





PCB Facts

- >1 million tons produced
- US largest producer
- 40% still in use

- PCBs continue to load into the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- Stormwater, wastewater and atmospheric deposition
- Some inadvertent production is possible
- Legacy and new inputs!



Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention

*Scott Phillips (USGS) and other
members of the Toxic Contaminants
Workgroup*

Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...



Goal: Ensure that the Bay and its rivers are free of effects of toxic contaminants on living resources and human health.

Outcome: Continually improve practices and controls that reduce and prevent the effects of toxic contaminants below levels that harm aquatic systems and humans. Build on existing programs to reduce the amount and effects of PCBs in the Bay and watershed. Use research findings to evaluate the implementation of additional policies, programs and practices for other contaminants that need to be further reduced or eliminated.



What We Want

Toxic Contaminants – Policy and Prevention (PCBs)

Requests:

- Support to investigate feasibility of PCB consortium
- Acknowledgement of toxic contaminants management in Phase III WIPs

1

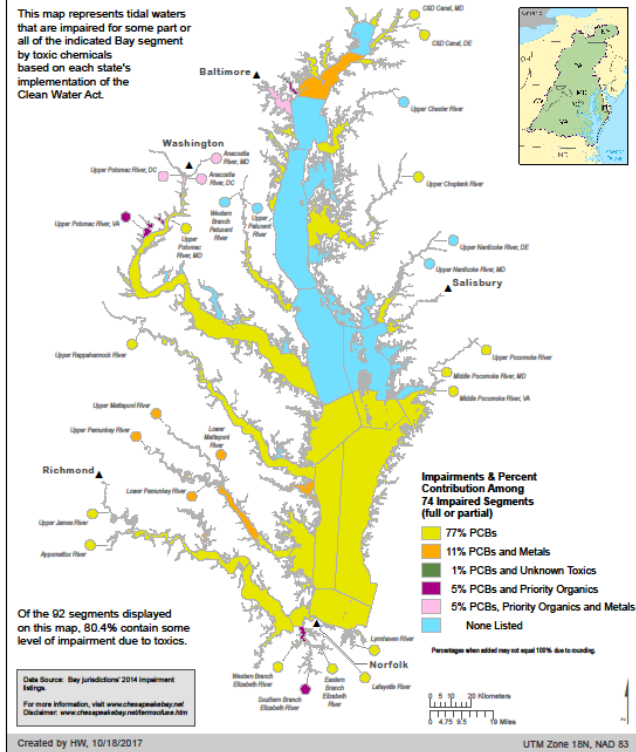
Setting the Stage: Indicator and Story Map: Where are we now?

Chemical Contaminants (2014)

Impairments Illustrated Using the
Chesapeake Bay Segmentation Scheme



This map represents tidal waters that are impaired for some part or all of the indicated Bay segment by toxic chemicals based on each state's implementation of the Clean Water Act.



Tidal Waters Full or Partial Overlay with Toxic Impairments

Fish Consumption Advisories | McKinsey Classics: "Smart p | PCBs in the Chesapeake X +

chesbay.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=704ecbbb9f5943eca87d59b349edf1ab

PCBs in the Chesapeake Bay 2018_Draft (4/10/18)

A Story Map | esri

1 PCB Impairments

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a class of pollutants that are widely distributed in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. PCBs are very persistent and accumulate in fish, which can make fish unsafe to eat. This map shows areas of the watershed where PCBs have been found at levels that the states believe impair ecological health or make fish unsafe to eat.

2 PCB TMDLs as of 2018

3 PCB TMDLs Planned for Development

4 PCB Impairments without Existing or Planned TMDLs

Map showing the Chesapeake Bay watershed with PCB impairments and TMDLs. The map includes labels for major cities like Baltimore, Washington, and Philadelphia, and states like Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. A legend is visible in the top right corner.

