CONTAMINANTS IN SPORT FISH: THE BAY IN A STATEWIDE CONTEXT

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REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM
RMP ANNUAL MEETING
Pollutant Effects on Aquatic Life

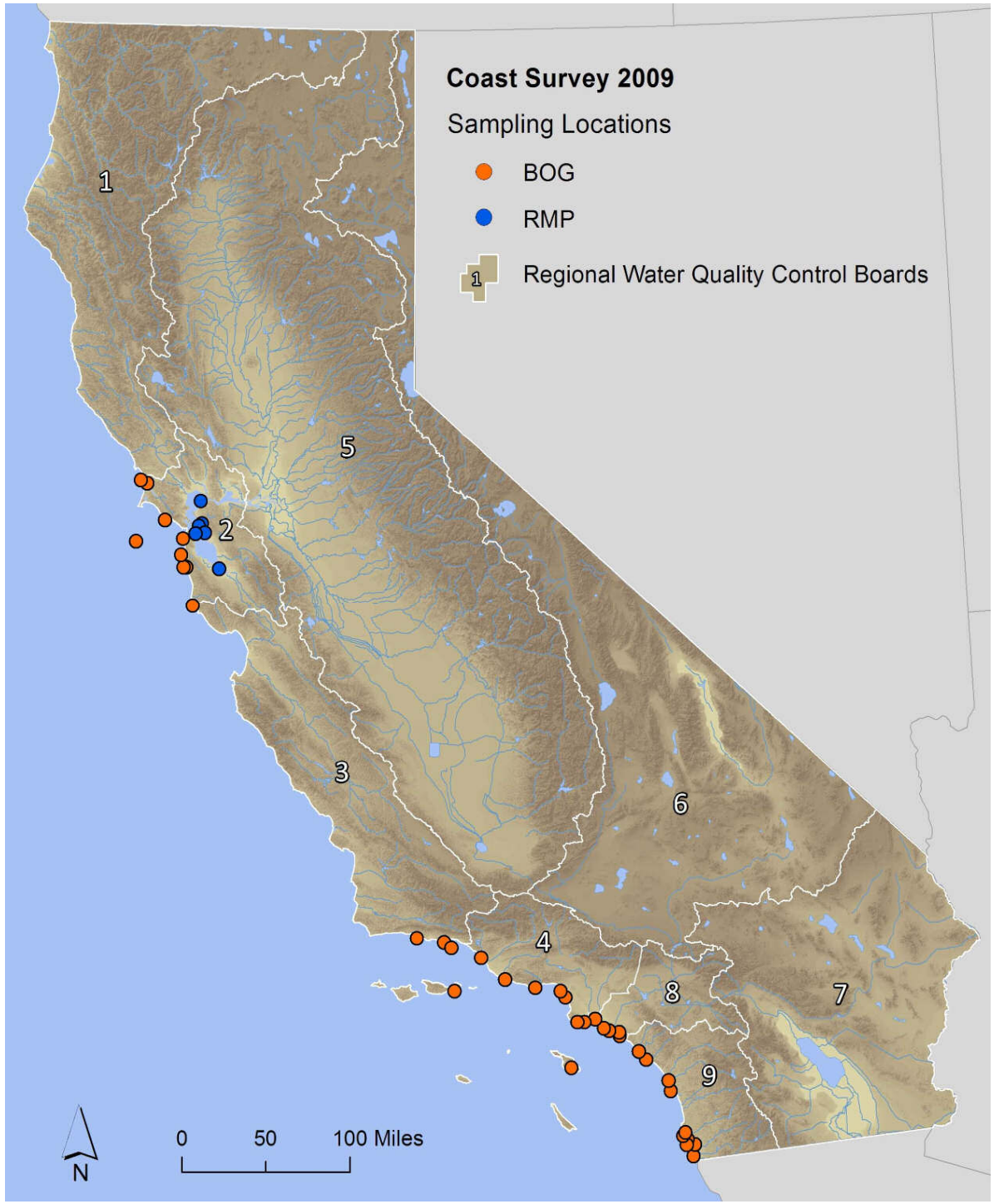
Background

- Problem
  - Lack of statewide information on contaminants in sport fish
  - Lack of safe eating guidelines
- New SWAMP monitoring began in 2007
- $750,000 to $1 million per year
- Five-year program to cover all water body types

Study Design

Fishing Locations

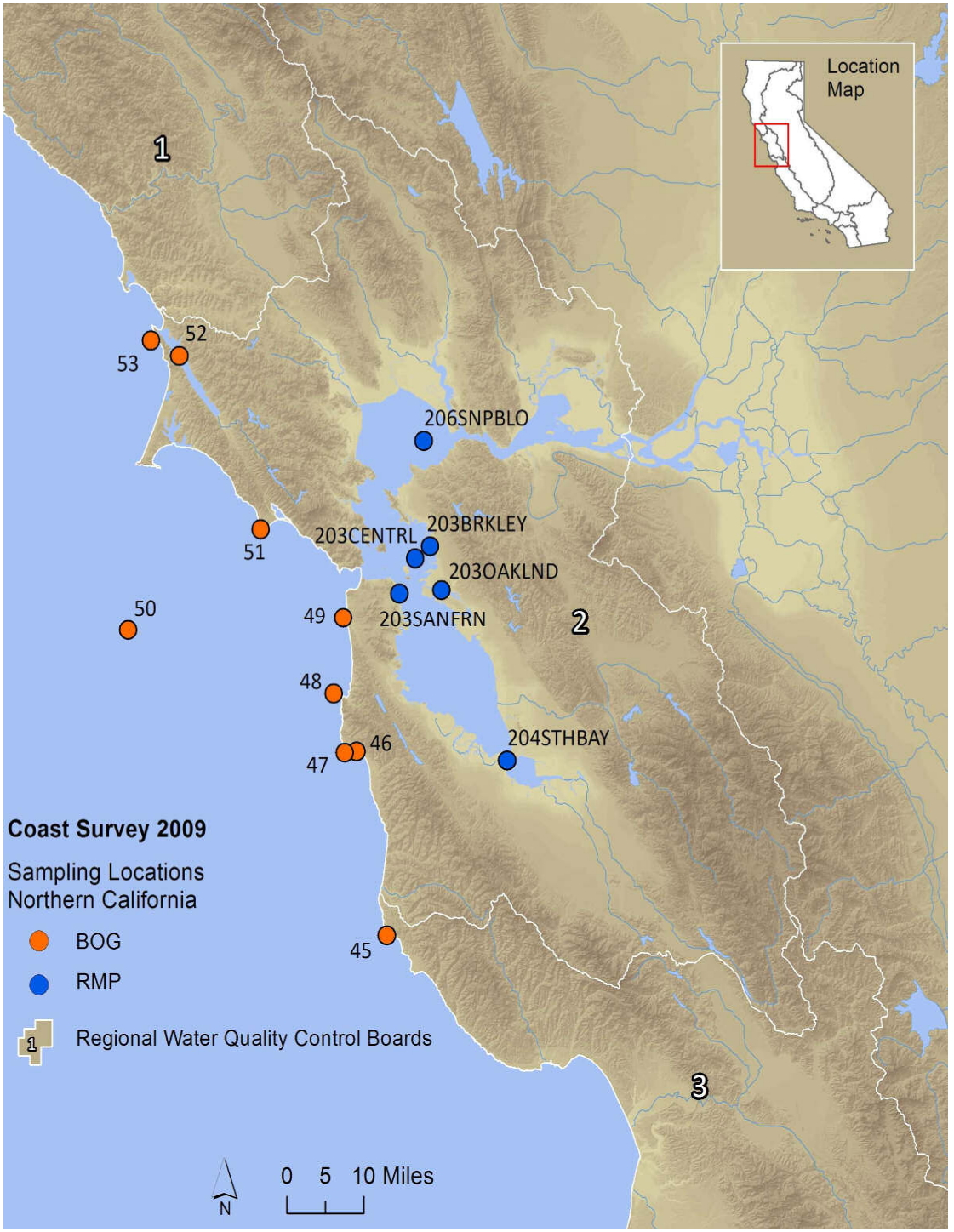
- 69 for the state
- 42 in 2009, urban areas
- Near-shore (includes bays and estuaries)
- Five target species per location



