



B A S M A A

Project: Studies of Copper Uncertainties

Description: This project was scoped on the assumption that the Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) requirement to support or ensure conduct of studies would be met through continuing participation in the RMP Exposure Effects Work Group (EEWG) and consideration in the EEWG long-term plan of two areas of technical uncertainties regarding copper effects in the Bay:

- Toxicity to Bay benthic organisms possibly caused or contributed to by high copper concentrations per some past RMP or BPTCP data. The RMP conducted a project for identifying causes of Bay sediment toxicity, with an initial objective of improving methods for TIEs.
- Possible impacts to the olfactory system of salmonids: NOAA Fisheries Neurobiology lab demonstrated short-term exposure to increased copper in freshwater can reduce response to predator odors and impair the predator-avoidance behavior of young coho salmon. The RMP conducted a Special Study in 2011 to use similar methods on young Chinook salmon in saltwater.

These uncertainties were described in the Basin Plan's implementation program for copper site-specific objectives (SSOs), and flagged as permit requirements for stormwater and wastewater permittees.

FY: 09/10 and 11/12

Overseer: Monitoring / POCs Committee

Contracting Agency: ACCWP

Contractors: ACCWP Staff

Budget: \$531 (In-Kind from ACCWP)

Status: Done

Deliverable(s): Annual Report Regional Supplement
