SWAMP Database

What is it?

The SWAMP database is a standardized data management, evaluation, and reporting system, which serves as the mechanism for data sharing among project participants. Data sharing is required if the SWAMP goal of producing an integrated hydrologic unit assessment of the State's surface waters is to be achieved. Recently upgraded (to SWAMP Version 2.5), this edition provides improved functionality including:

- accommodating bioassessment and tissue data;
- added features for water quality measurements;
- interfacing with online data checkers for laboratories;
- submitting data to SWAMP; and
- providing a module for submitting toxicity data using the CETIS software package.

SWAMP Version 2.5 can capture bioassessment as well as tissue data. Online data checkers allow laboratories to check their data for accuracy and completeness prior to submitting data to the SWAMP Data Management Team. The data checkers ensure consistency with the SWAMP data templates, naming conventions, lookup list values, and quality control frequency. Performing these checks prior to data submission improves SWAMP's data management efficiency. Many toxicity testing laboratories utilize the CETIS software package to store and analyze toxicity data. The SWAMP Data Management Team working with Tidepool Scientific Software, developed a translation program that converts toxicity data from CETIS to SWAMP format. These applications reduce the time for formatting data to be consistent with SWAMP.

Why is it important to the State?

One major challenge in conducting a statewide monitoring effort is development of a unified data system as information management needs to occur on several levels. SWAMP has identified this challenge and met it head on. SWAMP has created an information management system that ensures the quality, compatibility, and timeliness of the data each organization collects. Once entered into the system and reviewed for quality, the data are available to other interested organizations and the general public for more comprehensive assessments, to inform decision making, or for general information. Sharing data creates a more efficient and effective monitoring network. It also promotes collaboration and coordination of efforts.

Why is it important to me?

Data housed in the SWAMP database are available to other agencies as well as the general public. Through SWAMP, multiple types of data are available to assess the overall health of a waterbody and answer such questions as 'is my local swimming hole safe to swim in or are the fish in my favorite fishing spot healthy?' Additionally, for individuals or groups that have receive State grant funding or are just interested in previously collected data, SWAMP has formats for a number of products such as fact sheets and reports.

How will this information be used?

Aside from providing data that can be shared, the SWAMP database makes data available that can be used for making interpretations on multiple scales (local, regional, and statewide).

For information about the SWAMP database click here.