San Francisco Bay and Coast

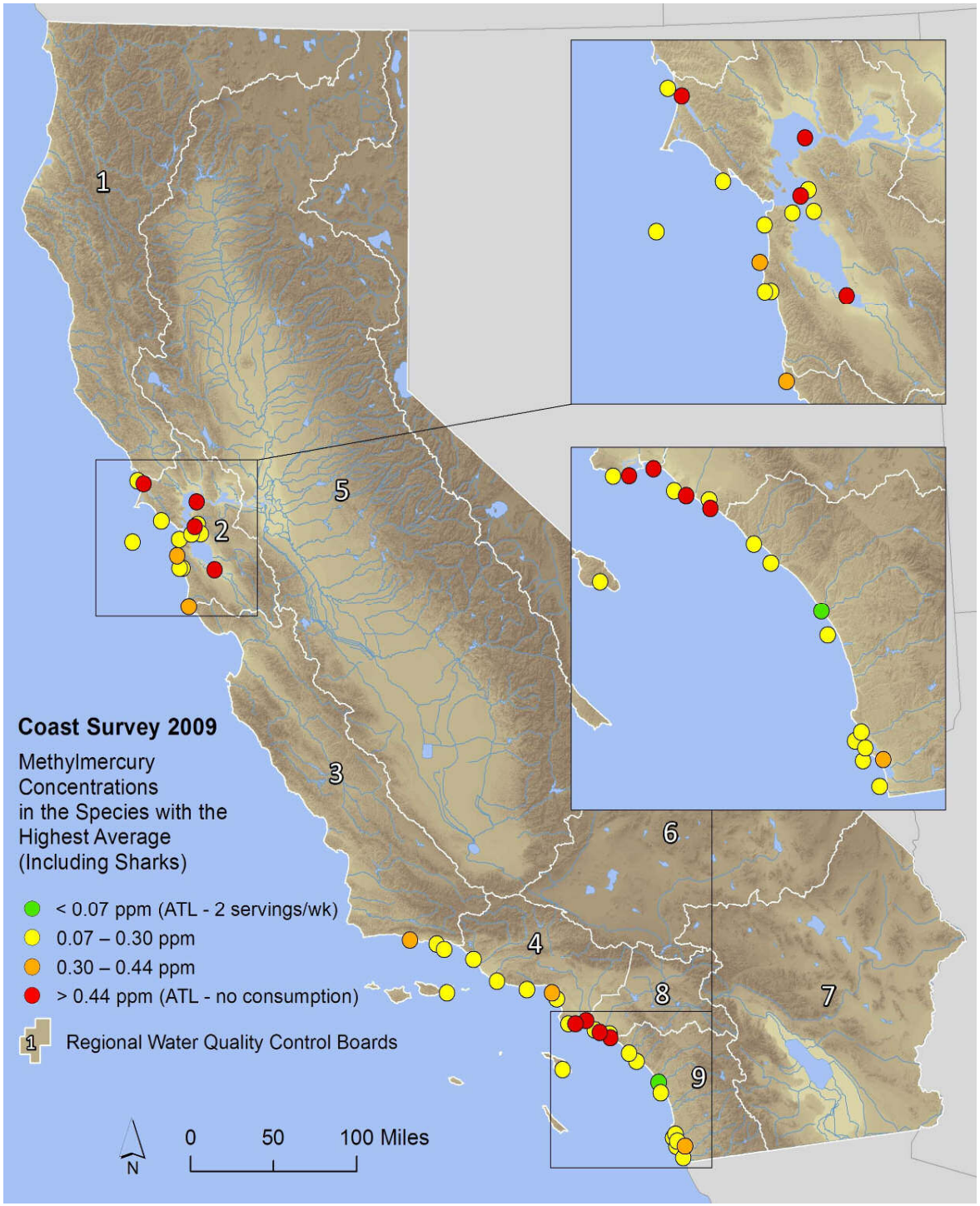
Northern California Fishing Locations

- 6 SF Bay
- 9 Coast

