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## San Francisco Bay Triennial Bird Egg Monitoring Program for Contaminants – 2009 Data Summary

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San Francisco Estuary Institute and the Regional Monitoring Program

### Summary

As part of the San Francisco Estuary Institute's *Regional Monitoring Program* and the USGS's long-term *Contaminant Impacts to Wildlife Program*, the USGS samples double-crested cormorant and Forster's tern eggs throughout the San Francisco Bay Estuary every three years to assess temporal trends and contaminant concentrations. This document summarizes egg collections for 2009, as well as mercury concentrations in Forster's tern eggs on an individual basis.

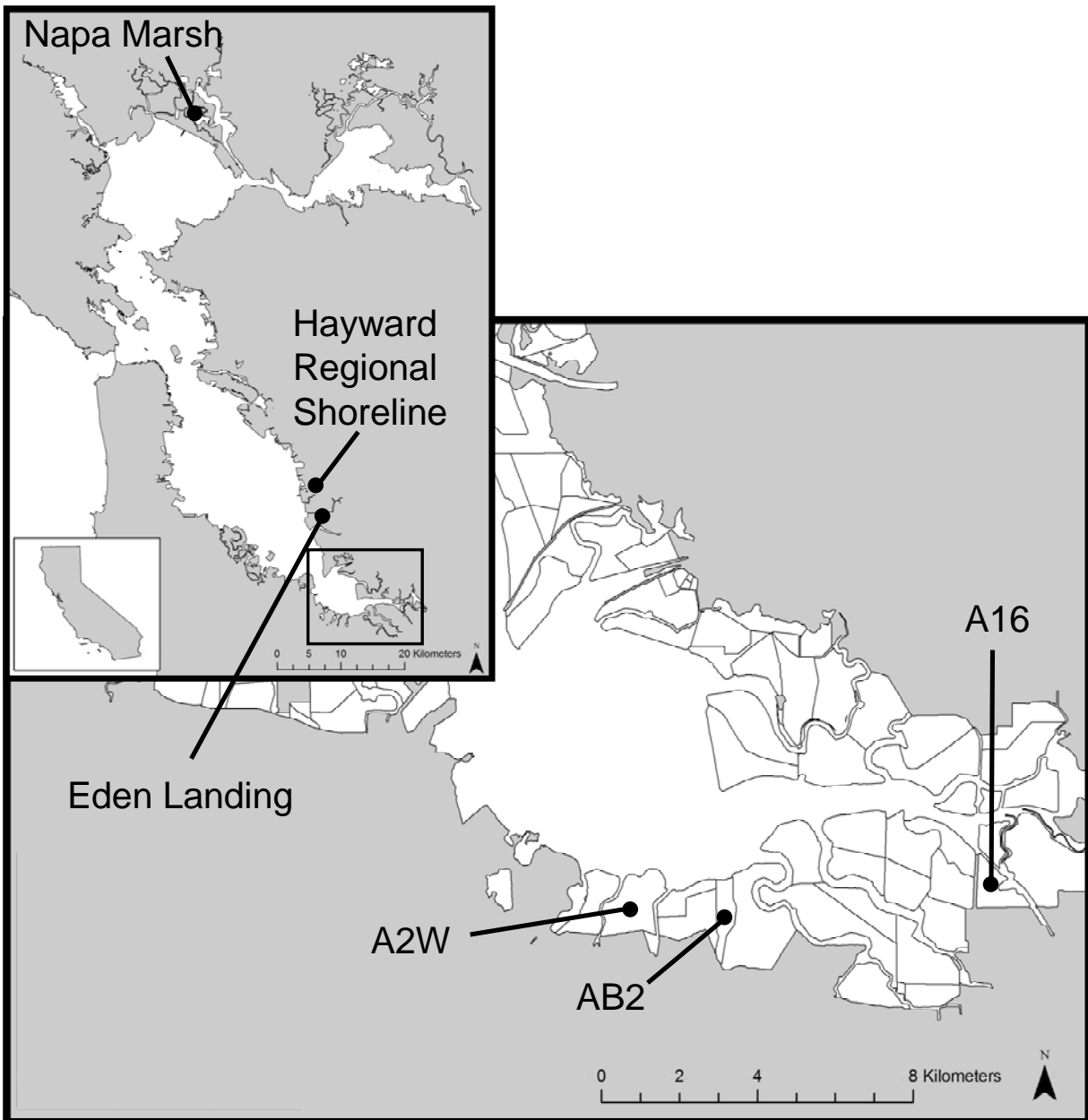
### Egg Collection

Double-crested cormorant eggs were sampled between 19 March and 27 May 2009 from three locations: (1) Wheeler Island, (2) Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, and (3) South Bay PG&E towers (Moffett ponds; Towers 37, 38, and 4/30). Twenty-one eggs were sampled from each location. Egg mass, egg length, and egg breadth were measured for each egg (**Appendix 1**) and the eggs were shipped unopened to AXYS Analytical laboratories in June 2009 for contaminant analyses.

