

CBP Goal Implementation Team
Water Quality Goal Implementation Team
Toxic Contaminants Workgroup
Meeting Agenda



Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2018
Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: Conference Call, Room 305 (CBPO)
Call-in: 866-299-3188 Code: 267-985-6222
Adobe Connect Link: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/tcw/>
[Calendar Page](#)

Agenda Item and Desired Outcome	Time	Background Docs, Notes, and Action Items
<p>1. <u>Welcome, introductions, relevant news and announcements</u></p>	1:00	<p>ACTION: The workgroup is asked to send comments on the Phase III WIP template/BMP co-benefits guide to Michelle Williams (Williams.michelle@epa.gov) and Greg Allen (allen.greg@epa.gov) by Wednesday, January 17, 2018. The draft WIP III template was submitted to the Management Board for review on Friday, January 12, 2018.</p>
<p>2. <u>Fish Consumption Advisory Infographic</u> Review of current draft final version of fish consumption advisory infographic, highlighting changes from the last draft version presented to the workgroup. The workgroup will be asked to submit any final comments on the draft infographic.</p>	1:05	<p>Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Final Fish Consumption Advisory Graphic <p>ACTION: The workgroup is asked to send comments on the Phase III WIP template/BMP co-benefits guide to Michelle Williams (Williams.michelle@epa.gov) and Greg Allen (allen.greg@epa.gov) by Wednesday, January 17, 2018. The draft WIP III template was submitted to the Management Board for review on Friday, January 12, 2018</p>

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<p>3. <u>Review of Research 2016-2017 Workplans</u> Jurisdictional and agency representatives will give updates on the status of jurisdiction- and agency-specific items in the Research workplan. The workgroup will also review TCW-specific items in the Research workplan. This review will help to inform the TCW's spring 2018 strategy review presentation to the Management Board, and will inform updates and revisions to the Toxic Contaminants Management Strategies and 2018-2019 two-year workplans.</p>	1:15	<p>Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxic Contaminants Research Workplan and Status, 2016-2017 <p>ACTION: Greg Allen will follow up with Kelly Smalling on pesticides information from the MD Pesticides Network's pesticides classification work.</p> <p>ACTION: Michelle Williams will follow up with representatives from DC, PA and DE on updates to the Toxic Contaminants Research Workplan.</p> <p>ACTION: 2-17 status updates to the Toxic Contaminants Research Workplan will be incorporated into the Status document for the Research workplan. These updates will inform the workgroup's Strategy Review System presentation to the Management Board and subsequent revisions to the Toxic Contaminants Research management strategy and 2018-2019 workplan.</p>
<p>4. <u>Chemical Contaminants Spatial Data</u>—Kelly Smalling, USGS and Dan Jones, USGS Dan Jones and Kelly Smalling will present an overview of the status of the USGS endocrine disrupting risk research. Data can be accessed here: https://doi.org/10.5066/F7SQ8ZB3</p>	2:15	<p><u>Documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation
<p><u>Wrap up</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for proposals for 2018 STAC workshops 	2:45	<p>ACTION: The workgroup is asked to submit proposals for 2018 STAC workshops prior to the January 31, 2018 deadline. Workgroup</p>

Agenda Item and Desired Outcome	Time	Background Docs, Notes, and Action Items
		members interested in developing a proposal for submittal are asked to contact Greg Allen (allen.greg@epa.gov) and Scott Phillips (swphilli@usgs.gov).
<u>Adjourn</u>	3:00	

Next Conference Call: Wednesday, February 14, 1-3 PM

Announcements and Updates:

- Announcement on STAC workshop call for proposals—due date is January 31 to submit proposals. Workgroup is encouraged to work on ideas for submitting a proposal. Please note that if proposals are accepted, the workgroup or identified workshop leads are expected to commit a considerable amount of time to organizing and leading the STAC workshop.
- BMP co-benefits guide/WIP development template: The workgroup is asked to provide comments, input and questions on the content of the draft template no later than Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

ACTION: The workgroup is asked to send comments on the Phase III WIP template/BMP co-benefits guide to Michelle Williams (Williams.michelle@epa.gov) and Greg Allen (allen.greg@epa.gov) by Wednesday, January 17, 2018. The draft WIP III template was submitted to the Management Board for review on Friday, January 12, 2018.

