



Fish Contamination Education Collaborative Partners Meeting

17 April 2024

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility

Operation Auditorium

[24501 S Figueroa St, Carson, CA 90745](https://www.lacsd.org/24501-S-Figueroa-St-Carson-CA-90745)

Attendees*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

Renee Jordan Ward**

Judy Huang**

John Chesnutt

EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc. (EA):

Travis Austin**

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates

(DBS&A):

Heather Hackstedde**

Hannah Erbele

California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA):

Wesley Smith

Boat People SOS (BPSOS):

Hang Nguyen

Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD):

Chi-Li Tang**

Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA):

Hisham Elmishad

Alan Marr

University of Southern California (USC):

Linda Chilton

California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC):

Chinh Sheow

Daniel Cordero

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):

Lt. Michael Vicknair

Dan Waligora

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB):

Luke Ginger

Caitlin Gray

Xiaofei Cui

*Total attendees = 19

**In-person attendance



Meeting Purpose

Bring FCEC partners together to meet new members and provide updates on program activities.

Discussion Points

The meeting progressed through the following discussion points:

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

- Importance of Partners meeting and reducing the consumption of contaminated fish.
- Online and in-person introductions.

2. EPA Update – Renee Jordan Ward (EPA)

- Update since last meeting: Re-started newsletter distribution, bait shop location map updated (40 locations), Booth in Box to receive updates, tip-card redesign finalized, and pier sign updates ongoing.

3. Pier Angler Outreach Updates

- Renee Jordan Ward (EPA) provided an overview of the Pier Angler Outreach conducted by Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and Heal the Bay during the October 2023 – February 2024 reporting period, as follows:
 - 9 piers were addressed collectively: Santa Monica, Venice, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Rainbow Harbor, Pier J, Belmont Pier, Seal Beach, Cabrillo Pier.
 - 3,108 people were reached through angler outreach (1,394 new anglers).
 - 2,002 people (64%) were aware of contamination.
 - 878 tip cards were handed out.
 - Approximately the same number of anglers were reached compared to 2023, although more new anglers are present in 2024.
 - Awareness is down from the previous year.
 - Pier signs and angler outreach received the highest public awareness.
 - Travis Austin (EA) presented the slide for Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.
 - Outreach was conducted at Cabrillo Pier, as follows:
 - 422 anglers contacted this period.
 - 186 anglers were new (~44%).
 - 145 anglers were aware of contamination (~34%).
 - The percentage of new anglers is higher this period than last (last period ~39%).
 - The percentage of anglers aware of contamination is lower than last period (last period ~48%). This could be due to the increase in new anglers.
 - Awareness sources are as follows:
 - The angler outreach team is the most reported source of awareness (~81% of anglers contacted).
 - Media was reported by ~15% of anglers.
 - Pier signs were reported by 0% of anglers. This could be due to anglers associating the pier signs with the angler outreach teams.
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- Travis Austin (EA) announced that the Heal the Bay contract will expire. DBS&A will assume Angler Outreach moving forward. Mr. Austin presented slides for Heal the Bay.
 - Surveys were conducted as follows:
 - Daytime outreach conducted 3 days/week, as follows:
 - 2,141 anglers were contacted during this period.
 - 895 anglers were new (~42%).
 - 1,591 anglers were aware of contamination (~74%).
 - Evening outreach conducted every Saturday (Venice and Redondo Pier only), as follows:
 - 545 anglers were contacted during this period.
 - 313 anglers were new (~57%).
 - 266 anglers were aware of contamination (~49%).
 - Overall, when compared to the same time period for the previous year, the new and aware angler reporting is very similar with the exception of evening awareness.
 - Last year, during the same time period, evening awareness was reported at ~86%. The reduction in awareness reporting could be associated with the influx of new anglers.
 - Signage is the most effective source of awareness.
 - Evening outreach saw an increase in new anglers when compared to the same period last year.
 - Belmont Pier and Redondo Beach Pier were observed to be the busiest piers, with Rainbow Harbor observed to be the least busy.

 - Do Not Consume Pier Sign Monitoring: Pier maintenance crews installed new OEHHA warning signs at Seal Beach Pier and Hermosa Beach Pier. No other information was presented regarding the other piers and OEHHA signage. OEHHA signage was installed in response to a Health and Safety Code that was enacted in 2019 and requires Local Health Officers to post fish advisories issued by OEHHA for site-specific waterbodies in California.

 - Questions and Comments/Discussion:
 - Alan Marr (OCHCA) inquired if the newly installed OEHHA signs will suffice for FCEC signage where installed.
 - Renee Jordan Ward (EPA) relayed that FCEC signs supplement the OEHHA signs well and provide links to FCEC information and resources. OEHHA signage is not to substitute FCEC signage.

 - Zip Code Analysis:
 - Daytime - Majority zip codes: San Pedro, Paramount, Rosemead, Compton
 - Evening - Majority zip codes: Redondo, Los Angeles

 - Questions and Comments/Discussion
 - Renee Jordan Ward (EPA) requested to see if evening anglers are reported to be from the San Pedro area.
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- Travis Austin (EA) to follow up with Renee Jordan Ward (EPA) to see if a different demographic is reached during evening outreach.

4. Enforcement Outreach Update (Michael Vicknair, CDFW)

- October 2023 through February 2024.
- 18 recreational patrols.
- 315 total contacts.
- No white croaker-related citations issued.
- No white croakers seized.
- 3 White croakers observed in possession at Belmont Pier.
- No commercial business violations.

5. Community Outreach Update

- Renee Jordan Ward (EPA) provided an overview for outreach events conducted by DBS&A, BPSOS, and CCHC.
 - Limited awareness of contamination was reported by attendees.
 - Event display materials require updates.
 - Heather Hackstedde (DBS&A):
 - 5 outreach events since November 2023:
 - Whale Fiesta - Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (February 2024)
 - UVSA Tét Festival - OC Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa (February 2024)
 - African American Festival - Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach (February 2024)
 - Noche De Estrellas - Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach (March 2024)
 - Children’s Festival - Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach (March 2024)
 - Observations:
 - QR code for sign in sheet is being utilized.
 - Chinese and Spanish Fish ID cards do not display warning exclamation symbols on “do not consume” fish.
 - Requests have been received from the community for more virtual outreach materials.
 - Public concern over migrating contaminated fish and consumables is not included in the EPA study (lobster and sea urchins).
 - Bait shop outreach conducted as follows:
 - 40 active bait shops.
 - Roughly half of active shops had a supply of tip cards from the previous delivery.
 - Hang Nguyen (BPSOS)
 - One outreach event has been held since September 2023, as follows:
 - Congresswoman Michelle Steel (CA-45) Health and Resource Fair - Westminster (March 2024).
 - Digital materials were requested by booth attendees; would like to see a tip card compatible with storing on mobile phone.
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- Travis Austin (EA) on behalf of Lisa Loo (CCHC)
 - One outreach event since September 2023:
 - 2024 San Gabriel Lunar Lantern Festival (February 2024).
 - Observations:
 - The suggested way of eating only the fillet was readily received by younger Asian attendees.
 - Older attendees have difficulty with QR codes.
 - Newsletters are requested in other languages besides English.

6. Open Forum

- Digital outreach materials.
 - QR code tip card suggestion.
- Consider updating the newsletter in other languages.
- Revise the FCEC curriculum guide and start communication with LAUSD.
- Consider creating standard outreach guidelines for partners to follow.
- Supplemental outreach materials suggested as follows:
 - “Do Not Eat” fish sticker for bait shop coolers.
 - Printed newsletters to be displayed at community events.

7. Adjournment