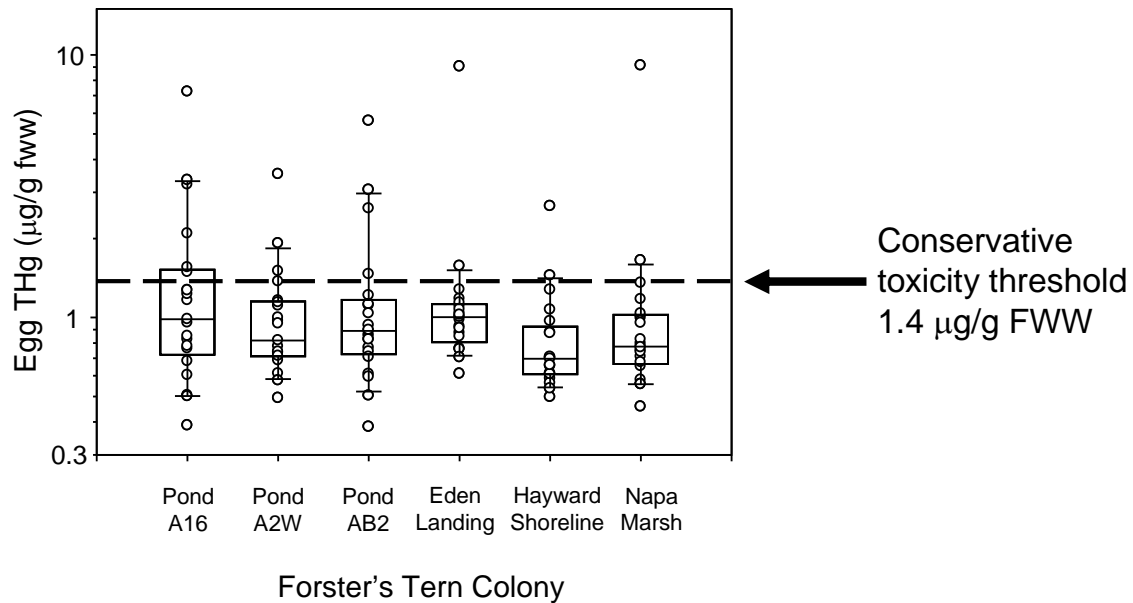
Forster's tern eggs were sampled between 12 May and 19 June 2009 from six different colonies: (1) Pond A16, (2) Pond A2W, and (3) Pond AB2 on Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge; (4) Eden Landing Ecological Reserve; (5) Hayward Shoreline Regional Park; and (6) Napa-Sonoma Marsh Wildlife Area (**Figure 1**). Twenty-one eggs were sampled from each location. Forster's tern eggs were individually weighed, measured, dissected, dried, homogenized, and analyzed for total mercury (THg) concentrations at the USGS Davis Field Station Environmental Mercury Laboratory at UC Davis (**Appendix 2-3**). After homogenizing the eggs, equal masses (dried) from each of seven randomly chosen eggs per colony were combined to make three separate composite samples of seven eggs each per colony. Composite aliquots were then sent to the California Department of Fish and Game Moss Landing Marine Lab for selenium determination, and the California Department of Fish and Game Water Pollution Control Laboratory for PBDE analyses.

