Logic and Action Plan: Post Quarterly Progress Meeting

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**Toxics Research – 2021-22**

*[NOTE: make sure to edit* ***pre****- or* ***post****- in the text above, to tell the reader whether this logic and action plan is in preparation for your quarterly progress meeting or has been updated based on discussion at the quarterly progress meeting.]*

**Long-term Target:** Develop a research agenda and further characterize the occurrence, concentrations, sources and effects of toxic contaminants of emerging and widespread concern.

**Two-year Target:** Completion of performance targets related to key actions

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| **Instructions:** Before your quarterly progress meeting, provide the status of individual actions in the table below using this color key. |
| Action has been completed or is moving forward as planned. |
| Action has encountered minor obstacles. |
| Action has not been taken or has encountered a serious barrier. |

Additional instructions for completing or updating your logic and action plan can be found on [ChesapeakeDecisions](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/decisions/srs-guide).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Factor | Current Efforts | Gap | Actions | Metrics | Expected Response and Application | Learn/Adapt |
| *What is impacting our ability to achieve our outcome?* | *What current efforts are addressing this factor?* | *What further efforts or information are needed to fully address this factor?* | *What actions are essential (to help fill this gap) to achieve our outcome?* | *What will we measure or observe to determine progress in filling identified gap?* | *How and when do we expect these actions to address the identified gap? How might that affect our work going forward?* | *What did we learn from taking this action? How will this lesson impact our work?* |
| Summarizing information on the occurrence of fish consumption advisories and the sources of contamination.  The factor is important for the for making fish safer to consume. | Tracking of water-quality impairments, which lead to fish consumption advisories based on jurisdictional reporting of PCB impairments.  Summary of mercury occurrence in freshwater fisheries and comparison to aquatic and consumption thresholds. Mercury concentrations in fish were not consistent with regional patterns of atmospheric mercury deposition, implying other factors need to be understood | Information on sources of PCBs contributing to consumption advisories is lacking.    Lack of integrated monitoring network for mercury so difficult to assess changes in fish and environment due to air emissions controls and understand other factors. | Management Approach 1: Supply information to make fish and shellfish safe for human consumption. Selected actions include:  -better source tracking of PCBs;  -Discussions on opportunities for mercury monitoring network  -Interaction between jurisdictions to ensure there is consistent efforts to reduce contaminants, which contribute to fish consumption advisories. |  |  |  |
| Understanding the multiple factors affecting health and mortality of fish and wildlife. There are multiple contaminants and additional factors are causing the degradation (and mortality) of fish so trying to identify specific causes is extremely difficult. | Selected studies addressing the multiple causes of factors affecting fish and shellfish including EDCs and fish health in the watershed;  Focused surveys of selected emerging contaminants.  STAC report that included summary of fish health issues in agricultural and urban settings. | Gaps include regional monitoring and study efforts; addressing the multitude of contaminant groups; understanding which contaminants are the primary causes of poor fish health.  Limited information on wildlife; | Management Approach 2: Understanding the influence of contaminants in degrading the health, and contributing to mortality, of fish and wildlife  Selected actions include:  -Evolving towards a more geographic approach to focus in areas where fish health issues are most prevalent.  -Increase collaboration with academic institutions conducting research on emerging contaminants. |  |  |  |
