



Suisun Bay National Reserve Fleet Assessment Project

Update – January, 2009

N OAA's Office of Response and Restoration is investigating environmental contaminants in and around the National Reserve Fleet in Suisun Bay, California. During the summer of 2008 NOAA collected surface and subsurface sediment samples, as well as tissue samples from mussels and clams from the Suisun Bay study area. Samples were analyzed in the laboratory for contaminants during the fall. These data were validated and entered into a publicly available database for review and analysis. A data report is planned for public release in early 2009. This fact sheet is part of a continuing series of monthly updates regarding the project.

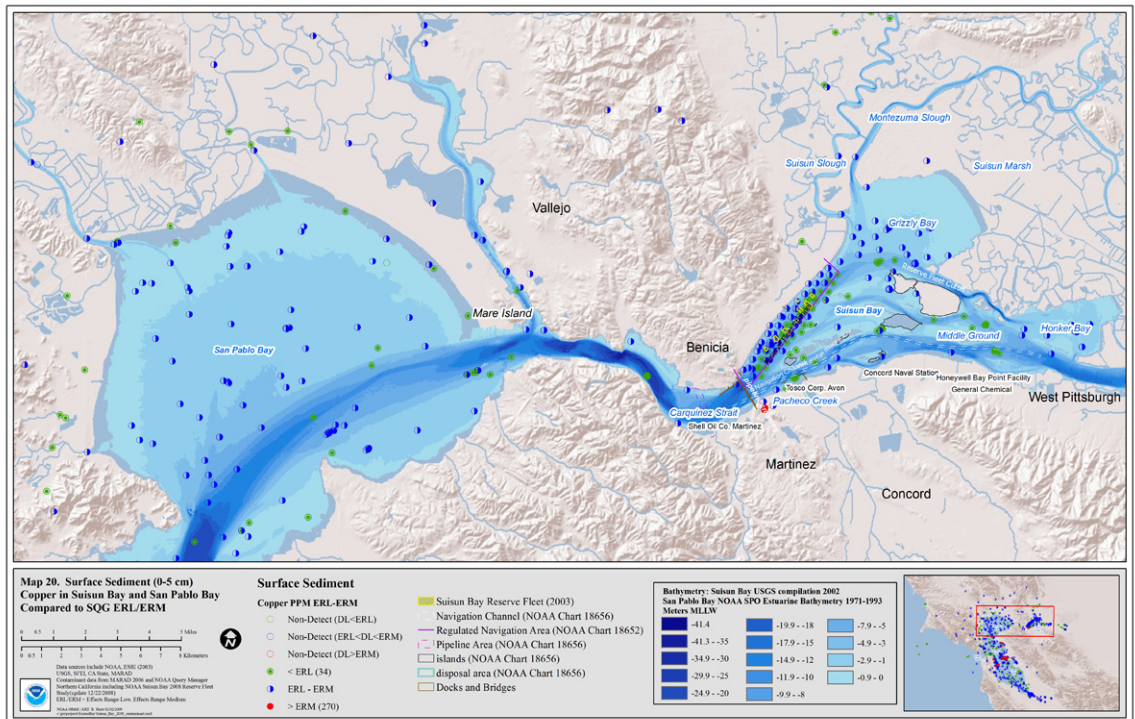
Recent Progress

Sediment and tissue data were validated and placed into NOAA's Query Manager database for stakeholder review. These datasets and a working draft of the report were shared with various stakeholders for technical review. In mid-January, NOAA received comments back from organizations such as MARAD, California State Lands Commission, Department of Toxic Substance Control, California Department of Fish and Game, Arc Ecology, and the Natural Resource Defense Council. In addition to receiving written comments, NOAA met with some stakeholders who asked for additional discussion and clarification of text, data, and analyses presented in the draft report.

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) collaborates with other agencies, industry, and citizens to protect and restore coastal and marine resources threatened or injured by oil spills, releases of hazardous substances, and vessel groundings.

NOAA spent the last two weeks of January reviewing stakeholder concerns and recommendations to the draft final report. Similar to the process for designing this study's draft Sampling and Analysis Plan, soliciting input and external recommendations for the final report provided valuable guidance for improving the clarity, scope, and overall content of the final report. NOAA reviewed the data and analyses and modified the report where practical and appropriate. For example, NOAA expanded the bioavailability discussions and compared tissue results to broader

Map of copper concentrations in surface sediment compared to a Sediment Quality Guideline. This map shows results from the NOAA 2008 study, as well as other regional and focused studies.



datasets such as USGS samples as a result of stakeholder input to the working draft report. Additionally, NOAA expanded its discussions regarding other contaminant studies within San Francisco Bay to put the results of this study into a larger context. Modifications also are being made to the area hydrodynamics discussions regarding deposition and erosion and to clarify the study conclusions and limitations.

Next Steps

NOAA will update the Query Manager Database with the 2006 MARAD study data in order to have a more complete dataset for comparison. These data will be posted in late February.

A revised report will be reviewed by NOAA management, General Counsel, and a technical editor in February.

Depending on the length of review needed NOAA intends to release the final report at the end of February. The document and data will be posted to NOAA's website for public distribution.



Photo of the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet taken in summer of 2008.

For More Information

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To learn more about this project visit our Web site:
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/>

Suisun Bay Timeline

