

OUTFALL MONITORING SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL (OMSAP)

2003 MONITORING REVIEW WORKSHOP #1

Monday, March 31, 2003 – Tuesday, April 1, 2003, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

WHOI Redfield Auditorium

DRAFT

SYNOPSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Effluent monitoring.** No recommended changes.
- **Sediment contaminant studies.** OMSAP recommends that MWRA:
 1. Sample at all benthic community stations for sediment contaminants every three years (i.e. no sampling in 2003 and 2004, sample in 2005). Note that these stations will be reviewed by OMSAP during the benthic community/nutrient flux workshop in summer 2003.
 2. Sample a set number of stations every year for sediment contaminants at least through 2005 (MWRA will propose stations to OMSAP at the June 2003 water quality workshop. OMSAP requested they provide a justification as to why the stations are chosen).
 3. Continue to sample for spores of *Clostridium perfringens* (tracer of effluent solids), total organic carbon, and sediment grain size every year at all benthic community stations.
 4. Continue the USGS/MWRA cooperative special study to analyze sediment trap and core samples for tracers of effluent solids (e.g. silver, *Clostridium*) through 2005. Review results after 2005 field season to determine whether additional work is needed and submit proposed changes to OMSAP.
- **Fish and shellfish monitoring (flounder, lobster, mussels).** OMSAP recommends that MWRA:
 1. Begin sampling for fish and shellfish contaminants on a three-year cycle (i.e. contaminants in flounder, lobster, and mussels will be monitored in 2003 and then in 2006). However, flounder histopathology will continue to be sampled annually.
 2. Keep the outfall site, Deer Island flats, eastern Cape Cod Bay, and Nantasket Beach flounder sampling locations, but drop the Broad Sound flounder sampling location. Samples from Broad Sound do not seem to be providing information relevant to MWRA's outfall discharge.
 3. Research several approaches to revising the mussel tissue contaminant Contingency Plan thresholds and present their findings to the OMSAP mussel tissue contaminant focus group.
- **Hard bottom monitoring.** OMSAP recommends that MWRA:
 1. Shift the locations of two stations, beginning with the 2003 sampling season. The epibenthic communities at these two locations are either not abundant, or very heterogeneous, and do not provide useful information for the study. For details on station locations go to: <http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/harbor/enquad/pdf/ms-083.pdf>.

The recommended changes to the sediment contaminant and fish and shellfish monitoring are based on OMSAP's agreement that any accumulation of toxic chemicals in sediments, fish and shellfish would occur slowly and that MWRA should now shift from looking for acute effects of the outfall to chronic effects. Though there would be a reduction in information collected, variability has already been characterized by the baseline measurements, and the monitoring should be conducted in the context of a scientific understanding of the system. OMSAP believes that their proposed recommendations to the monitoring will not reduce the efficacy of the outfall monitoring program.

MWRA's schedule for submitting the proposed revisions to EPA/MADEP. Public comment will be solicited for each of these submissions.

- Hard bottom community (interim) modifications will be submitted for review in April 2003.
- Sediment chemistry (interim) modifications will be submitted for review shortly after the June 2003 OMSAP workshop.
- Fish and shellfish modifications, together with the interim modifications for hard bottom community and sediment chemistry, will be submitted for review by November 15, 2003 (annual submission of proposed monitoring revisions).

ATTENDANCE:**Monday, March 31, 2003**

Members Present: Andy Solow, WHOI (chair); Bob Beardsley, WHOI; Bob Kenney, U. Rhode Island; Scott Nixon, U. Rhode Island; Judy Pederson, MIT/Sea Grant; Jim Shine, Harvard School of Public Health; and Juanita Urban-Rich, U. Mass Boston.

Observers: Ellen Baptiste Carpenter, Battelle; Bruce Berman, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay; Mike Bothner, USGS; Jeanine Boyle, Battelle; Brad Butman, USGS; Todd Callaghan, MCZM; Cathy Coniaris, MADEP; John Crusius, USGS; Deirdre Dahlen, Battelle; Mike Delaney, MWRA; Winnie Donnelly, MADEP; David Dow, NMFS; Martin Dowgert, USFDA; Patty Foley, SH/SB; Sal Genovese, Safer Waters in MA; Maury Hall, MWRA; Carlton Hunt, Battelle; Ken Keay, MWRA; Ben Kelly, SH/SB; Wendy Leo, MWRA; Matt Liebman, EPA; Mike Mickelson, MWRA; Tara Nye, Association to Preserve Cape Cod; Jack Pearce, Marine Pollution Bulletin; Andrea Rex, MWRA; Mason Smith, Conservation Law Foundation; Dave Taylor, MWRA; Steve Tucker, Cape Cod Commission; Grace Vitale, MWRA; David Wu, MWRA; Jonathan Yeo, MWRA; and Suh Yuen Liang, MWRA.

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Members Present: Andy Solow, WHOI (chair); Bob Beardsley, WHOI; Bob Kenney, U. Rhode Island; Scott Nixon, U. Rhode Island; Judy Pederson, MIT/Sea Grant; Jim Shine, Harvard School of Public Health; and Juanita Urban-Rich, U. Mass Boston.

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MEETING HANDOUTS:

- Agenda
- April 2003 OMSAP/PIAC/IAAC membership lists
- January 2003 draft OMSAP minutes
- Information briefings and overheads of presentations