



Fish Contamination Education Collaborative Partners Meeting
9:30am to 12:30 pm
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office
501 West Ocean Blvd., Room 3400
Long Beach, California 90802

Attendees:

Boat People SOS (BPSOS):
Phu To

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA):
Alfonso Montiel

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG):
Cyndy Pourroy
Patty Velez

City of Long Beach:
Monica Cardenas

California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC):
Tayseer Mahmoud

Gilbane (EPA Contractor):
Bob Lindfors

Heal the Bay:
Frankie Orrala
Dana Murray
Sarah Sikich

Herald Community Center (HCC):
Rebecca Soong
Alex Chu

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH):
Cindy Chen (on phone)
Martica Velez

Los Angeles County Sanitation Department (LACSD):
Chi-Li Tang

LACPH Toxics Epidemiology Program:
Barbara DeRidder
Robert Vasquez

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board:
Michael Lyons (on phone)

NOAA/Montrose Settlement Restoration Program (MSRP):
Gabrielle Dorr
Dave Witting
Jennifer Boyce

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA):
Wes Smith (on phone)
Robert Brodberg (on phone)

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC):
Guang-Yu Wang

EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc. PBC (EA; EPA Contractor):
Sarah Babcock

SEA Lab:
Amanda Jones (on phone)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):
Carlin Hafiz
Phillip Ramsey
Judy Huang
John Chesnutt

1. Welcome - Phillip Ramsey, EPA

Phillip Ramsey opened the meeting by thanking partners for their time and energy working on the Palos Verdes (PV) Shelf Superfund site and helping to protect the public who utilize the Pacific Ocean. Ramsey explained that the PV Shelf is a unique Superfund Site in its preliminary reliance of Institutional Controls as opposed to a physically engineered action to limit potential human exposures that exist due to this large contaminated sediment site.

Ramsey introduced new members to the group: John Chesnutt, EPA Section Chief in attendance, has been the EPA manager on PV Shelf for about 3 years. Martica Velez is a new representative with LACDPH. Phu To is the new representative of BPSOS. Barbara DeRidder will be the new contact for LACDPH Toxics Epidemiology Program.

Phillip then asked for the names of participants who had joined the meeting by phone, which included Robert Brodberg and Wes Smith of OEHHA, Michael Lyons of Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Cindy Chen of LACDPH, and Amanda Jones of SEA Lab.

2. PV Shelf Superfund Site Update - Phillip Ramsey EPA

Since there were many new members, Phillip provided an overall summary and status of the PV Shelf Superfund Site. ([link to presentation](#)):

Phillip spoke about the unique aspects of the PV Shelf Site including a contaminated sediment area that is on the order of 40 square miles and an IC response area that exists along more than 20 miles of Southern California coastline. He provided the OEHHA map describing the yellow and red zones where fish advisories are in effect.

Phillip discussed the 2009 Interim Record of Decision (ROD) that is in place and its components (hot spot capping, monitoring natural recovery, and institutional control program). Phillip noted that the focus of the FCEC is primarily the institutional controls program to protect vulnerable populations. He noted that with fish being an important part of a healthy diet, and with many people utilizing public piers for recreational or - more importantly - subsistence fishing (because fishing licenses are not required on select piers), risks to these anglers and their families are greater than other sport anglers and therefore require long-term education outreach to maintain and increase public awareness of the contamination.. Phillip provided a presentation slide listing the following components of the institutional control program:

- Public outreach and education
- Enforcement (both coastal waters and markets)
- Monitoring of sediment and water column sampling
- Strategic planning (generally accomplished in these bi-annual meetings).

Phillip's slides included maps that show the sediment, water column, and fish sampling locations across the site where sampling and analysis activities continue in order to evaluate the contamination and health risks. Phillip discussed the sampling and analysis program for sediment, water column, and fish tissue scheduled for 2015, as well as the report summarizing the natural recovery expected in Fall 2016 and that will be followed by a final ROD.

Judy Huang of EPA also thanked the FCEC Partners for their valuable contribution to the IC program and the PV Shelf Site. Judy shared some pictures of the sampling devices and activities, including passive water sampling devices, water column grab sampler, night trawl fish sampling, as well as two videos presenting sediment sample collection and fish trap operation.

3. Angler Outreach Updates

Heal the Bay Update

Frankie Orrala described the current angler outreach activities that Heal the Bay staff is completing. During the month of March 2015, their staff worked at eight pier locations and contacted 310 anglers. He estimated that about 70% were new anglers who have never been contacted previously. Information gathered included in which language the outreach was conducted and each angler's zip code. Frankie noted that there is a significant amount of night fishing occurring, which is frequently mentioned to the Heal the Bay staff. A concern was mentioned that night fishing is not included in the angler outreach program due to safety concerns, so some of the angler population may be missed. Frankie provided examples of the materials they hand out and mentioned a shark initiative they currently have ongoing. Dana Murray of Heal the Bay agreed to send out information about the shark initiative to the FCEC email group.

CMA Update

Alfonso Montiel reported that they just recently began their pier angler outreach in April 2015, so he did not have an update on contacts made. As CMA has recently been experiencing California grunion (*Leuresthes tenuis*) spawning runs at Cabrillo and other beaches, which they have integrated into their marine education and awareness programs, Alfonso treated the FCEC members to a grunion egg hatching demonstration. The hatchlings were returned to Cabrillo waters that afternoon. Alfonso provided a Grunion demonstration and discussion about the spawning cycle ([link to presentation](#)).

