

## Workgroup Activities – Third Quarter 2014

### A. Sources Pathways and Loading Workgroup (SPLWG)/Small Tributaries Loading Strategy Team (STLST)

#### Meetings:

- The STLS group continues to hold monthly phone conferences to plan for Water Year 2015 POC monitoring. So far in 2014, meetings have been held on January 22, March 19, April 1, April 16, May 15, June 9, July 2, August 29.

#### Milestones:

- Continued preparations for developing a monitoring design and site list for water year 2015 POC monitoring. Finalize POC monitoring locations in Contra Costa and San Mateo counties. Continuing to work with countywide programs and BASMAA to identify locations in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties,
- Continued the QAQC process for water year 2014 POC data.
- Drafted a workplan for the 2014 updates to the RWSM.

#### Activities for the Fourth Quarter of 2014:

- Continue preparation for water year 2015 POC monitoring. Finalize laboratories for the project and begin storm water sampling.
- Begin reporting and analysis for water year 2014 POC monitoring
- Continue to meet with STLS on an as needed basis

For more information, see SPLWG minutes and agenda at <http://www.sfei.org/rmp/splwg> or contact the SPLWG lead, Lester McKee, at [Lester@sfei.org](mailto:Lester@sfei.org).

### B. Exposure and Effects Workgroup

#### Meetings:

- The EEWG held a conference call on May 12, 2014. During the meeting, special studies for 2015 were recommended.

#### Milestones:

- Completion of a draft of the Mesohaline Index Development San Francisco Bay Index Report Phase I. Comments from workgroup's science advisors are being addressed. The report will be finalized by the end of September 2014.
- Completion of the Bioanalytical Year 1 Progress report.

#### Activities for the Fourth Quarter of 2014:

- Year 2 funds for the Bioanalytical Tools study have been released and contracting is underway.
- Copper and olfactory nerve project. The study originally planned on collecting olfactory data from juvenile Chinook salmon late summer 2013 (both before and after smolting in estuarine water). A shutdown of the salmon aquaculture facility at the Mukilteo Research Station earlier this year prevented the study from using Chinook salmon. Coho salmon reared at the Montlake facility in Seattle are available for the study. However, switching to coho salmon required that smolting occur in the Spring of 2014. Most of the experiment has been completed. The end date for the project has been extended to September 30, 2014. The final report will be reviewed in the fourth quarter.
- UC Davis will conduct experiments to (a) establish a dose response relationship between *E. estuarius* survival and percent clay in sediment and (b) investigate whether clay particle shape is correlated with amphipod mortality. The work will be completed by December 31, 2014.

For more information, see previous EEWG minutes and agenda at <http://www.sfei.org/rmp/eewg> or contact the EEWG lead, Phil Trowbridge, [philt@sfei.org](mailto:philt@sfei.org).

### **C. Emerging Contaminants Workgroup**

#### Meetings:

- The ECWG met April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. During the meeting special studies for 2015 were recommended. Updates were given on the Bioanalytical Tool study, the PFOS precursor study results, alternative flame retardant work, and current use pesticide mapping exercise.

#### Milestones:

- Finished the draft PBDE manuscript. After final input from co-authors and distribution to the ECWG, TRC and SC for comments, the manuscript was submitted to the journal Environmental Science and Technology.
- Collected alternative flame retardant effluent, seal, and sediment samples.
- Collected sediment samples for pro bono quaternary ammonium compounds analyses (with Bruce Brownawell, Stony Brook University), and sediment and water samples for pro bono hindered phenol analyses (with Derek Muir, Environment Canada).
- Collected seal serum samples for PFOS and pro bono metabolomic analyses by AXYS Analytical Services.
- Completed the current use mapping pesticide exercise; presented to TRC and ECWG.

- Presented information to the workgroup on potential pharmaceuticals and personal care products monitoring priorities.
- Prepared and presented posters on alternative flame retardants in San Francisco Bay for the BFR 2014 conference in Indianapolis and the American Chemical Society conference in San Francisco.
- Finalized 2012 PBDE tern and cormorant egg measurements.

#### Activities for the Fourth Quarter of 2014:

- Preparing for the collection of effluent samples for analyses of fipronil and degradates, PFCs and precursors, and microplastics.
- Preparing for the collection of bivalve samples for alternative flame retardants analyses and pro bono siloxanes analyses (with Derek Muir, Environment Canada).
- Continuation of NIST broadscan work. NIST has provided the RMP with a final report for harbor seal samples and a preliminary report for mussel samples. NIST plans to publish the results from the seal samples in a manuscript (no date set). The NIST report on mussel samples was sent to the ECWG and comments are due by July 21, 2014. The report will be shared with the TRC after the ECWG review. A publicly accessible fact sheet describing the project and its findings is in preparation and will be shared with the ECWG, TRC, and SC prior to publication.
- Continuation of the bioanalytical tools project undertaken by Keith Maruya (SCCWRP) and Nancy Denslow (University of Florida).
- Preparing for the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry meeting in Vancouver this November (poster presentation on alternative flame retardants).
- Preparing for green chemistry symposium talk in October at UC Berkeley.

For more information, see previous EC workgroup minutes and agenda at <http://www.sfei.org/rmp/ecwg> or contact the ECWG lead, Rebecca Sutton, [RebeccaS@sfei.org](mailto:RebeccaS@sfei.org), [@beckysuttonphd](mailto:@beckysuttonphd).

