

STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 18-19, 2018

17. MARINE ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (NON-MARINE)**Today's Item**Information Action

This is a standing agenda item for FGC staff and DFW to provide FGC with updates on marine items of interest from previous meetings. For this meeting there is one topic:

- Receive summary of Harmful Algal Blooms Workshop, held March 22-23, 2018

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

Toxic blooms of marine algae, known as “harmful algal blooms” (HABs), have been tracked for a long time. However, beginning in 2015, HABs of unprecedented size, duration, and toxicity resulting in domoic acid led to greater impacts throughout the ecosystem, risks to human health, and several economically devastating fisheries closures along the California coast. The crisis called for a more coordinated response by state agencies which included increased sampling and management actions by a variety of State agencies, among other responses.

In 2016, at the request of the Interagency Harmful Algal Blooms Task Force [with sitting members from DFW, FGC, California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and Office of Emergency and Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)], the California Ocean Science Trust (OST) convened the Harmful Algal Blooms and California Fisheries Working Group of the OPC Science Advisory Team (SAT). The goal of the working group was to help inform a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document (Exhibit 1) in response to the unprecedented 2015-16 domoic acid event, and to develop scientific recommendations and guidance to prepare for future HAB events (Exhibit 2). The working group recommendations recognized the value of bringing together scientists, fishermen, members of the state legislature, task force members, agencies, and experts from outside California, to expand and address some of the key recommendations.

Following the working group's guidance, OPC and OST co-hosted a two-day workshop on March 22-23, 2018, which brought together agency experts from the West Coast (Washington, Oregon, California and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), academic leaders, fishing industry representatives, and environmental non-governmental organizations, to learn the state of the science, better understand how to address HABs, and develop next steps together. The workshop focused on monitoring domoic acid for seafood safety, with an eye towards other potential HAB toxins that may pose challenges in California. Further focus was given to domoic acid sampling in the water column, in seafood tissue, and to better understand toxins in sediment.

The workshop had four goals.

1. Begin implementing OPC-SAT working group and Interagency HABs Task Force recommendations, of particular interest:
 - a. Recommendation 1: Continue to build out a robust, cost-effective, and flexible monitoring program that can be responsive to future HAB events, and that considers impacted communities.

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- b. Recommendation 5: Improve understanding of how biotoxins move through food webs.
2. Identify ways to streamline the sampling and analysis process for domoic acid.
3. Identify how our scientific understanding of HABs can better inform or enhance California's monitoring for HAB species, focused on domoic acid.
4. Create a roadmap for actionable next steps that will contribute to better informing or enhancing the state's monitoring for HAB species, focused on domoic acid.

A workshop summary being prepared by OPC and OST and will be made public in the coming weeks.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. HABs FAQ report, available at <http://www.oceansciencetrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/HABs-and-CA-Fisheries-FAQ-8.5.16.pdf>
2. HABs and California fisheries science guidance report, available at www.oceansciencetrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/HABs-and-CA-Fisheries-Science-Guidance-10.25.16.pdf

Motion/Direction (N/A)