

**Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)
San Francisco Bay Fish Project Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Notes**

Tuesday, December 6th, 2011, 12:00 - 5:00 PM
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
50 California St., Suite 2600
San Francisco, CA

1. Announcements and updates

- Berkeley Bay Festival – Aida Negrón circulated information about the Berkeley Bay Festival that takes place in April 2012. Aida asked the group whether they are interested in participating in this event. CDPH is willing to coordinate if SAG members want to participate. EBRPD can bring their mobile fish tank and/or mobile visitor center. The water board would attend if we have a table. Kids for the Bay is already planning to have a table at this event and went last year—this is a family oriented event and you need activities that will engage kids. Aida will arrange a follow up call with Patty Donald (City of Berkeley) to coordinate next steps.
- Activities and Coloring Book for Kids—Aida circulated an activity booklet that CDPH developed for APA and asked for feedback.

2. Presentation and discussion on fish monitoring for San Francisco Bay (Regional Monitoring Program)

See presentation called “Fish Monitoring for SF Bay”

Dr. Davis is lead scientist of the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in the San Francisco Estuary, a comprehensive monitoring program for fish, sediments, water, and bivalves in for San Francisco Bay. He is also lead scientist for bioaccumulation elements of the California State Water Resource Control Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP), which conducts statewide surveys of contaminants in aquatic food webs.

- Big picture with sport fish monitoring in California, three different programs: RMP, SWAMP and California Water Quality Monitoring Council. Dr. Davis pointed out that it is important these efforts be on our radar.
- SWAMP – Subgroups is the bioaccumulation oversight group (BOG) – guides the SWAMP across California. The budget is limited. A new role for the BOG is to coordinate across from all the major programs in California.
- The goal of the CWQMC is to improve coordination and cost-effectiveness of water quality and ecosystem monitoring and assessment, among others. The BOG has as a council workgroup role.

- “Safe to eat Fish “ Portal on CWQMC website (http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/mywaterquality/safe_to_eat/) has information on contaminant levels in fish which is helpful for people who fish in California. It shows data generated by SWAMP. Color purple means high for mercury. For example, on the San Mateo Coast – highest concentrations of any lake in California.
- 2011 – Samples in rivers and lakes. The 2011 report would include 20110 data. 10 year cycle likely – getting state wide information on a 10 year cycle seems to be the direction
- Report for monitoring on SF Bay – has been done every 3 years. Question: How do you get those reports out to the fishing population? It is good information, it would be well received, but they are not getting it. Dr. Davis explained that the primary way of getting this information out is the advisory, but it would be nice for people to get more detailed information.
- Question: newspapers, TV? Dr. Davis said that SFEI does press releases and, sometimes, news stories. He asked how many people have seen articles or his interviews. Almost no one responded. Only a few people have seen the Bay Report. Dr. Davis said they are looking for suggestions to improve getting their reports to out to the public.

Data:

- Methylmercury in sport fish: high in 2003 for Halibut but lower in other years, low for jacksmelt in all years
- We are not seeing any trends over time. Mercury will be the source of contamination for a while. No easy fix to get rid of mercury.
- Coastal surveys – first consistent state-wide survey
- Sharks samples are usually high in mercury. If you take sharks from the picture what you see is from the striped bass.

PCBs:

- There are two species which are key indicators: white croaker and surfperch. White croaker use to be the poster child for PCBs. Croaker without the skin lowers the concentration of PCBs by 55%.
- San Diego Bay is high in PCB concentrations, not really clear why.
- PCBs in shiner surfperch higher in the SF Bay compared to Southern California.