## **D. Nutrients**

### Meetings

The Nutrient Steering Committee for the SF Bay Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) approved nearly \$900k for high-priority FY2015 projects on June 25th, 2014 and those projects are expected to begin on Q3 2014. SFEI also participated in a number of workshops in Q2 related to on-going NMS Governance, an effort led the the RWQCB. Additionally, several meetings were held in Q2 2014 related to development of specific modules of the Nutrient Assessment Framework (Aug 11, Aug 12 and Sept 8)

### Milestones

- A set of high-priority projects, proposed in collaboration with technical advisors, Water Board staff and the Nutrient Technical Workgroup, was approved by the NMS Steering Committee on June 25th, 2014. Contract negotiations are underway and projects will begin in Q3 2014. The proposed set of projects bridges across RMP and NMS funding.

- “Development Plan for the San Francisco Bay Nutrient Monitoring Program” finalized in August 2014, based on comments received on a June 2014 draft. This report makes initial recommendations for future monitoring program structure and identifies highest priority data investigations/pilot studies to address remaining questions, and the report will be revised/updated as the results become available. [Funded by RMP and NMS].
- A beta web-visualization tool for visualizing moored sensor data made significant progress in Q2 2014. This tool allows users to build interactive time-series of nutrient-related parameters at a number of SFEI and USGS sites across the Bay and Delta. We will complete the beta tool internally and distribute to collaborators for comment in early Q3 2014. [Funded by NMS]
- Several deliverables were pushed along in Q2 and drafts are expected in September 2014, possibly by the time of the TRC meeting. Upon completion, drafts will be sent to the TRC/SC and Nutrient Technical Workgroup for review. They include the Year 1 progress update for the Nutrient Moored Sensor Program (including maintenance manual), technical memo summarizing results from two years of nutrient monitoring in stormwater, and the detailed modeling workplan. [Funded by RMP. Moored sensor work also funded by NMS]

#### Activities for the Fourth Quarter of 2014

- Final version of “Scientific Foundation for a San Francisco Bay Nutrient Strategy” (formerly known as “Nutrient Conceptual Model”) will be completed in September 2014 [Funded by the RMP]
- Several draft deliverables described above will be finalized in September and sent for review to the TRC/SC and Nutrient Technical Workgroup. [Funded by the RMP and NMS]
- A draft report that synthesizes seasonal, spatial and temporal trends in ecosystem drivers (nutrients, sediments) and responses (chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen) in Lower South Bay is currently in development and is expected to be completed in October 2014. This report is not RMP funded, but will be reviewed by the Nutrient Technical Workgroup. [Funded by NMS]
- Moored sensor web-visualization beta site will be complete in Q3 2014. Funds have been allocated in FY2015 to add additional features to this site (download features, enhanced data acquisition capabilities) [Funded by NMS]

For more information, please contact David Senn at [davids@sfei.org](mailto:davids@sfei.org) or Emily Novick [emilyn@sfei.org](mailto:emilyn@sfei.org).

## **E. Sport Fish**

### Meetings

- The Sport Fish Workgroup met on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to discuss the RMP’s 2014 sport fish sampling effort, including the contaminants, species, and regions that will be sampled. Sampling is currently under way.

### Milestones

- 2014 sport fish monitoring was successfully completed. The laboratory contracts came in approximately \$10,000 under budget. The group is considering two options for spending

unallocated funds: (1) processing and analyzing striped bass caught in Artesian Slough; and (2) analyzing the full suite of PCB congeners for shiner surfperch.

Activities for the Fourth Quarter of 2014:

- Continued coordination of field activities, lab analysis, and data management for sport fish monitoring.

For more information, please contact April Robinson at [april@sfei.org](mailto:april@sfei.org).

## **F. Selenium Strategy Team**

Meetings

- The Selenium Strategy Team held its first meeting on April 22. The meeting was devoted to orientation for the members and preliminary discussion of a Strategy and workplan for 2015.
- A second meeting was held on June 3 that yielded proposals submitted to the TRC for their June meeting. The TRC accepted all Se proposals submitted by the Strategy Team.
- The next meeting will occur in Q1 or Q2 of 2015 to review results from the proposed 2014 study of sturgeon muscle plugs and develop a plan for 2016 work.

Activities for the Fourth Quarter of 2014:

- Finalize written summary of the Selenium Strategy (via email).
- Collect sturgeon muscle plugs with California Fish and Wildlife during September and October.

## **G. PCB Strategy Team**

Meetings

- The PCB Strategy Team will meet again this year to discuss criteria for prioritizing margin units, set the stage for work to be conducted in 2015, and further flesh out the multi-year workplan for PCBs.

Milestones

- Workgroup members provided comments on the PCB Synthesis Report released in June.

Activities for the Fourth Quarter of 2014:

- Incorporate comments from the workgroup and finalize the PCB Strategy Report.

For more information, please contact Jay Davis at [jay@sfei.org](mailto:jay@sfei.org).

## **H. Items of Interest**

The RMP Annual meeting will be held on October 14, 2014 at the Brower Center in Berkeley, CA. For more information, go to [www.sfei.org/rmp/savethedate](http://www.sfei.org/rmp/savethedate).

Items of interest from SFEI-ASC and the RMP can be found in the [SFEI/ASC Newsletter](#) and the [RMP Newsletter](#).