

2012 PROGRESS REPORT

Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (BOG)

BOG Mission

The mission of the BOG is to implement the “Strategy for Coordinated Monitoring, Assessment, and Communication of Information on Bioaccumulation in Aquatic Ecosystems in California” (Bioaccumulation Oversight Group 2012). The goals of the Strategy are to promote:

1. coordinated, cooperative, long-term, statewide monitoring to generate the data needed to support control plans and exposure reduction;
2. consistent and timely assessment to support more coherent regulation and to support exposure reduction for humans and aquatic life (including wildlife), and
3. coordinated communication and access to information on fish contamination to allow the public to reduce their exposure to contaminants and to participate in management processes in an informed manner.

BOG Accomplishments in 2012

The BOG’s initial five-year SWAMP workplan consisted of a series of statewide surveys of contaminants in sport fish in California's freshwater lakes and reservoirs, coastal waters, and rivers and streams. We have completed four years of this five-year workplan. The monitoring consists of surveying all water body types in California supporting the fishing beneficial use. The sport fish monitoring work completed so far includes a two-year survey of freshwater lakes and reservoirs and a two-year survey of coastal waters. The goal of these studies is to assess the status of contaminant impacts on California’s fishing resources. In 2012 the BOG began the transition to an expanded workgroup to address larger issues important to the California Water Quality Monitoring Council and the broader topic of bioaccumulation in California water bodies in general.

Accomplishments in the Past Year

- Completed a strategy document: “A Strategy for Coordinated Monitoring, Assessment, and Communication of Information on Bioaccumulation in Aquatic Ecosystems in California” (Bioaccumulation Oversight Group 2012).
- With funding from SWAMP, convened a statewide symposium on bioaccumulation in California that was attended by almost 200 people. Presentations from the meeting are available at http://www.sfei.org/calendar_events/Symposium. The symposium generated a great deal of interest in the BOG and greatly expanded the list of BOG participants.
- With funding from SWAMP and the State Water Board Training Academy, and support from SCCWRP, convened a two day workshop on monitoring cyanotoxins in freshwater habitats in California. The workshop was well attended (approximately 150 people on day one, and 50 people on day two), and received very favorable reviews from attendees. Presentations from the meeting are available at http://www.sfei.org/SWAMP_cyanotoxin_workshop. The

workshop was a major step forward in developing a coordinated strategy for monitoring biotoxins in California.

- Continued to expand the Safe to Eat Fish Portal: expanded the available data accessible to the public on the “Safe to Eat Fish” Portal page, including the data added from the second year of the Coast Survey.
- Data from the coast survey were fed into CEDEN. The Safe to Eat Portal draws data from CEDEN.
- With BOG oversight, SWAMP produced a report and fact sheet on results from the two-year statewide screening survey of contaminants in sport fish from California coastal waters. The report, [*Contaminants in Sport Fish from the California Coast, 2009-2010*](#), represents a major step forward in understanding the extent of chemical contamination in sport fish on the California coast. The study has provided information that will be valuable in prioritizing areas in need of further study, will support development of consumption guidelines and cleanup plans, and provides information the public can use to be better informed about the degree of contamination of their favorite fishing spots. The report received extensive coverage in the media, including the front page of the San Francisco Chronicle and Forum with Michael Krasny on KQED.
- With BOG oversight, SWAMP completed the chemical analysis of sport fish for a one-year screening survey of bioaccumulation in California rivers and streams. These data will be reported and distributed via the Portal in 2013.

Coordination Highlights

Historically, the BOG has promoted coordination of sport fish monitoring among many programs, including SWAMP, Regional Water Board Programs, the San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program (RMP), and the Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program. This coordination has allowed the BOG to expand the amount of data collected and the analysis for our statewide sport fish surveys. The BOG has also facilitated coordination of wildlife monitoring in association with the SWAMP study of mercury bioaccumulation and risks to birds, which is being conducted in partnership with the USGS and the USFWS.

Plans for 2013

In 2013, the BOG plans to accomplish the following:

- Continue implementation of the Bioaccumulation Strategy. Convene quarterly meetings of the BOG with an expanded participant list. Form partnerships with the major bioaccumulation programs in California. Follow through on actions outlined in the Strategy.
- Provide oversight on production of a SWAMP report on results from the statewide screening survey of contaminants in sport fish from California rivers and streams.

Bioaccumulation Oversight Group 2012 Annual Report

- Provide oversight for SWAMP monitoring and monitoring workplan development, including the second year of a survey of mercury risks to birds in lakes and reservoirs. Develop a monitoring plan for 2014.
- Continue to expand, refine and improve the Safe to Eat Fish portal page:
 - Incorporate the new data from the rivers and streams sport fish study.
 - Develop means of displaying data from the SWAMP wildlife study.

Agencies Participating (or Targeted for Participation) in the BOG

- State Agencies
 - State Water Board
 - SWAMP
 - TMDL
 - Standards
 - FERC
 - NPDES
 - Ocean
 - Regional Water Boards
 - Region 1
 - Region 2
 - Region 3
 - Region 4
 - Region 5
 - Region 6
 - Region 9
 - OEHHA
 - DPH
 - DWR
 - CDFG
- Federal Agencies
 - USEPA
 - USFWS
 - USACE
 - USBR
 - US Forest Service
 - National Park Service
 - USGS
 - NOAA
- Other Groups
 - Tribes
 - Utilities and Water Districts
 - SFPUC
 - Santa Clara Valley Water District

Bioaccumulation Oversight Group 2012 Annual Report

- EBMUD
- PGE
- SFEI
- SCCWRP
- Universities
 - UC Davis
 - CSU Water Resources Policy Initiative
- Permit holders
- Grantees