

State of California  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region

**SUPPLEMENTAL**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT**  
August 13, 2014

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: Information Item: The Health and Condition of San Diego Bay (*Bruce Posthumus*)

PURPOSE: To provide San Diego Water Board members with information about and related to the suitability of San Diego Bay fish and shellfish for human consumption

RECOMMENDATION(S): There are no recommendations at this time because no action will be taken by the Board at today's meeting.

KEY ISSUES: Are San Diego Bay fish and shellfish safe to eat?

PRACTICAL VISION: This topic supports the San Diego Bay Strategy, which is a key project of both Chapter 1 (Healthy Waters) and Chapter 2 (Monitoring and Assessment).

DISCUSSION: This Executive Officer Summary Report (EOSR) supplements the EOSR provided for Item 8 of the August 13, 2014 San Diego Water Board meeting.

**Topics and Speakers**

A list of topics and speakers for this agenda item is attached as Supporting Document No. 1.

**Reports Related to Human Consumption of Fish and Shellfish from San Diego Bay**

1. In 1990, the County of San Diego Department of Health Services released a report entitled "San Diego Bay Health Risk Study," which addressed the potential risk to human health from consuming fish caught in San Diego Bay. This report includes recommendations to:
  - a. Inform the public of potential health risks associated with consumption of fish from San Diego Bay but not issue a "formal posting;"
  - b. Collect additional data to evaluate potential human health risks associated with consumption of fish shellfish from San Diego Bay; and

- c. Establish an ongoing San Diego Bay-wide monitoring program to evaluate trends in the levels of contaminants of concern in fish and, if warranted, shellfish from San Diego Bay.
2. In 2005, the Environmental Health Coalition released a report entitled "Survey of Fishers on Piers in San Diego Bay: Results and Conclusions." This report concludes that "a significant subset of San Diego Bay fishers regularly catch and eat fish from the piers near contaminated areas of the Bay." This report is available at:  
[http://www.environmentalhealth.org/images/PDF/PDFs\\_Archive/PierStudyFINALMarch\\_30\\_05.pdf](http://www.environmentalhealth.org/images/PDF/PDFs_Archive/PierStudyFINALMarch_30_05.pdf).
3. In 2012, the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) of the State and Regional Water Boards released a report entitled "Contaminants in Fish from the California Coast, 2009-2010: Summary Report on a Two-Year Screening Survey." This report indicates that "San Francisco Bay and San Diego Bay stood out as having elevated concentrations" of PCBs. This report and associated press releases, fact sheets, and other documents, are available at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/swamp/coast\\_study.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/coast_study.shtml).
4. In 2013, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), which is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency, issued a report entitled "Health Advisory and Guidelines for Eating Fish from San Diego Bay (San Diego County)." This report includes guidelines for consumption of different species of fish from San Diego Bay by people of different genders and ages. For example, the guidelines indicate that there are seven species of fish that should not be eaten by women 18 to 45 years old or by children 1 to 17 years old. This report and the associated fact sheet and advisory guides are available at:  
[http://www.oehha.ca.gov/fish/so\\_cal/sandiegobay.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/fish/so_cal/sandiegobay.html).

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: 1. List of topics and speakers for this agenda item