

## **Workgroup Activities – First Quarter 2012**

### **A. Contaminant Fate Workgroup**

#### Meetings:

The Contaminant Fate Workgroup (CFWG) will meet in the second quarter of 2012 to develop special studies for 2013.

#### Milestones:

- Completion of a Draft Bioaccumulation Conceptual Model.

#### Activities for the first quarter of 2012:

- Development of tactical plan. Drs. Jones, Yee and Davis have been discussing the development of a plan. This work will need to be coordinated with the nutrient modeling activities.

The next CFWG to be determined. For more information, see previous CFWG minutes and agendas at our website <http://www.sfei.org/rmp/cfwg> or contact the CFWG leader, Don Yee, at [don@sfei.org](mailto:don@sfei.org).

### **B. Sources Pathways and Loading Workgroup (SPLWG)**

#### Meetings:

The SPLWG met on October 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss progress on the multi-year plan, update on the spreadsheet model, results of the preliminary monitoring at 16 watersheds, monitoring at San Leandro Creek and Sunnyvale Channel East for 2012 and event mean concentrations (EMC) literature review.

#### Milestones:

- Completion of the Mallard Island report.
- Completion of Zone 4 Line A report that summarizes four years of data.

#### Activities for the first quarter of 2012:

- Wet weather sampling activities for 2012.
- Completion of Guadalupe HSPF manuscript.
- Completion of the Regional Storm Water Spreadsheet Model and Land Use Classification.

The next SPLWG meeting will be held in the Spring. For more information, see previous SPLWG minutes and agenda at our website <http://www.sfei.org/rmp/splwg> or contact the SPLWG lead, Lester McKee, at [Lester@sfei.org](mailto:Lester@sfei.org).

### **C. Exposure and Effects (EE) Workgroup**

#### Meetings:

The EEWG met on October 18<sup>th</sup> to review bird and benthic work to date. The consensus was that many of the compelling bird questions have been addressed (confirmation of mercury thresholds and lack of significant effects to tern eggs from exposure to BDEs). There remains considerable uncertainty regarding the causes of moderate sediment toxicity in the Bay. In addition, an important knowledge gap is the lack of a mesohaline index to evaluate sediment. The RMP has set aside funding to address these two areas in 2012.

#### Milestones:

- Completion of the small fish report
- Completion of the Evaluation of Gene Expression for Sediment TIE Report (Steve Bay and Chris Vulpe)
- Completion of the PBDEs and the Common Tern Draft Report (Barnett Rattner)
- Completion of the Causes of Sediment Toxicity Report (Bryn Phillips and Brian Anderson)

#### Activities for the first quarter of 2012:

- Continuation of NOAA study on juvenile flatfish. The first year of the study was focused on zebra fish as a model fish and exposure of the fish to four and five ringed PAHs that are common in SF Bay sediments. Study is underway with halibut larvae and PAH-contaminated sediments.
- Completion of the EEPS Summary document.
- Work on the mesohaline assessment method report is on hold pending the workgroup recommendation that a gold standard assessment of the taxonomy in freshwater and estuarine environments be conducted. The mesohaline assessment includes a comparison of good/bad indicators in BPJ samples to good/bad indicators in reference vs. non reference samples and tables based on presence/absence have been prepared.

The next workgroup meeting will be held in May and will focus on fish effects. For more information, see previous EEWG minutes and agenda at our website <http://www.sfei.org/rmp/eewg> or contact the EEWG lead, Meg Sedlak, at [meg@sfei.org](mailto:meg@sfei.org).

## **D. Emerging Contaminants Workgroup**

### Meetings:

The ECWG met on March 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss updates on the NIST broadscan work, the PFC sources project, the measurement of PFCs in tributaries, the factsheets, and potential pilot and special study projects. The ECWG approved a pilot study on PFC sources.

### Milestones:

- Completion of a draft article on alternative flame retardants in San Francisco Bay.
- Completion of a draft report/manuscript on alkylphenols and PPCPs in San Francisco Bay.

### Activities for the first quarter of 2012:

- Continuation of NIST broadscan work. Samples of harbor seals and mussels have been sent to NIST for method development and analysis.
- An outline for the CEC Synthesis paper has been developed and the report will be written in the first and second quarter.

Next ECWG meeting will likely be in the Spring (May) upon completion of the synthesis.

For more information, see previous EC workgroup minutes and agenda at our website <http://www.sfei.org/rmp/ecwg> or contact the ECWG lead, Meg Sedlak, at [meg@sfei.org](mailto:meg@sfei.org).

## **F. Status and Trends Sport Fish**

The SWAMP/RMP sportfish monitoring report has been released and is available on our website at <http://www.sfei.org/contaminants-fish-california-coast>.

The Fish committee will meet in the first quarter to decide whether the sampling frequency will shift from every three years to every five years. If it is three years, it will occur in 2012.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Hunt at [jhunt@sfei.org](mailto:jhunt@sfei.org).

## **G. Nutrients**

The Nutrient Workgroup last met in September 2011, and provided detailed feedback on a funding proposal to the RMP for 2012, and on an early draft of the nutrient strategy for the Bay.

Feedback was incorporated into a revised RMP funding proposal that was presented to and approved by the TRC in October 2011, and approved on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 by the SC. The overall approved project has three tasks:

- Problem definition: conceptual models and scenario development (\$80K);

- Quantifying nutrient loads (\$20K in 2012, additional \$30K will be requested in 2013);
- Project management, integration with other nutrient strategy work (\$10K).

In addition, the SC has approved a \$30K project to fund measurement of additional nutrient analytes (ammonium, total Kjeldahl N) in stormwater samples being collected during the Small Tributary loading studies in 2011-2012. The project idea was originally proposed during discussions in the October 2011 Sources, Pathways, and Loadings Workgroup.

Feedback from Nutrient Workgroup's September 2011 meeting was incorporated into an interim draft nutrient strategy, and this strategy will undergo further development in 2012. The approach for on-going development of the strategy is under discussion with the Regional Board. The plan is to open up the process of strategy development to a range of stakeholders, and funding to support strategy development and implementation is currently being solicited from additional stakeholders (e.g., BACWA).

Activities for the first quarter of 2012:

- Continue to develop conceptual models and scenarios for nutrients
- Collect nutrient storm water samples.

Next meeting will be in the first quarter 2012.

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

## **J. Dioxin**

The dioxin strategy team met on October 26<sup>th</sup> to review the sediment, water, and biota samples that have been collected to date. The water samples were dominated by the octa and the hepta congeners. Sediment samples were collected in both wet and dry seasons and no significant differences were noted; similarly, concentrations remain the same as those observed in 2000. Spatial patterns suggest broad regional trends. Again sediments are dominated by octa and hepta congeners. In the sediment cores, there appears to be a peak after WWII followed by a decline. Dioxin concentrations in shiner surfperch and white croaker continue to exceed the RWQCB guidelines. It was proposed that upon completion of the dioxin studies, it would be appropriate to conduct a dioxin synthesis (2014). Some members thought mass balance and food web model products should be folded into the synthesis rather than as separate reports.

Activities for the first quarter of 2012:

- Develop a scope of work for dioxin analysis of cores based on strategy team recommendation.

For more information, please contact Don Yee at [don@sfei.org](mailto:don@sfei.org).