

**Fish Sampling Advisory Subcommittee (FSAS)  
Toxic Substances Coordinating Committee (TSCC)  
Minutes from May 12, 2009**

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
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1. Michael Tennant (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 May 12, 2009.
2. Roxie Mills (Texas Parks and Wildlife, TPWD, Contaminants Assessment Team) reiterated the 19 reservoirs that were sampled in late February and March 2009 as part of the reevaluation of the East Texas Mercury Reservoirs Project. Fish tissue samples have been submitted to the lab, but no results yet.
3. Roxie also informed the subcommittee that the mercury data from fish species collected in the Trinity River (Lake Livingston to coast) from 3 sites (HWY 59, HWY 90, and IH 10) is still being reviewed. Roxie also informed the subcommittee that 19 alligator gar were collected in the Trinity River (HWY 287 and HWY 21), as well as, three from Choke Canyon Reservoir. All 22 samples will be analyzed for mercury and organics.
4. Roxie also spoke of a trophy catfish study that she and Mark Luedke may be involved in looking specifically at contaminants (metals and organics) in blue catfish. Study will include one reservoir from three TPWD Inland Fisheries Districts: San Marcos, Tyler, and Waco.
5. Lastly, Roxie mentioned that she and Mark will give a presentation at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) chapter meeting in San Marcos, reviewing all of the east Texas mercury reservoir studies, Neches River mercury study, Sabine River mercury study, and the mercury in striped bass study.
6. James East (Sabine River Authority of Texas, SRA) had nothing to report to the subcommittee at this time.

7. Dania Grundmann (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, TCEQ, Total Daily Maximum Load Program, TMDL) announced that TCEQ is currently developing the Trinity River TMDL in conjunction with stakeholders. Technical report due out this fall with hopes of implementation by next year.
8. Dania also informed the subcommittee about future revisions for bacteria standards used for contact recreation using attainability analysis and assigning water-bodies a recreational usage.
9. Pat Bohannon (TCEQ, Surface Water Quality Monitoring Team, SWQM) announced that there may be a position opening available with the TCEQ Standards Team in the near future.
10. Lastly, Pat gave handouts to everyone summarizing the past year's Mercury-Impaired Waters Advisory Group meetings which included background information on how the workgroup was developed as well as an overview of each quarterly meeting.
11. Stephen Twidwell (TPWD, Kills and Spills Team) reported that although there have been high golden algae densities showing high toxicity out in west Texas, there have been no significant fish kills due to golden algae. However, Steve did report there were a few small fish kills in privately owned ponds in the Kingsville area, possibly suggesting that golden algae may be migrating toward coastal areas.
12. Dr. David Villarreal (Texas Department of Agriculture, TDA) informed the subcommittee that swine flu issues and severe drought conditions in south Texas as well as the panhandle have been the department's primary focus most recently.
13. David also mentioned that the monitoring of personal care products and pharmaceuticals continue to garner interest within the department, as opposed to legacy pesticides.
14. Lastly, David mentioned that endangered species issues are gaining interest once again within the department.
15. Pat Radloff (TPWD, Coastal Fisheries Division) announced that PCBs, mercury, and dioxin are going toward the fish tissue standard as opposed to the water column standard possibly as early as fall 2009 dependent upon TCEQ and EPA approval.
16. Mike announced that two bills have been filed in the legislative session and both have been heard in committee and were passed out of committee. They are as follows:
  - HB681-pertains to warning signs for mercury in retail establishments
  - SB1214-pertains to requiring DSHS SALG to use 0.3 mg/kg as opposed to the current 0.7 mg/kg mercury level to issue fish consumption advisories/bans.
17. Mike mentioned to the subcommittee that the EPA is posting a fish consumption advisory sign of their own in addition to the sign posted by TPWD at the Donna Irrigation System.

The Donna Irrigation System is an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund site.

18. Mike announced that the DSHS print shop printed our new fish consumption advisory booklet and that a PDF version of the booklet will also be available via the SALG Web site.
19. Mike also listed four water-bodies that were scheduled for reevaluation in the TMDL 303(d) Listed Waters Project of which sampling is complete. They are as follows:
  - Clear Creek-draft in review {Advisory rescinded on October 9, 2001; sampling completed (30 samples) in April 2007}
  - Leon Creek-currently writing draft {Currently has an advisory for PCBs; sampling completed (50 samples) in November 2007}
  - Trinity River-awaiting data {Currently has an advisory and ban area (12 sites) for PCBs, Chlordane, and DDE; sampling completed (130 samples) in July 2008}
  - Lake Worth-awaiting data {Currently has an advisory for PCBs; sampling completed (80 samples) in October 2008}
  - Mountain Creek Lake-awaiting data {Currently has a ban for PCBs and organochlorine pesticides; sampling completed (80 samples) in October 2008}
20. Mike reiterated the completion of sampling for the East Texas Mercury Reservoirs Project. All risk characterizations have been completed with the exception of two: Lake Isabel and Village Creek (RC drafts currently in review).
21. Mike announced a list of Statewide Fish Tissue Monitoring Project water-bodies of which sampling is complete; drafts are currently being written, and will be in review soon. 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
22. Lastly, Mike mentioned a tentative fall 2009 / spring 2010 sampling schedule. It is as follows:
  - Sam Rayburn Reservoir-scheduled to collect a total of approximately 612 fish samples. (Currently has an advisory for mercury in largemouth bass and freshwater drum)

- B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir-scheduled to collect a total of approximately 400 fish samples. (Currently has an advisory for mercury in freshwater drum, hybrid striped bass, largemouth bass and white bass)

Note that both reservoirs are being examined for dioxin fish tissue contamination as well as being reevaluated for the existing mercury advisories. Both reservoirs were identified as having elevated dioxin levels in the EPA's National Fish Tissue Study in 2000-2003.

The subcommittee will next meet on Tuesday August 4, 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 2009.