



Toxic Contaminants Workgroup

April 13, 2016 Conference Call
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Conference Line: (866) 299-3188

Conference Code: 267-5715

Web Access: <http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/tcw/>
Chesapeake Bay Program Office – Room 305a

Agenda

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

- Patuxent 2016 Webinar Series: Why and How DDT Was Banned (May 5th)
- New River PCB Strategy
 - Mark Richards (VA DEQ): Back in the early 2000's, the New River had a consumption advisory issued. It was a sensitive issue at the time so the agency took a proactive approach, reaching out to the public and putting together a study, which may provide some insight moving forward. It helped provide background for our PCB TMDLs. We are in the process of compiling sources and will be running the model soon and hopefully have a TMDL report by the end of the year. It is still a sensitive project, and a lot of advocates and stakeholders have a strong interest.
 - Greg Allen (EPA): I think we are really looking for lessons learned that could help inform the guidance documents we are considering.
- Delaware's 2015 Progress Assessment for WATAR Program
- Reminder to attend CWEA June 8th symposium on toxics in Chesapeake Bay
 - Link will be distributed when registration is open.
- Toxics BMP memos are final and posed on Toxics Workgroup webpage
- Osprey Toxics Report Released
 - <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4502#.VwKBQRMrk9Y>

D.C. Fish Consumption Advisory – Nicoline Shulterbrandt, DOEE

Workplan: Policy and Prevention; Approach 2, Key Action 2

Nicoline discussed some of the testing protocols and results used to inform the issuance of the District's 2016 fish consumption advisory for striped bass in D.C. waters.

Discussion:

- Len Schugam (MDE): When comparing between 2007 and 2013 data, the American eel levels seemed to come down. Were the samples of comparable size and weight?

- Shulterbrandt: We collect that information and could do that analysis, but for this graph it was the median values that were used. I can't say off the top of my head how the two samples compared. The crews collecting samples try to make sure they meet the parameters of being within 10%.
- Schugam: Are you planning to list those waters based on fish tissue data as well?
 - Shulterbrandt: Because the use is related to fish consumption, impairment listings are tied to the consumption advisories rather than fish tissue.
- Allen: There were some confirmatory samples taken in 2015 on striped bass, correct?
 - Shulterbrandt: Yes. They were surprised at the PCB numbers they saw in 2013 and thought it might be because the lipids contents of the composites were particularly high. We had six additional samples taken in 2015 and those samples confirmed, even though their lipid content was lower than the original sample set, that the total PCB numbers were very close to what we had seen in the 2013 fish samples collected. That gave us the confidence in putting out the advisories we issued regarding striped bass.
- Allen: So the 2015 results aren't on the chart?
 - Shulterbrandt: The information used to develop the advisory was only the 2013 fish tissue study information.
- Allen: Are you aware of anyone in DOEE who has taken data of maybe better indicator species, for example, a more resident species, and done mapping to see where highest loads might be originating?
 - Shulterbrandt: We haven't done that yet. The Anacostia sediment study also did fish collection, so when that data becomes available I think more information will be produced as part of that effort.
- Allen: You base your advisories on recreational fishing rather than commercial, correct? Commercial limits are based on FDA guidance and recreational is based on EPA guidance. Do you know for PCBs which is more restrictive?
 - Shulterbrandt: Correct, it is based on recreational fishing. EPA is more restrictive. FDA is 2ppm rather than 0.02ppm for EPA.
- Allen: Reminder that we have a project kicking off in partnership with the Bay Program's Diversity Action Team to look at how jurisdictions communicate consumption advisories and to see if there are additional materials or methods the partnership could develop to better communicate advisories to underrepresented communities. You mention a lot of communication happens on fishing licenses and I know there are some postings.
 - Shulterbrandt: Correct. They also put up advisory signs at places identified as more popular fishing holes. Those have been translated, as well as what is on our website, into six languages. The D.C. Language Act requires any literature that government agencies put out to be translated into those six languages.
- Allen: If you would like to be on a steering committee for that project to let me know.

- Marian Norris (NPS): I will volunteer myself as a placeholder. I want to get someone from NPS to work on this project.

ACTION: TCW members who are interested in serving on a steering committee for the joint project with the Diversity Action Team to assess the communication of fish consumption advisories to underrepresented communities should contact Greg Allen.

