

OEHHA's Perspective: BOG & Monitoring Council

April 2, 2009

Monitoring Council

Overview

- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
- Issue fish consumption advisories/safe eating guidelines
- Relation to “Safe to Eat” question
- How we do advisories
- Why we work with SWAMP/BOG
- BOG/OEHHA/Monitoring Council

Role in “Safe to Eat” Question

- Answer question directly
 - Issue specific consumption guidelines
 - Other general information on seafood safety
- Some monitoring
 - 1987 SoCal fish contaminant study
 - 1997 reservoir study
- Aggregate & evaluate data
- Provide meaning to results
- Communicate an answer

Water Bodies with Safe Eating Guidelines for Fish Consumption

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment



Advisories in Northern Sierra Nevada Foothill Counties (1)



Freshwater Advisories in San Francisco Bay Area Counties (1)



Advisory Chemical

- (1) = mercury
- (2) = PCBs
- (3) = DDT
- (4) = dieldrin

Developing Advisories Requires Coordinating Monitoring

- No statewide program focused on sampling for human health evaluations
- Interact with samplers
 - SWRCB, Regional Boards, USEPA, NOAA, USGS, UC researchers, Regional Monitoring Programs, CALFED studies, FERC studies, DTSC, RPs
- Guide collection applicable data
 - Locations, fish, sample size, chemicals analyzed, methods, etc.

OEHHA Evaluation Tools

- **Advisory Tissue Levels**
 - Step in OEHHA's advisory protocol
 - Balance risk and benefit
- **Fish Contaminant Goals**
 - Criteria like
 - Potential for inter-agency use
- **Potential for public confusion when used to over-interpret results**

OEHHA & SWAMP/BOG

- Most active & extensive current monitoring of bioaccumulation in fish
- Interested in questions related to fish consumption and safety
- Opportunity for coordination/guidance
- History of working with Water Boards

BOG & Monitoring Council

- BOG is a qualified expert group
- Add relevant organizations
- Others need a reason to work on portal
 - Potential loss of control of message
 - Potential for portal to over-reach presentation
 - Web products ≠ evaluation
 - More web sites ≠ efficiency
- Beyond portal
 - Coordination of monitoring