

Attendance: Scott McReynolds, Gail Cho, Max Puckett, Autumn Bonnema, Gary Ichikawa, Carol Atkins, Lori Webber, Jon Marshack, Stacey Swenson, Cassandra Lamerdin, Josh Ackerman, Janis Cooke, Michael Lyons, Terry Fleming, Bob Brodberg, Susan Keydel, Tom Suk, Karen Worcester, Jay Davis

Item 1: Roll Call, Agenda Review, General Updates

Key Points

- Rivers and streams:
 - Cassandra Lamerdin: waiting on 3 composites for reanalysis for PCBs and microcystin analyses then data will be ready for upload
 - Draft report in February/final May
- Grebe study:
 - USGS have sampled 10 of 12 lakes, ~15 grebes/lake, collected eggs at five lakes, MLML collecting small fish, have matched in all lakes except one/ at least two small prey species found at each lake.
 - Autumn Bonnema is waiting to authorize analysis of small fish until sampling is completed. She will invite regions to participate in the decision on which samples to analyzed.
- Biotoxin workshop: The next planning committee meeting will be September 7. Two days are planned, first day public, second day invitation only to come up with recommended plan for biotoxin monitoring in freshwater habitats

Item 2: Council Updates

A summary of the Monitoring Council's feedback on the draft Bioaccumulation Strategy and the results of the Mussel CEC pilot study.

Desired Outcome:

- Information update

Key Points

- May 30 Council meeting: Jay Davis presented the results of coastal survey. Council recommendations included: require/encourage participation of permittees and grantees; maintain focus on tracking effectiveness of management actions, continue to investigate wildlife impacts
- Aug 29 Council meeting: Dominic Gregorio presented on mussel watch program, CECs and legacy contaminants. Council recommended developing monitoring strategy for CECs. Steve Weisberg and Dominic Gregorio are writing a letter to NOAA expressing support for the Pilot Study. The Council considers CECs a higher priority than legacy contaminants for mussel monitoring. The Council recommended consideration of mussel monitoring as a NPDES requirement.
- Jay mentioned NOAA papers to be published soon and the need to coordinate with State Board's emerging effort to address CECs.
- Michael Lyons mentioned that the Bight 13 kick off meetings are starting in September and there is a "groundswell" of interest in CECs. BOG should be sure to coordinate with Region 4 and the Bight Program on development of CEC monitoring plans.

Item 3: Bioaccumulation Strategy

A draft Bioaccumulation Strategy incorporating input from the Monitoring Council.

Desired Outcome:

- Obtain feedback on the draft Strategy so it can be revised for a final review by the Monitoring Council.

Key Points:

- Developing protocols that can be inserted into permits and grant contracts. In addition, standard language requiring consistency with SWAMP and ensuring data go into CEDEN.
- Terry Fleming, cautioned against creating confusion in the state about who is in charge of monitoring. Developing protocols is a role for SWAMP – ensuring that the standardization occurs that is needed to bring data together. Terry also cautioned against developing strict rules for sampling designs for lakes.
- Bob Brodberg, OEHHA pointed out that one of their biggest struggles is getting enough data together at particular sites to develop consumption advisories. Getting CEDEN to work better is a high priority for OEHHA.
- Bob also expressed concern over defining the roles of OEHHA and BOG in communicating fish consumption advisory information.
- The group discussed the concept of encouraging permit holders to pool their resources to achieve cost-effective monitoring, similar to the RMP for San Francisco Bay. Janis thought this was worth considering.
- Janis Cooke expressed interest in including language in the statewide mercury TMDL requiring responsible parties to look to BOG data to assess their reservoirs and to conduct further sampling only if there are gaps. Coordinating the statewide objective with BOG monitoring is also desirable. Currently, monitoring by TMDL parties is done in an uncoordinated manner. Jay pointed out that improving coordination of efforts like these is consistent with the direction provided to the BOG by Jon Bishop. The group agreed that Janis should draft this language and bring it back to the BOG for review.
- The group discussed coordinating mercury TMDL and fish tissue objective efforts with BOG.
- Jon Marshack reiterated the Monitoring Council's directive to bring groups together to coordinate on Mussel Watch and CECs.
- Other comments on the Strategy:
 - Include aquatic life in discussions of assessment
 - Emphasize the need for data management to support OEHHA
 - Too much emphasis on mercury – more balance needed
 - The BOG as a group can work together on outreach, following the Wetland Workgroup model.

Action Items

- Comments on the draft strategy due to Jay in 2 weeks
- Janis Cooke is to include draft language in the reservoir TMDL requiring coordination with the BOG.

Item 4: Planning for the Expanded BOG Meeting

The first meeting of the Expanded BOG will be held in October 2012. We will begin to bring in a larger group of partners for this meeting. Following the Strategy recommendations, we need to reevaluate how the BOG is organized and how we run BOG meetings.

Desired Outcome:

Agenda and plan for the October Expanded BOG Meeting. Answer these questions:

- Do we need a different chair or co-chairs?
- What will the Length and mode of the meetings (teleconference + occasional face-to-face?)
- What will the Decision-making (consensus?) process be?
- How to we handle SWAMP business (separate SWAMP portion of agenda?)

Key Points:

- The group discussed strategies for expanding BOG membership as well as the benefits and drawbacks of theme specific (i.e. mercury, CECs) vs. overarching meetings.
- The group decided to plan a full day “kick off” meeting to focus on the overall bioaccumulation problem. Subsequent meetings may focus on a particular theme.
- The group also discussed whether separate meetings are needed to address SWAMP business. The consensus was that the SWAMP-business portion of future agendas could be open to partner organizations.

Action Item

- Lori Webber and Jay Davis will develop a draft agenda and work on scheduling the meeting for some time in October.

Item 5: Safe to Eat Portal

Karen Larsen recommends that the BOG use SWAMP Bioaccumulation funds to support continued Portal development

Desired Outcome:

A decision on if the BOG agrees to use its funds to support Portal development.

Key Points:

- Karen Larsen encouraged the group to think about how the grebe study data will be displayed on the portal
- Bob Brodberg mentioned concern about maintaining OEHHA’s identity when coordinating with Council portals. The group discussed potential strategies for coordinating while meeting all partners’ needs.
- Janis Cooke asked if the BOG would work towards making the “Safe to Eat” portal more accessible and user-friendly for subsistence fishers.
- Terry Fleming raised the possibility of aggregating grebe study data along with other biological data to display in portal format.
- A goal should be to get other groups to coordinate and post their data on the portal using their own funds.
- Tom Suk expressed the desire to reserve the use of BOG funds for monitoring as much as possible. Using BOG funds to post BOG data on the portal is appropriate.