- Allen: As other states look at these sampling protocols that Nicoline presented, are there any differences? I know some sampling protocols are skin off versus skin on.
 - John Schneider (DNREC): In Delaware, we post advice in the fishing guide and online to steer people away from eating the parts with highest contamination, like not collecting drippings or eating the skin. What is more important to Delaware is that these levels are coming down.
 - Allen: I think we generally see a downward trend even though it is relatively noisy and that there are differences in sizes, etc.
 - Schugam: You have to be careful about how you look at these data. Statisticians could tear it apart as far as size, weight and lipid content. I agree that there is a long term downward trend overall, but in terms of the magnitude, you have to be careful to compare apples to apples.
- Shulterbrandt: Do other Bay jurisdictions have an interest in discussing a regional fish tissue study that would help us do more of an apples to apples comparison? Maybe not in the short term.
 - Richards: I think there would be interest. I am not the one to make the decision, but I could talk to our monitoring and fish tissue program and see if they would be willing to partner with you on that.
 - Allen: The CBP would be thrilled to work on that. We need indicators to assess progress, and fish tissue was one idea for a possible valid indicator. We initially started compiling tissue data we had gotten from jurisdictions, but did not get to the point of deciding whether there was a sufficiently longitudinal set of results we could use to form an indicator. What would be a next steps for an effort like that?
 - Shulterbrandt: I think it would just be getting the right contacts to just to see if there was interest. That way, when the funding and logistics allow, we have the right people in touch.
 - Allen: I think it lines up with our workplan so it could fit into the near future. The earlier the better, while allowing the considerations of time and budget. It would take one or a few people to step forward and provide leadership.
 - Richards: Once I get this presentation, I can send to the appropriate people in DEQ to get the dialogue going. As far as funding, 2016

is already targeted, so I couldn't see anything earlier than 2017. I can get the initial dialogue going.

- Shulterbrandt: That would be the same situation here.
- Allen: So maybe in 2016 we get the right people together and see what we would target for funding in 2017.
- Shulterbrandt: I think that might be a good way to go.

ACTION: TCW members should reach out to the appropriate contacts within their agencies to gauge interest in a possible regional fish tissue study.

- Shulterbrandt: I can certainly provide leadership to help make this effort happen. It directly affects the public and applies in a lot of ways in our communities.

Guidance Documents -- Group

Workplan: Policy and Prevention; Approach 2, Key Action 1, 3

During the March TCW meeting, interest was expressed in developing a series of guidance documents to support state and local government efforts to track and prevent PCBs. The group discussed specific areas where guidance is needed, and options for effectively communicating the information.

Discussion:

- Allen: What are the right next steps? We have Tetra Tech under contract to do some research on PCB track down literature in order to build a guidance document on track down studies. I need to check in on their progress and I hope to have something to share with the group as early as our next meeting.

ACTION: Greg Allen will check on the status of the PCB track down study literature review and try to schedule a presentation for the May TCW meeting.

- Allen: In Virginia, are there any updates on the PMP guidance?
 - Richards: We contracted to put together a clearinghouse database. They have completed that and we just received the final deliverable, which will be an appendix to our PMP guidance document. We are trying to figure out internally what approach to take and I think we will be able to share it pretty soon. The clearinghouse is just a first step in this process.
- Allen: Seems we want to lay out a logical sequence for developing the products, getting stakeholder input, revising them and making them available. What are thoughts on a central repository or resource center for PCB TMDLs in Chesapeake Bay? It could be a way for the workgroup to have a go-to place for our products. I know states have some things along these lines. Maybe the CBP website could be a place for that. We need the resources first, though.

- Micka Peck (EPA): I know there is a Bay TMDL website hosted by EPA, which could be a good place for that sort of repository.
- David Wood (CRC): I think we need to identify the guidance needs beyond PMP and track down study guidance. Who do we reach out to in order to see what the needs are?
 - Allen: I agree. I think what has been helpful in other waters would be important as well. We need to develop a draft outline to start building a comprehensive list of needs.

ACTION: CBP staff will draft an outline for the type of informational needs that could be addressed by a set of guidance documents. The outline will be presented at the May TCW meeting for workgroup discussion.

Wrap-up and Next Steps -- Greg Allen, EPA and Scott Phillips, USGS

Schedule of Upcoming TCW Meetings:

May 11

June 8

List of Call Participants

Name	Affiliation
Greg Allen (Coordinator)	EPA
David Wood (Staff)	CRC
John Schneider	DE DNREC
Len Schugam	MDE
Tim Rule	MDE
Mark Richards	VA DEQ
Don Smith	VA DEQ
Rob Breeding	VA DEQ
Nicoline Shulterbrandt	DOEE
Rod Kime	PA DEP
Marel King	CBC
Angie Garcia	EPA
Micka Peck	EPA
Lorie Baker	EPA
Marian Norris	NPS
Bryan Luukinen	Duke University