### **Forster's Tern Egg Total Mercury Concentrations**

Across all sites, the geometric mean ( $\pm$  standard error) THg concentration ( $\mu\text{g/g}$  fresh wet weight [fww]) in Forster's tern eggs was  $0.97 \pm 0.05 \mu\text{g/g}$ , and concentrations in individual eggs ranged from  $0.38 \mu\text{g/g}$  to  $9.03 \mu\text{g/g}$ . Geometric mean THg concentrations did not vary among colonies (ANOVA:  $F_{5,120} = 1.15$ ,  $p = 0.34$ ; **Figure 2**). We also evaluated risk to hatching by assessing individual egg THg concentrations in relation to a threshold value of  $1.4 \mu\text{g/g}$  fww, which is associated with 90% hatching success in relation to THg concentrations in Forster's tern eggs (Ackerman and Eagles-Smith 2008). Overall, 15% of eggs sampled (19 of 126) exceeded this threshold. Importantly, on a site-specific basis 29%, 19%, and 14% of individual eggs from the A16, AB2, and A2W colonies, respectively, exceeded  $1.4 \mu\text{g/g}$  fww, whereas 10% of eggs from each of the remaining three colonies exceeded this value. Our results indicate that Forster's terns at several colonies continued to be at high risk to potentially impaired reproduction due to egg mercury concentrations, and suggest that simply evaluating the mean mercury concentrations among colonies may not adequately characterize risk of mercury to Forster's terns in San Francisco Bay.



**Figure 1.** Forster's tern colony locations sampled for Regional Monitoring Program in 2009.



**Figure 2.** Total mercury (THg) concentrations ( $\mu\text{g/g}$  fresh wet weight) in Forster's tern eggs sampled from six colonies in San Francisco Bay during the 2009 breeding season.

### Literature Cited

Ackerman, JT, and CA Eagles-Smith. 2008. A dual life-stage approach to monitoring the effects of mercury concentrations on the reproductive success of Forster's Terns in San Francisco Bay. Administrative Report, U. S. Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center, Davis, CA 47 pp.

### Appendix 1. Double-crested cormorant egg collection data and egg measurements for eggs collected from San Francisco Bay, California in 2009.

