

Workgroup Activities -- Third Quarter 2005

A. Contaminant Fate Workgroup

Meetings and Milestones:

The CFWG meeting will meet on September 15, 2005 to discuss the following:

- The PCB Multi-box Model
 - Tetra Tech has reviewed the model and provided comments in a report (Results of Independent Testing of SFEI's Multi-box Model for PCB Fate and Transport) that was issued on September 2, 2005. The next steps are to address comments and identify parameters to undergo sensitivity analyses by Tetra Tech.
- Revision of the Plan for Core Sampling and Analysis.
 - A draft sediment core sampling plan has been revised in response to the April meeting and has been circulated to the panel for final comment. The plan proposes advancing two-meter cores in seventeen sites in the Estuary to obtain information on contaminant profiles with depth. The cores will be segmented, radio-dated, and analyzed for PCBs, PBDEs, and mercury on a limited basis. It is anticipated that the sampling will occur late Fall 2005.
- Draft Five-Year Plan
 - A draft five-year plan has been prepared and will be a topic of discussion at the workgroup meeting. The purpose of the plan is to outline the activities that will be taken over the next five years and to prioritize these activities in light of the RMP management questions and objectives. The major focus of the five-year plan is the multi-box model but new ideas will be solicited at the meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Spring 2006.

B. Sources Pathways and Loading Workgroup (SPLWG)

Meetings:

No meetings were held this quarter.

Milestones this Quarter:

- Revision of the Five-Year Plan
 - Addressed reviewer comments on the SPL five-year work plan and the six special study ideas submitted. The six special studies ideas will be circulated for wider review; two additional special studies have been obtained and will be reviewed in the next quarter.
- Preparation of Mallard Island Report
 - Nicole David and Lester McKee began work on the next Mallard Island report. Activities included further literature review and a meeting with Russ Flegal and Kit Conaway to discuss the report content.

Activities for next Quarter:

1. Complete small tributaries loading reconnaissance pilot study
2. Complete 5-year work plan
3. Complete Guadalupe Yr 3 report (due October 30th)

Next meeting will be scheduled for November 2005.

C. Exposure and Effects Pilot Study (EEPS) WorkgroupMeetings and Milestones:

No meetings were held this quarter.

A conference call with the scientific advisory panel was held on August 25th to discuss the proposed five-year budget. The advisory panel approved the following:

2005

- New funding a small fish study (\$50K). Small fish are one of the best indicators of inter-annual and spatial variation in net methylmercury production in aquatic ecosystems. The monitoring of small fish is an excellent tool for evaluating long-term trends, spatial patterns, and wildlife health risks. A small fish study has been designed to evaluate the impacts of methylmercury production in the Estuary. The program will commence in the Fall 2005 and will examine both pelagic and benthic fish. The study will be undertaken in 2005, 2006, and 2008 at a level of \$50K, \$40K and \$40K, respectively. The first year will examine individual fish; later years will look at composite samples. The small fish study proposal will be sent to the advisory panel for final comment. It is anticipated that RMP staff will be in the field in October 2005. Also proposed for funding was a study of mercury in tern eggs (\$4,300), development of a surfperch laboratory culture (\$10K), and a scoping study for clapper rails (\$5K).
- Previously funded 2005 projects include: analysis of diving duck tissue (\$20K), a study of shiner surfperch (\$50K), and a sediment assessment (\$15K).

2006 and beyond

- Potential additional studies for 2006 include: an egg injection study (\$50K), a trophic ecology study of clapper rails (\$125K over two years), additional fish effect studies (\$100K over two years), and a benthos study(\$120K).

Next meeting will occur in November or December.