

Strategy for Benthos and Sediment Toxicity Monitoring by the RMP

Estimated Cost: \$10,000

Oversight Group: Exposure & Effects Workgroup

Proposed by: Phil Trowbridge

Background

Monitoring for benthic invertebrates and sediment toxicity has been part of the RMP Status & Trends Program for decades. From 2009-2016, a number of special studies have been completed on benthic assessment tools and the causes of moderate sediment toxicity in the Bay. No additional studies are planned. In 2018, the RMP is scheduled to collect the next round of benthic invertebrate and sediment toxicity data. Therefore, the Exposure and Effects Workgroup recommended developing a short strategy document outlining what has been learned over the past 7 years of special studies and how the RMP should proceed in the future with benthic monitoring.

Strategy Document Outline

1. Upcoming management decisions, management utility of the data
 - a. Sediment Quality Objectives
 - b. Benthic grazer abundance for NMS modeling and studies
 - c. Baseline for biological invasions, “step changes” in Bay ecology
 - d. Possible endpoint for effects of PAHs in sediment
2. Synthesis of RMP studies on benthos and sediment toxicity methods
 - a. Summary of previous work (RMP and others)
 - b. Highlight resolved and unresolved issues of management relevance
3. Summarize alternatives to the RMP methods for benthic monitoring
 - a. Benthic cameras
 - b. In-situ assays
4. Multi-Year Plan for benthos and sediment toxicity monitoring by the RMP
 - a. S&T Monitoring Schedule (Note: the EEWG recommends collecting benthos and sediment toxicity data in 2018 as planned. The strategy would guide how that data should be collected and how they should be interpreted.)
 - b. Special Studies

Expected document length: 10-20 pages

Deliverables and Schedule

Task 1. Stakeholder engagement on management relevance. 1-2 calls with interested stakeholders. Discussion at the TRC and EEWG meetings (by 6/15/17)

Task 2. White paper with Multi-Year Plan for Benthic Sampling (draft by 3/30/17 for TRC and EEWG meetings; final by 9/30/17 in time for multi-year planning workshop)

Budget

\$10,000