Highlights of SF Bay:

- Best dataset of any California water body (one of the best anywhere)
- Coordination with SWAMP, New Safe Eating Guidelines from OEHHA, Emerging contaminants, No long-term trends, Skin removal very beneficial

in reducing concentrations of organics, Revised advisory is the best way to educate the public

- RMP sport: 2012 & beyond:
- They are considering switch to 5 year cycle (i.e., next sampling in 2014). There is a possibility for doing targeted sampling before 2014.
- Dr. Davis asked about the data needs from this group. Alyce mentioned that 4 different groups have raised concerns about Bat rays. She also mentioned 3 types of fish that people are catching based on angler surveys but there is no data on whether people are actually eating them: Northern Anchovy, pacific Herring and Pacific Sardine. Farmmary, from APA, said that at Crissy Fields the first two are used as bait but sardines are eaten. Marie, from Greenaction, said that sardines are eaten or used as bait.
- Dr. Davis mentioned that anchovies accumulate a lot of PCBs and other contaminants.
- Margy Gassel said that OEHHA didn't include the anchovies data in the advisory because the sampled fish were very small. They wanted to see some bigger fish.
- There was some discussion about other fish that are caught and how there is confusion about what kind of fish these are. Alyce suggested that CDPH circulate a list of fish and, through the funded groups, look for these fish. That way the SAG could provide information about these fish.
- Dr. Davis also mentioned that the sampling is not comprehensive enough to support the advisories because funding is a big obstacle. The representative from East Bay Parks said his organization would be willing to help collect fish samples from reservoirs (they have a boat and collect fish samples for populations studies).
- Farmmary, from APA, asked if there is an App to show mercury levels in fish, for people to access that information through the smartphones and Dr. Davis said that would be something easy to develop.
- Dr. Davis said there is a huge amount of information and data and they are looking for feedback and ideas on how to present that information.

3. Updates from the funded groups

See: "Kids for the Bay presentation", "Greenaction presentation" and "APA presentation". CIEA was not able to attend the meeting.

Kids for the Bay

- Kids for the Bay is working with six classes and the three components are 1) in-class work, 2) Field trips to the piers and 3) Action Project: kids teach the parents about safe ways to eat the fish
- There are 3 third grade classes; 2 5th grade classes and 1 6th grade class; three classes are in Oakland, 2 in Richmond and 1 in the unincorporated area of Contra Costa County
- Among the students there are 203 families who are Bay fish consumers and 168 are at-risk
- They have updated their existing watershed action program curriculum to include the new advisory
- The activities are designed to engage the students such as utilizing a food chain game for kids to learn about bioaccumulation and hands on pollution demonstrations where kids learn about pollution entering the bay
- Three of the in-class activities will occur this year and the other three will occur next year
- The range of percentage of families that consume fish from the Bay ranges from 24-56%; the 56% was found at Franklin Elementary in Oakland
- Students are divided into teams and they teach the parents how to cook fish more safely and which fish are safer to eat.
- In the field trip the children will interview anglers and document what they are catching and provide them with the fish advisory information.
- There are working with a journalist to have an article about the fish issue and their project in Bay Nature

Greenaction

- They are finding that there's lots of interest in the fish contamination issue; there was an anticipation that it would be more challenging to create interest in this program
- They have conducted 213 surveys in the community
- They are moving forward with their presentations with women and mothers; the new mothers group is very interested in the information from this project
- The one-on-one interactions are more easily documented; in the presentations in churches three questions are asked to assess some background information
- In many of the churches there are feeding rooms; information is being provided to these locations where fish are provided by the community to help feed people in need; a training occurred with the cooking staff of a homeless shelter
- A newsletter was provided to District 10 which is the district that Greenaction serves

- There's been some learning about the timing of when some of the Pacific Islander and other Asian populations fish; some of these groups fish in the late afternoon and evening hours
- Greenaction is writing a new article for both the San Francisco Bay View and the Bay Guardian
- Part of the refinement of the project involves doing more outreach to the pier fishers/anglers
- They wanted to know if there's an additional health risk from eating a fish that just ate some Bay fish as bait such as shark

APA

- APA works and collaborates with 22 Asian/Pacific Islander CBOs
- The population APA serves is 85% low-income and the higher income have some risk such as domestic violence that need supportive services
- 55% are monolingual, 35% are not literate and 10% are literate
- 500 base-line surveys are completed; the goal is 2000 surveys
- They are getting ready to do the training with their collaborators
- Long term assessments will be done with several families
- An interview was done with Julia Scott on subsistence fishing and will air on KALW
- APA is looking at several questions during their assessments: 1) how is the recession impacting the consumption of fish from the Bay, 2) assessment of what cultural influences or family dynamics to still consume the fish, 3) self or personal resistance to change and 4) family and health factors that motivate change in fish consumption behavior
- APA is working with San Jose State University students on a community based social marketing project to support this effort
- APA will be doing some education around the fish contamination issue during the APA holiday party