| Lack of data on the occurrence and trends of toxic contaminants. There is no watershed-wide monitoring program on the condition of fish and wildlife that is integrated with water and sediment sampling. | Jurisdictions have monitoring programs for selected toxic contaminants, but mostly not adequate for trends.  STAC report that included summary of contaminant occurrence and sources in agricultural and urban settings.  Inventory of existing state and federal toxic contaminant data revealed limited number of sites can be used for trends | Primary gaps are: (1) limited number of sites that can be used for trends.  (2) Very few sites with fish and water monitoring to relate contaminants to fishery conditions.  (3) available data to understand regional patterns of toxic contaminants. | Management Approach 3: Document the occurrence, concentrations, and sources of contaminants in different landscape settings.  Selected actions include:  -Better utilize jurisdictions monitoring that is used for biannual integrated reports;  --Work with partners to coordinate PFAS studies. Explore if selected studies of wildlife can be utilized.  -Identify key sites to improve long-term information for desired outcomes of selected contaminants (e.g., PCBs, mercury, PFAS) |  |  |  |
| Limited information of the practices to mitigate contaminants, and their potential co-benefits with nutrients and sediment reductions | STAC report that including opportunities to reduce contaminants in agricultural and urban settings.  Some academic partners looking at contaminant mitigation from selected BMPs. | Removal effectiveness of selected BMPs for targeted toxic contaminants.  Approaches to get toxic contaminants into decision tools (such as CAST)  Products that communicate contaminant co-benefits for WIP milestones | Management Approach 4: Science to help prioritize options for mitigation to inform policy and prevention  Selected actions include:  --Increased interaction with WQ GIT to develop and promote joint approaches to reduce toxic contaminants, nutrients, and sediment.  -Focused source-sector approach with emphasis on agricultural and urban settings;  -Generate more information on potential co-benefits and explore use of CBP decision tools (such as CAST). |  |  |  |
| Keeping abreast of emerging issues There is limited knowledge and capacity to assess understanding state of science, occurrence in the watershed, and implications of emerging issues. | Briefings from subject matter experts at TCW meetings to facilitate discussion of prioritization | Number of issues to consider are beyond scope of TCW | Management Approach 5: Gather information on issues of emerging concern.  Selected actions include:  -Limit activities to one or two topics that have been prioritized rather than including a broad group of topics  -Increased interaction with scientific experts, particularly in academic and federal agency research |  |  |  |
| Overcoming resource constraints. The constraints include (1) minimal capacity within the CBP to address contaminants; (2) an emphasis on nutrients and sediment that limits the opportunity for increased CBP focus on toxic contaminants; and (3) minimal funding opportunities to conduct additional studies. | Coordination of efforts between members of the Toxic Contaminant WG. GIT funding project. Interaction with other workgroups with WQGIT to find synergies. | Limited capacity within current TCW to adequately address Gaps listed above. | Selected actions include:  -Invite more partners to the TCW to expand capacity.  -Have more focused interaction between researchers and stakeholders such as through workshops (such as STAC, ChesRMS) and GIT WGs.  -Expand capacity through increased coordination with ongoing academic research, state, and federal efforts. --Increase emphasis on toxic contaminants within CBP monitoring and modeling teams. More focus on co-benefits. |  |  |  |
| Summarizing information for policy and prevention considerations. Recognition that the findings from technical articles and reports need to be summarized and communicated to be used effectively by resource managers | STAC report on contaminants in urban and agricultural areas.  Follow-up presentations and associated CBP article on the effort. | Determining topic and appropriate amount of information that will be most useful to the WQ GIT, jurisdictions, and other stakeholders. | -Interact with WQ GIT, workgroups, and jurisdictions to select topic and summary materials for 21-22. |  |  |  |

