

Symposium Description

Managing Toxic Contaminants – Lessons and Best Practices for PCB Management from Regional Programs

Background:

Many of the regional/basin management programs (e.g., National Estuary Program) have active programs meant to address the presence and impacts of toxic contaminants in the environment. Work includes: monitoring - to understand the presence and sources of different contaminants in the environment; research - to understand the effects of contaminant exposures on humans and wildlife, and the effectiveness of different mitigation/clean up methods, and; management – to reduce the amount of contamination in the environment.

Based on preliminary conversations there would be benefit in convening groups of scientists, researchers, and managers who are actively involved in the work to share information, best practices, and lessons learned. We think this would help us all be more effective at reducing the effects of contaminants and, importantly, improve our ability to respond to future problematic compounds in the environment.

Objective:

Share information on programs, projects, and best practices across programs to improve the effectiveness by which toxic contaminants are managed, controlled, and cleaned up. We are focused on sharing practical advice.

Our initial focus will be on PCBs since they are an active issue in many regional management areas, we have built a breadth of experience and knowledge on their fate, transport, occurrence, and impacts, and clean up and management strategies have been developed. This provides a good base of knowledge and experience that we can share with one another.

Topics:

Propose that the initial meeting focus on the following:

- Review of status and trends of PCBs in a given system including the process and criteria that was used to define the magnitude of the PCB issue.
- What is on the short-list of remedial/management/mitigation activities? What has proven effective? What is planned? and why?

Subsequent meetings could cover:

- How do we use tools and authorities available to reduce impacts? How is science and monitoring used to inform actions under those tools and authorities?
- Research and experience on source identification.
- Research and experience on mitigation and management technologies – what worked and what did not?

29 Nov 2022

- What are characteristics of successful programs and projects (i.e., those that have led to a measurable reduction of PCBs in the environment). Hearing about unsuccessful ones (perhaps those defined by a lot of investment without change) would also be useful.
- What are the best methods for long-term monitoring for status and trends in aquatic ecosystems?
- How can the lessons learned from PCBs be applied to other harmful and persistent compounds such as PFAS?

Symposium Structure:

We propose to have two, half day meetings to allow participant groups to share the background and plans for their region.

This initial set of symposia will be virtual. If successful, we would propose aligning future symposia with national conferences for in-person engagement.

Organizers:

Andy James (UW Tacoma – Puget Sound)
Joel Baker (UW Tacoma – Puget Sound)
Greg Allen (US EPA – Chesapeake)
Will Hobbs (Washington State Department of Ecology)

Participants:

We intend to focus the participation on National Estuary Program entities who have active programs investigating and managing PCBs, as well as a few regional programs outside the NEP framework.

- Delaware River Basin
- Columbia River
- San Francisco Bay
- Great Lakes National Program
- NY/NJ Harbor and Upper Hudson
- New Bedford Harbor
- Chesapeake Bay
- Spokane River
- Puget Sound

Dates:

The symposium will take place on January 24 - 25, 2023 from 9:00 - 1:00 (PST)

Registration:

All speakers and participants will have to register to attend.

<https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJldOQtqjvE9CPT-Vizt38tt6FUn7kT3NJ>

29 Nov 2022

Symposium Agenda

Managing Toxic Contaminants – Lessons and Best Practices for PCB Management from Regional Programs

Meeting Day 1 - January 24, 2023

Time (PST)	Time (EST)	Topic	Presenter
09:00	12:00	Introduction Purpose Scope Introduce Zoom polls and whiteboard	Marielle Larson (UW Tacoma) Andy James (UW Tacoma) Greg Allen (US EPA Chesapeake Bay Office)
09:30	12:30	Puget Sound 50 min presentation. 10 min Q&A.	Jim West (Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife) Rachel McCrae (Washington State Dept of Ecology)
10:30	13:30	Spokane River 50 min presentation. 10 min Q&A.	David Dilks (LimnoTech) Adriane Borgias (Washington State Dept of Ecology)
11:30	14:30	BREAK	
11:45	14:45	Great Lakes 50 min presentation. 10 min Q&A.	Brian Lenell (US EPA Great Lakes Office)
12:45	15:45	Closing Discussion Request for feedback, value of symposium, future topics and venues, etc.	Joel Baker (UW Tacoma)
13:00	16:00	End of Day	

Meeting Day 2 - January 25, 2023

Time (PST)	Time (EST)	Topic	Presenter
09:00	12:00	Day 2 - introduction	Marielle Larson (UW Tacoma) Will Hobbs (Washington State Dept of Ecology) Doug Austin (US EPA Chesapeake Bay Office)
09:15	12:15	Chesapeake Bay 50 min presentation. 10 min Q&A.	Greg Allen (US EPA Chesapeake Bay Office)
10:15	13:15	Delaware River 50 min presentation. 10 min Q&A	John Cargill (Delaware Dept of Natural Resources)
11:15	14:15	BREAK	
11:30	14:30	New Bedford Harbor 50 min presentation. 10 min Q&A	Natalie Burgo (US EPA Region 1) Dave Dickerson (US EPA Region 1)
12:30	15:30	Closing Request for feedback, next steps, value of symposium, future topics and venues, etc.	Joel Baker (UW Tacoma) Andy James (UW Tacoma) Greg Allen (US EPA Chesapeake Bay Office)
13:00	16:00	End of Day	