QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – August, 2022
Chesapeake Bay Program

Toxic Contaminant Policy and Prevention

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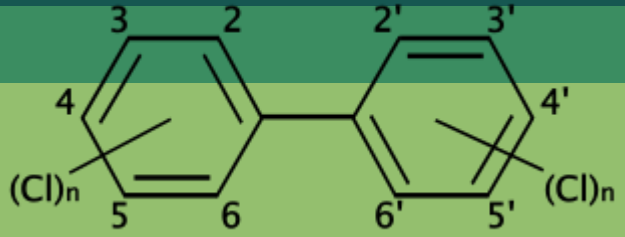
Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to…*

Species	Waterbody	Recommended Meals/Month		
		General Population	Women [1]	Children [2]
Atlantic Croaker	Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries Δ	4	4	4
American Eel	Anacostia Δ	1	1	1 every other month
	Back River Δ	Avoid	Avoid	Avoid
	Bush Δ	4	4	4
	Bynum Run *	1 every other month	1 every other month	1 every other month
	Choptank Δ	1	1	1
	Elk River Δ	Avoid	Avoid	Avoid
	Middle River Δ	1 every other month	1 every other month	Avoid
	Northeast River Δ	1	1	1 every other month
	Patapsco River/Baltimore Harbor Δ	Avoid	Avoid	Avoid
	Patuxent River Δ	3	3	3
	Potomac River - 301 Bridge to DC Line Δ	1 every other month	1 every other month	1 every other month
	Rock Creek (Montgomery County) *	1 every other month	1 every other month	1 every other month
	South River Δ	2	2	1
	Susquehanna River - Below Conowingo Dam Δ	Avoid	Avoid	Avoid
	Cash Lake *	4	3	2



Goal: *Toxic Contaminants*

Policy and Prevention:

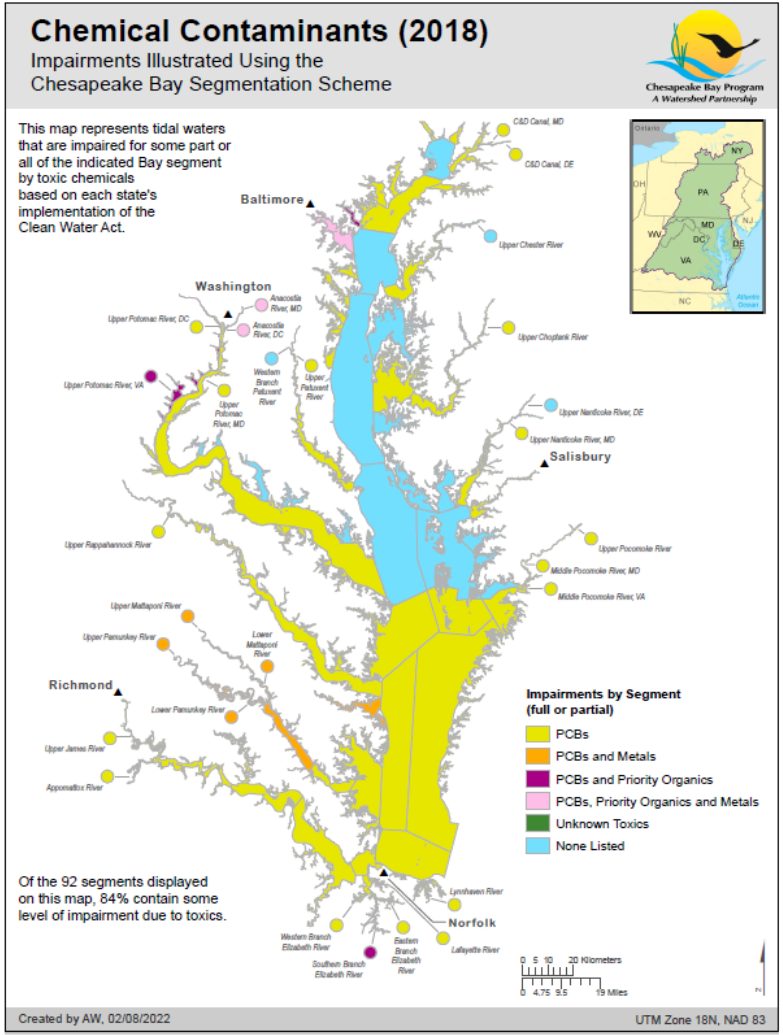
Continually improve practices and controls that reduce and prevent the effects of toxic contaminants below levels that harm aquatic systems and humans. Build on existing programs to reduce the amount and effects of PCBs in the Bay and watershed. Use research findings to evaluate the implementation of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

What is our Outlook and Recent Progress?

