



# Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program – Bioaccumulation Study of Fish in California’s Lakes and Reservoirs (Lakes Year Two Report)

## What is it?

The Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program is a long-term, statewide project to monitor the bioaccumulation of contaminants in fish tissue. With funding from SWAMP and oversight from the Bioaccumulation Oversight Group or BOG, efforts to date have been focused on the Bioaccumulation Study of Fish in California’s Lakes and Reservoirs (Lakes Survey). This 2-year screening study was the first step in an effort to identify and quantify contaminants in sport fish from California’s lakes and reservoirs, and to evaluate exposure and risk in humans and wildlife.

The Lakes Survey was designed to answer three specific questions:

- 1) What is the condition of California lakes with respect to contaminants in sport fish?
- 2) Should a specific lake be considered for inclusion on the 303(d) list due to bioaccumulation of contaminants in sport fish?
- 3) Should additional sampling of contaminants in sport fish at a lake be conducted for the purpose of developing consumption guidelines?

In 2010, SWAMP published a report summarizing the results from the Lakes Survey.

## Why is it important to the State?

Contaminants in fish tissue may pose a health risk to both humans and wildlife if present at unsafe levels. This study is designed to improve our understanding of health risks by providing information about the bioaccumulation of certain chemical contaminants in aquatic organisms.