

Toxic Contaminant Research Strategy: Workplan Priorities

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Management Strategy: Issues

- Fish and shellfish safer for human consumption;
- Contaminants degrading the health, and contributing to mortality, of fish and wildlife;
- Occurrence, concentrations and sources;
- Assess relative risk of contaminants, and options for mitigation, to inform policy and prevention strategies,
- Issues of emerging concern

Consumption of fish/shellfish

- Supply information to make fish and shellfish safer for human consumption
- Workplan items:
 - State monitoring programs addressing PCBs in fish (and consumption advisors); better delineate sources (States and DC)
 - Summarize recent findings on fish and shellfish (NOAA and partners)
 - Enhance mercury information (MD DNR, NOAA, SERC)
 - Work with Diversity team on location of advisories

Contaminants and fish/wildlife

- Understand the influence of contaminants degrading the health, and contributing to mortality, of fish and wildlife;
- Work plan items:
 - Focus on “high value” species
 - States and DC have “active” projects with USGS, FWS, and academic partners
 - USGS studies and information into “regional” context
 - USGS and FWS: summary of wildlife conditions

Occurrence and sources

- Document the occurrence, concentrations and sources of contaminants causing fish and wildlife degradation
- Work plan items:
 - Initial focus on contaminants affecting fish health
 - USGS Chesapeake EDC project
 - Partners: MD, PA, WVA, VA , FWS, and academic partners
 - Other?

Relative Risk

- Assess relative risk of contaminants, and options for mitigation, to inform policy and prevention strategies
- Work plan items:
 - Toxic Contaminant Summary report (2013)
 - TCW consider information and develop a more defined approach (Who)
 - Options for mitigation:
 - Multiple benefit project
 - Work with Water Quality Goal Team
 - TCW considers options for Policy and Prevention

Issues of Emerging Concern

- Gather information on issues of emerging concern (including microplastics)
- Workplan items:
 - Workshops will be proposed to STAC: (1) microplastics (STAC review) and (2) contaminant toxicity to pollinators
 - TCW and stakeholders assess if more research is needed
 - Unconventional Oil and Gas drilling: future needs will depend on information from other efforts to assess

Connection between strategies

- Cross-collaboration:
 - Fisheries (making fish and shellfish safer to eat),
 - Habitats (stream health),
 - WQ (reduce nutrients and sediment)
- Work plan items
 - Need to develop

Next Steps

- Develop more detailed info on:
 - What, Who, How much
- Need help from a “research team”
- Share information on current efforts
- Further identify and prioritize any gaps in carrying out management strategy