SWAMP
Data Management Team

What is it?

The Data Management Team (DMT) is responsible for managing data from SWAMP funded State and Regional Board projects. The DMT manages the SWAMP database and works to ensure that data of known and documented quality are available to managers and stakeholders in a timely manner.

In 2010 DMT staff continued with the ongoing tasks of database management and data dissemination, and implemented measures to improve data comparability and help users input and access SWAMP data. Database management tasks included transferring data to a higher capacity database server (MS Access to MS SQL), maintaining and updating data entry and retrieval tools, and improving efficiency of data reporting. To improve data comparability, DMT staff created new standardized data reporting templates and updated the data classification system. DMT staff also made significant strides in the development of a reporting module for bioassessment data, which is scheduled for completion in 2011.

SWAMP data are managed by the Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, which is a consortium institution for seven California State University campuses. Once the data have gone through SWAMP completeness and verification processes, they are exported to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) database. SWAMP provided data from 27 statewide and regional projects to be used in the 2012 Integrated Report [303(d) list/305(b) report].

Why is it important to the State?

SWAMP receives data from multiple sources, including the State and Regional Boards as well as outside organizations that are required to submit SWAMP-comparable data. These data are

needed by staff to conduct accurate assessments and make informed decisions regarding the State's water quality. If the data are not comparable or readily accessible they are difficult and time consuming to utilize. The DMT develops standardized procedures for data collection and management so that the data are comparable even though they originate from many sources. Once SWAMP data are transferred to CEDEN, they are combined with many other data sets from around the state and made available to the public in a standardized and easily accessible manner. This allows staff to quickly and easily access and integrate a wide array of data for analysis on which water quality management decisions are made. CEDEN has four regional data centers which are networked together for better regional coordination with data submitters and interests.

Why is it important to me?

The data in the SWAMP and CEDEN databases are available for use by outside agencies and the general public to explore water quality questions of interest at both the local and statewide level. SWAMP water quality, tissue and toxicity data can be accessed through the CEDEN website. Bioassessment data can be obtained by contacting a SWAMP representative from the State or Regional Water Boards. Another way to access SWAMP data is via the new, user-friendly My Water Quality website, which provides answers to common water quality questions such as: "Is it safe to swim in our waters?" and "Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?"

How will this information be used?

The data managed by the DMT is used for the water quality assessments conducted by SWAMP such as evaluations of fish consumption safety and aquatic ecosystem health, as well as other efforts including the identification of impaired waters under the Clean Water Act 303(d) and 305(b) requirements for preparing the Integrated Report. These assessments inform and guide management actions aimed at protecting and restoring the quality of the State's waters.