4. San Francisco Bay sign (update on progress an discussion of posting plan) – Ian Walker, CDPH

Highlights about the sign:

- Ian Walker gave a summary of the fish sign pier survey results and highlighted the most recent changes made to the sign.
- The sign material is high quality--very sturdy and graffiti resistant. But it is also expensive. We'd like to go with the bigger size (14"x22") rather than 11"x17" but this will depend on cost.
- We understand that the sign needs to be able to accommodate different types of posting locations. We plan to have 4-6 holes on the sign. It can be posted on a pole.
- We would like to track posting locations but this will depend on whether the counties can do this.

- We see an opportunity to plan some media activities around the sign posting.

Some changes on the revised sign include:

- Mention of “San Francisco Bay” in the title
- Website on sign is “bayfish.org”. However, this site will only redirect users to another site.
- There are 3 language on the left side (English, Chinese, and Spanish)
- Room in the lower left corner for local contact information. We'll be able to apply a clear sticker

Comments/questions:

- Will the landscape format work for everyone (rather than a portrait format)? *The kiosk version is in portrait format and can be used on bulletin boards, while the sign is meant for piers. We would still like to get some more feedback from the counties about the types of posting locations to ensure that the current format will work.*
- Concerns about theft of the signs were raised--don't use plastic ties to secure the signs because they can be easily stolen.
- CBO groups would like to know when and where the signs will be posted. Knowing where the signs are will be helpful to their field/outreach workers when they are talking to fishermen.
- Greenaction would like to go out with the staff posting the signs to see where they are posted and to ensure they are posted at reasonable height—not too high and not too low.
- Ask DFG wardens about fishing locations to make sure our list is complete.

Next steps:

- We'll schedule a conference call with the counties to discuss how involved they'll be in posting.
- We'd like to print them in January and start posting in Feb. 2012

5. Planning for the next SAG meeting, Highlights of the year-end SAG evaluation, and evaluation of today's meeting– Ian Walker, CDPH

- A summary of the year end evaluation was provided to the group
- Overall the general feedback was that we were on track and doing well
- Some of the activities are still in progress and could be readily evaluated
- One of the findings was to do more on collaboration and to hear more from the funded groups
 - The agenda included more time for the CBOs as requested

- The Bay Festival opportunity was discussed as another opportunity for collaboration for the SAG
- The agenda also included the fish monitoring which was a topic that was identified as an item of interest
- The topic of biomonitoring will be addressed in June
- The tips and tools topic will be covered in the March meeting
- The sign posting topic is in progress
- A discussion was started on how to leverage the success of the project; the following ideas were raised:
 - There was discussion around developing the next steps
 - There was conversation around how to leverage the results on a statewide level
 - What can be done when the funding can't be counted on?
- The following March dates were provided: March 8th
- The following June dates were provided: June 19th, 21st, 22nd and 26th

End of Meeting

6. Meeting attendees:

Aida Negrón	CDPH (SFEI)
Alyce Ujihara	CDPH
Crystal Sanders	Fish Revolution!
Farmmary Saephan	APA
Geoff Brosseau	Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies
Ian Walker	CDPH
Janet Cox	State Water Resources Control Board
Janet O'Hara	SFB Regional Water Quality Control Board
Janet Palma	SFDPH - EHS
Jay Davis	San Francisco Estuary Institute
Jonah Landor-Yamagata	Kids for the Bay
Joshua Porter	EBRPD
Lauren Wohl-Sanchez	CDPH
Luisa Valiela	USEPA-Region 9
Marc Mullaney	San Mateo County Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
Margy Gassel	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
Marie Harrison	Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
Olga Martinez	CDPH/CDC fellow
Rona Hampton	CDPH
Rose Chan	Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
Ryan Mayfield	City of San Jose
Tivo Rojas-Cheatham	CDPH