

Partners Meeting Summary

Thursday June 26, 2008

10:30am-2:15pm

St. Anselm's Cross Cultural Community Center

Attendees:

Boat People SOS:

Tiffany Nguyen

Cabrillo:

Alfonso Montiel

CDFG:

Patty Velez

CH2M Hill (EPA contractor):

Nancy Hsu

FCEC CRC:

Yolanda Lasmarias

Howard Wang

Hee Joo Yoon

DTSC:

Tim Chauvel

EHIB:

Marilyn Underwood

Heal the Bay:

James Alamillo

Frankie Orrala

LA County Public Health:

Marita Santos

LB Environmental Health:

Monica Cardenas

NOAA/MSRP:

Jennifer Boyce

Gabrielle Dorr

Dave Witting

OEHHA:

Bob Brodberg

OC Environmental Health:

Tom Wong

St. Anselm's Cultural Center:

Anh Nguyen

SGA (EPA contractor):

Stacy Becerra

Stephen Groner

Tiffany Jonick

Khanh Nguyen

SMBRC:

Guangyu Wang

USEPA:

Sharon Lin

I. Welcome/Introductions

Stephen Groner (SGA) facilitated the meeting, had attendees introduce themselves, and walked through the agenda. He also invited Tim Chauvel (DTSC) to say a few words about the passing of Tong Qiao.

A. Future Meetings and Updates—*Presentation by Sharon Lin (USEPA): [Link to presentation](#)*

S. Lin presented a communication schedule for 2008-2009 that includes meetings, conference calls and regular distribution of a newsletter.

Questions/Comments:

- Guangyu Wang (SMBRC) commented that timing of a new advisory release has the potential to affect the scheduled communications, as well as angler outreach and community outreach efforts.

II. Community Outreach

A. Awareness Opportunities—*Presentation by Tiffany Jonick (SGA): [Link to presentation](#)*

T. Jonick presented the awareness opportunities pursued by FCEC since the last meeting, which included an update on the FCEC website and large-scale community events attended:

- o For 2008, the FCEC website received more than 26,000 visitors. Website will be continually honed to be an internal and external resource.

- FCEC participated in the Earth Day Celebration at the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific, reaching well over 200 community members.
- B. Vietnamese Community Outreach Status Report—*Presentation by Khanh Nguyen (SGA): [Link to presentation](#)*
- K. Nguyen provided an update on Vietnamese community outreach which addressed a new workshop element and the data results from surveying indicating behavior change:
- In addition to the health clinic outreach, the Vietnamese community outreach program—carried out in collaboration with Boat People SOS and St. Anselm’s Community Center—is also conducting outreach through education workshops, which is in a group setting.
 - Results from surveys collected in health clinics, at workshops and a month later during follow-ups, indicate community members reduced fried fish consumption, consumption of fish fillets with skin, fish heads and soups/stews made with the whole fish. Survey results also show that community members increased consumption of skinless fish fillets.

Questions/Comments:

- Howard Wang (CRC Member/Cal State Fullerton) reminded T. Jonick that FCEC also attended the Cal State Fullerton Health Fair, which will become an annual event. At the event, FCEC reached more than 50 community members.
- A question was raised regarding the most common fish being consumed by Vietnamese community members. K. Nguyen explained that the most fish consumed reflected market prices. She noticed that the Vietnamese community ate the most inexpensive fish sold at markets.
- Dave Witting (NOAA/MSRP) commented that the most inexpensive fish found in markets used to be white croaker. He also speculated that tilapia and catfish are probably the most inexpensive fish currently sold at markets.
- S. Lin asked what markets were frequented most by Vietnamese community members and whether EPA market fish monitoring captured these markets. K. Nguyen explained that community members most frequently shopped at Vietnamese markets in comparison to American markets such as Ralphs or Albertsons because fish prices were lower.
- Marilyn Underwood (EHIB) questioned the 1-2 meal target range for fish meals. S. Groner explained that the 1-2 meal range originated from another EHIB representative, and helped to encompass parameters of DDT/PCB-contaminated fish as well as fish contaminated with mercury.
- Several partners commented on the complexity of providing fish consumption recommendations to community members. Community members can protect their health from DDT and PCBs in fish by not consuming the skin, guts or head, and consuming the fillet. However, when dealing with mercury contamination, advising community members to eat the fillet will not protect public health.
- G. Wang suggested that outreach could also be based on recognition of fish.

- S. Lin commented that one of reasons the program is looking at measurements of risk reduction is to learn the limitations/boundaries of the Institutional Controls Program. This will factor into the overall remedy design for the site.

III. Angler Outreach

A. Angler Outreach Data Analysis—*Presentation by James Alamillo (Heal the Bay):* [Link to presentation](#)

The analysis conducted by Heal the Bay was based on two types of outreach: educational and monitoring. Educational outreach focused on educating anglers on the risks of consuming DDT and PCB contaminated white croaker:

- o Educational data assessed information retention and behavioral intention after outreach staff talked with anglers about local contamination.

