



## Safe to Eat Workgroup (STEW) Meeting Notes

Wednesday, August 25, 2021  
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (Pacific)



Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
1.	<p><b>Roll Call, Agenda Review, Goals of the Meeting</b></p> <p>39 participants at max attendance</p> <p><b>Program/STEW Leads</b> Ali Dunn (SWAMP) Anna Holder (SWAMP) Jay Davis (SFEI)</p> <p><b>Peer Review Panel</b> Christopher (Chris) Schmitt</p> <p><b>OEHHA</b> Shannon Murphy Wesley (Wes) Smith</p> <p><b>MLML/MPSL</b> Autumn Bonnema</p> <p><b>Regional Boards</b> R1: Mary Bartholomew R2: Carrie Austin R4: Emily Duncan R5: Jordan Hensley, Robin Merod R6: Kelly Huck, Alanna Misico, Laurie Scribe R8: Nam Nguyen R9: Chad Loflen</p> <p><b>State Board</b> <u>OIMA/SWAMP</u> Devan Burke Corey Clatterbuck Tessa Fojut Nick Martorano</p>	Jay Davis	9:30 AM (10 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
1. cont	<p><b>State Board, continued</b> Jennifer Salisbury</p> <p><b>Other</b> Dennis Ackel (Los Angeles Unified School District) Bernie Beckerman (GSI Environmental) Jessica Donald (City of San Francisco) Damian Higgins (US Fish and Wildlife Service) Susan Little (Environmental Working Group) Nikki Love Robert Mackie (County of Orange) Patrick Maloney (Turlock Irrigation District) Nina Miller (California American Water) Sherri Norris (California Indian Environmental Alliance) Heather Peterson Vanh Phonsiri Nina Trusso Lauren Valentino (City of San Diego) Ryan Vargas June Weintraub Carolyn Yee (CA Dept. of Toxic Substances Control)</p>	Jay Davis	9:30 AM (10 min)
2.	<p><b>Information: Quick Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2019 Bass lakes data and data report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SWAMP IQ is still processing and reviewing data, estimated to be complete by the end of Sep.</li> <li>○ Aiming for a draft report in Jan. 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>● 2020 Coast analysis and data status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All of the mercury, selenium, and aging data have been loaded by SWAMP IQ</li> <li>○ Some remaining samples need to be sent to the new chemistry lab, should be analyzed and submitted to SWAMP IQ for data loading soon</li> </ul> </li> <li>● 2021 Bass lakes sampling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Currently sampling Panel 4 which includes 35 of the 190 lakes that we are sampling</li> <li>○ Field crews are making good progress on sampling in spite of severe drought and fire conditions. May not be able to sample some lakes because of low water levels, fires, and heavy smoke conditions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● 2022 Coast, Rivers, Realignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need to plan for next year so that we can apply for sampling permits by December 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Jay Davis	9:40 AM (30 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
2. cont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2022 Coast, Rivers, Realignment, continued               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sampling priorities include:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Coastal zones remaining in multi-year coastal sampling effort</li> <li>■ Rivers sampling in Region 5 (Central Valley), which has allocated funds for river sampling in support of their rivers TMDL</li> <li>■ Realignment sampling in Region 9 (San Diego Region)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● New fish consumption advisories               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Stevens Creek Reservoir</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Statewide Advisory for Lakes and Reservoirs without Site-specific Advice</a></li> <li>○ OEHHA is working through a 2009 document that contains advisories for 15 - 20 water bodies, as older advisories are updated OEHHA is able to update existing species and add additional species because of the data collected by the Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program and Safe to Eat Workgroup</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Updates on TMDLs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continuing to make progress on Delta Mercury TMDL</li> <li>○ Rivers TMDL will continue to be on hold until more staff are available</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Monitoring Council update               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Last <a href="#">Council Meeting</a> was August 12, 2021</li> <li>○ Updates on equity work being done during the <a href="#">Water Data Science Symposium</a> and the Council's Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Subcommittee</li> <li>○ The Safe to Eat Workgroup and the Realignment process are being used as examples of how the Council and other Council Workgroups might more intentionally incorporate Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion values and actions into their work</li> <li>○ Next Council meeting is on Nov 10, 2021</li> <li>○ Council is also tracking the development of <a href="#">AB 1066</a>, which is intended to create a monitoring program for priority inland water-contact recreation sites</li> <li>○ See <a href="#">Council Meeting Recording</a> for more details</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Jay Davis	9:40 AM (30 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
2. cont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New resources added to the <a href="#">Relevant Literature Page!</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Gerson et al. (2020). Environ. Sci. Technol.</a> Do Two Wrongs Make a Right? Persistent Uncertainties Regarding Environmental Selenium–Mercury Interactions</li> <li>○ <a href="#">McLaughlin et al. (2021). Mar. Pollut. Bull.</a> Regional assessment of contaminant bioaccumulation in sport fish tissue in the Southern California Bight, USA</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Workgroup rebranding           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Majority of STEW and Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program web pages have been updated so that the old name of the workgroup (Bioaccumulation Oversight Group; BOG) has been converted to the new workgroup name (Safe to Eat Workgroup (STEW))</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Outreach materials           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Angler Booklet</a> (for field crews)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Booklet with information in 7 languages has been completed and shipped to field crews for distribution to anglers or members of the public.</li> <li>■ Online-versions of the content (i.e. one page for each language) are in development, once finalized Anna will post them on the website</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <a href="#">Program and Workgroup Factsheet</a> (for website)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Factsheet is being translated. Anna is working with graphics team to improve aesthetics and accessibility, once finalized Anna will post the Factsheet on the website</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Welcome Bardo, our friendly bioaccumulation buddy (aka Program and STEW mascot)!               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The name Bardo has mixed beginnings, tracing its roots to German, Aboriginal, and Tibetan origins. It merely means “water” but is used in several cultures.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Other updates from the group           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ None</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Inform and update the Workgroup.</p>	Jay Davis	9:40 AM (30 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
