

BOG Meeting Summary

September 3, 2009

In attendance: Bob Brodberg, Terry Fleming, Jennifer Doherty, Mark Stephenson, Autumn Bonnema, Karen Taberski, Dave Crane, Jay Davis, Gary Ichikawa, Michael Lyons, Stacey Swenson, Jon Marshack, Karen Larsen, Cassandra Lamerdin

Item 6: California Water Quality Monitoring Council: Relationship of BOG to the Council, Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish Portal Demonstration

(the agenda was rearranged to have this item first)

Key Points

- Jon Marshack presented a Powerpoint on the Council and the Safe-to-Eat Fish and Shellfish Portal.
- The BOG accepted the invitation to become a workgroup for the Council. The BOG will have responsibility for future development of the portal and coordination of the underlying monitoring and assessment efforts as a formal work group of the Monitoring Council.
- The BOG will need to expand its membership and hold some broader meetings in this role. The BOG will need a charter. A subgroup of the BOG similar to the old BOG should continue to work through technical details of BOG activities.
- The Council will be producing a Strategy Document in December that will be provided to the Legislature and highlight areas needing more funding. The BOG will be able to have input on this.
- The portal will be released to the Council and the BOG for testing today.
- On September 14 at 2 p.m., Jon will brief executive management and external affairs staff of Cal/EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) on SB 1070, the Monitoring Council's vision, and the Safe-to-Eat portal. OEHHA has requested that this briefing occur prior to public release of the portal.
- Public release of the portal will occur soon after the OEHHA briefing.

Action Items

- Jay and State Board staff will write up a proposal on the structure and protocols of the new BOG.
- BOG members should provide comments on the Portal to Jon Marshack by Friday, September 11 at noon.
- BOG members should provide comments on the "Fishable" page of the Water Boards' Annual Performance Report as soon as possible. It's at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/performance_report/ecosystems/eo_lake_s_fishable.shtml
- BOG members should provide comments on the BOG web page to Jennifer Doherty.

Item 2: Coast Year 1: Progress on Sampling

Key Points

- Sampling in the southern California Bight is nearing completion. 2 zones are left to be sampled. Followup sampling is needed to fill in gaps in some of the zones.
- Sampling in the region 2 zones will be the next focus.

Action Items

- Ken, Michael, Gary, Autumn, Jay and others interested need to meet to discuss priorities for filling in gaps in the Bight, and how much of Gary's effort can be put into this.

Item 3: Proposal to Cancel Archives Study and Reallocate Funds to Region 2 Coastal Zones

Key Points

- The FY 05/06 budget included a \$47,000 study to analyze the tissue samples that had been archived for 5 years (attached). Mark and Jay proposed that these funds be applied to sampling 3 zones in Region 2 that were not covered under the budget for this summer's sampling.
- The archives study did not pan out because the samples to be used (archives from five years ago) did not have very high concentrations (a prevalence of NDs). This would have interfered with a quantitative comparison of results. Applying these funds to sampling in Coast Year 1 would allow complete coverage of the Region 2 zones, which would make for a better report on the year 1 results. This would also be beneficial in Coast Year 2 because we would need to cover fewer zones with the existing budget. The amount of sampling effort for each zone was underestimated in year 1, largely due to the effect of rough seas. This is anticipated to be a bigger problem next year on the north coast.
- The BOG approved the reallocation of the funds.

Action Items

- Jennifer Doherty will make sure that this is tracked and documented appropriately.

Item 4: Coast Year 1: Allocation of Remaining Effort, Discussion of Sample Analysis Plans

Key Points

- Autumn has already authorized some samples for analysis. She has formed composites based on size (aiming for equal means based on use of the middle interquartile range), location, date, and mode of fishing. 2 batches have been sent to Dave Crane. Mercury and selenium analysis will be starting soon. Composites for SoCal labs will be sent all at once.
- Terry Fleming stated that he thought we would see the catch and then decide how to proceed. Autumn responded that she has moved forward because it has been pretty clear how to proceed and we need to get the labs moving in order to get the data by next March.
- Michael Lyons requested that we do a reality check on how we are doing with our catch across all of the zones. If we have missed our primary targets, we need to decide what secondary targets to analyze.

Action Items

- Autumn will prepare a report showing how we are doing in the broader scheme of things. This will be circulated to the SoCal group in advance of their meeting in filling gaps and to the BOG.
- Autumn, Ken, Michael, and Jay should prepare a summary of how we propose to move forward with analysis in southern California (and region 2 when the time comes).

Item 5: Lakes Study: Revised Timeline for Two Year Report

Key Points

- Due to a number of factors (unanticipated amount of media work, unanticipated portal development work, the large task of compiling supplemental data on lakes, and timing relative to a related State Board lake mercury study), a later timeline for the Lakes Year 2 report is recommended. The proposed schedule: January – Draft report, Review Panel Meeting – Feb/Mar, April – Final Report, May – press release. The BOG approved of the new timeline, as long as the May release date still stands.
- The BOG approved the recommendation to not make Aroclor and PBDE screening data available to the public. The group also agreed that Dave should not generate the Aroclor estimates anymore. If desired at a future date, the Aroclor estimates could be generated by the data management team.

Action Items

- Allow for a review of the revised report after comments have been responded to and before it is released.
- Send the PBDE screening data maps from the year 1 draft report to the BOG.
- Bring the recommendation on PBDEs and Aroclors to the Roundtable and OIMA.

Item 7: Next Meeting

Action Items

- Jay to arrange via email for Nov 9 or 10.