FCA Infographic:

- Greg Allen: This is a collaborative project with the Diversity Workgroup with GIT funding. We want to raise the visibility of fish consumption advisories and pervasiveness of PCB contamination in the watershed. We decided to make resources available to subsistence anglers and families about the health of catching, preparing and consuming locally caught fish.
- Allen: We are asking for one last round of comments for the final round of edits. We want to make sure that this draft is circulated to those agencies that are responsible for fish consumption advisories management. If

the workgroup members have ideas about stakeholders that should be informed of this before the general roll out, and if workgroup has ideas about roll out strategy, please let us know.

- Dan Jones asked when this will be available for the public for outreach activities.
 - Allen: We are hoping for early spring this year (2018). We anticipate one more round of edits, and after that we can develop and implement our roll out strategy. We also need to be aware of sensitive stakeholders like commercial fishermen.
 - Jones: There is an event at Salt Lake City Jan 20. While outside the watershed, I think this fish warning context can be useful as a case study in other locations. If you have any general materials that you think will work as outreach materials for this event, please let me know.

ACTION: The workgroup is asked to submit final comments on the Fish Consumption Advisory infographic by January 25, 2018. Michelle Williams (williams.michelle@epa.gov) will send a reminder email with the draft infographic to the workgroup.

Research Workplan Updates:

- Allen: In May 2018, our workgroup will present to the Management Board on progress and shifts that we are considering for our next version of our strategy and workplan. That new strategy and workplan will cover the two-year period between May 2018 and May 2020.

Management Approach 1:

- Updates from NOAA: Ian Hartwell (NOAA)—Updates below.
 - Allen: We want to see if this research is investigating multiple contaminant effects.
 - Scott Phillips: This item is more focused on human health as well.
- TCW updates:
 - Allen: the lead for the mercury subgroup has retired and there hasn't been any progress on this front. This may be something that we report to the Management Board as a challenge for moving forward.
 - Vicki Blazer: On the EDC project, we are getting some information on Hg as well as emerging contaminants. We were measuring Hg in fish fillets, which is the part most of interest for human consumption. We sampled at two sites in the Potomac and one in the upper Susquehanna.
 - Stephanie Gordon: Our partner who is studying Hg is doing more extensive sampling and collection right now.
- MD updates:

- Len Schugam: We are monitoring for young of the year, and we are currently not seeing increasing trends in Hg. That update should be included in the updates MD sent in December along with the updates to the policy and prevention workplan.
- Allen: If the overall trend is downward, then that may mean that the effort required from CBP to work on managing this might be lessened a little.
- Schugam: We are working on the air deposition model in support of a MD TMDL for Hg. We found that many sites in the nontidal Potomac are no longer impaired for Hg in channel catfish. One listing will be removed, and other species of fish that were listed need to be reinvestigated. Overall, that will delay development of the Hg TMDL. That data will be collected this year, and we will have results by the end of 2018 to see how we will be moving forward with Hg.
- MD Pesticide Network:
 - Allen: We have developed classes of pesticides that might inform management approaches. That information does exist, and we can bring to the workgroup for review.
 - Phillips: Can we bring this information for discussion in early 2018 here, to see if there is enough information to develop a separate management strategy in addition to PCBs?
 - Kelly Smalling: Pesticides are a large part of the EDC project, and we'd be really interested in incorporating those pesticide rankings in the interpretive phase of the EDC project.

Management Approach 2:

- PCB Mass balance model: No progress, but this item may be appropriate for a STAC workshop. As the coverage of data and information on impairments grows, a PCB TMDL becomes more of a possibility. Note that any approved STAC workshops require a large commitment from workshop leads to organize and lead.
- PCBs in fish and shellfish: that refers to Policy and Prevention workplan and state programs.
- PCB sources: refers to trackdown study guidance (work ongoing).