Sample ID	Species	Collection Date	Year	Colony	UTM-Northing (NAD83)	UTM-Easting (NAD83)	Egg measuring date	Whole Egg Mass (g)	Egg Length (mm)	Egg Width (mm)
W-1	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	49.45	58.69	40.25
W-2	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	50.94	63.39	39.63
W-3	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	45.61	56.51	40.12
W-4	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	47.25	57.54	40.66
W-5	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	51.80	61.51	39.98
W-6	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	44.81	56.73	39.33
W-7	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	51.57	59.59	40.79
W-8	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	30.96	58.10	38.58
W-9	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	25.30	59.79	37.87
W-10	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	56.02	64.82	41.90
W-11	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	53.06	59.71	41.64
W-12	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	47.65	59.66	39.94
W-13	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	46.52	59.34	39.12
W-14	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	51.94	64.17	39.75
W-15	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	60.37	60.33	44.10
W-16	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	49.17	60.00	39.94
W-17	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	56.58	67.23	40.31
W-18	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	57.40	66.09	41.66
W-19	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	52.15	61.40	40.93
W-20	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	42.91	57.11	37.79
W-21	Double-crested Cormorant	3/19/2009	2009	Wheeler Island	590750	4215217	6/1/2009	41.90	58.30	39.76
RB-1	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	49.24	61.55	38.76
RB-2	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	47.61	63.02	38.50
RB-3	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	48.45	63.73	37.88
RB-4	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	51.19	65.22	39.54
RB-5	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	48.49	60.19	38.84
RB-6	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	50.61	63.79	38.54
RB-7	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	51.91	65.38	39.05
RB-8	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	52.62	64.25	40.08
RB-9	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	46.18	55.76	39.06
RB-10	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	44.51	56.92	39.74
RB-11	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	46.73	61.36	37.54
RB-12	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	46.17	60.10	37.46
RB-13	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	48.80	61.16	38.78
RB-14	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	48.71	63.10	39.22
RB-15	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	46.68	57.05	39.75
RB-16	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	37.70	56.04	38.14
RB-17	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	47.70	59.49	38.89
RB-18	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	52.32	60.15	41.24
RB-19	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	47.10	59.94	39.26
RB-20	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	48.88	63.75	39.35
RB-21	Double-crested Cormorant	5/1/2009	2009	Richmond Bridge	550313	4198962	6/1/2009	55.00	66.67	39.66
SB-1	Double-crested Cormorant	5/27/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 37)	584543	4144235	6/9/2009	51.98	63.10	39.08
SB-2	Double-crested Cormorant	5/27/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 37)	584543	4144235	6/9/2009	41.86	62.30	37.32
SB-3	Double-crested Cormorant	5/27/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 37)	584543	4144235	6/9/2009	45.38	65.73	37.53
SB-4	Double-crested Cormorant	5/27/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 37)	584543	4144235	6/9/2009	50.08	62.08	39.79
SB-5	Double-crested Cormorant	5/27/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 37)	584543	4144235	6/9/2009	52.21	63.85	41.34
SB-6	Double-crested Cormorant	5/27/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 37)	584543	4144235	6/9/2009	46.26	57.28	38.57
SB-7	Double-crested Cormorant	5/27/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 37)	584543	4144235	6/9/2009	50.58	63.52	38.45
SB-8	Double-crested Cormorant	5/27/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 38)	584531	4143896	6/9/2009	53.12	64.80	41.72
SB-9	Double-crested Cormorant	5/27/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 38)	584531	4143896	6/9/2009	49.43	59.30	39.30
SB-10	Double-crested Cormorant	5/27/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 38)	584531	4143896	6/9/2009	47.37	61.40	39.73
SB-11	Double-crested Cormorant	5/27/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 38)	584531	4143896	6/9/2009	49.05	62.84	40.41
SB-12	Double-crested Cormorant	5/24/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 4/30)	580807	4145242	6/9/2009	48.30	65.38	39.03
SB-13	Double-crested Cormorant	5/24/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 4/30)	580807	4145242	6/9/2009	51.38	62.84	38.57
SB-14	Double-crested Cormorant	5/24/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 4/30)	580807	4145242	6/9/2009	51.91	61.34	39.21
SB-15	Double-crested Cormorant	5/24/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 4/30)	580807	4145242	6/9/2009	42.32	57.62	36.68
SB-16	Double-crested Cormorant	5/24/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 4/30)	580807	4145242	6/9/2009	55.01	64.28	39.68
SB-17	Double-crested Cormorant	5/24/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 4/30)	580807	4145242	6/9/2009	46.37	64.38	37.67
SB-18	Double-crested Cormorant	5/24/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 4/30)	580807	4145242	6/9/2009	42.10	60.62	36.28
SB-19	Double-crested Cormorant	5/24/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 4/30)	580807	4145242	6/9/2009	50.27	65.64	37.68
SB-20	Double-crested Cormorant	5/24/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 4/30)	580807	4145242	6/9/2009	43.31	64.04	34.70
SB-21	Double-crested Cormorant	5/24/2009	2009	South Bay (Tower 4/30)	580807	4145242	6/9/2009	53.37	61.18	40.39





**Appendix 3.** QA/QC results for THg analyses in Forster's tern eggs collected from San Francisco Bay, California in 2009.

