

**From:** [Albertson, Joy](#)  
**To:** [McChesney, Gerry](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Salamander Disease Testing  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 11, 2016 2:20:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [Richgels et al. 2016.pdf](#)  
[Martel et al 2013.pdf](#)  
[Memo to refuges Bsal surveillance strategy.docx](#)

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Gerry-

Are you capturing salamanders at FNWR in next year or so? Do you want to participate in this disease sampling?

Joy

Joy Albertson  
Supervisory Wildlife Biologist  
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Albertson, Joy** <[joy\\_albertson@fws.gov](mailto:joy_albertson@fws.gov)>  
Date: Wed, May 4, 2016 at 10:59 AM  
Subject: Fwd: Salamander Disease Testing  
To: Gerry McChesney <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>

Gerry-

I didn't hear back from you on this. Are you interested in participating in this study? Will you be capturing salamanders in the near future?

Please let me know on this so I can respond to the USFWS Wildlife Health Center.

Thanks,  
Joy

Joy Albertson  
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From: **Barr, Chris** <[chris\\_barr@fws.gov](mailto:chris_barr@fws.gov)>

Date: Fri, Apr 29, 2016 at 12:55 PM

Subject: Fwd: Salamander Disease Testing

To: Diane Kodama <[diane\\_kodama@fws.gov](mailto:diane_kodama@fws.gov)>, Don Brubaker <[Don\\_Brubaker@fws.gov](mailto:Don_Brubaker@fws.gov)>, Gerry McChesney <[Gerry\\_McChesney@fws.gov](mailto:Gerry_McChesney@fws.gov)>, Ivette Loreda <[Ivette\\_Loreda@fws.gov](mailto:Ivette_Loreda@fws.gov)>  
Cc: Anne Morkill <[Anne\\_Morkill@fws.gov](mailto:Anne_Morkill@fws.gov)>, Joy Albertson <[Joy\\_Albertson@fws.gov](mailto:Joy_Albertson@fws.gov)>

FYI- The FWS Wildlife Health Office is putting in a funding proposal for materials to help collect salamander skin swabs for testing for Bsal on high risk refuges. Attached is more information. Please coordinate with Joy Albertson who will have the lead in replying back to this request from the health office.

Thanks

Chris

Chris Barr  
Deputy Complex Manager  
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex

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From: **Ballard, Jennifer** <[jennifer\\_ballard@fws.gov](mailto:jennifer_ballard@fws.gov)>

Date: Fri, Apr 29, 2016 at 12:29 PM

Subject: Salamander Disease Testing

To: Joy Albertson <[joy\\_albertson@fws.gov](mailto:joy_albertson@fws.gov)>

Cc: Chris Barr <[chris\\_barr@fws.gov](mailto:chris_barr@fws.gov)>

Hello Joy,

I spoke with Chris Barr earlier today about salamander disease testing in the San Francisco Bay NWRC. He asked me to share some information with you about our proposed project. Bsal is a newly emerging pathogen in wildlife. It has caused tremendous population declines in European salamander species, but to date, it has not been detected in North America. Currently, I am writing a funding proposal to provide supplies, shipping, and testing costs for refuges that are willing/able to collect salamander skin swabs for Bsal testing. Our short-term goal is to help confirm the absence of Bsal on high-risk refuges. Eventually, we will be looking at options for long term monitoring for future introductions of this disease. Based on a USGS risk model, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, Ellicott Slough NWR, and San Pablo Bay NWR are all considered high risk for a possible introduction of Bsal. I'm attaching a recent memo that was sent to the regional offices about our proposed project as well as two articles about the discovery and risk of Bsal.

The Wildlife Health office is a division of the NWRS Natural Resource Program Center. We are here to assist refuges with any wildlife health issues, including surveillance, research, mortality response, biosafety, biosecurity, public health, and disease contingency planning. I'm the office point of contact for Regions 2 and 8, and I also work on reptile and amphibian disease issues nationwide. Please feel free to contact me if I can ever be of assistance with regard to Bsal or any wildlife health issue.

Thank you for your time,  
Jenn Ballard

Jennifer R. Ballard, DVM, PhD  
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*For DOI personnel - please see <https://sites.google.com/a/fws.gov/fws-wildlife-health/>*