



SWAMP LAKES STUDY FOLLOW-UP MONITORING

What is it?

A SWAMP-funded study conducted by the Bioaccumulation Oversight Group titled [Contaminants in Fish from California Lakes and Reservoirs, 2007-2008](#) (Lakes Study) found high levels of contaminants in fish tissue samples from lakes in the Central Coast region. To follow up on these findings, additional fish tissue samples are being collected and analyzed for contaminants in lakes where elevated levels were found in fish. This work is conducted in coordination with the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) [rotational watershed monitoring program](#).



In 2012, sport fish were collected and analyzed for mercury from two lakes in the Salinas River watershed rotation area, where the Lakes Study identified elevated levels of mercury. At Lake San Antonio, samples of bluegill, red-ear sunfish, and two additional species of bass were collected. At Lake Santa Margarita, samples of largemouth bass, bluegill, red-ear sunfish, hitch, and white catfish were collected. All fish tissue samples were analyzed for mercury levels.

Why is it important?

The 2012 study design will provide additional data to assess whether or not it is safe to eat fish from these Central Coast lakes. The Lakes Study focused on the Commercial and Sport Fishing beneficial use. One sport fish species from each lake was screened for potential contaminants. This follow-up work will cover additional sport fish species found in each lake.



How will this information be used?

This data will be used by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in combination with data from the Lakes Study to develop fish consumption advisories (safe eating guidelines) for each lake and each fish species. The OEHHA advisory for Nacimiento Lake (also in the

Salinas Watershed) is shown in the above figure as an example of how this data will be used for public outreach.

Data will also be made available to the public via the [CCAMP](#) Data Navigator. CCAMP data supports a wide range of decision making by Regional Board staff and other users of the data concerning topics like the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters.

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