

California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment San Francisco Region Advisory Workshop Notes

Monday, March 18, 2024
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

The goal of this workshop is to review what bioaccumulation monitoring has taken place in the region (that we're aware of), dive deeper into discussing data and information gaps that remain, and begin to identify priorities according to community subsistence and cultural needs as identified by Community-Based Organization Workshop attendees.

Attendees

Advisory Workshop Attendees:

- Lauren Weston, Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet
- LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible
- Tonia Randell, Marie Harrison Community Foundation
- Andria Ventura, Clean Water Action

Invited Guests:

- Jay Davis, San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)
- Autumn Bonnema, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML)
- Loren Chumney, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
- Duyen Kauffman, Biomonitoring California & CA Dept. of Public Health
- Luisa Valiela, US EPA Region 9
- Arti Kundu, County of Marin Environmental Health Services

Realignment Team:

- SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Co-Leads
 - Sami Harper, San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (R2)
 - Anna Holder, State Board Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)
- San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (R2)
 - Kevin Lunde, TMDL & Basin Planning Section Supervisor
- California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board)
 - Tessa Fojut, SWAMP Supervisor
 - Elena Suglia, CA Sea Grant Fellow
- Stantec Facilitators: Mike Antos, Atley Keller & Hayat Rasul

Welcome & Grounding

The Realignment Team welcomed all to the Community-Based Organization (CBO)-only San Francisco Region Advisory Workshop.

Attendees and the Realignment Team introduced themselves and shared:

- 1) What community/perspective(s) they are representing,
- 2) What knowledge and expertise they are looking forward to sharing with us throughout this process?, and
- 3) One outcome or result they would like to see accomplished throughout this process.

Attendees' shared that they are interested in understanding the levels of emerging contaminants (e.g., PFAS and others) as well as the extent to which the Water Boards works with health departments and other agencies on locally-centered risk communication activities (e.g. posting [OEHHA Fish Consumption Advisory Signs](#) near water bodies).

Attendees discussed and approved meeting agreements: to listen, be constructive, be engaged, and be respectful of each other's time.

Overview of the past bioaccumulation monitoring efforts in the Region

The Realignment Team and an invited guest shared an overview of monitoring that has been occurring in the San Francisco Region by the:

- [SWAMP Statewide Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program](#) (Program)
- [San Francisco Regional Water Board SWAMP](#)
- [Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in San Francisco Bay](#) (Bay RMP)

Each presentation described past priority monitoring locations (i.e. coastal locations), target species (i.e. fish), and pollutants (i.e. mercury and PCBs) that had been monitored, summarized any additional monitoring projects, and any monitoring that is planned in the coming year. All of this information was used to ground all attendees on where robust monitoring and data exist and to help identify where monitoring gaps remain.

Discussion and Prioritization of Data and Information Needs

A virtual whiteboard tool, Miro, was used to visualize the discussion in real time. Facilitators took notes on the Miro to visualize relationships between answers. See [Miro Discussion Highlights](#) at the end of this document for examples.

Locations of Interest

Attendees discussed the locations of interest, and their potential priority for bioaccumulation monitoring.

In addition to the locations identified in [Image 1](#) of the [Miro Discussion Highlights](#), specific locations that were shared include:

Napa	Vallejo	South Bay
Benicia	Rodeo	East Palo Alto
Richmond	Hunter's Point	Carquinez Strait

Attendees highlighted concerns regarding:

- the mapping of fishing spots, emphasizing the need to generalize when appropriate
- the need to monitor in areas that have been missed (e.g. the Hunter's Point, South Bay)
- the insufficient engagement with communities (e.g. South Bay communities), and to continue to approach the process with a community lens and offer opportunities for those communities to contribute to the discussion moving forward.
- the lack of [OEHHA Fish Consumption Advisory Signs](#) along shorelines where community members tend to fish.

Species of Interest

Attendees discussed the species of interest, and their potential priority for bioaccumulation monitoring.

In addition to the locations identified in [Image 2](#) of the [Miro Discussion Highlights](#), attendees noted that, with appropriate compensation and trust with community members, there is a potential to ask fishers for some of their catch and to analyze those samples for pollutants of interest.

Pollutants of Interest

Attendees discussed the pollutants of interest for bioaccumulation monitoring, and noted all pollutants are important but those listed below are top of mind for communities:

- PFAS and other emerging contaminants

Workshop Reflection

Attendees reflected on the importance of:

- continuing and increasing community engagement, with emphasis on the need to include community voices in the decision-making processes
- prioritization of effective communication strategies
- improved collaboration among agencies (i.e., federal, state and local) is crucial
- direct funding to community-based organizations in the Region.

Attendees also pointed out that current and future funding constraints prevent some CBO representatives from attending meetings in person.

Next Steps & Action Items

Realignment Team

- Initiate honorarium process for Advisory Workshop Attendees
- Share the following with Advisory Workshop Attendees for review and feedback:
 - Workshop Summary Notes (including slides for reference)
 - [San Francisco Realignment Survey](#) (data & information needs)
- Add new contacts to email list & future meeting invites
- Post finalized Notes on [Realignment Page](#)

Advisory Workshop Attendees

- Respond to email regarding honorarium process
- Review and provide feedback on Workshop Notes
- Complete and/or distribute the [San Francisco Realignment Survey](#)
- Initiate introductions for those who you would like to be included in future Realignment conversations or send contact information to anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov and the Realignment Team will reach out and cc recommenders.

