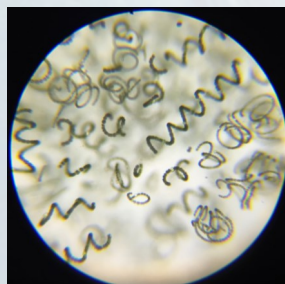


Welcome to this issue of the SWAMP Newsletter. Every few months we plan to bring you the latest surface water ambient monitoring news from the State Water Resources Control Board. We welcome your feedback at swamp@waterboards.ca.gov.

Are Harmful Algal Blooms Affecting Our Waters?

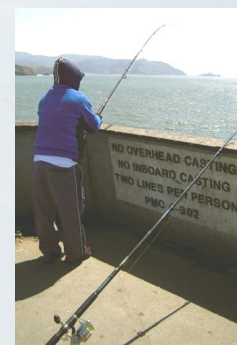


Monitoring Council, its CCHAB Network, and SWAMP deliver seventh “My Water Quality” web portal

by [Jon Marshack](#)

This is one of the many questions that the latest update to California’s innovative My Water Quality website will answer. The California Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Portal is a new tool that presents information on the health and environmental effects of HABs in California’s lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and marine waters. The goal is to provide timely information in an easy-to-understand manner for the public, environmental organizations, and water resource and public health professionals. View the new California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal from the My Water Quality website, www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov. ⇒ [Learn More](#)

Mercury in Coastal Fish of California and Western North America



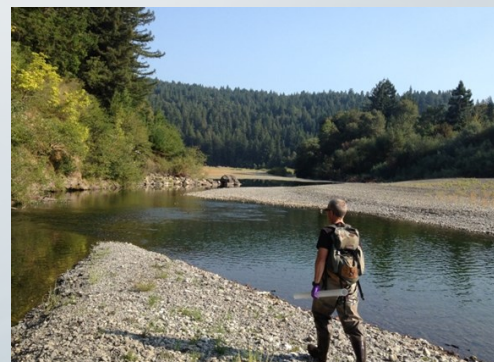
by [Jay Davis](#)

SWAMP data is highlighted in a new journal article that looks at mercury concentrations on the western coast of North America. The SWAMP data used was collected in 2009 and 2010 as part of SWAMP’s largest-ever statewide survey of contaminants in sport fish on the California coast. The results of the survey show relatively high levels of mercury all along the California coast, especially the North and Central coast regions. In response to the findings, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment is preparing draft consumption advisories for the California coast, which will be released later this year. ⇒ [Learn More](#)

A More Complete Picture of Watershed Health Through the Integration of Monitoring Program Efforts and Data

by [Bryn Phillips](#), [Pete Ode](#), [Robert Budd](#), and [Brian Anderson](#)

Two SWAMP statewide monitoring programs, the Stream Pollution Trends Program (SPoT) and the Bioassessment Program, are partnering together, along with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, for a combined monitoring effort that links pesticide pollution assessments with stream ecological monitoring. The programs will collect toxicity, chemistry, and bioassessment data at the same sites and analyze the data sets to identify relationships between toxicity, pyrethroid pesticides, land use, and biological condition. The results will provide a more complete picture of watershed health and supply monitoring data for future tool development. ⇒ [Learn More](#)



Development of Molecular Methods to Identify Stream Algae

by [Susanna Theroux](#)

Algal community surveys are fundamental to biological assessments of aquatic ecosystems. Algae are highly sensitive to multiple environmental stressors, including those caused by man, which makes them useful in monitoring ecosystem health in California streams. However, algal bioassessment currently faces a capacity logjam due to the decreasing availability of taxonomy labs that can identify algae down to the species level. Identifying algae this way, based on their morphology, has become costly and slow. In order to alleviate the strain on algal taxonomy labs, SCCWRP and its SWAMP partners are developing a molecular, or DNA-barcoding, approach to algal bioassessment. ⇒ [Learn More](#)



A California Water Boards Treasure Chest

It's a Compendium

by [Erick Burre](#)

The Clean Water Team's Guidance Compendium for Watershed Monitoring and Assessment (Compendium) is a valuable resource for anyone interested in

citizen science or watershed monitoring. This "treasure chest" of information contains guidance documents on a variety of topics, including field procedures, stream measurements, quality assurance/quality control, and data quality management. The Compendium is used by citizen monitoring groups, researchers, agencies, and colleges all over the state and around the world. Read on for more information about how you can take advantage of this free and comprehensive resource. ⇒ [Learn More](#)



SWAMP Calendar

CABW 2016 - California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup Meeting

October 18 and 19, 2016 at
University of California, Davis

The annual CABW meeting educates those unfamiliar with bioassessment on current and planned activities in bioassessment. It is also an opportunity for those active in bioassessment to be updated on current activities and to stay in touch with other people in the bioassessment community.

The meeting will contain presentations on bioassessment administration, research and projects during the first day and a half. The last half of day two will be dedicated to general freshwater ecology and student presentations followed by the 4th annual meeting of California Chapter Society of Freshwater Science.

Self-registration is available at: <https://waterboards.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=2673>

Information and videos from past CABW meetings can be found here: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/bioassessment/training.shtml#cabw

