

BOG Meeting Summary

September 29, 2008

In attendance: Michael Lyons, Bob Brodberg, Terry Fleming, Aroon Melwani, Jennifer Doherty, Mark Stephenson, Autumn Bonnema, Karen Taberski, Dave Crane, Jay Davis, Gary Ichikawa, Marco Sigala, Mark Pranger, Mary Adams, Jim Allen

Key Points

- The Review Panel meeting should be scheduled for the week of Dec 8 or Dec 15 (but not Dec 18).
- OEHHA is working on developing updated advice for the southern California coast between Ventura and Dana Point using data from the MSRP and CFCP.
- Bob Brodberg advocated for careful selection of target species to allow for better assessment of spatial patterns in contamination. If the species aren't consistent, interpretation of the data can be difficult.
- The MSRP study used 20 zones, and some puzzling patterns were observed.
- It is important to communicate that the Coast Survey is a screening study – consumption advice is not an anticipated outcome of the study.
- The group again discussed and endorsed the approach of sampling 5 species per zone with no replication. This will provide better information for anglers, will allow for better species overlap and assessment of spatial distribution. This will not allow for statistical comparison of one zone with another, but even with two replicates per zone statistical power would be very limited.
- Regarding the management questions, “not unsafe” would be better wording than “safe” for a technical audience. However, this wording would be convoluted for a nontechnical audience. Different wording can be used for different audiences.
- Bays and estuaries: The design should not include replication in bays and estuaries. The BOG will fund one zone per bay and estuary. The regions can supplement this if they want more thorough coverage.
- Mercury in individual fish: The approach used for largemouth bass would be difficult to implement on the coast due to variation in species distributions and size variation in species like rockfish. There is less precedent in the literature for applying this approach. It might be worthwhile in bays and estuaries.
- Dioxins: Dioxins will be analyzed by RMP in San Francisco Bay. The group (including Terry) voted against doing dioxins statewide, though Terry noted that it might be valuable in providing perspective for interpretation of the Bay data and deciding whether or not a TMDL is the right approach. Bob noted that there are some historic coastal data from HML and that he would dig them out.
- Idea for PCB special study: Bob argued for a comparison of congener data from the various labs and programs, to determine how well the lists being analyzed characterize the total mass of PCBs in tissue samples. It should include the dioxin-like congeners and analysis of actual samples.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Nov 3 at 1 PM.

Action Items

- Jay, Jim, Michael to request that Ken Schiff and the Bight group meet to resolve details of the design for the southern California region.
- Ken and Dave still need to work out a strategy for WPCL involvement in the 2009 work.
- Mark Stephenson and Jay Davis to develop proposed approach and rationale for analyzing mercury in individual fish in bays and estuaries.
- Check to make sure to avoid conflict with the December Roundtable meeting.
- Gary to make sure all regions and interested SWAMP folks have input on the fishing zones.
- Autumn is to write up a recommendation on species to sample in each region (both coastal and bays & harbors), including a brief rationale. A brief summary of this should be presented at the next BOG meeting. 5 primary targets and 5 secondary targets should be identified for each region X habitat (coast, bay/harbor) combination.
- Bob dig out HML dioxin data for the coast.