**QA/QC Results:**

BLANKS

Sample ID	[Hg] (ug/g)	Analysis date
System blank	0.0034	90109
Method blank	0.0018	90109
System blank	0.0091	91109
Method blank	0.0037	91109
System blank	0.0040	90109
Method blank	0.0036	90109
System blank	0.0020	90209
Method blank	0.0020	90209
System blank	0.0066	90809
Method blank	0.0058	90809
System blank	0.0026	90409
Method blank	0.0030	90409
System blank	0.0060	90909
Method blank	0.0060	90909
System blank	0.0067	91009
Method blank	0.0061	91009
System blank	0.0050	92109
Method blank	0.0051	92109

STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIAL

Analysis date	Sample ID	[Hg] (ug/g) dw	Certified Value	CRM %Recovery
90109	DOLT-3	3.2885	3.37	97.58
91109	DOLT-3	3.5536	3.37	105.45
90109	DOLT-3	3.3371	3.37	99.02
90209	DOLT-3	3.3502	3.37	99.41
90809	DOLT-3	3.5027	3.37	103.94
91009	DOLT-3	3.4843	3.37	103.39
92109	DOLT-3	3.5635	3.37	105.74
90109	DORM-2	4.5001	4.64	96.99
91109	DORM-2	4.9407	4.64	106.48
90109	DORM-2	4.4440	4.64	95.78
90209	DORM-2	4.5707	4.64	98.51
90809	DORM-2	4.1192	4.64	88.78
90409	DORM-2	4.6697	4.64	100.64
90909	DORM-2	4.5972	4.64	99.08
91009	DORM-2	4.4103	4.64	95.05
92109	DORM-2	4.5433	4.64	97.92



**Appendix 3 – Continued.**

MARTIX SPIKE RESULTS

			Amount spiked (ng Hg)	100.00
9/1/2009	9/1/2009		9FE8009	62.7339
			9FE8009 + spike	163.2293
			Amount recovered	100.4954
			Percent recovered	100.4954
			Amount spiked (ng Hg)	100.00
9/1/2009	9/1/2009		9FE8009	62.7339
			9FE8009 + spike	161.4833
			Amount recovered	98.7494
			Percent recovered	98.7494
			RPD	1.7526
			Amount spiked (ng Hg)	100.00
9/2/2009	9/2/2009		9FE0091	93.4511
			9FE0091 + spike	195.9118
			Amount recovered	102.4607
			Percent recovered	102.4607
			Amount spiked (ng Hg)	100.00
9/2/2009	9/2/2009		9FE0091	93.4511
			9FE0091 + spike	192.4759
			Amount recovered	99.0248
			Percent recovered	99.0248
			RPD	3.4106
			Amount spiked (ng Hg)	100.00
9/4/2009	9/4/2009		9FE0094	158.3225
			9FE0094 + spike	247.2565
			Amount recovered	88.9339
			Percent recovered	88.9339
			Amount spiked (ng Hg)	100.00
9/4/2009	9/4/2009		9FE0094	158.3225
			9FE0094 + spike	243.1635
			Amount recovered	84.8410
			Percent recovered	84.8410
			RPD	4.7106
			Amount spiked (ng Hg)	100.00
9/9/2009	9/9/2009		9FE0107	73.5867
			9FE0107 + spike	179.4502
			Amount recovered	105.8635
			Percent recovered	105.8635
			Amount spiked (ng Hg)	100.00
9/9/2009	9/9/2009		9FE0107	73.5867
			9FE0107 + spike	177.9103
			Amount recovered	104.3236
			Percent recovered	104.3236
			RPD	1.4653
			Amount spiked (ng Hg)	100.00
9/21/2009	9/21/2009		9FE0020	170.8854
			9FE0020 + spike	254.7823
			Amount recovered	83.8970
			Percent recovered	83.8970
			Amount spiked (ng Hg)	100.00
9/21/2009	9/21/2009		9FE0020	170.8854
			9FE0020 + spike	251.8142
			Amount recovered	80.9288
			Percent recovered	80.9288
			RPD	3.6016

