

## Bioaccumulation Oversight Group - CHARTER

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The Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (BOG) began as a subcommittee of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) of California's State and Regional Water Boards focused on the accumulation of contaminants in fish and other aquatic organisms and the resulting threats posed by fish and shellfish contaminants to human and wildlife consumers.

### Mission

- » The SWAMP mission is to provide resource managers, decision makers, and the public with timely, high-quality information to evaluate the condition of all waters throughout California. SWAMP accomplishes this through carefully designed, externally reviewed monitoring programs, and by assisting other entities state-wide in the generation of comparable data that can be brought together in integrated assessments that provide answers to current management questions.
- » SWAMP has identified the pieces necessary to successfully and sustainably meet the goals identified in our mission. SWAMP has created a Quality Assurance (QA) program, developed a standardized data storage system, created Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for sampling, created peer reviewed monitoring plans for each project, and is developing a water quality indicator list.
- » SWAMP is creating methods and tools to collect meaningful measurements in areas where they do not already exist, as well as working to adapt those tools to the programmatic needs of the State and Regional Water Boards. The goals are to create standardized methods, to assist in creating regulatory standards, and to conduct comparative studies to evaluate the equivalency between the new and older one methods.
- » The long-term goal of Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (BOG) is to assess the threats posed by contaminants in fish and shellfish in California waterways and to develop a question-based internet portal that presents relevant monitoring and assessment information for decision makers and the public under the direction and oversight of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council. To accomplish this, the BOG will expand its membership to governmental and non-governmental organizations not currently represented within the group.

### Why Do We Need This Workgroup?

- » To provide a statewide perspective on the impact of bioaccumulative contaminants on the fishing and aquatic life beneficial uses.
- » To maintain and update the portal with new monitoring data and relevant assessment information.

### Background and Description

- » The State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) originally formed the Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (BOG) for the statewide assessment of bioaccumulation of contaminants in sport fish. This program was setup to replace the former SWRCB Toxic Substance Monitoring Program (TSMP), a statewide program that monitored pollutants in fish and invertebrates in freshwater and estuarine habitats from 1976 to 2003. The TSMP primarily targeted water bodies with known or suspected water quality impairments, and identified and documented many hotspots of contamination where the BOG has a mixed monitoring design with targeted and random samples.
- » The BOG has also convened a Bioaccumulation Peer Review Panel that is providing evaluation and review of the bioaccumulation program. The members of the Panel are internationally-recognized authorities on bioaccumulation monitoring.

- » The BOG has developed and begun implementing a plan to evaluate bioaccumulation impacts on the fishing beneficial use in all California water bodies. Sampling of sport fish in lakes and reservoirs has been conducted in the first two years (2007 and 2008). In 2009 and 2010, sport fish from the California coast, including bays and estuaries, will be sampled. Sport fish from rivers and streams will be sampled in 2011. In 2012 the plan is to again begin a two year effort on lakes and another five-year cycle of sampling these water body types.

## **Membership and Representation**

- » The BOG is composed of State and Regional Board staff and representatives from other agencies and organizations including USEPA, the Department of Fish and Game, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the San Francisco Estuary Institute. The members of the BOG possess extensive experience with bioaccumulation monitoring.

## **Scope**

- » Assessment of the impact of bioaccumulation of contaminants on the fishing and aquatic life beneficial uses in all relevant water body types throughout California.

## **Objectives**

- » The current BOG will expand its membership so that the workgroup includes representatives from agencies and organizations involved in protecting human and wildlife health from the risks associated with bioaccumulative contaminants in California waters.