

What's New in SWAMP?

Program Review, SWAMP IQ, New Workgroups

In 2014 SWAMP embarked on a comprehensive review of programmatic functions and effectiveness. The resulting [SWAMP Review Report](#) contains findings of the review and recommended actions to ensure the Program's continued success.

Key Recommendations:

- SWAMP should maintain its core function of ambient monitoring at both statewide and regional levels;
- The Water Boards should continue to promote question-driven science and use of "SWAMP tools" both within and outside of the agency; and
- SWAMP should review programmatic goals and objectives on an annual basis and work with management to prioritize its monitoring, assessment, reporting and coordination activities.

The Program has also undergone organizational changes to consolidate and streamline quality assurance, data management, and contract administration functions. Last May, the SWAMP quality assurance and data management infrastructure successfully transitioned from the Moss Landing Marine Labs to the State Board, Office of Information Management and Analysis. The new unit, called the SWAMP Information Management and Quality Assurance Center (SWAMP IQ), has completed several projects during this past year including new Measurement Quality Objectives for cyanotoxins and a SWAMP Data Tool Users survey report. SWAMP staff have also coordinated the continued activities of the Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Laboratory Network, which is working with SWAMP's Freshwater HAB (FHAB) projects and the [CyanoHAB Network](#) of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council. Within the year, look for new tools to investigate threats to recreational uses and human and animal health from harmful algal blooms. (See [Toxic Algae](#) article in this newsletter for more information about the SWAMP FHAB monitoring and assessment support projects.)

In the upcoming year, the SWAMP IQ will be working on several new projects and workgroups to benefit other Water Board programs. Major updates of the SWAMP Program Plan and SWAMP website will provide increased support to monitoring, assessment, and reporting functions throughout the Water Boards. The Program Plan update will include a new Measurement Quality Objectives framework, an integration of the Data Quality Objectives process into monitoring design, and a new SWAMP data comparability framework, designed to improve the quality and usability of data and information produced by our monitoring programs. SWAMP website revisions will improve layout and navigation and updates to documentation and resources. SWAMP IQ also plans to assemble new workgroups for sensor data and for microbial source tracking data, with a goal of advancing quality assurance and data management for these data types.

