of water for the miners or the birds? Apparently it is not so easy if for no other reason than [Chile is facing significant water shortages that have implications beyond batteries and birds](#). A deepening drought and the legacy of the privatization of many of the nation's water resources under its 1981 Water Code have some worried about the prospects of civil unrest on the horizon. If it

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and legal stewardship of water.

Coming Up:

Got some events? Send them our way!

Water jobs:

[Sportsmen Outreach Coordinator](#); National Wildlife Federation; New Orleans, LA

[Lead Technology and Innovation Programs](#); Environmental Law Institute; Washington, DC

[Fellowship for Climate Change and Environmental Professionals](#); Atlas Corps; USA

[Colorado Water Center Associate Director](#); Colorado State University; Fort Collins, CO

Expert@ en Derecho Ambiental; American Bar Association; [Honduras](#), [El Salvador](#), and [Guatemala](#)

[Legislative Analyst, Coastal and Flood Resilience](#); Environmental Defense Fund; Washington, DC

[Manager, Resilient Fisheries Policy](#); Environmental Defense Fund; Remote

[Associate Attorney](#); Sher Edling LLP; San Francisco, CA

[Legal and Policy Intern](#); the Water Institute of the Gulf; Baton Rouge, LA

6325 Freret Street, 1st Floor
New Orleans, LA 70118
504-865-5982

tulanewater.org

TWITTER: [@TulaneWaterLaw](#)

INSTAGRAM: [@TulaneWaterLaw](#)

comes to that it will take more than pink birds and mobile phones to set things right, much less make them [divine](#).

Wait a Minute, Problem Solved!

The news about water and water law always seems so troubling. Pollution, scarcity, and conflict is all one hears about. Well now there is a ray of sunshine, a reason to hope. Because solutions begin with someone taking responsibility for finding solutions, and now we know who that person is. Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris. On June 1, Vice President Harris unveiled a new Biden Administration [initiative to advance water security not just in the U.S.A., but globally](#). [Citing the growing scarcity of clean drinking water as a source of international insecurity and cultural and generational inequity, the Global Water Security Action Plan places access to water forefront of concerns that will shape that will shape international relations and perhaps avoid future water conflicts](#). It would be easy—and fair—to point out that the Plan lacks the clarity, resources, and jurisdiction to do much. It would also be easy and fair to point out that the U.S. has hardly figured out how to make water reliably, affordably, and equitably available here at home. But none of that changes the fact that the problems the policy addresses are very, very real and need to be addressed. So no, the new policy is not the solution or even *a* solution, but it can be part of one. And brother, do we need one.