Management Approach 3:

- Phillips: This is divided into trends in the estuary and tidal waters, as well as upper watershed and nontidal waters.
- FWS updates (Fred Pinkney):
 - Fred Pinkney: I will be submitting the report on bullhead catfish to DC next week for review, and I can bring the results to the workgroup once the report is published.
 - Fred Pinkney: We have started yellow perch sampling in several rivers. The most dramatic finding was abnormal yolk and abnormal chorion ten years ago. We want to update those findings with new

- data, adding some molecular analysis, looking at lesions and movement over time. This project is expected to span about two years.
- Phillips: The Severn River Association is also doing some citizen monitoring that may be of interest to your study.
 - USGS updates:
 - Vicki Blazer: On summarizing information on fish health: the data have been reviewed on estrogenic contaminants for adult fish. We are compiling some data on skin lesions, and integrator site information (to be published in about a year). The paper coming out is for both young of the year (YOY) and adult information for historic trends. The next piece will be the data from the integrator sites.
 - Phillips: Maybe the information from the integrator sites will go on our next workplan.
 - Blazer: There are additional sites for fish health monitoring in PA for YOY and adults. In WV, we were doing some work related to algal toxins.
 - Wildlife review: There has been no progress on the wildlife review project since 2016. Vicki Blazer will inform the workgroup what the path forward might be over the next few months.
 - Osprey study: Barnett Ratner and Rebecca Lazarus were working on this.
 - Phillips: I will check in with Barnett, but I think the Chesapeake work on ospreys has been completed.
 - Key Action 1 (): Most of this work has been completed and Kelly Smalling will provide links to published data.
 - Schugam: I need to get in touch with MDNR for updates in the integrator sites.
 - DNR rep for MD: John Mulligan—worked with for fish collections with USGS
 - DC, WV, PA: Will follow up via email.
 - Blazer: The next workplan could include some information on the work on hormonal responses. We are looking at effect on fish. We'd like to look at occurrence and sources if we get additional funding to do so.
 - Occurrence and sources in tidal waters—additional information
 - Ian Hartwell: I sent new links to the referenced documents for NOAA in the workplan. Our SeaGrant updates might be relevant to this workplan. We are looking at effects on human health and fish and shellfish.
 - VA updates on tidal water sampling:
 - Mark Richards: Sampling in VA is on a rotational basis and we don't do the same time or site every year. May not be appropriate for the workplan.

Management Approach 4: Relative Risk:

- Key Action 1, performance target 2:

- Phillips: We could include the WIP template fact sheet in the progress for this item.
- EPA updates: Key Acton 1, Performance Target 1: We don't have participation now from the EPA office of water, and no progress has been made in this area.
- KA2, PT1: Anacostia—unsure of progress on Anacostia. Will follow up with DC representatives.
- KA2, PT2: Risk assessments on the EDC project.
 - Smalling: We can present by state as the information becomes available or we can wait until we have all the data and present the complete dataset.
 - Allen: We are interested in having information as soon as it becomes available.
 - Smalling: We are using the YOY data that PA has been collecting.
 - Micka Peck: Are you using the model that PA has developed?
 - Blazer: The model measures YOY population dynamics. The other piece of this is the long term historical trend data.
 - Allen: We want to know what effects we are seeing, whether they affect the population, and possible management approaches we can take. We would like to take pieces of that to the workgroup as they are available.
 - Smalling: I understand, but we'd also like to have the full story before we take it before managers.
- CSN updates: The contaminants information synthesis and paper is done.
- Marel King gave updates from the CBC on the Research workplan:
 - King: Our members are still interested in the topic, we had a hearing in PA on this topic. We don't have specific issues we are working on, but as things rise to the policy level we are willing to work with our members on those issues.

