

**The July report for the Tentative Schedule of Significant NPDES Permits, WDRs, and Actions and the attachments noted on page 1 are included at the end of the report.**

## **Part A – San Diego Region Staff Activities**

### **1. Budget Report**

*Staff Contact: DiAnne Broussard*

On June 30, 2011 the State of California adopted a budget for fiscal year 2011-12. In the past eleven years the State has had an on-time budget on only two other occasions, June 30, 2006 and June 30, 2000. While the Budget Office has not distributed allocations for the new year yet, we have been able to continue business as usual without any disruption in services.

Region 9 currently has nine (9) vacant positions. The Governor's hiring freeze is still in place and is expected to continue. Furloughs ended on April 1, 2011. Most bargaining unit contracts contain a clause that states there will be no furlough during the life of the contracts which are set to expire in July 2013.

On a final positive note, Region 9 completed fiscal year 2010-11 within our budget allocation. We are ready to meet the challenges of the new year.

## **Part B – Significant Regional Water Quality Issues**

### **1. Contaminants in Sport Fish with a Focus on Urban Coastal Areas**

*Staff Contacts: Lilian Busse and Bruce Posthumus*

The State Water Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) has released a report on results from the first year of a two-year screening survey of contaminants in sport fish from California coastal waters. The survey was funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and by discharge permit fees paid to the State Water Board. Dr. Jay Davis from the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI, [www.sfei.org](http://www.sfei.org)) led the survey on behalf of SWAMP. The effort was closely coordinated with the Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program and the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in the San Francisco Estuary.

The survey sampled 2291 fish of 36 species from 42 locations on the California coast in 2009. First year monitoring focused on urban coastal areas in southern California and in the San Francisco Bay area. In the San Diego Region, samples were collected in harbors and bays, as well as open coastal waters. The fish collected were tested for methylmercury, polychlorinated

biphenyls (PCBs), dieldrin, DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), chlordanes, and selenium. Contaminant concentrations were evaluated using thresholds developed by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA, <http://oehha.ca.gov/>) and a State Water Board threshold for methylmercury in fish tissue.

The survey found high concentrations of contaminants in a few areas, and widespread moderate contamination throughout the urban coastal areas sampled. The survey found methylmercury and PCBs as the contaminants of greatest concern. San Francisco Bay and San Diego Bay stood out as having elevated concentrations of PCBs. Other pollutants, including dieldrin, DDT, chlordanes and selenium, were found at low levels.

**Methylmercury:** Sites along the open coast in the San Diego Region showed average concentrations of methylmercury for kelp bass and Pacific chub mackerel that exceeded OEHHA's 2 serving/week Advisory Tissue Level (ATL) of 0.07 ppm. In some sites of open coastal waters in the San Diego Region, white croaker exceeded OEHHA's 1 serving/week ATL. The concentrations of methylmercury in harbors and bays were similar to those in open coastal waters, except for San Diego Bay, which had the highest methylmercury concentrations in the San Diego Region.

**PCBs:** For PCBs, at some open coastal sites in the San Diego Region, kelp bass, Pacific chub mackerel, and white croaker exceeded OEHHA's 2 serving/week Advisory Tissue Level (ATL) (21 ppb). The rest of the open coastal sites in the San Diego Region did not exceed this threshold. The concentration of PCBs in harbors and bays were similar to those in the open coastal waters, except for San Diego Bay, which had the highest PCB concentrations in the San Diego Region.

The report for this study can be downloaded here:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/swamp/coast\\_study.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/coast_study.shtml)

Data can be downloaded through the My Water Quality Portal:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/safe\\_to\\_eat/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/safe_to_eat/index.shtml)

In 2010, 27 other coastal locations were sampled. Results from the 2010 monitoring will be available in May 2012. In 2011, rivers and streams are being sampled. Lakes and reservoirs were sampled in 2007 and 2008; a report on that survey is available at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/swamp/lakes\\_study.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/lakes_study.shtml)