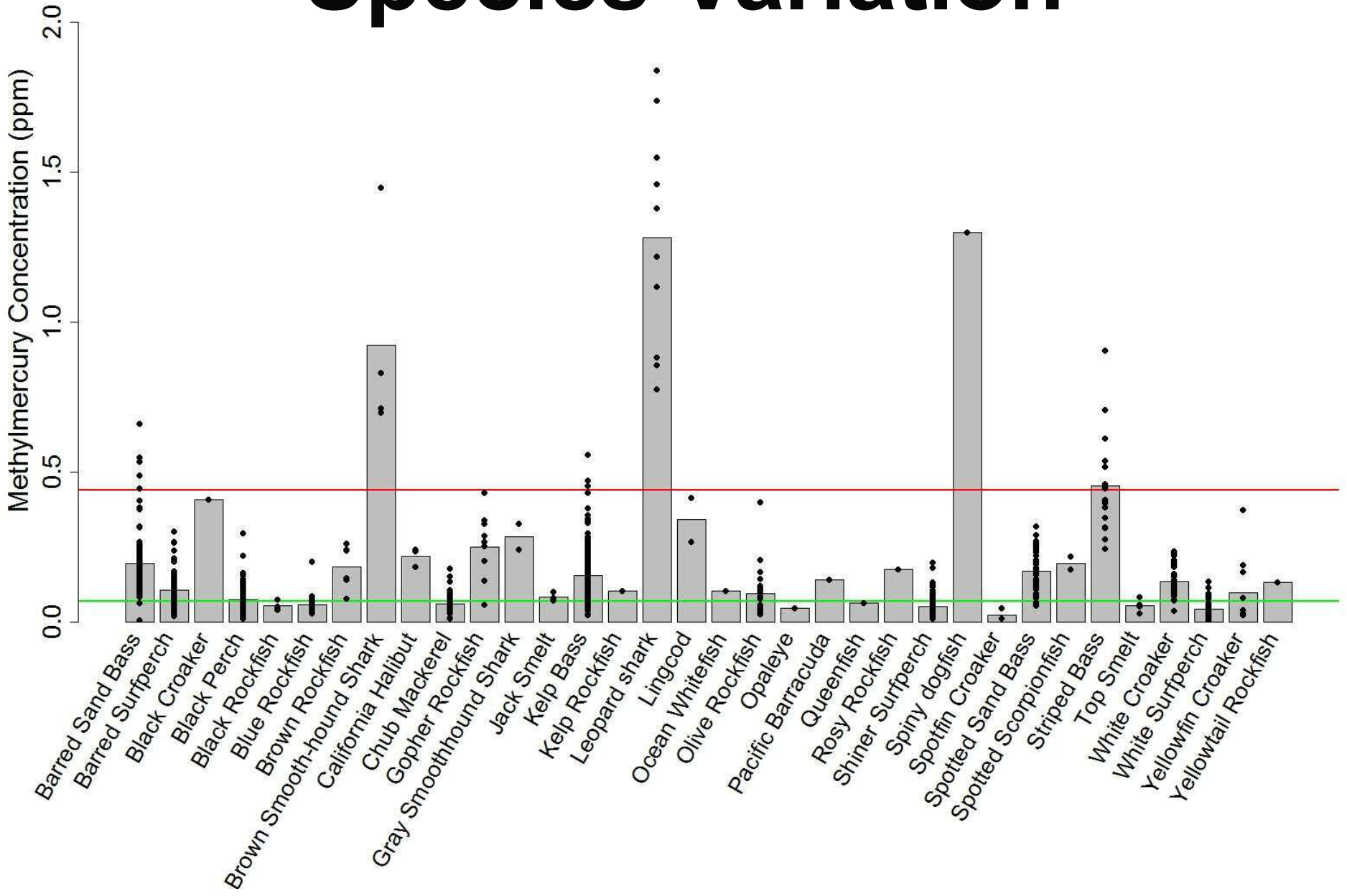


Statewide Assessment

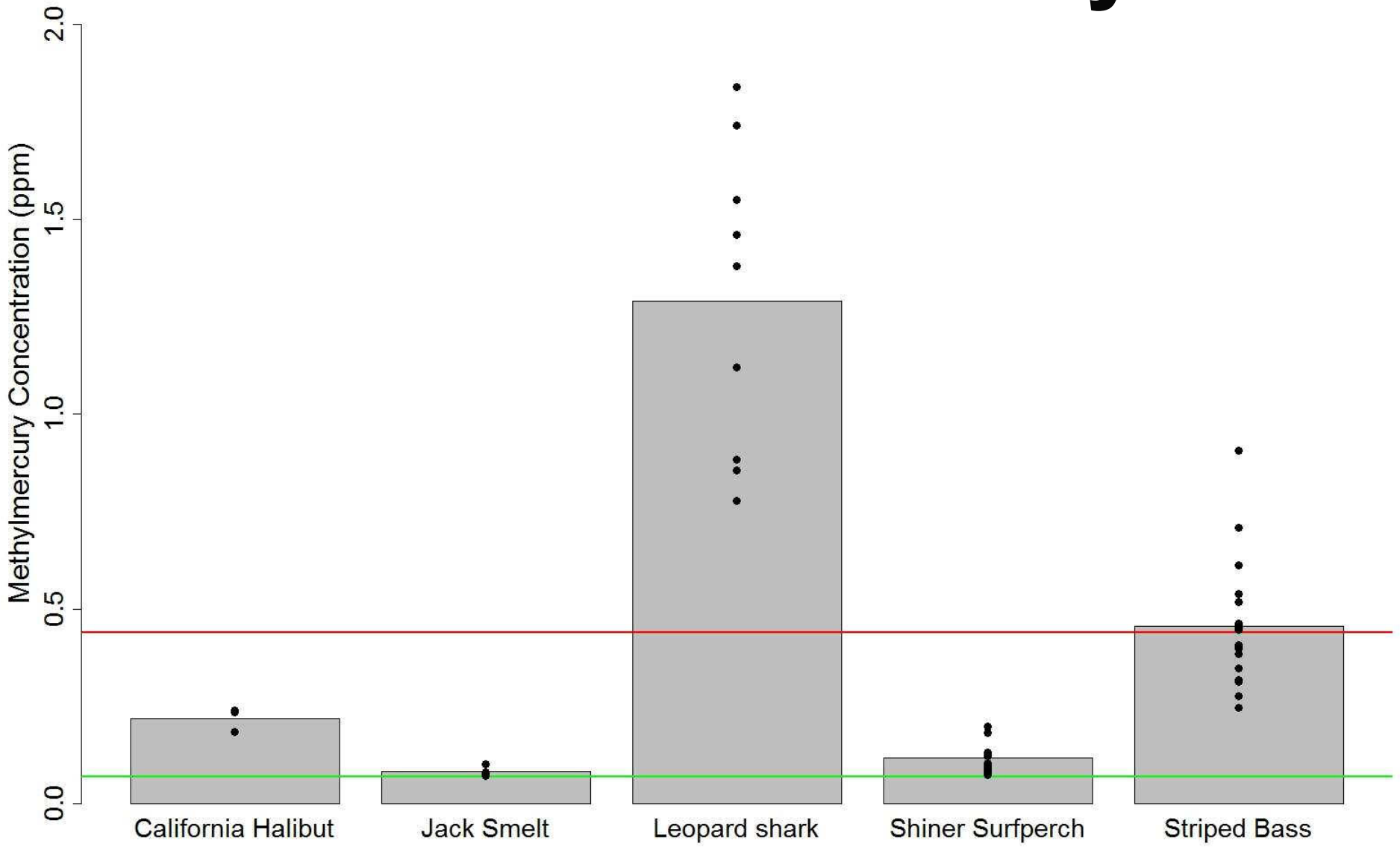
Methylmercury



Species Variation