2. cont	<p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anna/Jay: allocate time on the Oct meeting agenda to discuss 2022 sampling plans in more detail</li> <li>● All: If you would like additional resources added to the <a href="#">Relevant Literature Page</a>, please email information to <a href="mailto:anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov">anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov</a></li> <li>● Anna: Add <a href="#">McLaughlin et al. (2021). Mar. Pollut. Bull.</a> to <a href="#">Coastal Bioaccumulation Monitoring Surveys Page</a></li> <li>● All: If you see “BOG” referenced on any webpages, please email location and description to <a href="mailto:anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov">anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov</a></li> <li>● Anna: Finalize online versions of the Angler Booklet and Factsheet, post accessible versions on the website</li> </ul>	Jay Davis	9:40 AM (30 min)
3.	<p><b>Discussion: 2016 Lakes Data Report</b></p> <p>This draft report was distributed to the Workgroup in an email on August 3. A brief recap of the data will be presented, followed by discussion of comments on the report. Please email comments to Jay (<a href="mailto:jay@sfei.org">jay@sfei.org</a>) by August 27.</p> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Agreement on resolving comments and finalizing the report.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jay provided a brief review of report findings, key report figures, and comments already submitted by the STEW</li> <li>● Summarized and discussed recommended comments and revisions related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Missing figures and tables</li> <li>○ Assorted errata, clarifications, grammatical suggestions (e.g. “lakes” versus “locations”)</li> <li>○ Adding additional background information</li> <li>○ Clarifying language in some captions</li> <li>○ Adding clarification of rationale into the text regarding why independent regressions are used to calculate 350 mm adjusted means (rather than Analysis of Covariance on the entire dataset)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Jay Davis	10:10 AM (20 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
3. cont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Revisit discussion on consideration of using non-lethal sampling methods (e.g. muscle plugs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use of non-lethal methods increases complexity of logistics and time in the field, which may result in reduced fishing productivity in a day and significantly increased costs</li> <li>○ Current tissue and scale requirements for analysis likely exceed limits of non-lethal methods</li> </ul> </li> <li>● See Aug 25 meeting <a href="#">slides 11-27</a> and <a href="#">recording</a> as well as May 26 meeting <a href="#">slides 5-18</a>, <a href="#">notes for Agenda Item 3</a>, and <a href="#">recording</a> for more details</li> </ul> <p>— Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All: Email final comments to <a href="mailto:jay@sfei.org">jay@sfei.org</a> by Aug 27</li> <li>● Jay: Distribute final report to Workgroup by Sep 30</li> <li>● Anna: Post final, accessible report on the <a href="#">Lake and Reservoir Page</a></li> <li>● Jay: Develop 10 year report in early 2025</li> <li>● Chris Schmitt: Send Jay, Autumn, and Anna literature on non-lethal methods</li> <li>● Jay/Autumn/Anna: Review and consider use of non-lethal methods</li> </ul>	Jay Davis	10:10 AM (20 min)
4.	<p><b>Information: Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Update</b></p> <p>The implementation of the <a href="#">Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment</a> is underway. This agenda item will include an update on progress and next steps, including increasing engagement and discussing the longer-term interest in partnership and participation by regions.</p> <p><u>Relevant Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Realignment Plan Executive Summary</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Realignment Fact Sheet</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Inform and update the Workgroup.</p> <p>— Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Current realignment effort is focused in the San Diego Region</li> </ul>	Anna Holder	10:30 AM (15 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
4. cont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting 1 was held on Jun 25; focus of the meeting was introduction of members and discussion of shared objectives and goals of the process</li> <li>● Meeting 2 to be held on Sep 1; focus of the meeting will be to document and prioritize: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Areas or water bodies of concern or importance</li> <li>○ Species of concern or importance</li> <li>○ Pollutants or toxins of concern or importance</li> </ul> </li> <li>● See past and future meeting notes and related products in the <a href="#">“Products” Section of the Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment webpage</a></li> </ul> <p>— Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All: Email <a href="mailto:anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov">anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov</a> if you are interested in participating in future realignment efforts</li> <li>● Anna: Provide updates at future Workgroup meetings</li> </ul>	Anna Holder	10:30 AM (15 min)
5.	<p>Wrap-up and Adjourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review action items</li> <li>● Review items for next meeting</li> <li>● Next meeting: October 27, 2021, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm</li> </ul> <p>— Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review action items, general plan for next meeting</li> <li>● Discussion of development of Tribal-centered bioaccumulation monitoring related trainings</li> </ul> <p>— Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All: Email <a href="mailto:anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov">anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov</a> with speaker/topic recommendations</li> <li>● Anna: Post meeting notes, presentation, and recording on the Meetings page, send email to Workgroup once complete</li> <li>● Anna: Follow-up with Sherri, others about partnering to develop a Tribal-centered bioaccumulation monitoring training, which will be posted online and shared for use by others</li> </ul>	Jay Davis, Anna Holder	10:45 AM (15 min)