

12 March 1993

M e m o r a n d u m

From: Bill Fisher (Code 231WF)
To: Andrea Muckerman (Code 1823.AM)

Subj: NECROPSY OF FISH TRAPPED IN THE LONG BEACH DRYDOCKS

1. We may be able to obtain some useful information by examining certain fish species, that get trapped in the drydocks, for symptoms of acute toxicity. This can be done relatively easily and at low cost. Fish can be netted during the de-watering phases of drydocking and visually examined for deformities, lesions, abnormal growths, or damage to gills or internal organs. I don't know if we will detect anything unusual in these fish, or if we do, what it will mean. I look at this as being part of the overall risk assessment process and may or may not provide useful data.
2. If you agree, I will take samples of fish that I consider to be from the local populations. Species that I would consider local are perch, topsmelt, croaker, sandab, and opaleye. I propose that we take samples during two of the drydockings in either May, June, or July. If we get a sufficient sample size, and they prove negative, we can record that information and not pursue it any further. Should we find signs of acute toxicity, it may warrant further investigation and we can decide on the next step. Guidelines for this type of examination are established in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Field Manual for the Investigation of Fish Kills, 1990.
3. Should you have any questions, contact Bill Fisher, Fish/Wildlife Biologist, telephone (619) 532-1488.

Bill
Bill

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