

**Fish Sampling Advisory Subcommittee (FSAS)
Toxic Substances Coordinating Committee (TSCC)
Minutes from February 12, 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
Gary Heideman	DSHS	gary.heideman@dshs.state.tx.us
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Debbie Miller	TCEQ	demiller@tceq.state.tx.us
John Payne	SRA-TX	jpayne@sratx.org
Bruce Moring	USGS	bmoring@usgs.gov
Chris Smith	Thompson & Knight	chris.smith@tklaw.com

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 at 9:35 A.M. on February 12, 2008.
2. Mike announced that FDA issued a letter of guidance in February 2008 advising commercial seafood processors not to accept several species of reef fish from the Flower Garden Banks Marine Sanctuary along the Texas coast due to Ciguatera toxin. DSHS also issued a press release on February 5, 2008 advising recreational fisherman not to consume several species of reef fish at the Flower Garden Banks Marine Sanctuary along the Texas coast due to Ciguatera toxin.
3. Mike announced the status of current risk characterizations (RC) (TMDL Project). They are as follows:
 - Lake Fosdic-RC draft is complete, recommending downgrading from ban to advisory for PCBs in common carp (Currently has fish consumption ban because of Chlordane, PCBs, Dieldrin and DDE)
 - Arroyo Colorado- RC is complete, recommending a modification to include longnose gar along with smallmouth buffalo as species of concern and also to include mercury and PCBs as contaminants of concern (Currently has fish consumption advisory because of organochlorine pesticides)
4. Mike also listed water bodies that the SALG is currently awaiting data. They are as follows:

- Galveston Bay (Galveston Bay Estuary Program and General Land Office Project)
 - Lake Madisonville (East Texas Mercury Reservoirs Project)
 - Clear Creek (TMDL Project)
 - Village Creek (East Texas Mercury Reservoirs Project)
 - Neches River (Statewide Fish Tissue Monitoring Project; SFTMP)
 - Leon Creek (TMDL Project)
5. Mike also announced a tentative sampling schedule for spring/early summer 2008:
- Granger Lake (SFTMP; pesticides exceedance; sampling completed in February 2008)
 - Lake Isabell (East Texas Mercury Reservoirs Project; mercury exceedance; partially completed, 5 additional samples needed)
 - Palo Duro Reservoir (SFTMP; mercury exceedance)
 - Lake Mineral Wells (SFTMP; mercury exceedance)
 - Lake Alan Henry (SFTMP; mercury exceedance)
 - Gordon Lake (SFTMP; mercury exceedance)
 - Trinity River (TMDL; PCBs, chlordane, DDE exceedances)
6. Lastly, Mike mentioned that the SALG has purchased and begun using their new sampling boat and also that DSHS has posted a job opening for an Environmental Specialist III within the SALG.
7. Dr. Bruce Moring (United States Geological Survey, USGS) briefly discussed the objectives of a study that he and other colleagues have been working on entitled Trophic Position, Food-Chain Length, and PCB Pathways in Aquatic Biota of Meandering Creek and Woods Inlet, Lake Worth, Texas. Bruce was also seeking input with respect to objective 3 in the study (modeling expected PCB concentrations in top tier trophic groups such as largemouth bass and common carp with respect to PCB concentrations in sediment, invertebrates, zooplankton and fish prey species)
8. John Payne (Sabine River Authority of Texas, SRATX) mentioned that the state of Louisiana (unsure of what agency) sampled largemouth bass for mercury in Toledo Bend Reservoir. John informed the group that he has not seen any of the data collected.
9. Chris Smith (Thompson and Knight Law Firm) informed the committee that the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, L.L.C. (CETH) presentation on fish consumption advisories is still available for any agency interested. Chris also inquired about the status of signs being posted at water-bodies with fish consumption advisories or bans. Mike Tennant informed Chris that currently it is the responsibility of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and that DSHS has not heard any recent information concerning the subject.

10. Dania Grundmann (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, TCEQ) informed the group that work will begin on the Trinity River in the fall and that a new position will be posted (Information Specialist).
11. Dr. David Villarreal (Texas Department of Agriculture, TDA) announced that the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee has charged a task force to come up with a list of pesticides of interest (50 of interest) and then chose 13 of concern to gather information on and make a final recommendation for the state. (Example; Atrazine seems to be very common, usually found in weed and feed). TDA is working with the city of Austin and various chemical companies to curtail the use of weed and feed.
12. David also mentioned that TDA has put more emphasis on more joint training among neighboring states for field inspectors. Also, feral hogs and bacteria source tracking issues are garnering more interest among the agency.
13. Pat Bohannon (TCEQ) informed the committee that early stages of a "National Fish Tissue Study in Large Rivers" have begun in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to gather baseline information. As a result, this may lead to additional work for DSHS Seafood and Aquatic Life Group in the future (50 sites total).
14. Pat also announced that Sam Rayburn has been put into the Tier 2 stage of the Statewide Fish Tissue Monitoring Program and may be moved up in priority given additional funding.
15. Mike Tennant informed the group that Stephen Twidwell (could not attend) (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, TPWD) investigated a golden algae bloom on Lake E. V. Spence (Coke County). Mostly forage species were killed along with some small freshwater drum, white bass, striped bass and largemouth bass, although cell counts were not high (> 15K cells/ml).
16. Lastly, Debbie Miller (TCEQ) informed the group that there are several water quality standards being considered for revision. EPA suggests lowering the fish tissue standard for mercury from 0.7 mg/kg to 0.3 mg/kg. Also, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and DDT are being considered for fish tissue standards. If these revisions did occur, it would happen in early 2009.

The subcommittee will next meet on Tuesday May 13, 2008. The meeting will convene at 9:30 AM at the Exchange Building, 8407 Wall Street, Room N-456.

Mike Tennant (DSHS) adjourned this meeting of the FSAS subcommittee at 10:50 AM.
Respectfully submitted by Zack Thomas (DSHS) this 30th day of April 2008.