

DRAFT Work Plan to Prepare Summary Report on the Impact of Toxic Contaminants on the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed by November 2012 (updated March 1, 2012)

This work plan describes process, resources, and responsibilities for the preparation of a report by November 2012 that will characterize the extent and seriousness of impacts to Chesapeake Bay and its watershed from toxic contaminants.

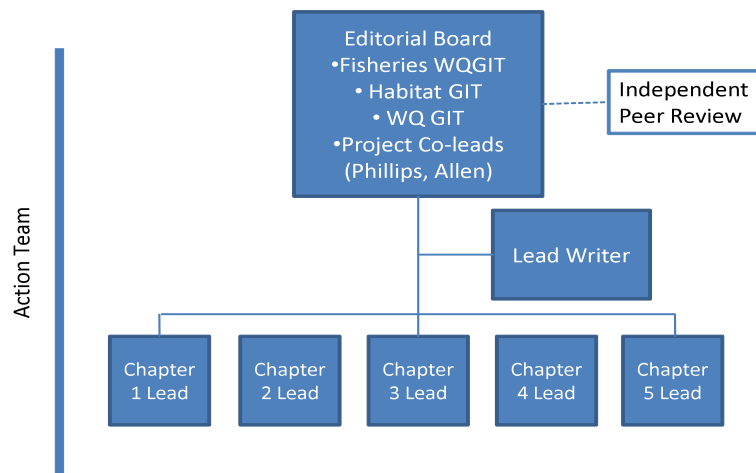
Need for November 2012 Report

- Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partners had agreed to reduce impacts of toxic contaminants as part of Toxics 2000 Strategy
- Problems due to toxic contaminants, such as fish consumption advisories and stream impairments, still remain in the Bay and its watershed.
- New issues including tumors and intersex conditions in fish have been discovered since 2000.
- Given these issues, the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order (EO) Strategy included an action for: “EPA, DOI, and NOAA will work with state and local governments and stakeholders to expand understanding of the extent and seriousness of toxic contaminant problem in the Bay and its watershed and to develop contaminant reduction goals by 2013” (p. 37)
- The primary audience for the report is the decision makers in the Chesapeake Bay Program who are working to manage fisheries, habitat, water quality, and healthy watersheds. Several CBP goal implementation teams (GITs) are concerned with the potential impact of toxic contaminants. The Fisheries GIT wants to better understand the health of fisheries in the Bay and its watershed. The Habitat GIT wants to understand impacts on wildlife (waterfowl) that use coastal wetlands and SAV. The water-quality GIT is working to make waters both fishable and swimmable so the information will help augment nutrient and sediment reduction efforts. The Healthy Watersheds GIT is looking to prevent impacts of toxic contaminants on healthy watersheds. The GITs will use the information and work through the Management Board (MB), Principle Staff Committee (PSC) and Executive Council (EC) to consider and develop new goals to reduce toxic contaminants (during 2013) and more detailed strategies to carry out the goals (by 2015).

Establishing an Action Team to Prepare the Report

The CBP Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) hosted a workshop in October, 2010, which included over 30 representatives from State, DC, and Federal agencies, to discuss ideas for the report. An outcome from the workshop was to establish an action team to prepare the report. The action team is chaired by Greg Allen (EPA) and Scott Phillips (USGS) and its membership includes writers contributing to the report: Fred Pickney (USFWS); Mike Focazio, Vicki Blazer and Barnett Rattner (USGS), A. K. Leight (NOAA), Diana Eignor, Maria Garcia, and Melanie Culp (EPA), Jamie Mitchell (Hampton Roads) and Ashlee Harvey (CRC). The CBP jurisdictions were also invited to have members on the team but they have not been able to participate as of this time. The action team also will have a small group of its members serve as an “editorial board” to help with the scope of the report and

addressing comments received from reviewers (see diagram below). The editorial board would contain representatives from the CBP Fisheries, Habitat, Water-Quality, and Healthy Watershed GITs and the co-chairs of the action team. The primary role of the action team is to prepare a draft of the report, revise the report based on review comments, and finalize for release in November, 2012. The action team will interact with groups in the CBP to provide overviews of preliminary findings and get feedback and review of the report.



Suggested Major Elements for Report

Based on the outcomes of the October 20th 2011 workshop, the suggested major elements were developed. A more detailed draft outline is being developed by the action team.

- Executive Summary
- Extent and seriousness of toxic contaminants with existing standards in the Bay and its watershed (based on State integrated assessment reports and other key summary documents)
 - Include summary of conditions both in the estuary and watershed
- Occurrence of additional contaminants of emerging concern
- Overview of biological impacts on fish
- Overview of impacts on wildlife
- Suggestions for improved monitoring and research
- Considerations for developing federal-state toxic reduction strategies
- Appendix of section: Progress toward Chesapeake 2000 Toxic Reduction Strategy

Roles and Responsibilities

The action team is comprised of the lead writer, contributing authors, and editorial board.

Editorial Board – would review early report drafts and make decisions about what stays in or is dropped out and how to handle comments for all reviews

Lead Writers- responsible for working with writers in the Action Team to compile the report and working with CBP entities to present initial findings, getting review comments, and some revising the report to address the review comments.

Chapter Leads – Write chapters and review and revise based on topical comments

There are also roles for CBP groups to provide review and input to the document. Some of the key roles include:

States and DC– answer questions on state 303/305 data and process; possibly join actions team; at a minimum, review report drafts especially information used from state integrated assessment reports.

Fisheries, Habitat, Water-Quality, and Healthy Watersheds (GITs)-provide comments and input on preliminary findings and initial drafts of the report; possibly provide member for editorial board. Based on the findings of the report, work to develop initial ideas for new toxic reduction goals (during 2013) and strategies (by 2015).

Management Board (MB), Principal Staff Committee (PSC), Executive Council, Federal Office Directors (FOD), and Federal Leadership Committee (FLC)—the action team will provide briefings to these groups. The primary roles of these groups will work with the CBP GITs to consider and develop toxic reduction goals (in 2013) and strategies to reduce toxic contaminants (by 2015)

STAC (or EPA, USGS) – independent peer review will be conducted before the report is finalized.

Time Line

Tentative target dates for report preparation and interact with CBP groups:

- Revise outline of report (Feb) and finalize with action team and editorial board (March)
- Develop initial draft of report chapters focusing on extent of toxic contaminants (by end of April) and seriousness of impacts (by end of May). Combine into one report (early June). Get input from editorial board (June) and finalize initial draft of report (end of June).

- Provide briefing of preliminary findings to CBP Goal Teams Water-Quality, Fisheries, Habitat) and state contacts of assessment reports (July 2012) and get feedback to revise report
- Provide briefings of preliminary findings to Management Board and Principal staff Committee, FOD, FLC and EC (if timing is appropriate) and get feedback (July-August 2012)
- Based on feedback prepare second draft of report- (August), 2012 (with input from editorial board)
- CBP partner Technical Review-August, 2012 GITs, states, Revise-September, 2012
- Peer review of draft final-September 2012 (STAC or agency peer review process)
- Revise and Finalize-October, 2012 (with input from editorial board).
- Release-Nov, 2012

Resources to Prepare the Report

EPA, USGS, FWS, NOAA are contributing by preparing sections of the report with Mike Focazio (USGS) and Greg Allen (EPA) being the co-leaders for the report. Greg Allen (EPA) and Scott Phillips (USGS) are also providing support by leading the action team. USGS will provide funding to its Science Enterprise Network (SPN) for editing and production of the final report. EPA is assessing options and resources for review of the report.