BREAK

4. Community Outreach Update

Vietnamese Outreach by BPSOS

Phu To is new to FCEC and talked about what BPSOS has done for community outreach in the past. Phu mentioned that the focus is on women as they are often the ones preparing meals. BPSOS has provided tip cards to beauty schools and in citizenship classes. Phu mentioned an upcoming event in which they planned to participate and provide fish contamination education; the event is the 40th Anniversary of the Vietnamese Experience in America that will occur on 25 April 2015 at Camp Pendleton. Phu mentioned that he only had a few Vietnamese tip cards remaining and no English tip cards.

Chinese Community Outreach by Herald Community Center

Rebecca Soong spoke to the group about the outreach she has conducted to the Chinese Community Outreach at various venues, including community health seminars, community gatherings, and religious gatherings. As a part of their facilities, HCC has a health clinic, so it is important to educate clinic staff about the fish contamination issues. Rebecca also shared an FCEC advertisement published in HCC's newsletter last year that may be republished once again. Rebecca's impression is that a lot of people in her community are still unaware of the contaminated fish in spite of her education efforts. Rebecca mentioned that she has very few Chinese tip cards remaining and no English tip cards. Alfonso (CMA) mentioned that he had some Chinese tip cards that he could send to Rebecca.

Sarah Babcock (EA) ended this session noting that EPA plans to expand the community outreach to African-American and Hispanic community groups. There was consensus in the group that this expansion is needed and will serve additional at-risk populations.

5. Enforcement Update

LACDPH Toxics Epidemiology Program

Barbara DeRidder is new to the FCEC and presented a discussion of the work her department conducts to support the outreach on fish contamination. ([link to presentation](#))

LACDPH conducts the following:

- Task 1 - Barbara's group educates public health nurses about the contaminated fish in quarterly orientation sessions and provides the educational resources (handouts)
- Task 2 - LACDPH will be expanding their website to include the fish advisories and provide educational materials (on the website and to public, health professionals, and community groups)
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/TEA/ToxicEpi/fishcontamination.htm>
- Task 3 - Pier signs are maintained by LACDPH (Santa Monica Pier through San Pedro area). Barbara's presentation showed a pier sign (in 4 languages - English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese), a list of the sign locations in LA County, and pictures of signs posted at a pier and lifeguard station. She mentioned that the focus is on "protecting health," as noted at the top of each sign. Robert Vasquez, also from LACDPH, mentioned that they will be conducting an inventory, which they do annually, and replace any signs that are damaged or missing. He suggested that anyone noting a damaged sign should contact him to have it replaced.
- Task 4 - Barbara discussed the outreach and flyers her team provides to health care workers offering lectures and focusing on obstetric and pediatric clinics.

CDFG

Cyndy Pourroy discussed her enforcement activities, including boat patrols in areas closed for fishing. She mentioned that there is generally 80% awareness among the groups she contacts. Her group does inspections at markets, wholesalers, restaurants, and sport fishing boats. She coordinated a joint inspection with the City of Long Beach; of the 7 businesses they visited in Long Beach, no contaminated fish were found. Cyndy has several new wardens and discussed their night work at the piers (in reference to earlier discussion where night anglers were being missed). She works with the records department at the commercial landing in San Pedro and found significant awareness regarding the contaminated fish; this landing is where commercial fishermen have to report their catch. Cyndy mentioned that they need more brochures, and that they have no English brochures remaining.

City of Long Beach

Monica Cardenas provided an update on the City's activities and mentioned that they are quite short-staffed at the moment (Jackie Hampton is no longer employed by the City).

They conduct quarterly inspections and outreach to restaurants and markets. Monica mentioned the joint inspection her group did with CDFG. In their inspections, she will ask questions such as what fish should not be consumed (they often can't remember other than White Croaker). Her group provides education and reminders to buy only approved fish. Monica noted that there are changes expected in the law that will allow boats to set up sale directly from the boats, so inspection of these markets may become critical.

LA County Update

Martica Velez spoke briefly about her group's enforcement activities, including surveys, seafood labeling, and market inspections. She mentioned that seafood is often mislabeled, so her inspections include review of invoices (that indicate what fish type and where it was caught). They conduct inspections three times per year. She mentioned that they would like to conduct a symposium for restaurant owners instead of relying on inspections for education. Cindy Chen was on the phone and added comments about having inspectors ready and available and the need to focus on ethnic markets (she mentioned 34 markets). Phillip Ramsey (EPA) expressed interest in accompanying health inspectors on future enforcement inspections.

A question was raised regarding the continuation of the website "LosAnglers.org." Phillip replied that the Los Anglers was a pilot program, that it was felt that it hadn't served its purpose, and that the program had been discontinued. EPA indicated that rather than having multiple websites, the emphasis will be on the FCEC through pvsfish.org.

6. Meeting Adjournment

Phillip Ramsey (EPA) adjourned the meeting by thanking Partners again for their valuable contributions to the FCEC and the PV Shelf Site. Phillip mentioned the next FCEC meeting would likely occur in September or October 2015.