

AGENDA
SQO - RMP Benthic Work Group Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 2009: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
San Francisco Estuary Institute, Oakland, CA

9:30 Welcome and Introductions

Goals for this meeting:

- Orient and establish the benthic work group
- Review spatial and temporal extent of benthic assemblage in SF Estuary
- Discuss options for mesohaline benthic assessment methods

9:40 Background, Work Group Tasks (B. Thompson, SFEI)

10:00 Benthic Data for SF Estuary and Delta (S. Lowe, SFEI)

10:20 Benthic Assemblages in SF Estuary and Delta (A. Ranasinghe, SCCWRP)

Noon Lunch (provided)

1:00 Mesohaline Benthic Assessments (B. Thompson, SFEI)

1:20 Discussion: Options for Mesohaline Assessment Revisions

3:00 Next steps, future meetings, work assignments, etc.

4:00 Adjourn

Long term goals of the work group

Review, revise, create benthic assessment methods for SF Estuary and Delta.

- Evaluation / revision of mesohaline indices
- Development and validation of oligohaline indices (Suisun Bay)
- Development and validation of limnetic indices (Delta)

This may include:

- Examine classification analysis of SF Estuary data to verify benthic assemblages.
 - Conduct “Best Professional Judgment” evaluation of benthic disturbance gradients in selected assemblages.
 - Guide and review assessment methods revised or developed from above.
- Need BPJ gradient to validate existing indices and/or create new one.
 - How to choose best metrics, consistent with conceptual models, previous usage.
 - Options:
 - Evaluate existing indices, compare to BPJ gradient, decide to keep or not.
 - Create new index: best fit metrics to BPJ gradient.