

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 2019



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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

Underwater Parks Day, January 12, 2019—The event was held at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, and



focused on Marine Protected Area commercial and recreational activities as well as conservation of local marine habitats. The FCEC attended the event along with other exhibitors including Bolsa Chica Conservancy, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Reef Check California. The event was attended by hundreds of people, and included live demonstrations of scuba diving, educational booths, and movies. The FCEC booth was busy and it included information on the Palos Verdes Shelf contamination and a fishing game for children to learn identification of contaminated fish. Many of the booth visitors were English and Spanish speaking and were unaware of the contamination. They were appreciative of the information.

Noche de Estrellas, March 22, 2019—Also held at the Aquarium of the Pacific, this event featured Latin themed performances and cuisine. The festivities included live performances and arts and crafts tables. The event drew approximately 3,000 attendees and aligned well with the FCEC goal of spreading awareness to local families who were not aware of potential health effects of regularly consuming fish caught locally from affected areas of the Palos Verdes Shelf. For many visitors, it was their first time learning about the Palos Verdes Superfund site and the limits on fish consumption. Since the event was geared toward families, there were many young children in attendance, which made the “What’s the Catch” comic books and the fishing game very popular. Many adult visitors picked up brochures and tip cards to take home with them and pass out to family members, in English and Spanish languages.

Environmental Education Fair, March 30, 2019—The event was held at the Los Angeles Arboretum and featured over 50 environmental educators, high-school science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, and environmental enthusiasts. The schedule also included live performances, food vendors, and nature walks. There were close to 3,000 attendees at the event, consisting primarily of educators and school aged children from participating elementary and middle schools in the Los Angeles County public and charter school system. This event was successful for the FCEC goal to increase outreach and education of the Palos Verdes Shelf contamination to native and non-native English speaking families within the Los Angeles Unified School District. As a result, many “What’s the Catch” comic books and curriculum guides were distributed to teachers and environmental educators to share with their students in English, Spanish, and Chinese languages.

Earth Day Celebrations, 2019—Multiple Earth Day celebrations were held in April 2019, including the LA County Department of Public Works Earth Day Festival, Los Angeles Grand Park Earth Day, and UCLA Earth Day. The events featured green government programs, environmentally focused businesses and organizations, e-waste collection education, and interactive environmental information displays. The events were successful in reaching local residents, families, and children in the Los Angeles public and charter school system. The FCEC made connections with local educators interested in connecting for field visits or lecturing to students about the Palos Verdes Shelf Superfund site.



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Heritage of Aloha Festival, May 18, 2019—This Polynesian festival was in Santa Fe Springs, and included local community groups sharing island heritage through food, live music, crafts, and an outdoor marketplace. Approximately 500 visitors attended. Festival attendees talked with the FCEC about contamination in the Palos Verdes Shelf and the Polynesian cultural connection to the ocean. Many were interested in safe fish portion size and cooking preparation techniques. Few knew that chemicals are stored in the fatty tissue and organs of the fish and that exposure is reduced by removing those parts of the fish.



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Other Completed 2019 Community Events

- Lunar New Year Festival—February 9, 2019, Alhambra
- Orange County Mental Health Summit, Asian and Pacific Islander Youth and Family,—March 2, 2019, Anaheim
- San Gabriel Walk-a-Thon and Carnival—March 16, 2019, San Gabriel
- City of Westminster Spring Festival—April 13, 2019, Westminster
- TASK's 2nd Annual Family Day and Resource Fair—April 27, 2019, Costa Mesa
- Lummi Day Festival,—June 2, 2019, Highland Park LA
- Annual Safety Day—July 18, 2019, Westminster
- Annual Moon Festival—September 14, 2019, Rosemead
- Baja Splash Festival—September 28, 2019, Long Beach
- Community Health Fair—October 22, 2019, Rowland Heights

Technical Update

The Palos Verdes Shelf sediment study area contains sediment contaminated with dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (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. EPA plans

REMINDER!!

Protect your health
Proteja su salud

Do Not Eat Contaminated Fish
¡No Coma Pescado Contaminado!

White Croaker
Corvineta blanca, Roncador blanco
白姑魚 | Cá Lù Dù Tráng

Barred Sand Bass
Cabrilla de arena
星雲副鰈 | Cá hanh sọc

Black Croaker
Corvineta negra, Roncador negro
黑姑魚 | Cá Lù Dù Đen

Topsmelt
Pejerrey
擬銀漢魚 | Cá Suốt

Barracuda
Barracuda
梭子魚 | Cá Nhổng

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 .