2018 Toxic Contaminant Indicator

The number of impaired segments has increased from 75/92 fully or partially impaired segments in 2016 (82%) to 77/92 fully or partially impaired segments in 2018 (84%).

The indicator has moved in the outcome-negative direction over the last 5 biennial updates beginning with 74% in 2010.



Learn

What have we learned in the last two years?

Successes and Challenges

MA 1 Regulatory Programs

- Expanded the network – EPA Region 3 and meaningful engagement in 303d Vision 2.0
- Jurisdiction monitoring (fish and other media)
- Jurisdiction TMDL development and implementation https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/PCBStoryMap/
- Alternative Restoration Plan Pilot

Successes and Challenges

MA2 Voluntary Removal

PCBs in Schools – Bay Backpack – *Safe and Efficient Lighting* *https://www.baybackpack.com/action-projects/safe-and-efficient-lighting*

MA3 Education and Awareness

Fish Consumption Advisory Infographic Users Guide

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/toxic_contaminants_workgroup

Successes and Challenges

MA 4 Science

USGS report on PCBs fate in wastewater systems

MA5 PCB Consortium

- TCW jurisdiction/EPA Roundtable
- National PCB Strategy Conference

On the Horizon

- EPA HQ Vision 2.0
- Alternative Restoration Plan pilot project
- PCBs in biosolids data
- Track-down Guidance
- Pollution Minimization Plan Guidance
- Collaboration with PCB strategists in other restoration programs

A

Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?

Based on what we learned, we plan to …

Knowing that PCB loading is dynamic and that there are many species of fish under consumption advisories, we plan to continue with a strategy that relies heavily on CWA TMDLs, and possibly ARPs, while complimenting that approach with voluntary programs, education and awareness building, research and pursuing a larger scale consortium.

Based on what we learned, we plan to …

303d National Vision 2.0 (V2) EPA HQ. (Vision 1.0 expires September 2022)

Final V2 document expected September 2022. Goals in V2 are written to improve effectiveness of 303d/TMDL programs and restoration plans.

- *Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Opportunities for V2 Support and Engagement*
  - Long term priorities for TMDL and restoration plan development (2025-2032)
  - Assessment methods
  - Trend analysis - changes in environmental quality, post-TMDL monitoring. How effective are the PCB TMDLs?
  - V2 TMDL Execution Goal has four focus areas – DEIA, climate, Tribal engagement, capacity building.

Equitable and inclusive restoration …

- PCBs generally increase as level of development/urbanization increases. Efforts to reduce PCBs in urban areas reduces risk from contaminated fish.
- DEIA is a V2 focus area for jurisdiction long-term plans
- PCBs-in-schools effort could have DEIA focus
- Fish consumption advisory infographic roll out

Fill the Gap

How can the Management Board help achieve the Outcome?

Filling the Gap

Regulatory

- Prioritize PCB TMDLs in V2 long-term plans
- Identify planning gaps and needs that TCW could help fill
- Use existing permit controls (MS4, wastewater) to implement WLAs
- Help push track down guidance to local governments
- Support drafting a PCB TMDL state-of-the-Bay-watershed report

Filling the Gap

Programmatic

- Consider a stronger partnership consortium
- Connect BIL resources to emerging contaminants and voluntary PCB removal

Staffing

- Allocate staff and financial resources to move PCB TMDLs forward
- Expand the network of regulatory officials advancing PCB TMDLs
- Data Analyst capacity needed for trend analysis and indicators

Discussion

ChesapeakeProgress Icons