Windows taskbar: 10:38 AM 4/23/2018

PCB Story Map
Documents PCB impairments and stats of
TMDLs



Logic Behind Our Outcome

Following the Decision Framework:

**Factors
Influencing
Success**

**Current
Efforts
and Gaps**

**Management
Approaches**

Factors Influencing Success

Toxic Contaminants – Policy and Prevention (PCBs)

- Broad geographic extent and distribution of PCBs
- Political will to modify regulatory programs and/or create voluntary programs
- High cost of remedies and testing
- Variety of sources and pathways for PCBs entering the environment that necessitate a wide-range of different management responses
- Knowledge gaps on relative sizes of PCB sources
- Need to shift paradigm to acknowledge that there are ongoing sources of PCBs not static “legacy” contaminants
- New factor: Need for a larger-scale forum to connect science and management and advance interstate collaboration and implementation of PCB TMDLs

Current Efforts and Gaps

Toxic Contaminants – Policy and Prevention (PCBs)

Current efforts center on excellent work by the jurisdictions to develop PCB TMDLs

Major rivers have or will have large-scale PCB TMDLs:

- Multi-jurisdiction tidal Potomac in place; non-tidal Potomac under development
- Conowingo Pool and Lower Susquehanna in development
- James scheduled for development

Gaps

- Lack of forum of appropriate scale for TMDL coordination
- Air deposition and flux data for use in PCB TMDL modeling

Management Approaches

Toxic Contaminants – Policy and
Prevention (PCBs)

- Regulatory programs
- Education and Awareness
- Voluntary programs
- Science
- New management approach: **PCB Consortium**

2

Progress:

Are we doing what we said we would do?



What is our progress?

Toxic Contaminants – Policy and Prevention (PCBs)

Due to lack of comprehensive monitoring, there is no available data set to determine environmental progress. Estimate is that PCB levels in fish are level or slightly declining. Some local areas may be declining.

Output Progress:

Regulatory Management Approach

- Substantial progress by jurisdictions to advance PCB TMDLs (e.g, MS4 monitoring for WLAs)
- Progress on PCB track-down guidance
- PCB Story map
- USGS-sponsored workshop on PCB science and management implications



What is our progress?

Toxic Contaminants – Policy and Prevention (PCBs)

Output Progress:

Education and Awareness Management Approach

- Fish Consumption Advisory Infographic (GIT Funding)

Voluntary Programs

- 2018 Study on the feasibility and value of a voluntary PCB removal (GIT Funding)

Science

- Estimating reduction of PCBs in effluent following upgrade of wastewater treatment plants (GIT Funding)

Workplan Estimate: 30% complete; 40% some progress; 30% no progress

CBPO campus invests approximately 0.7 FTE in toxic contaminants strategies



Analysis

Toxic Contaminants – Policy and Prevention (PCBs)

All previous management approaches still valid.

Regulatory/TMDL still thought to be most critical and provides greatest leverage point.

Addresses factor related to many different point and non-point sources

All management approaches will be carried forward and proposing new management approach – PCB Consortium to fill need for TMDL coordination at a scale commensurate with wide distribution of PCBs in the watershed

3

Challenges:

Are our actions having the expected effect?



Challenges

Toxic Contaminants – Policy and Prevention (PCBs)

Scientific, fiscal or policy-related developments or lessons learned (if any) have changed logic or assumptions:

- Toxic contaminants Workgroup is not a sufficient platform to achieve the level of coordination and support needed to advance PCB TMDLs
- Low investment (relative to nutrient and sediment pollutants) slows progress
- High cost of PCB analysis limits availability of low-detection data needed to track sources

4

Adaptations:

How should we adapt?



