CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL FACT SHEET

My Water Quality Internet Portals

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A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCIES | www.CaWaterQuality.net

Monitoring Council Delivers Three My Water Quality Internet Portals

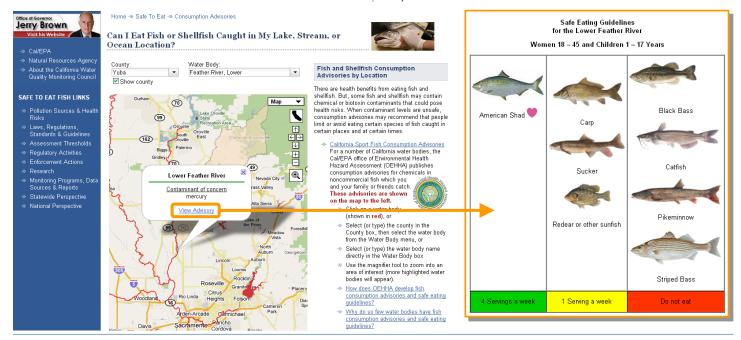


- IS IT SAFE TO SWIM IN OUR WATERS?
- IS IT SAFE TO EAT FISH FROM OUR WATERS?
- ARE OUR WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS HEALTHY?

These are the first of several water quality themes addressed by a new set of internet portals being developed under the oversight of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council. The new portals bring water quality information together in a single location and in an easy to understand manner for the public, environmental organizations, and water quality professionals. View the new portals at www.CaWaterQuality.net. Included are interactive maps and monitoring data that focus on these questions from a variety of perspectives.

CA Senate Bill 1070 (Kehoe, 2006) mandated that water quality monitoring, and assessment activities be coordinated organizations inside and outside California among government, and that this information be made available to decision makers and the public via the internet. In November 2007, the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding that established the Monitoring Council. In December 2008, the Monitoring Council sent its initial recommendations to the agency Secretaries for coordinating water quality monitoring, assessment and reporting efforts throughout the State. These new My Water Quality portals represent the initial implementation of the Monitoring Council's vision, as outlined in those recommendations.

In conjunction with expert stakeholder work groups, the Monitoring Council is bringing together water quality information from a wide variety of organizations with special expertise in swimming safety, fish and shellfish safety, and wetland health, coordinated through the Beach Water Quality Workgroup, the Bioaccumulation Oversight Group, and the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup, respectively. Local, state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations have all pitched in to answer your water quality guestions.



Additional My Water Quality internet portals are being developed or are planned to address the following water quality questions:

- Is Our Water Safe to Drink? (initial focus: groundwater)
- Are Our Stream and River Ecosystems Healthy?
- Are Our Tidepool Ecosystems Healthy?
- Are Our Estuary Ecosystems Healthy? (initial focus: San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary)
- Are Our Ocean Ecosystems Healthy?

More information about CA Senate Bill 1070, the Monitoring Council, and the expert stakeholder work groups is on the web at www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/monitoring_council/.

Linda S. Adams Secretary for Environmental Protection

John Laird Secretary for Natural Resources