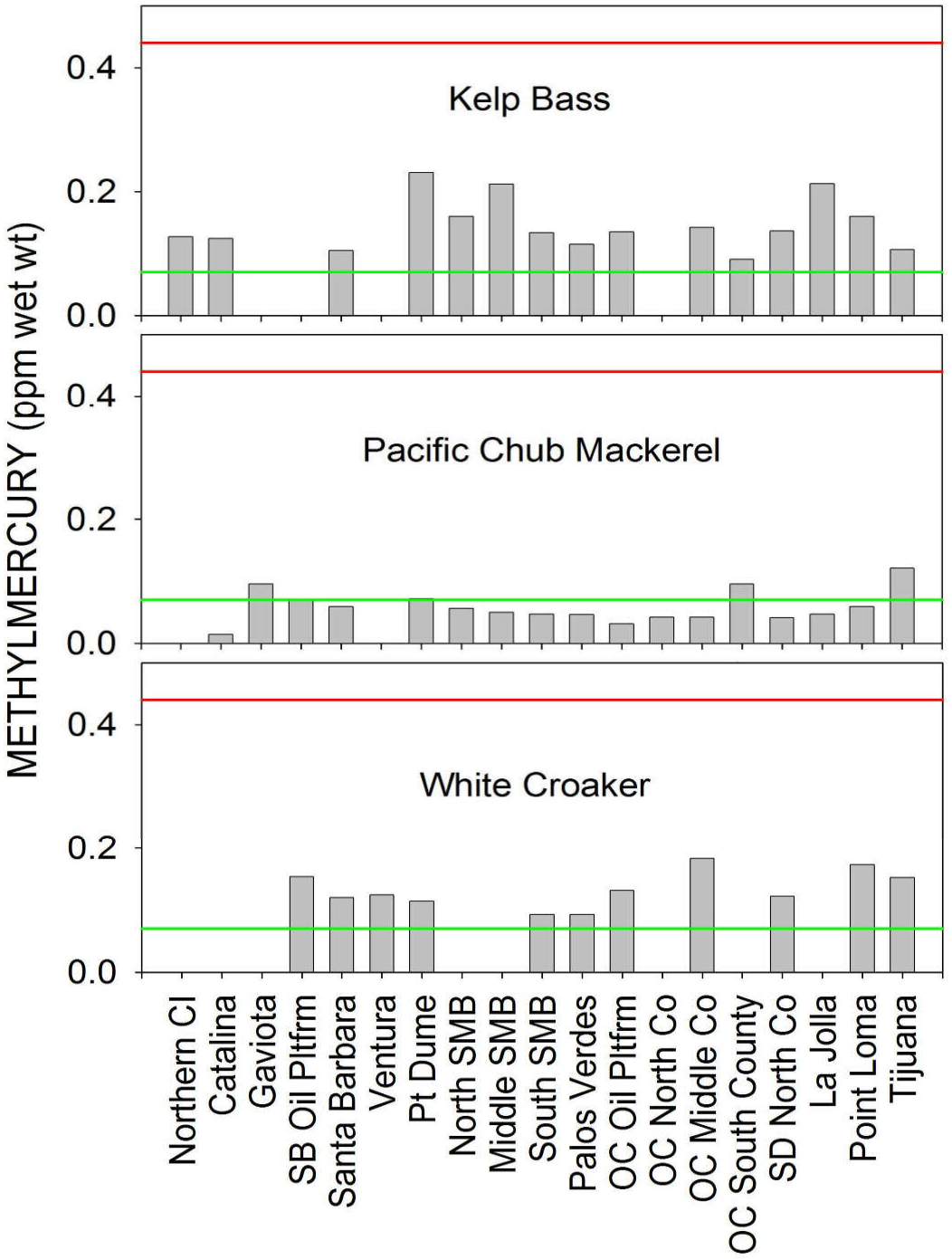


San Francisco Bay



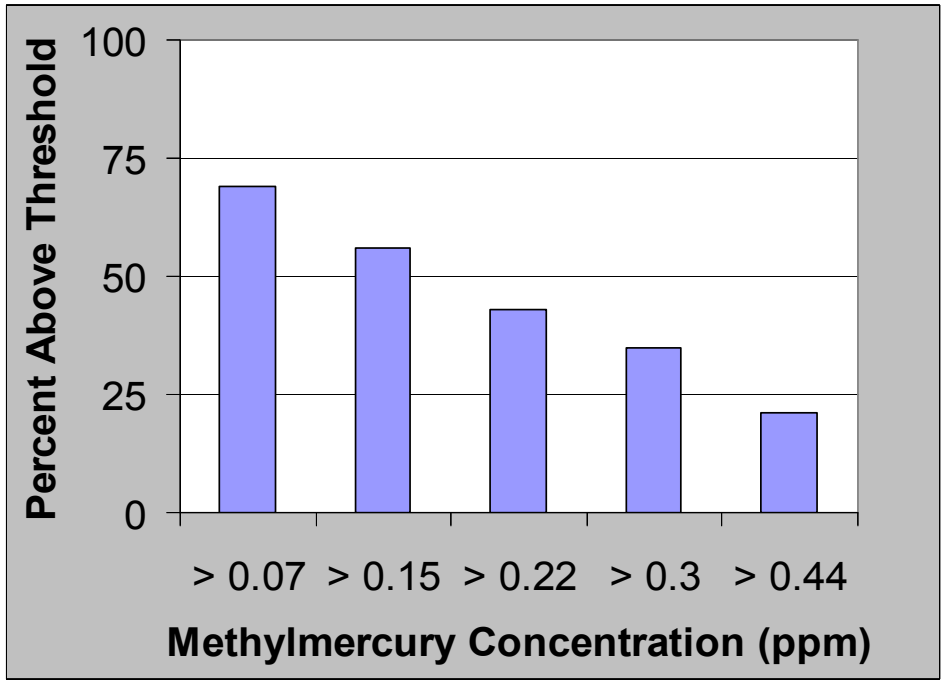
Southern California

Methylmercury

