**Bioaccumulation of Chemical Contaminants in Seafood in the Pensacola Bay Region**

|  |
| --- |
| Assessment of Environmental Pollution and Community Health in Northwest Florida |
| EPA Cooperative Agreement X-97455002. July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2009 |
| Project Director: Dr. K. Ranga Rao |

*Task Leaders: Dr. Natalie Karouna-Renier and Dr. Richard A. Snyder*

An initial screening study (2002-2004; CDC Grant R04/CCR421909), focused on contaminants in oysters, blue crabs, and a limited sampling of fish species in the Pensacola Bay System, identified four chemical contaminants of concern--dioxins/furans, PCBs, arsenic, and mercury. The present follow-up study is aimed to conduct a more intensive analysis of contaminant loads in fish species that are most commonly caught and consumed in the region of Northwest Florida. In addition to the contaminants noted above, the tissue residues of contaminants such as organochlorine pesticides, organophosphate pesticides, chlorophenoxy herbicides, PAHs, and PBDEs will also be analyzed. Depending on the initial analyses of detectable residues, the list of contaminants to be analyzed may be modified. Fish species to be sampled include: speckled trout, redfish (red drum), flounder, Atlantic croaker, white trout, mullet, and largemouth bass.

The results of this study will: (a) aid in an evaluation of potential human health effects from consumption of locally harvested fish; (b) provide an extensive assessment of contaminants in commercially and recreationally important fish in the Pensacola Bay System; and (c) provide data that may be considered to formulate fish consumption advisories.