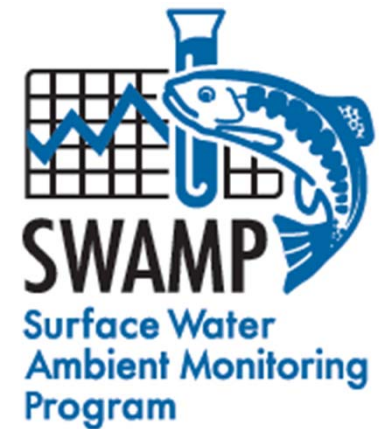


California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program



Bioaccumulation Strategy



California Water Quality Monitoring Council

- SB 1070 requires Cal/EPA and the Resources Agency to coordinate water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting
- Monitoring Council to improve coordination and cost-effectiveness of water quality monitoring and assessment, enhance integration, and increase public accessibility to data information
- My Water Quality portals
- BOG adopted by the Council in 2010
- No funding



Bioaccumulation Strategy

- A priority for the State Board
- Fulfilling BOG role as a Council workgroup
- “Strategy for Coordinated Monitoring, Assessment, and Communication of Information on Bioaccumulation from Aquatic Ecosystems in California”
- Promote efficient use of bioaccumulation monitoring resources across the state



Bioaccumulation Strategy

- Brief written document
- Overarching vision (BOG as Council workgroup) of what needs to be done to address bioaccumulation problems in California
 - SWAMP role is to do **some** of the work that is needed
- Audience: the Council, BOG (narrow and broad), SWAMP, other programs



Bioaccumulation in California: Problem Statement

- **A lot** has been accomplished in recent years
 - Statewide sport fish surveys
 - Unprecedented coordination of programs
 - Annual reports and fact sheets
 - Safe to Eat Portal
 - Centralized database
 - Plans for first statewide study of impacts on aquatic life



Bioaccumulation Monitoring in California: Problem Statement

But areas for improvement remain

- **Data** – many water bodies not monitored sufficiently, others not at all – lack of information on fishing and aquatic life beneficial uses – trends – CECs – biotoxins – drivers of bioaccumulation
- **Coordination** - lack of consistency and coordination in monitoring (including QA), data management, assessment, reporting, peer review



Bioaccumulation Monitoring in California: Problem Statement

- **Synthesis, assessment, and reporting** – safe eating guidelines, interpretation of patterns, coordination on thresholds
- **Understanding of sources and fate** – essential to management
- **Access to data and information** for scientists, regulators, and the public
- **Coordinated and effective communication** of important information
- **Control plans**



Goals and Objectives

1. Conduct **coordinated, long-term statewide monitoring and assessment** to generate the data needed to support exposure reduction and water quality protection and restoration (TMDLs, etc.)
 1. Conduct monitoring needed to support **advisory development**
 2. Provide periodic **statewide assessments** of California water bodies that policy makers need to track general status
 3. Conduct the **trend monitoring** needed to track effectiveness of specific cleanup actions
 4. In support of control efforts, conduct the studies needed to **identify the most important sources and pathways**



Goals and Objectives

2. **Communicate** to the public and provide **public access** to information on fish contamination that the public can use to reduce their exposure to contaminants and participate in management processes in an informed manner
 1. Develop **safe eating guidelines** for all water bodies where they are needed and communicate these guidelines effectively
 2. Maintain and refine the “**safe to eat**” **portal** as one form of access to fish contamination information



Recommendations

1. Coordinated Monitoring and Assessment

1. Monitoring to support advisory development
 - Regional Boards, OEHHA, regional and local partners fund and coordinate monitoring
 - OEHHA lead technical role
 - Council/SWAMP support: information sharing, QA, data management
2. Statewide assessments
 - SWAMP lead, other partners
 - 10 year cycle



Recommendations

1. Coordinated Monitoring and Assessment (continued)

3. Studies to support control plan development

- SWAMP role in filling gaps left by other programs (e.g., aquatic life)

4. Trend monitoring

- Higher frequency (5 yr or less) monitoring
- Local and regional partners lead
- Council/SWAMP support: information sharing, sampling design, QA, data management, general synthesis, archiving, peer review; fund reference site monitoring?



Recommendations

1. Coordinated Monitoring and Assessment (continued)

5. Source identification and mitigation studies

- Local and regional partners lead (Regional Boards, permit holders, etc.)
- Council/SWAMP support: information sharing, sampling design? QA? data management? general synthesis, peer review



Recommendations

2. Communication

1. Exposure reduction
 - OEHHA safe eating guidelines
 - DPH lead in coordination and communication
 - Should be expedited – more funding needed
 - Assess effectiveness
2. Communication of technical information
 - Council/SWAMP funds and leads: synthesis reports, workshops, trainings
3. Other communication to the public
 - All partners coordinate on media coverage
 - Council continues Portal development



Bioaccumulation Strategy: Steps

- Develop draft strategy
- Identify additional partners
- Get new partners to participate with help from BOG members – workshop
- Review charter, strategy, organization with expanded workgroup
- Finalize strategy
- Start implementing!

