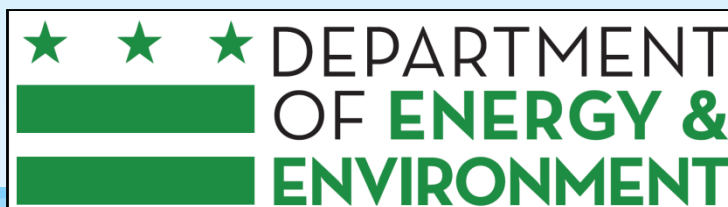


Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee Workshop

Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed

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Why have a workshop now?

- **Microplastic pollution is ubiquitous worldwide.**
- **Only a modest amount of research has been done in the Chesapeake and its watershed.**
E.g. Yonkos et al., 2014
- **Two findings from the 2016 STAC Report on Microbeads and Plastics in the Chesapeake Bay (Wardrop et al., 2016) included:**
 - 1) Data on microplastics in the bay and its watershed are extremely limited to date.**
 - 2) Studies measuring the abundance and ecological impact of microplastics in the bay are still in their infancy**
- **We are aware of studies that have occurred since 2016 and it is time to discuss findings in an open forum.**

Key Questions (Proposed)

1. How common are microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries?
2. What additional information do we need to gauge the ubiquity of microplastics in the bay and its tributaries?
3. What are the sources of microplastics to the bay and its tributaries?
4. What are the possible effects of microplastics on the habitats in the bay and watershed(e.g. SAV beds, wetlands) and living resources (e.g. oysters, fish)? Are there any studies specific to the Chesapeake to confirm that microplastics are impacting these resources? What are the data gaps?
5. Are there any policy and management tools being used to address plastic pollution in the bay (e.g. Anacostia River Trash TMDL)? How effective have they been? Could these tools be emulated elsewhere? Are there additional tools we can recommend? (We will discuss findings with Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) representatives invited to the workshop to see if there are policy tools available to address this issue at the local level.)
6. Can we recommend pursuing further studies or new management and policy tools at this time? Can we recommend that funding be made more available for this research?

Date – When?

- **Current Proposal –Mid Jan – Mid March, after the 2018/2019 holiday rush**
- **Potential Conflicts:**
 - ❖ **Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Science Summit – 2nd or 3rd Week of January, 2019**
 - ❖ **Coastal Geotools Conference 2019 – Feb 11- 14, 2019**
 - ❖ **ASLO 2019 Aquatic Sciences Meeting, Feb 24 – March 1, 2019**
 - ❖ **American Fisheries Society Tidewater Winter 2019 Meeting – Dates?**
 - ❖ **AERS Spring 2019 Meeting – Dates?**

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Photo by Matt Robinson, DOEE

Comments?

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