

**Fish Sampling Advisory Subcommittee (FSAS)
Toxic Substances Coordinating Committee (TSCC)
Minutes from November 18, 2008**

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Michael Tennant	DSHS	michael.tennant@dshs.state.tx.us
Zack Thomas	DSHS	zack.thomas@dshs.state.tx.us
Josh Duty	DSHS	josh.duty@dshs.state.tx.us
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David Villarreal	TDA	david.villarreal@tda.state.tx.us
John Payne	SRA-TX	jpayne@sratx.org
James East	SRA-TX	jeast@sratx.org
Roxie Mills	TPWD	roxie.mills@tpwd.state.tx.us
Dania Grundmann	TCEQ	dgrundma@tceq.state.tx.us
Pat Radloff	TPWD	patricia.radloff@tpwd.state.tx.us

1. Michael Tennant of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Seafood and Aquatic Life Group (SALG) called the meeting of the Fish Sampling Advisory Subcommittee (FSAS) of the Toxic Substances Coordinating Committee (TSCC) to order on November 18, 2008.
2. Mike listed four water-bodies that are scheduled for reevaluation in the TMDL 303(d) Listed Waters Project and still awaiting data. They are as follows:
 - Clear Creek {Advisory rescinded on October 9, 2001; sampling completed (30 samples) in April 2007}
 - Leon Creek {Currently has an advisory for PCBs; sampling completed (50 samples) in November 2007}
 - Trinity River {Currently has an advisory and ban area (12 sites) for PCBs, Chlordane, and DDE; sampling completed (130 samples) in July 2008}
 - Lake Worth (Currently has an advisory for PCBs; sampling completed in October 2008)
 - Mountain Creek Lake (Currently has a ban for PCBs and organochlorine pesticides; sampling completed in October 2008)
3. Mike reiterated the completion of sampling for the East Texas Mercury Reservoirs Project. All risk characterizations have been completed with the exception of four: Lake Madison and Lower Waterworks (in review) and Lake Isabel and Village Creek (awaiting data from GERG).

4. Mike announced a list of Statewide Fish Tissue Monitoring Project water-bodies of which sampling is complete and are awaiting all or partial data from GERG. They are as follows:
 - Neches River {mercury exceedance; sampling completed (60 samples) in September 2007}
 - Granger Lake {pesticides exceedance; sampling completed (40 samples) in February 2008}
 - Lake Mineral Wells {mercury exceedance; sampling completed (59 samples) in March 2008}
 - Gordon Lake {mercury exceedance; sampling completed (46 samples) in March 2008}
 - Lake Alan Henry {mercury exceedance; sampling completed (100 samples) in March-April 2008}
5. Mike also informed the subcommittee that the DSHS SALG will be releasing a new Fish Consumption Advisory Booklet in the near future.
6. Lastly, Mike announced to the group that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is in the process of placing fish consumption advisory and or ban signs at all pertinent public boat ramps across the state.
7. Dr. David Villarreal (Texas Department of Agriculture, TDA) passed out literature received at the Toxic Substances Coordinating Committee meeting concerning the fish consumption ban on the Donna Irrigation Canal and Reservoir (put together by the Environmental and Injury Epidemiology and Toxicology Branch of the DSHS with help from DSHS SALG).
8. David announced that the TDA Groundwater Task Force has finished the evaluation of potential pesticides of concern (50 total pesticides). Results showed that eleven pesticides plus two degradates of Atrazine were not pesticides of concern, but rather pesticides of interest. The task force is in the process of beginning another round of pesticide evaluation (57 total pesticides).
9. David also informed the subcommittee that bacteria source tracking and feral hog issues continue to garner interest within the department, as well as the use of personal care products and pharmaceuticals.
10. Lastly, David mentioned that there is a big push for funding to examine invasive aquatic species (predominately plant species).
11. John Payne (Sabine River Authority of Texas, SRA-TX) mentioned that the state of Louisiana (unsure of what agency) sampled largemouth bass for mercury in Toledo Bend Reservoir. John mentioned that he had received the data, and informed the group that there seemed to be no major differences between data collected in 2000 and 2008. However, John did say that he was unsure of the overall goal of the study and was without any information on the background of the study as well as the methods.

12. John also mentioned that he had ran across a study looking at mercury concentrations of various organisms in and around Caddo Lake (besides fish tissue) that he found to be interesting and informed the group of it's location if anyone was interested in reading it.
13. Lastly, John introduced a new employee with the Sabine River Authority of Texas, James East.
14. Pat Radloff (TPWD) mentioned that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has revoked all sand mining permits in the San Jacinto River (McGinnis Waste Pits area).
15. Roxie Mills (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, TPWD) informed the subcommittee that there is a surge in interest within the department to conduct several studies (contaminants, telemetry, etc.) on gar species on the Trinity River from Livingston to IH 10.
16. Roxie also announced that she and Mark Luedke are awaiting data (Suite of metals; pesticides and PCBs on selected samples) in alligator tissue (muscle tissue taken from tail and legs) from B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir.
17. Roxie also mentioned to the subcommittee that she and Mark Luedke are in the process of writing a proposal to re-evaluate all the Tier 1 East Texas mercury reservoirs (60 reservoirs sampled from 1999 to 2001).
18. Lastly, Roxie informed the subcommittee of a study that she and Mark Luedke would like to do looking at mercury levels between two reservoirs (one with typical mercury bioaccumulation traits, one without) in different organisms, algae and sediment. Earliest possible starting date would be 2010.
19. Dania Grundmann (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, TCEQ, Total Daily Maximum Load Program, TMDL) announced that TCEQ is currently being reorganized and that all water programs will be placed together.

The subcommittee will next meet on Tuesday February 10, 2009. The meeting will convene at 9:30 AM at the Exchange Building, 8407 Wall Street

Mike Tennant (DSHS) adjourned this meeting of the FSAS subcommittee. Respectfully submitted by Zack Thomas (DSHS) this 10th day of December 2008.