

Fish Contamination Education Collaborative (FCEC)

FCEC works to protect the public from the health risks of consuming local contaminated fish from the Palos Verdes Shelf Superfund Site

Newsletter—November 2018



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Since 2003

The FCEC continues to support educational and outreach efforts to limit the health risk to the public from consumption of contaminated fish. Over the past few months, FCEC personnel have attended local festivals and events to educate the public about these risks. Check out what we've been up to!

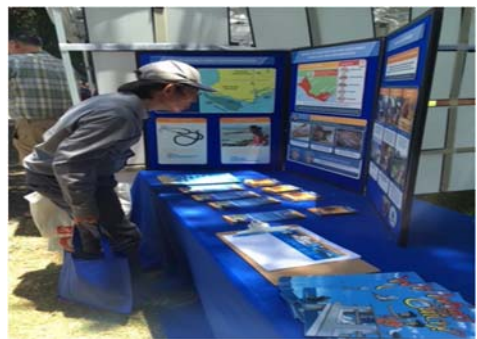
OUTREACH/RECENT EVENTS

City of Alhambra Lunar Event, February 24, 2017—FCEC provided a booth at this City event held near Valley Boulevard and Granada Avenue, in Alhambra, California. The event was focused on health, sustainability, and environmental issues. It featured over 100 local vendors and approximately 1,000 to 2,000 attendees from the City of Alhambra and neighboring San Gabriel communities. The FCEC booth was busy during the entire event and it included information on the Palos Verdes Shelf contamination and a fishing game for children to learn identification of contaminated fish. FCEC materials such as informational tip cards, brochures, and children's comic books were provided to visitors that stopped by the booth. Some visitors took extra tip cards for friends and family who fish locally in the area.



Aquarium of the Pacific Earth Day Celebration, April 21, 2018—FCEC personnel had a booth with educational materials at this exciting annual Earth Day event. The event was held at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California. It consisted of local various vendors that focused on environmental issues and provided suggestions on how people can choose to be more environmentally conscious in their daily lives. Some event attendees included the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Los Angeles Marine Mammal Care Center, Bolsa Chica Conservancy, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Additionally, approximately 10,000 guests attended. The majority of the FCEC booth attendees were not aware of the Palos Verdes Shelf contamination and expressed gratitude for the FCEC booth information and materials. Several families mentioned that they frequently fish in the local waters. They read the display board and asked questions to learn more about the contamination and identify local fish species that are safe for consumption. Hundreds of informational tip cards, brochures and children's comic books were distributed in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese languages.

Lummis Day Festival, June 3, 2018—This event honors Charles Lummis, who promoted the arts, history and ethnic diversity of Northeast Los Angeles. This event was held in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, and featured several community booths including Highland Park Heritage Trust, Los Angeles County Sanitation District, and representatives from Council member Solis’s District 1 Office. The day’s activities attracted approximately 300-400 people. The FCEC booth was present with informational materials and a fishing game for children to identify and learn about contaminated fish species. Some of the FCEC booth attendees indicated that they and others they know frequently fish



at the piers. Many of the booth visitors inquired about the safe preparation and consumption of fish. Many of the children were bilingual and brought their parents to the booth to view the FCEC information. The visitors took tip-cards, brochures, and children’s comic books in English, Spanish, and Chinese. Additionally, curriculum guides were dis-

Technical Update

The Palos Verdes Shelf sediment study area contains sediment contaminated with dichlorodiphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from former discharges into the sewer system between 1940s and 1980s. In 2009, an Interim Record of Decision (ROD) presented the selected remedy including institutional controls, monitored natural recovery (MNR), and a 300-acre cap on the hot spot area. Institutional controls and MNR have been implemented. To date, a sediment study (2009), fish movement study (2010), sediment flux study (2011), and MNR study (2013-2015) have been completed. Based on evaluation of the sample results and these studies, contaminated sediment concentrations have decreased since 2002/2004. The pilot sediment cap was not effective and the design and construction of the hot spot cap have been suspended. Additionally, white croaker fish were found to be contaminated throughout the area and were not limited to the hot-spot area near outfalls. Using the latest monitoring results, EPA plans to update its understanding of how the DDTs and PCBs in the PV Shelf sediment contaminate the white croaker fish, the risks to people who eat the fish caught in the PV Shelf area and risks to fish, birds, and marine mammals that live and/or feed in the area. EPA will document these updated information in an upcoming Feasibility Study and plans to release a Draft Feasibility Study for public review in Spring 2020.

Completed Community Events

- Aquarium of the Pacific Underwater Parks Day - January 20, 2018, Long Beach
- Lunar Chinese Celebration - February 3, 2018, Temple City Park
- Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival - February 16-18, 2018, Costa Mesa
- Alhambra Chamber of Commerce Lunar New Year Celebration - February 24, 2018, Alhambra
- Vietnamese Community Health Fair – March 4, 2018, UCLA
- Aquarium of the Pacific International Children's Festival - March 17-18, 2018, Long Beach
- San Gabriel Walk-A-Thon - March 17, 2018, San Gabriel
- Aquarium of the Pacific Noche de Estrellas – March 23, 2018, Long Beach
- City of Westminster Spring Festival – March 24, 2018, Westminster
- Los Angeles County Sanitation District Earth Day Earth Day - April 14, 2018, Whittier
- Highland Park Earth Day - April 21, 2018, Los Angeles
- Aquarium of the Pacific Earth Day Celebration - April 21-22, 2018, Long Beach
- Ho’oilina Foundation Heritage of Aloha Festival - May 19-20, 2018, Santa Fe Springs
- Lummis Day Festival - June 1-3, 2018, Los Angeles
- Aquarium of the Pacific Baja Splash Cultural Festival - September 30, 2018, Long Beach.