Monitoring focused on collecting data from anglers on their fishing behaviors and habits such as cooking methods, consumption patterns and fishing frequency:

- o Most anglers who have received outreach catch and release white croaker when caught.
- o Most anglers consumed zero to one angler-caught fish meal per week.
- o Most anglers prepare their catch by frying the fish.
- o Regarding parts of the fish consumed, most anglers consume the fish fillets.

B. Take Home Fish Assessment (THFA)—*Presentation by T. Jonick (SGA):* [Link to presentation](#)

T. Jonick informed partners that the THFA is underway, with training and baseline surveys complete. She also presented findings from the data analysis:

- o A fraction of anglers left Belmont and Rainbow Harbor with fish.
- o About a quarter of the fish anglers left the piers with were white croaker.
- o Hearing contamination information from a health professional and protecting the health of children were strong motivators anglers reported that would compel them to catch and release white croaker.
- o Social norms and being unaware of white croaker contamination were strong barriers anglers reported that would prevent them from catching and releasing white croaker.

Questions and Comments:

- There was confusion on the questions asked and results from the angler outreach surveys. Partners requested a copy of the survey questions in the future, when reporting on the results of the analysis.
- Regarding the THFA, a question was raised about whether or not fish samples were taken from anglers (yes).
- Tiffany Nguyen (Boat People SOS) commented that there are mixed messages conveyed to anglers and community members about what is safe to eat. She said that there needs to be a more consistent message.

IV. Future Plans—*Presentation by S. Groner:* [Link to presentation](#)

S. Groner presented the future plans for Vietnamese community outreach, Chinese community outreach, large scale community events and the role of community resource council. Marita Santos (Los Angeles County Public Health) gave an update on her department's efforts for the future. This will include serving as a liaison to Los Angeles Environmental Health, provide public health nurses, OBGYN and pediatricians fish contamination information, and serve as an information hub for FCEC materials.

V. Road Map Status—*Presentation by S. Lin: [Link to presentation](#)*

S. Lin projected that the next steps for the Road Map would be integrating prioritized tactics into the Implementation Plan, with a draft or outline to partners at the September Strategic Planning meeting. She provided details on the agency agreement in progress and funding levels:

- Efforts to be carried out by CA Department of Fish and Game Marine include patrolling the catch ban area, educating commercial fishing operations, dockside sampling and including a link to the FCEC website.
- Orange County Health Care Agency will monitor 12 markets in their area.
- Long Beach Environmental Health will monitor 15 markets three times a year.
- Los Angeles County Environmental Health will monitor 29 markets every six months in the San Gabriel and Monterey Park areas.

Questions/Comments:

- G. Wang suggested adding the Hacienda Heights area for inspections due to a large Chinese and Korean community.
- H. Wang asked about monitoring the Chinatown area for white croaker. S. Lin informed that white croaker had not been found in markets during the last round of market monitoring. However, she said the area could be re-visited.

VI. Agency Updates

A. EPA—S. Lin

In May, Carmen White (EPA) presented the draft Feasibility Study to the EPA National Remedy Review Board. The board requested that more details be provided, specifically looking at dredging as an option to remediate the site. The process will take some time, as EPA's 10 year contract with CH2M Hill ends in August and C. White will be working with a new contractor to address the details of the Feasibility Study.

B. MSRP—D. Witting and Gabrielle Dorr (NOAA)

- Regarding MSRP's artificial reef project, NOAA will be conducting surveys at Belmont on June 27. If the efforts are successful, more detailed surveys will be conducted.
- D. Witting is also working with OEHHA on the data analysis to progress the advisory development.
- MSRP also hosted a congressional trip to Santa Cruz Island on June 19 with staff members from legislative representative offices. MSRP was able to showcase their restoration efforts.

- An RFP for educational outreach grants will be out to bid in early 2009.
- C. OEHHA—Robert (Bob) Brodberg
 - Development of the fish consumption advisory is still in progress. On June 26, the document explaining how OEHHA will go about developing the advisory will be completed and the partners will be forwarded a link to the report. Susan Klasing with OEHHA is working with D. Witting to identify areas for closer examination between fish species and sites. OEHHA intends to develop overall advice instead of individual pier advisories. Regarding timing of the advisory, R. Brodberg still hopes to complete the advisory by the end of this year or beginning of next year.
 - R. Brodberg also suggests partners review the advisory developed for the Sacramento River Delta. Extensive qualitative testing of the message has been done. Hopefully message testing can be done with the advisory for the Palos Verdes Shelf as well.

VII. Parking Lot

Several issues were brought up that produced a lot of discussion, but could not necessarily be resolved during the meeting. These issues were “parked” for the time being, but noted for the future:

- Advisory timing;
- Discussion on survey questions for angler outreach program;
- Focus group testing of FCEC messages and materials.

VIII. Meeting Assessment

Based on the day’s meeting, partners noted the following for future meetings:

- More time was needed;
- Focus and/or shorten the agenda to fit in the allotted time;
- Provide food or notification if the meeting will run through lunch.