**Appendix 3 – Continued.**

REPLICATE ANALYSES

Analysis Date	Sample ID	HqI (ug/g) dw
9/1/2009	9FE8003-r1	5.2790
9/1/2009	9FE8003-r2	5.2387
	RPD	0.7655
9/1/2009	9FE8009-r1	3.0453
9/1/2009	9FE8009-r2	3.3566
	RPD	9.7238
9/1/2009	9FE8010-r1	2.6382
9/1/2009	9FE8010-r2	2.7798
	RPD	5.2285
9/1/2009	9FE8015-r1	4.4568
9/1/2009	9FE8015-r2	4.5220
	RPD	1.4520
9/1/2009	9FE8019-r1	40.1096
9/1/2009	9FE8019-r2	39.4204
	RPD	1.7331
9/1/2009	9FE8022-r1	3.1415
9/1/2009	9FE8022-r2	2.9841
	RPD	5.1421
9/1/2009	9FE8026-r1	2.7128
9/1/2009	9FE8026-r2	2.8883
	RPD	5.5891
9/11/2009	9FE8032-r1	3.1971
9/11/2009	9FE8032-r2	2.8510
	RPD	11.4425
9/11/2009	9FE8041-r1	2.5412
9/11/2009	9FE8041-r2	2.5487
	RPD	0.2950
9/1/2009	9FE0041-r1	3.5701
9/1/2009	9FE0041-r2	3.5102
	RPD	1.6927
9/1/2009	9FE0061-r1	4.0730
9/1/2009	9FE0061-r2	4.2751
	RPD	4.8414
9/2/2009	9FE0067-r1	3.2959
9/2/2009	9FE0067-r2	3.5146
	RPD	6.4240
9/2/2009	9FE0078-r1	2.8496
9/2/2009	9FE0078-r2	2.7526
	RPD	3.4630
9/2/2009	9FE0089-r1	2.6396
9/2/2009	9FE0089-r2	2.5787
	RPD	2.3354
9/2/2009	9FE0091-r1	4.6726
9/2/2009	9FE0091-r2	4.2754
	RPD	8.8777
9/2/2009	9FE0302-r1	14.7435
9/2/2009	9FE0302-r2	15.6440
	RPD	5.9263
9/4/2009	9FE0036-r1	9.6710
9/4/2009	9FE0036-r2	10.0806
	RPD	4.1469
9/4/2009	9FE0094-r1	4.9944
9/4/2009	9FE0094-r2	4.7087
	RPD	5.8890
9/4/2009	9FE0179-r1	6.4685
9/4/2009	9FE0179-r2	6.5604
	RPD	1.4106
9/9/2009	9FE0107-r1	2.2996
9/9/2009	9FE0107-r2	2.6094
	RPD	12.6231
9/9/2009	9FE0162-r1	2.8459
9/9/2009	9FE0162-r2	3.2048
	RPD	11.8620
9/9/2009	9FE0171-r1	3.5216
9/9/2009	9FE0171-r2	3.6747
	RPD	4.2556
9/10/2009	9FE0029-r1	2.7650
9/10/2009	9FE0029-r2	2.9637
	RPD	7.6073
9/21/2009	9FE0003-r1	4.5494
9/21/2009	9FE0003-r2	4.4066
	RPD	3.1873
9/21/2009	9FE0014-r1	4.2134
9/21/2009	9FE0014-r2	3.6899
	RPD	13.2461
9/21/2009	9FE0020-r1	4.6690
9/21/2009	9FE0020-r2	4.4983
	RPD	3.7250