

**Fish Sampling Advisory Subcommittee (FSAS)
Toxic Substances Coordinating Committee (TSCC)
Minutes from May 13, 2008**

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Michael Tennant	DSHS	michael.tennant@dshs.state.tx.us
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Gary Heideman	DSHS	gary.heideman@dshs.state.tx.us
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Dania Grundmann	TCEQ	dgrundma@tceq.state.tx.us
Pat Bohannon	TCEQ	jbohanno@tceq.state.tx.us
Mark Luedke	TPWD	mark.luedke@tpwd.state.tx.us
Stephen Twidwell	TPWD	stephen.twidwell@tpwd.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 at 9:40 A.M. on May 13, 2008.
2. Mark Luedke (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, TPWD) informed the subcommittee that all sampling is complete for the Mercury in Striped Bass Study; (2007-9 reservoirs, 83 striped bass collected; 2008-7 reservoirs 111 striped bass collected). High levels of mercury (2007 results) were found in largemouth bass from Lake Amistad and Lake Travis (only collected age 2 fish from Lake Travis). 2008 results expected in August.
3. Mark also announced that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is going to begin removing fish from the Donna Irrigation Canal (excluding the reservoirs) this summer using electro-fishing techniques in an attempt to eliminate contaminated fish from the canal that may otherwise be available to recreational fisherman for consumption.
4. Stephen Twidwell (TPWD) informed the subcommittee of recent golden algae blooms, although bioassays showed toxicity, there was no sign of stress to fishes:
 - Moss Creek (Howard County) 53,000 cells / ml
 - Pecos River (above Interstate 10) 25,000 cells / ml
 - Red Bluff Reservoir (Loving and Reeves Counties)
 - 18,500 cells / ml (sample taken near dam)
 - 12,500 cells / ml (sample taken near state line road)
5. Steve also informed the subcommittee about a recent blue-green algae bloom on Twin Buttes Reservoir. Currently working with the USGS to see if any toxicity is present. Steve is also collaborating with DSHS to decide if a general health advisory needs to be issued (potential to affect health of terrestrial animals).

6. Dania Grundmann (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, TCEQ) announced that sampling (conducted by a TCEQ contractor) on the Trinity River is shortly underway (storm water, wastewater and sediment sampling) TCEQ may try and coincide sampling times with some of the DSHS fish tissue sampling trips (Beginning in June 2008).
7. Dania also mentioned there may be a possible bacteria standards revision underway, as well as, the possible formation of a mercury workgroup initiative (commissioner suggested).
8. Pat Bohannon (TCEQ) announced that there are currently no additional funds to support sampling of Tier 1 water-bodies in the Statewide Fish Tissue Monitoring Project, however a new contract is being developed to sample fish tissue for contaminants, but no longer under the guise of the State Fish Tissue Monitoring Project. Currently, enough money has been secured to sample Sam Rayburn Reservoir (Identified in the EPA National Fish Tissue Study for high concentrations of dioxins).
9. Pat also informed the committee that early stages of a “National Large Rivers and Streams Assessment” have begun in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to gather baseline information. The assessment will include a fish tissue sampling component.
10. Lastly, Pat announced the completion of sampling for the East Texas Mercury Reservoirs Project.
11. Dr. David Villarreal (Texas Department of Agriculture, TDA) informed the subcommittee that bacteria source tracking and feral hog issues continue to garner interest. Effort is being made to try and get “Hunting for the Hungry” involved with the feral hog issue, but problems have arose on how to assure that the meat will be safe for consumption.
12. David also mentioned that pesticides are becoming less of an issue for the agency (although, Atrazine still seems to be a problem, usually found in weed and feed). However, persistence of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in the environmental and how to deal with these issues, are gaining attention within the department.
13. Pat Radloff (TPWD) announced that the Fountain Park Plaza staff is moving to the TPWD Headquarters. Pat also mentioned the retiring of Dr. Larry McKinney.
14. Pat also suggested using the urban park grants program as a possible future funding source for work in urban areas.
15. Michael Tennant (Texas Department of State Health Services, Seafood and Aquatic Life Group, DSHS SALG) reiterated the completion of sampling for the East Texas Mercury Reservoirs Project (completed sampling of Lake Isabel in March 2008). All risk characterizations have been completed with the exception of four; Forest Park Lake, Lower Waterworks, Lake Madisonville and Village Creek.

16. Mike announced a list of Statewide Fish Tissue Monitoring Project water-bodies of which sampling is complete. They are as follows:

- 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}

17. Mike also listed four water-bodies that are scheduled for reevaluation in the TMDL 303(d) Listed Waters Project. They are as follows:

- Leon Creek {Currently has an advisory for PCBs; sampling completed (50 samples) in November 2007}
- Trinity River {Currently has an advisory area (13 sites) for PCBs, Chlordane, and DDE; sampling scheduled for June 2008}
- Lake Worth (Currently has an advisory for PCBs; sampling scheduled for Fall 2008)
- Mountain Creek Lake (Currently has a ban for PCBs and organochlorine pesticides; sampling scheduled for Fall 2008)

18. Lastly, Gary Heideman (DSHS SALG) mentioned that the SALG field staff in Port Lavaca completed water sampling from Cedar Lake and Cowtrap. Results show that bacteria levels are still unacceptable for re-opening, therefore there will continue to be no oyster harvest allowed in these areas.

The subcommittee will next meet on Tuesday August 5, 2008. 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 at 11:55 AM.
Respectfully submitted by Zack Thomas (DSHS) this 14th day of July 2008.