

2014 Work Plan for the Analytical Methods and Quality Assurance Workgroup

Mission Statement: To provide professional direction and guidance on field and laboratory methods and QA/QC, resulting in accurate and comparable Chesapeake Bay and tributary water quality monitoring data.

Purpose: The Workgroup members are technical advisors to the monitoring and modeling workgroups of the Scientific, Technical Analysis and Reporting Team concerning field and analytical methodology and quality assurance issues related to collection, processing and assessment of water quality data. The Workgroup provides a forum for exchange of technical information focused on the standardization of methods/use of comparable methods throughout the Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program. Members of the Workgroup participate in the Coordinated Split Sample, Blind Audit and Reference Sample Programs and use this information to evaluate the quality of the monitoring data and to identify areas that require further study.

Objectives:

- Implement the Coordinated Split Sample Program to assess water quality data comparability between laboratories.
- Participate in blind audit and reference sample programs to demonstrate data accuracy; investigate potential analytical issues; determine corrective actions to resolve water quality data discrepancies; improve efficiency of data collection and reporting procedures; perform method comparability studies.
- Explore new monitoring and laboratory technologies for water quality analyses; standardize field and laboratory techniques among agencies; prepare reports on the quality of nutrient, chlorophyll and sediment data.

2014 Major Priorities:

- Participate in CBP's Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks (BASIN) process
- Evaluate potential BASIN impacts to participating labs, field programs and data quality
- Increase water quality data acquisition from non traditional partners such as River Keepers, environmental groups, county governments
- Complete the CBP Guidelines for Sampling and Analysis; publish on CBP website.
 - Lab methods revisions
 - Work with NTWG to finalize the 2013 Interim Guidelines for NTN QC sample collection, then add to the CBP NTN sampling procedures.
- Implement the DUET (Data Upload and Evaluation Tool) QC data review and reporting requirements for both tidal and nontidal water quality data.
- Conduct quarterly reviews of 8-10 laboratories' results on inter-laboratory performance testing (CBP Coordinated Split Samples, Blind Audit samples and/or USGS Reference Samples).
- Compare additional split-sample parameters to better represent Delaware and Pennsylvania NTN sampling scheme.