Miro Discussion Highlights

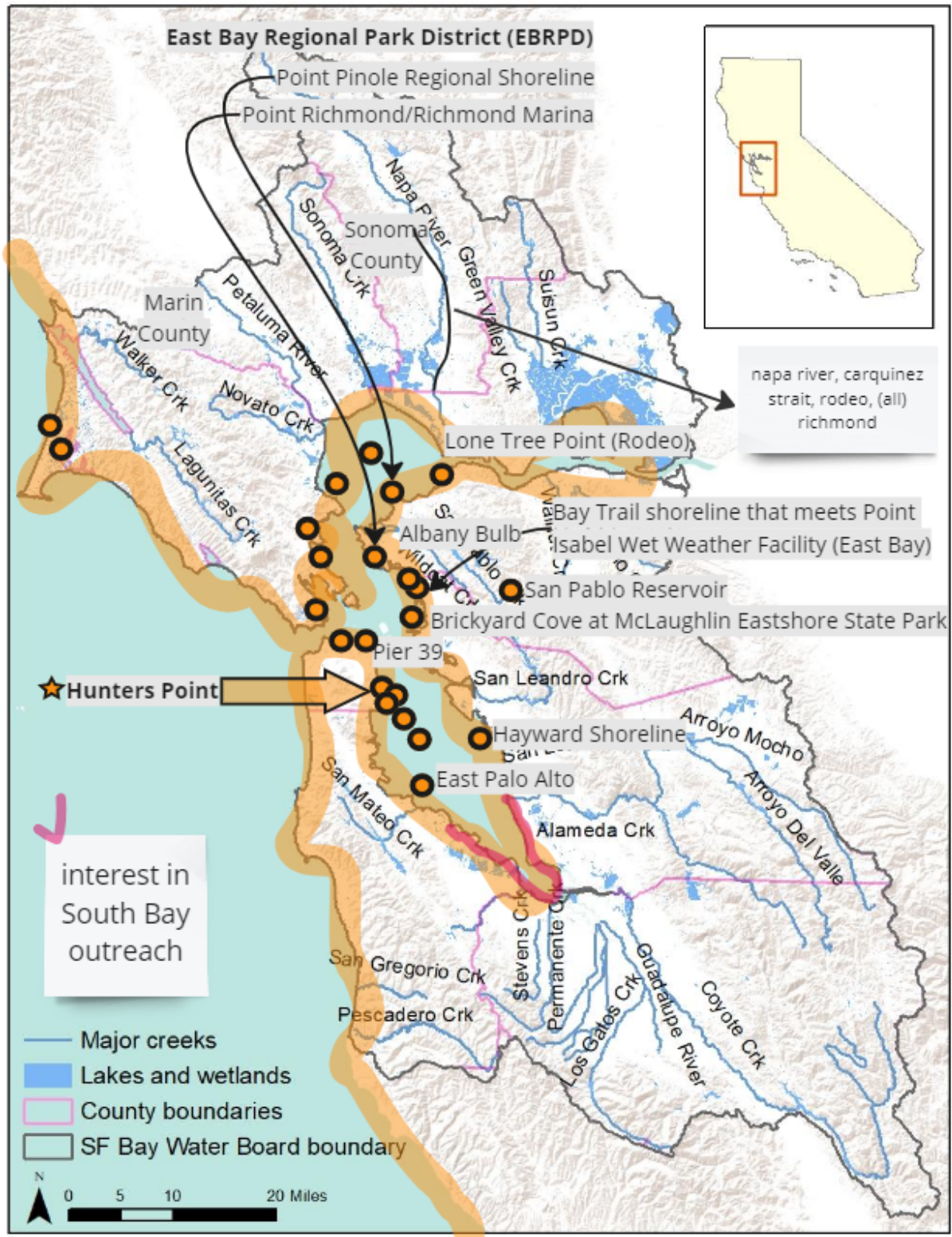


Image 1. Locations of interest shared and discussed by attendees over the course of the first three workshops

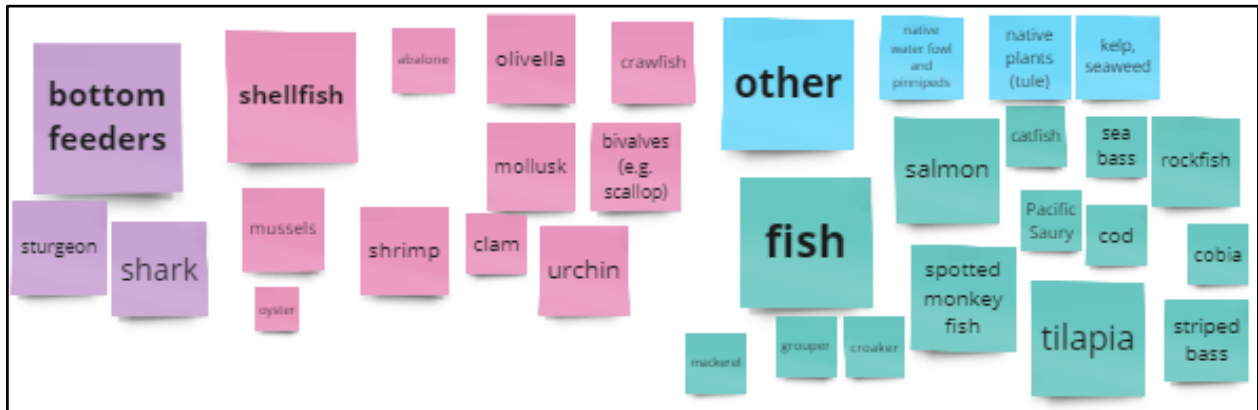


Image 2. Species of interest shared and discussed by attendees over the course of the first three workshops