

Contaminants in Fish from California Lakes and Reservoirs: Technical Report on Year One of a Two-Year Screening Survey

- **California Lakes: New Monitoring Program Reveals Widespread Contamination of Fish in California Lakes. (Fact Sheet: Lakes)**
- **California Lakes: New Monitoring Program Reveals Widespread Contamination of Fish in California Lakes. (Press Release: Lakes)**
- **California Lakes: New Monitoring Program Reveals Widespread Contamination of Fish in California Lakes. (Frequently Asked Questions: Lakes)**

What is it?

This technical report presents results from the first year of a two-year screening survey of contaminants in sport fish from California lakes and reservoirs. This study targeted two indicator species in each lake and reservoir – a top predator (e.g., black bass) as a methylmercury indicator and a high lipid, bottom feeding species (e.g., channel catfish or common carp) as an organics and selenium indicator. An advantage of this approach is that it provides a characterization of both the pelagic and benthic food chains. The survey was conducted by SWAMP as part of their long-term, statewide, comprehensive bioaccumulation monitoring program for California waters. The SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program is currently focused on bioaccumulation sampling of coastal waters and bays and estuaries (2009 and 2010), and then will conduct sampling in rivers and streams in 2011, returning to sampling lakes and reservoirs in 2012.

Why is it important to the State?

The results provide a preliminary assessment of the statewide bioaccumulation problem in California lakes and reservoirs. The report also provides lake specific information that can be used to establish priorities for cleanup actions, and identifies lakes where additional sampling may be needed to support fish consumption advisories.

Why is it important to me?

While this report is intended for a technical audience, it is important to know that the data collected through this study will inform decision makers on whether levels of mercury, PCBs, dieldrin, DDTs, chlordane, and selenium in fish in these waters exceed thresholds for protection of human health. Knowing this allows one to make an informed decision on the safety of eating fish from these waterbodies.

How will this information be used?

The data collected from this study will be used in statewide and regional assessments to determine the health of lakes and reservoirs. The data also will be incorporated into the data set used by the Office of Health Hazard Assessment to develop and revise the state fish consumption advisories. The final report provides lake specific information that can be used to establish priorities for cleanup actions and identifies lakes where additional sampling may be needed to support fish consumption advisories. Some Regional Water Boards are following up on this study to provide more information necessary to develop fish consumption advisories in their regions.

SWAMP Partners: SFEI, California Department of Fish and Game, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California Office of Health Hazard Assessment



To view this report or other documents for this study, [click here](#).