Management Approach 5: Contaminants of Emerging Concern

- King: the CBC worked with STAC on microplastics, and we are interested in pharmaceuticals, personal care products, etc.
- UOG activities (related to fracking):
 - Phillips: This work was stalled due to the changes in budget with the new administration as far as I know.
 - Pinkney: I am looking at vegetative changes as result of UOG activities in PA, and we are hoping to expand that program further.

EDC data summary:

- Note: NHDplus version 2.1 provides finer resolution and better understanding of hydrology. Catchments are around few square KM at the smallest and can increase from there. There is also an effort to further refine the catchment spatial data to finer resolution.

- USGS also summarized several other physiogeochemical information in the process of the EDC data synthesis project
- Allen: Did you use the high-resolution land cover dataset (1m resolution) for the bay?
 - Dan Jones: That data wasn't available when we did this summary, so we used the more conventional NLCD data for land cover.
- Phillips: We would like the workgroup to take some time to look over the data and consider the possible management implications of the dataset provided and the synthesis project.
- Allen: Is there a plan for developing a tool or web service for interested parties to do some exploration and initial analysis?
 - Jones: No, we haven't been able to do that although it was originally part of our plan. I am open to considering use of web applications that might already exist, rather than building the infrastructure for them ourselves.
- Allen: We need to hear something from managers or the workgroup to affirm that they would use a service that was developed, but so far, we are not hearing that kind of interest. Perhaps we can make a business case before we discuss how to serve it.
 - Phillips: Is this something that would help the states on the line today? We will follow up with jurisdictions on what their interests might be.
- Allen: How does this data get updated? Is this just a one-time synthesis?
 - Dan Jones: Right now, it's only a one-off project, and we are using the data that we have already collected. This pulls data from numerous sources.
 - Allen: If we did decide to serve this we'd have to address the question on how this gets updated.
- Phillips: When you do your principle component analysis and ID which variables are most influential, then that's what we could focus on for a web service or application.

ACTION: Greg Allen will follow up with Kelly Smalling on pesticides information from the MD Pesticides Network's pesticides classification work.

ACTION: Michelle Williams will follow up with representatives from DC, PA, and WV on updates to the Toxic Contaminants Research Workplan.

ACTION: 2-17 status updates to the Toxic Contaminants Research Workplan will be incorporated into the Status document for the Research workplan. These updates will inform the workgroup's Strategy Review System presentation to the Management Board and subsequent revisions to the Toxic Contaminants Research management strategy and 2018-2019 workplan.

STAC Workshop Ideas:

- Phillips: A STAC workshop gives some support to get experts together to conduct a workshop on topics of interest or management focus. Asking for ideas from the workgroup on future research directions. One idea might be relative risk, etc.
- Phillips: There is an increasing amount of interest within STAC to focus on toxic contaminants, and a workshop application might be a good idea to keep them engaged.
- Phillips: We could look at the mercury information and possibility to synthesize, or the relative risk dataset, etc.
- Blazer: Could we get people together for the pesticide aspect here? We have been measuring pesticides in relation to fish health and EDCs. Could we apply for a workshop to study that?
 - Allen: We'd have to narrow down the focus on what results we'd need from a workshop like that and whether it's a good fit for STAC.
- Feasibility and attainability of a Bay wide—watershed wide PCB TMDL is another possibility—similar to the nutrient and sediment TMDL.
- Dan Jones: Could we discuss a session to discuss data dissemination for different audiences for different issues?
 - Phillips: There was just a workshop on synthesizing the nutrient and sediment stories for managers, so there is some precedent to do that.
- Allen: Note that if a project of ours was accepted, then we would need a significant amount of time commitment from a workshop lead and steering committee.

ACTION: The workgroup is asked to submit proposals for 2018 STAC workshops prior to the January 31, 2018 deadline. Workgroup members interested in developing a proposal for submittal are asked to contact Greg Allen (allen.greg@epa.gov) and Scott Phillips (swphilli@usgs.gov).

Call Participants:

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Mark Richards
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