

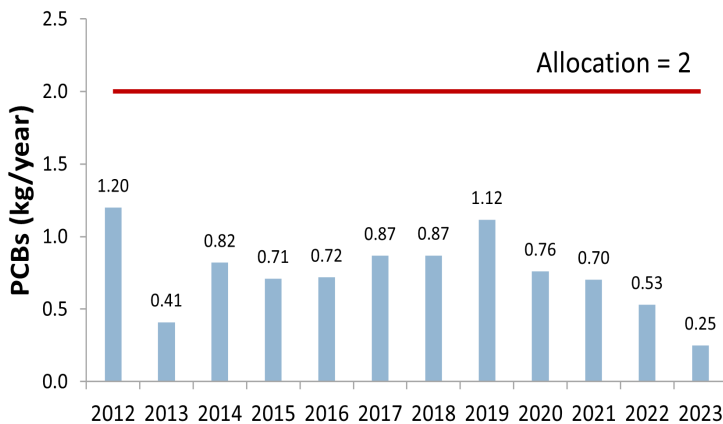
Water Quality Report Card		San Francisco Bay PCBs TMDL	
Regional Water Board: San Francisco Bay, Region 2		STATUS	Conditions Improving
<u>Beneficial Uses</u> Affected: COMM			
Implemented Through: NPDES Permits Toxic Cleanup Program		Pollutant Type:	Point Source, Nonpoint Source, Legacy
Effective Date:	March 2010	Pollutant Source:	Wastewater and Stormwater discharges, Nearshore Contaminated Sites
Attainment Date:	ongoing		

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

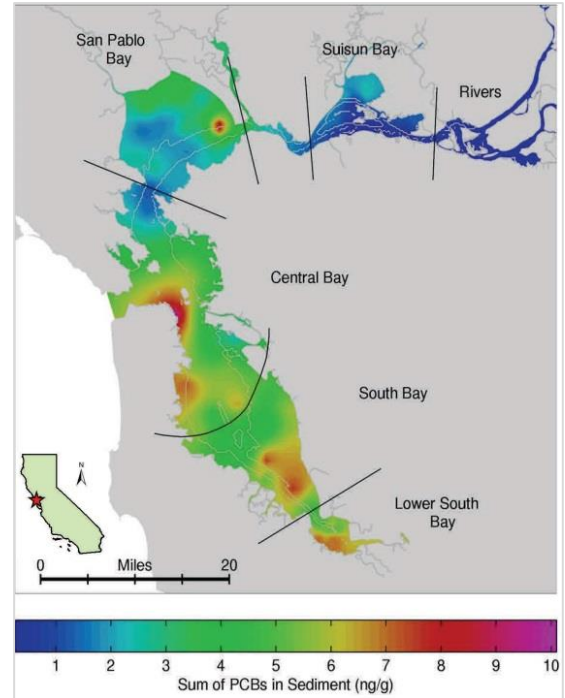
High levels of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in San Francisco Bay prompted an advisory to the public to limit fish consumption beginning in the mid-1990s. PCBs are known to be toxic to humans and animals. They are more often found in bottom sediment than the water column, where they accumulate at the base of the food chain and are transferred up through marine life and even to humans who catch and eat fish. [The San Francisco Bay Polychlorinated Biphenyls \(PCBs\) TMDL](#) was adopted in 2008 to address impaired waters listings for all segments of San Francisco Bay. Sources of PCBs in the urban landscape contribute loads to the SF Bay through storm water runoff. The TMDL project established an initial 20-year timeframe for reducing PCBs in fish tissue to safe levels for human consumption (10 parts per billion). Because PCBs are mainly found in older industrial areas of the urban landscape, TMDL implementation actions required through NPDES permits include: managing [PCBs-containing materials](#) during building demolition, cleaning up contaminated sites, preventing PCBs from entering storm water conveyances, sampling of water, sediment, and biota by the Regional Monitoring Program, and educating Bay Area residents about fish species that are safe to eat. Faster improvement may be possible in some contaminated margin areas of SF Bay where finding and remediating contaminated properties and implementing control measures in old industrial areas is a priority.

TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations

Municipal Wastewater Annual PCBs Mass Loading



San Francisco Bay PCBs Sediment Concentrations



Water Quality Outcomes

- Load allocations from Central Valley rivers and wastewater sources have been achieved.
- Some decline in SF Bay fish tissue concentrations over last two decades, especially in white croaker.
- Storm water loads vary substantially from year to year based on rainfall amounts, but loads have been reduced by approximately 25% from the 2006 TMDL load estimate.

