

2nd Annual Monitoring  
Forum

April 8, 2009

New Orleans, LA



## Brainstorming Session Questions to Consider

**What** of information would you want to see that represents your workgroup's subject matter and **why**? [If time permits, discuss: What kind of **monitoring** would be required for that information?]

Audience: The public (primary), resource managers (more secondary audience), governors; must report at a very concrete, easily understood level

Content: Hg levels in fish – commercially caught; consumption advisories; target metrics we are already measuring; ;

atmospheric deposition; human exposures; include causal info

In LA – post waterbodies where high Hg levels are found

In MS: same posting approach (yellow-green-red)

Darren: national Hg monitoring network is in the making and is both atmospheric and biotic. Already picking sites, etc. Might want to link in with this effort.

David: Oysters might be a good assemblage as well.

**Where** is this information coming from (or obtained)?

National network is a good potential source for the atmospheric Hg info. The existing atmospheric Hg network sites are sponsored by local universities and the samples go to a single lab for workup.

Mark Cohen (NOAA) is a contact for this.

For the fish Hg data – multiple sources – fish rodeos (tourneys). These are great sources to funnel information from. State agency monitoring information should also be considered – but issues include comparability, how often, etc. GOMA – come up with a survey approach to hand out (Darren's idea)

What *scale* would be best for reporting that information? (Gulf-wide? State by state? Estuary? Public beach? etc.)

Eastern vs. western gulf might be a possibility

For stats it would be best to pool info across a wide area.

Species-based: King mackerel as a species for example

Gulf-wide – could have major issues with variability so estuary-based might be better. Would allow us to get a little closer to sources and controls.

Sea Trout are good candidates (David) because of their life history. There are others too.

State programs would need to align more than they current are.

How *often* would you want it reported or updated?

Atmospheric info is every two weeks but takes almost a year to qualify it.

States are doing the monitoring so need to be tied in with theirs

5 years is too long.

3 years might be an ideal intermediate time

**How** do you want it reported? (Ideas for graphics or presentation style as well as the vehicle for reporting.)

Websites are most accessible these days and may be a good way to go.

What would be the benchmark or the norm – this needs to be clearly understood and reflected in the reportcard.

Meals per month and other easy to understand

Need additional ways of reporting besides web

Fishing licenses is another avenue of getting the word out. One side of it would have the advisory info.