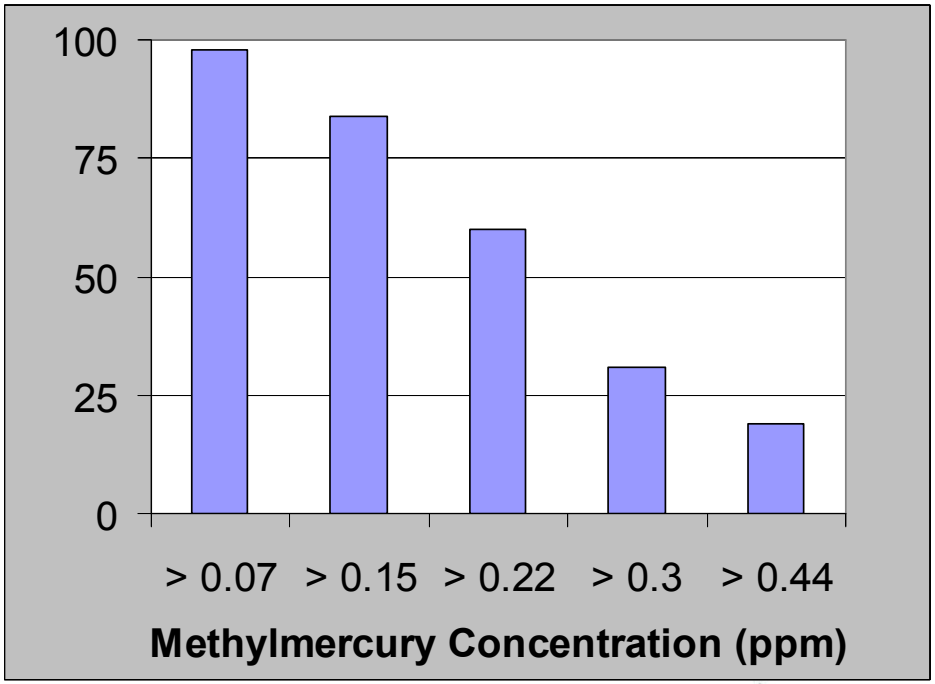


Lakes and Coast

California Lakes (2007 – 2008)

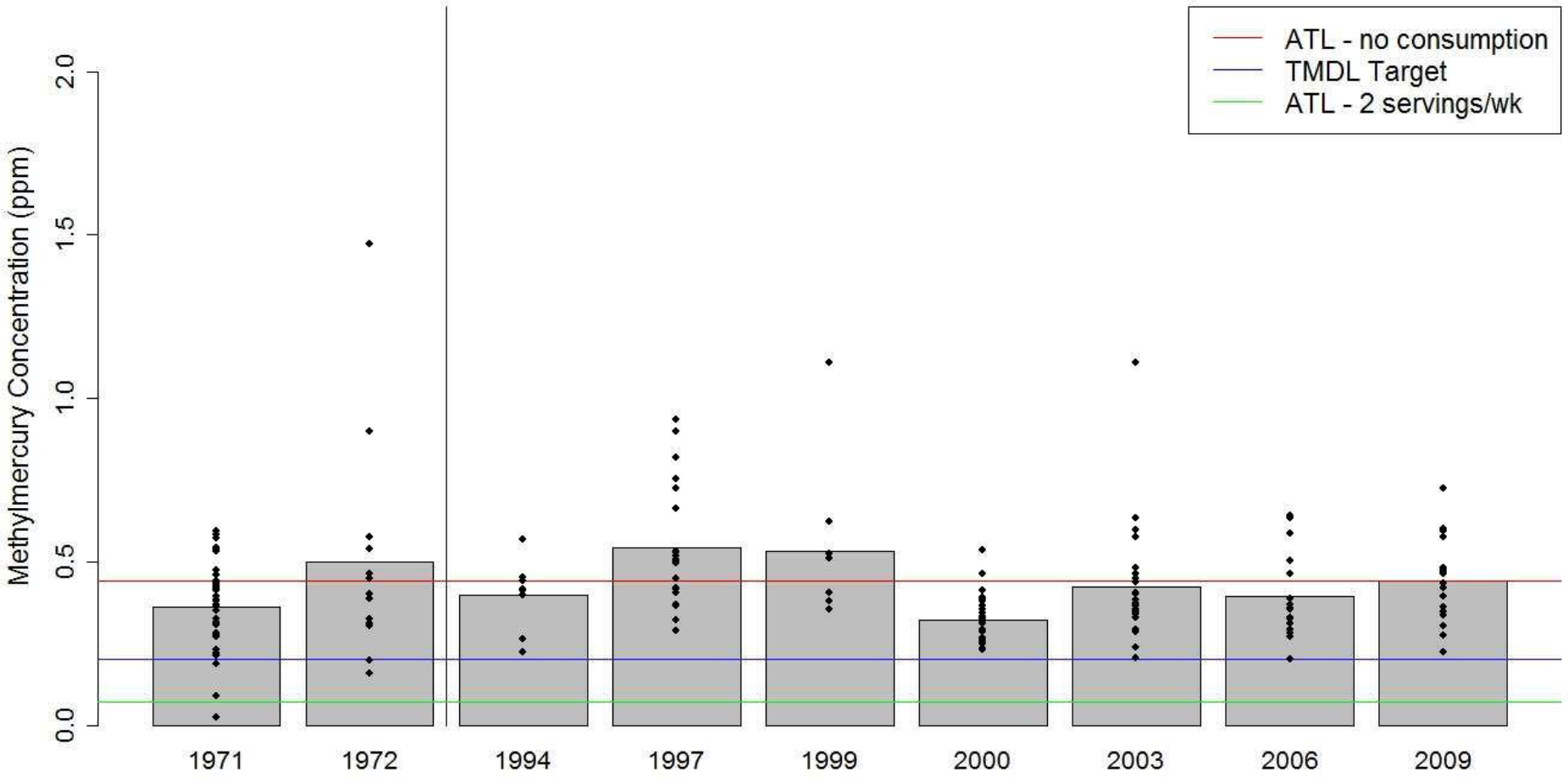


California Coast (2009)



