



My Water Quality Internet Portals

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Contact: JON B MARSHACK, D ENV
 E-mail: jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov
 Phone: 916.341.5514

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCIES | www.CaWaterQuality.net

Monitoring Council Delivers Three My Water Quality Internet Portals



- ◆ IS IT SAFE TO SWIM IN OUR WATERS?
- ◆ IS IT SAFE TO EAT FISH FROM OUR WATERS?
- ◆ ARE OUR WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS HEALTHY?

These are the first of several water quality themes addressed by a new set of internet portals being developed under the oversight of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council. The new portals bring water quality information together in a single location and in an easy to understand manner for the public, environmental organizations, and water quality professionals. View the new portals at www.CaWaterQuality.net. Included are interactive maps and monitoring data that focus on these questions from a variety of perspectives.

CA Senate Bill 1070 (Kehoe, 2006) mandated that water quality monitoring, and assessment activities be coordinated among organizations inside and outside California government, and that this information be made available to decision makers and the public via the internet. In November 2007, the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding that established the Monitoring Council. In December 2008, the Monitoring Council sent its initial recommendations to the agency Secretaries for coordinating water quality monitoring, assessment and reporting efforts throughout the State. These new My Water Quality portals represent the initial implementation of the Monitoring Council's vision, as outlined in those recommendations.

In conjunction with expert stakeholder work groups, the Monitoring Council is bringing together water quality information from a wide variety of organizations with special expertise in swimming safety, the safety of eating fish and shellfish, and wetland health. These efforts are coordinated by the Beach Water Quality Workgroups, the Bioaccumulation Oversight Group, and the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup, respectively. Local, state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations have all pitched in to answer your water quality questions.

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SAFE TO EAT FISH LINKS

- Pollution Sources & Health Risks
- Laws, Regulations, Standards & Guidelines
- Assessment Thresholds
- Regulatory Activities
- Enforcement Actions
- Research
- Monitoring Programs, Data Sources & Reports
- Statewide Perspective
- National Perspective

Home → Safe To Eat → Consumption Advisories

Can I Eat Fish or Shellfish Caught in My Lake, Stream, or Ocean Location?

County: Water Body:

Show county

Fish and Shellfish Consumption Advisories by Location

There are health benefits from eating fish and shellfish. But, some fish and shellfish may contain chemical or biotoxin contaminants that could pose health risks. When contaminant levels are unsafe, consumption advisories may recommend that people limit or avoid eating certain species of fish caught in certain places and at certain times.

[California Sport Fish Consumption Advisories](#)
 For a number of California water bodies, the Cal/EPA office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHA) publishes consumption advisories for chemicals in noncommercial fish which you and your family or friends catch.

These advisories are shown on the map to the left.

- Click on a water body (shown in purple), or
- Select (or type) the county in the County box, then select the water body from the Water Body menu, or
- Select (or type) the water body name directly in the Water Body box
- Use the magnifier tool to zoom into an area of interest (more highlighted water bodies will appear).
- [How does OEHA develop fish consumption advisories and safe eating guidelines?](#)
- [Why do so few water bodies have fish consumption advisories and safe eating guidelines?](#)



Safe Eating Guidelines for the Lower Feather River		
Women 18 – 45 and Children 1 – 17 Years		
 American Shad	 Carp	 Black Bass
 Sucker	 Catfish	 Pikeminnow
 Redear or other sunfish	 Striped Bass	
4 Servings a week	1 Serving a week	Do not eat

These initial workgroup and portal development efforts clearly demonstrate that the Monitoring Council's vision is, indeed, correct. It provides the context needed to effectively evaluate and then resolve monitoring design, coordination, and access problems.

Additional *My Water Quality* internet portals are being developed or are planned to address the following water quality questions:

- ◆ Is Our Water Safe to Drink?
- ◆ Are Our Stream and River Ecosystems Healthy?
- ◆ Are Our Tidepool Ecosystems Healthy?
- ◆ Are Our Estuary Ecosystems Healthy?
(initial focus: San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary)
- ◆ Are Our Ocean Ecosystems Healthy?

Based on its December 2008 recommendations and the success of initial workgroup and web portal development efforts, the Monitoring Council recently released *A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California*, delivered to the Agency Secretaries in December 2010.

More information about CA Senate Bill 1070, the Monitoring Council, its *Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy*, and the expert stakeholder work groups is on the web at www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/monitoring_council/.



Matthew Rodriquez
Secretary for Environmental Protection



John Laird
Secretary for Natural Resources



State of California
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

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My Water Quality | Monitoring Council | This site is hosted by the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) |



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Welcome to My Water Quality

This web portal, supported by a wide variety of public and private organizations, presents California water quality monitoring data and assessment information that may be viewed across space and time. Initial web portal development concentrates on four theme areas, with web portals to be released one at a time. Click the [Contact Us](#) tab for more information.

The Monitoring Council seeks to provide multiple perspectives on water quality information and to highlight existing data gaps and inconsistencies in data collection and interpretation, thereby identifying areas for needed improvement in order to better address the public's questions. Questions and comments should be addressed through the [Contact Us](#) tab.



IS OUR WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

Safe drinking water depends on a variety of chemical and biological factors regulated by a number of local, state, and federal agencies. [\[Future Portal\]](#)



IS IT SAFE TO SWIM IN OUR WATERS?

Swimming safety of our waters is linked to the levels of pathogens that have the potential to cause disease. [More >>](#)



IS IT SAFE TO EAT FISH AND SHELLFISH FROM OUR WATERS?

Aquatic organisms are able to accumulate certain pollutants from the water in which they live, sometimes reaching levels that could harm consumers. [More>>](#)



ARE OUR AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS HEALTHY?

The health of fish and other aquatic organisms and communities depends on the chemical, physical, and biological quality of the waters in which they live. [More>>](#)



WHAT STRESSORS AND PROCESSES AFFECT OUR WATER QUALITY?

Beneficial uses of our waters are affected by emerging contaminants, invasive species, trash, global warming, acidification, pollutant loads, and flow. [\[Future Portal\]](#)