**Based on what we've
learned, we plan to...**

Toxic Contaminants – Policy and Prevention (PCBs)

- Continue to support the jurisdictions with their needs for PCB TMDLs
- Explore the PCB consortium concept
- Roll-out the FCA infographic and determine next action for education and awareness
- Conduct voluntary program feasibility analysis
- Science – complete WWTP study and identify new project – air deposition/flux is a science gap

Agreement Goals and Outcomes



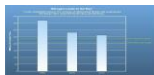
Sustainable Fisheries

- Blue Crab Abundance
- Blue Crab Management
- **Oyster**
- **Forage Fish**
- **Fish Habitat**



Vital Habitats Goal

- Wetlands
- Black Duck
- **Stream Health**
- Brook Trout
- Fish Passage
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- **Forest Buffer**
- Tree Canopy



Water Quality Goal

- **2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP)**
- **2025 WIP**
- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring



Toxic Contaminants Goal

- Toxic Contaminants Research
- Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention



Healthy Watersheds Goal

- Healthy Waters



Stewardship Goal

- **Citizen Stewardship**
- **Local Leadership**
- **Diversity**



Land Conservation Goal

- Protected Lands
- Land Use Methods and Metrics Development
- Land Use Options Evaluation



Public Access Goal

- Public Access Site Development



Environmental Literacy Goal

- Student
- **Sustainable Schools**
- Environmental Literacy Planning



Climate Resiliency Goal

- Monitoring and Assessment
- **Adaptation Outcome**



Cross-Outcome Considerations

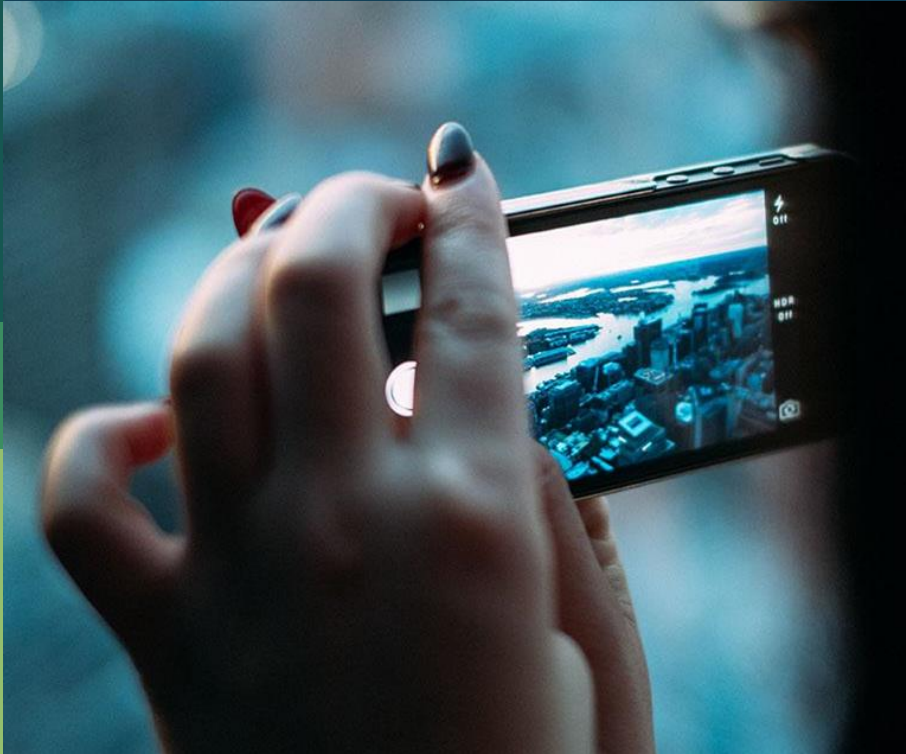
Toxic Contaminants – Policy and Prevention (PCBs)

Cross-Outcome Projects

- BMP cross-benefit scoring and WIP III Fact Sheet
- Wastewater Workgroup – WWTP upgrade project
- Climate Resiliency Workgroup – Pilot for climate resiliency method
- Diversity Workgroup – EJ Screen demonstration: FCA infographic



What We Want



Toxic Contaminants – Policy and Prevention (PCBs)

- Support to investigate feasibility of PCB consortium
- Acknowledgement of toxic contaminants management in Phase III WIPs

Discussion