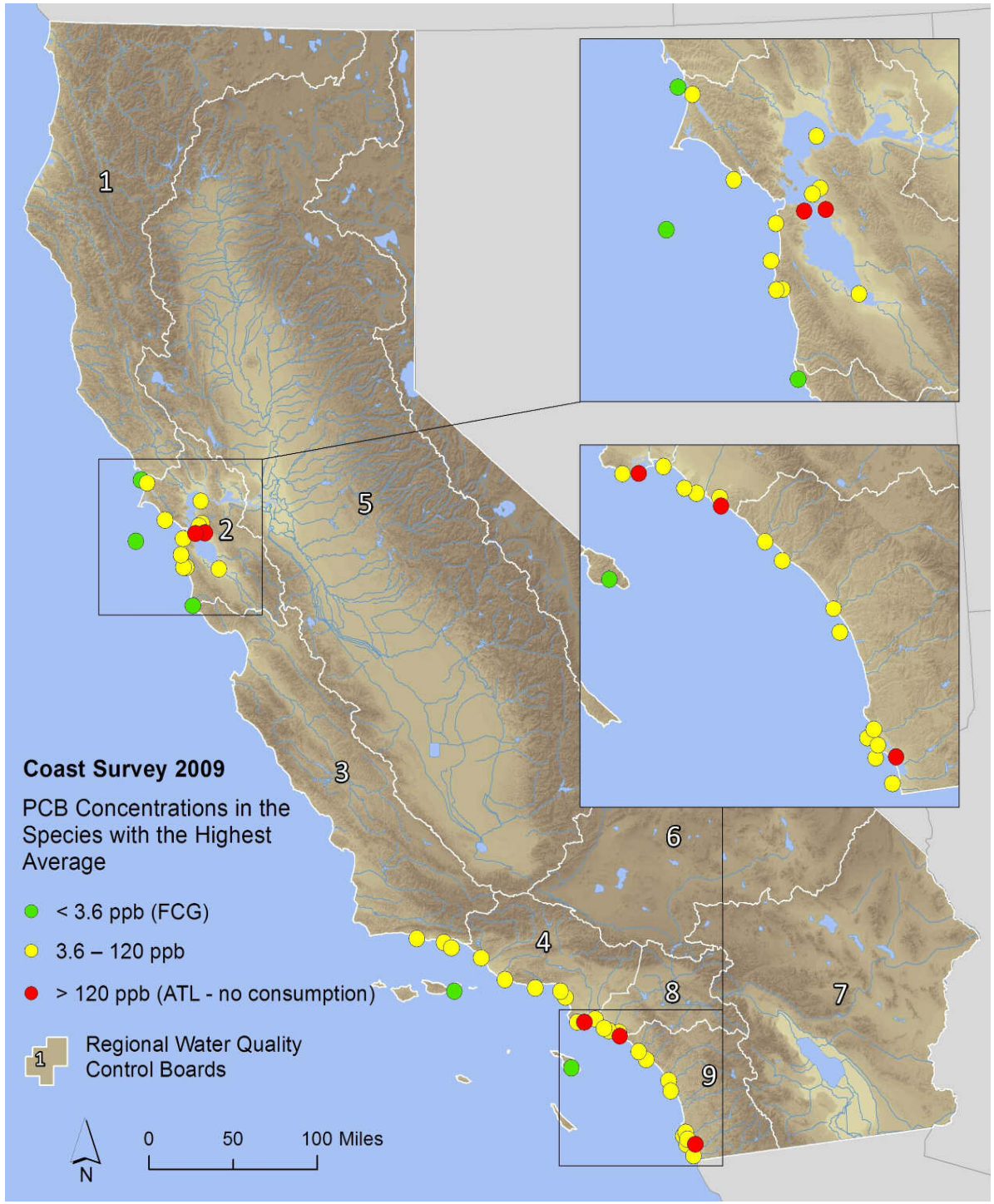
2011

Striped Bass
San Francisco Bay

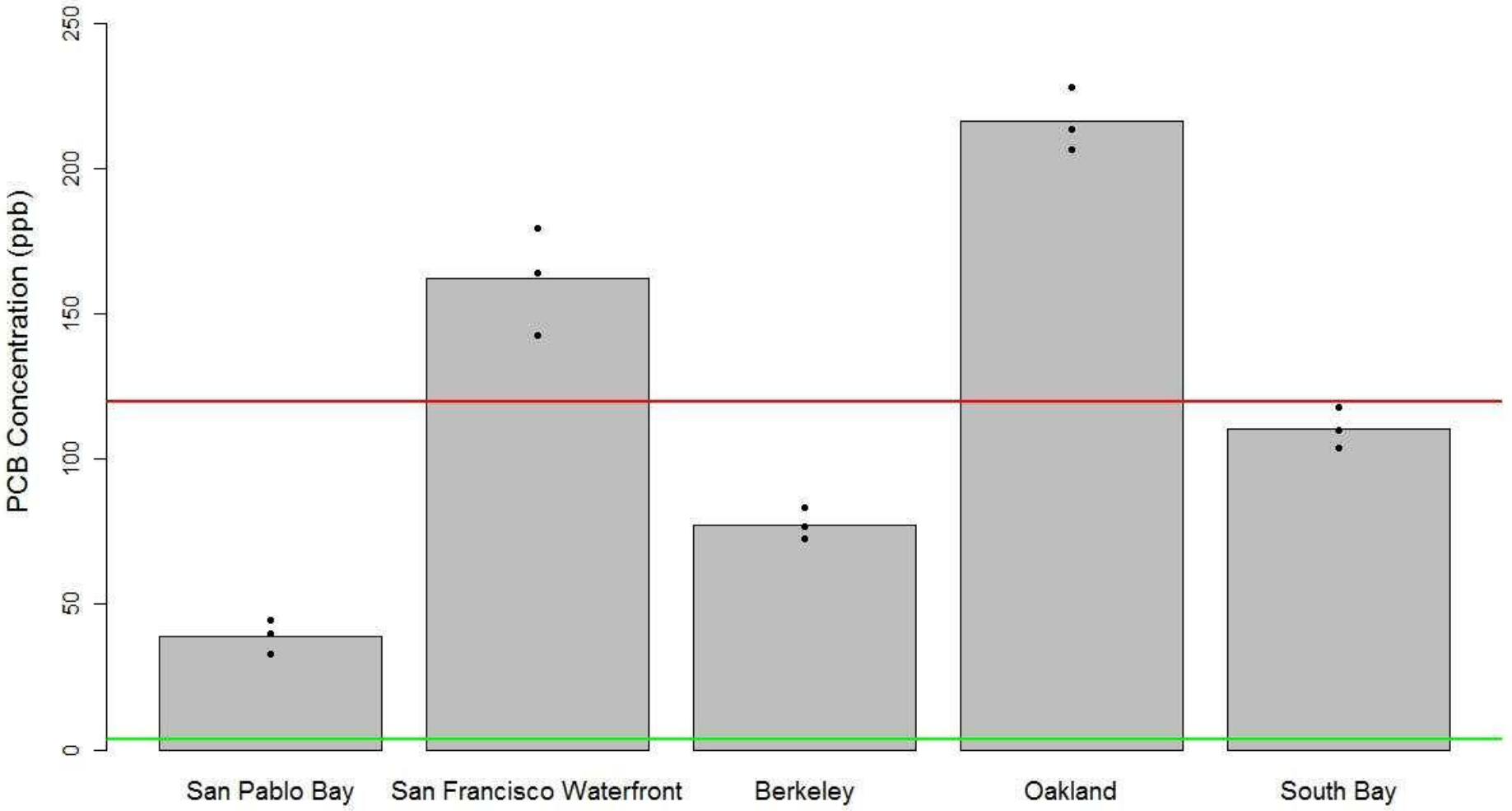


Statewide Assessment

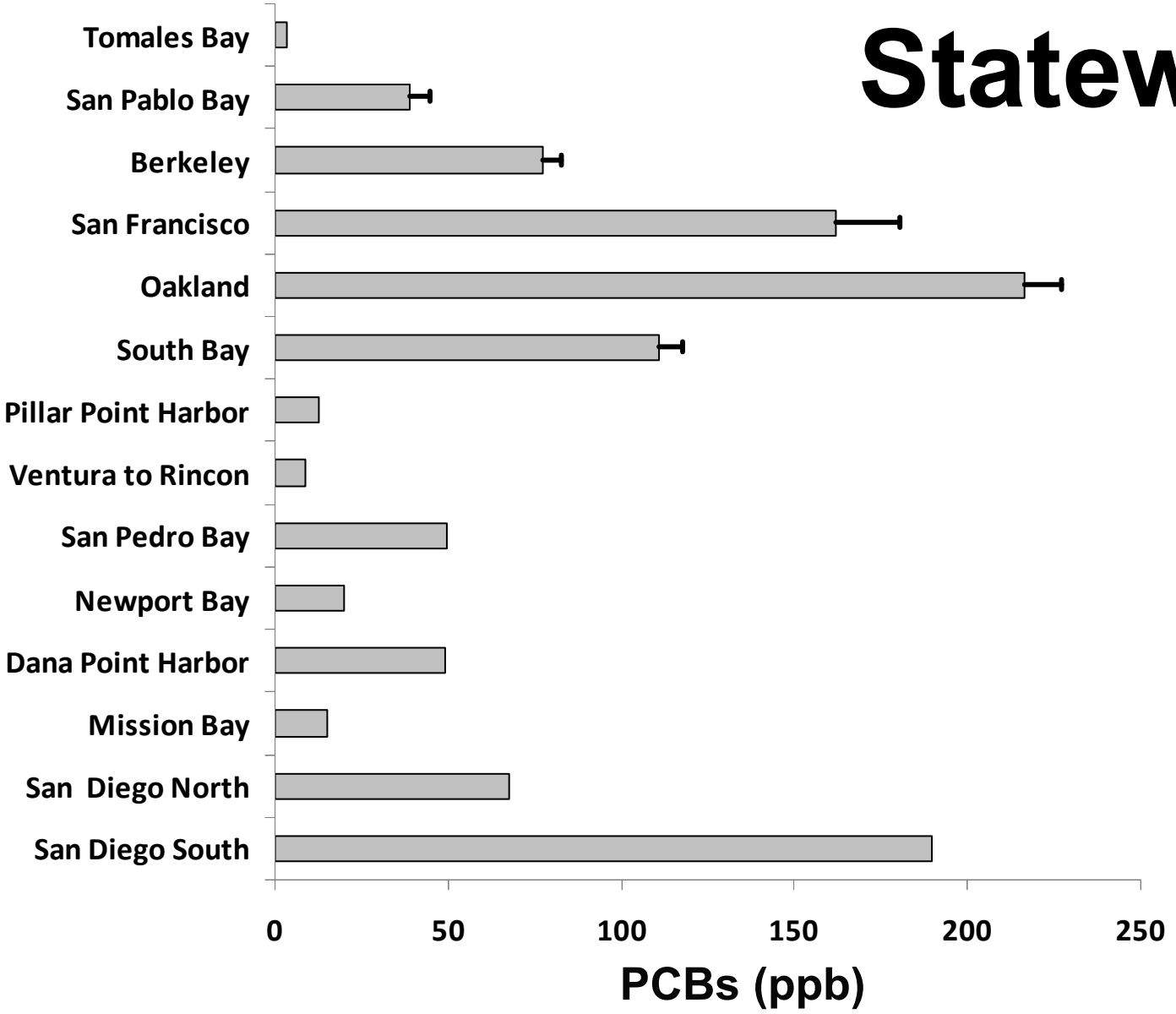
PCBs



Shiner Perch
San Francisco Bay

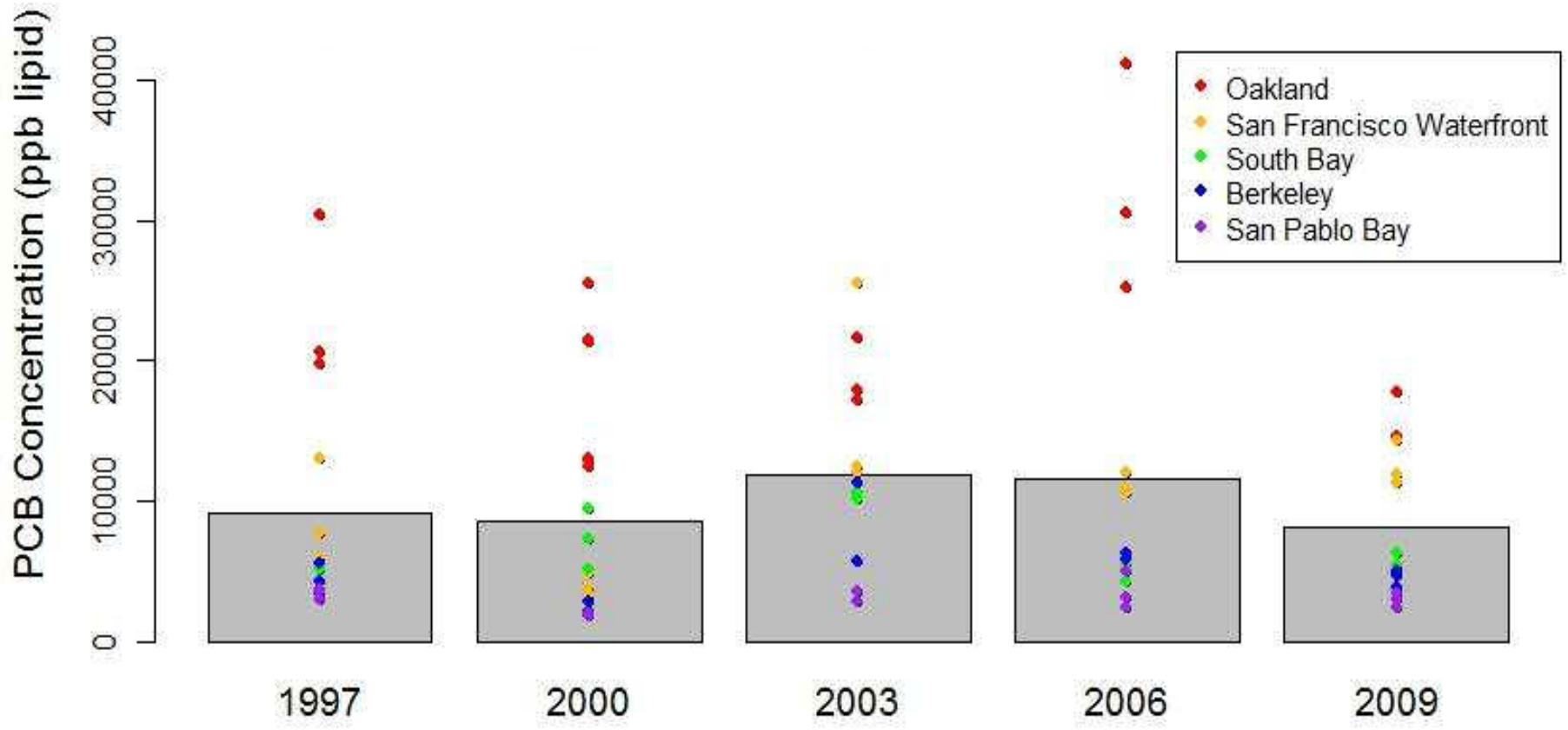


Shiner Perch Statewide



2011

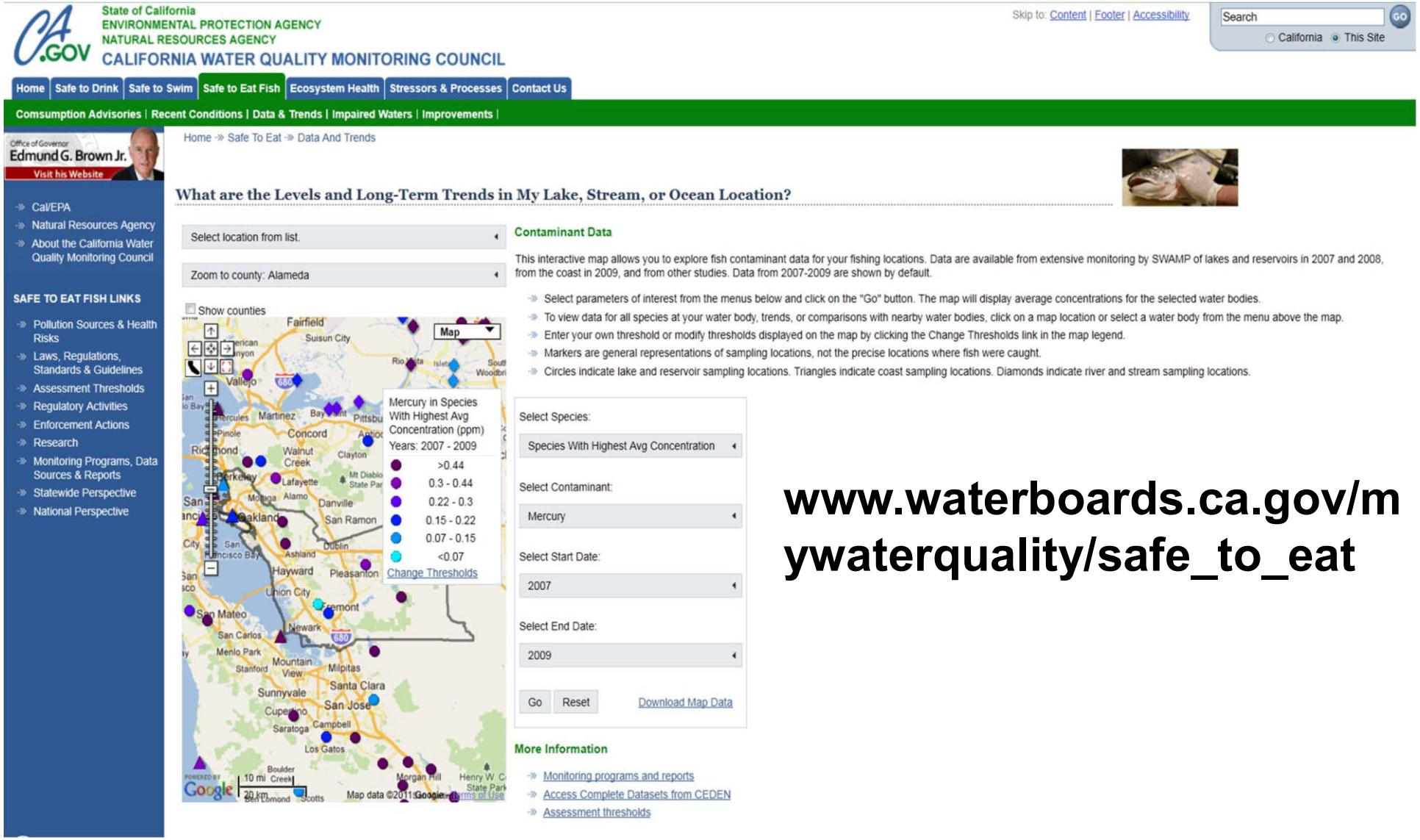
Shiner Perch
San Francisco Bay



Highlights

- Widespread, moderate MeHg and PCB contamination in the Bay and southern California
- Sharks accumulate some of the highest MeHg concentrations
- Shiner perch are good spatial indicators
- Several species, particularly in southern California were below all the thresholds

“Safe to Eat Fish” Web Portal



www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/safe_to_eat

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SWAMP
Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

CONTAMINANTS IN SPORT FISH FROM THE CALIFORNIA COAST, 2009: SUMMARY REPORT ON YEAR ONE OF A TWO-YEAR SCREENING SURVEY

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Water Boards

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp

Link to Report:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp

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- Southern California Bight Monitoring Group
- Regional Data Center at SFEI