|  | ACTIONS – 2021-2022 | | | | |
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| Action # | Description | Performance Target(s) | Responsible Party (or Parties) | Geographic Location | Expected Timeline |
| Management Approach 1: Supply information to make fish and shellfish safe for human consumption | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Generate further information on mercury, focused on determining whether further Chesapeake Strategies are needed to supplement national efforts to reduce its impact on fish and associated consumption advisories. | Summarize existing impairments in the watershed through the creation of and updates to a story map for mercury. Jurisdictions supply information and the CBP GIS team and Monitoring team integrate into a story map. Supporting documentation summary. | TCW; MDE, PA DEP, VA DEP, DOEE, WV DEP, DNREC. CBP GIS team and monitoring team. |  | 2021-2022 |
| Assess usefulness of currently inventoried available mercury monitoring data (water, sediment, fish tissue) to inform status or trends and help inform need for monitoring network. | TCW; USGS |  | 2021-2022 |
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| Conduct sampling of mercury in young of the year fish. Results will eventually be used to assess trends. Reported annually. | MDE and MD DNR |  | Ongoing; annual sampling and reporting |
| Review and obtain information documented during the establishment of Maryland’s proposed Mercury TMDL. Additional fish tissue collections conducted in 2018 and 2019. Data is currently being analyzed to determine if Hg impairments can be delisted. One listing was removed in the 2018 IR. Additional fish collection may be required for reassessment in Fall 2020 if data analysis demonstrates existing data is insufficient for delisting decisions. Hg TMDL development will be delayed until listing reassessment is completed. | MDE |  | MDE information will not be available until early 2019. |
| Explore opportunities, in working with scientists from USGS and other agencies, for integrated monitoring network to assess trends in mercury and possible need for management actions; 1) Define objectives of a monitoring network (and specify media of interest), 2) Review Eagle-Smith publication for integrative monitoring ideas, 3) Assess spatial extent in given media to identify geographic opportunities for integration, 4) Explore other opportunities | TCW; MDE, PA DEP, VA DEP, DOEE, WV DEP, DNREC, USGS |  |  |
| 1.2 | Inventory any ongoing progress of regional PCB models within the Chesapeake Bay. | Stay informed on progress of models in James River, Anacostia, upper Potomac, any others as they may inform adaptive management decisions/areas of focus for others in the watershed. | TCW partners constructing models and USGS. |  | 2021-2022 |
|  | Refining Sources | Continue to improve understanding of sources and fate of PCBs in the environment to inform selection of most appropriate mitigation options. Includes tracking progress and summarizing best practices for PCB track down studies, evidence of documented WWTP removal, as well as reporting of other potential sources such as demolition/construction, dredged sediments. |  |  |  |
|  | Communicate results of completed research study investigating the PCB content of WW biosolids and effluent in an urban WWTP. Ongoing studies of fat-oil-grease deposits as potential sources of PCBs in aging infrastructure | UMBC USGS |  |  |
|  | Tracking the implementation of PCB TMDLs in the watershed and associated progress to inform source identification | All jurisdictions |  |  |
| 1.4 | Analytical and Monitoring Methods | Development of a hierarchy of PCB analytical methods for desired use to promote comparison of data across the watershed for similar needs. Similarly, develop hierarchy of sampling methods for desired use to promote comparison of data. | All+CBP TCW |  |  |
| Management Approach 2: Understanding the influence of contaminants in degrading the health, and contributing to mortality, of fish and wildlife | | | | | |
| 2.1 | Assess the effects of contaminants on fish and shell fish in tidal waters | Ongoing regional focus on Anacostia River sediment contaminants effects on fish health including Mummichog/Killifish and Bullhead catfish health and mortality. This assessment will expand upon previous studies in the Anacostia that demonstrated decrease in tumor prevalence in the Anacostia River. Updates will be provided to the workgroup from the additional sampling. | FWS |  |  |
| Continue study and evaluate findings from condition of Yellow Perch in urban areas. Specifically, FWS and UMD conducted yellow perch sampling in Fall 2017-Winter 2018 in the Severn, Choptank, and Mattawoman. The sampling will be repeated in Fall 2018-Winter 2019. The goal is to determine whether the findings of abnormal yolk and abnormal chorion about ten years ago in the Severn are still apparent. FWS will update those findings with new data, with additional molecular analysis, analyzing lesions and movement over time. | FWS, MD DNR, USGS |  | 2021 |
| 2.2 | Generate information to document fish health conditions in the Bay watershed. | Communicate results of study to understand the influence of endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs) and other factors degrading the health and contributing to mortality of fish. This includes communication of the results of 2 products to the TCW including a retrospective analysis of the relationships between fish health, estrogenicity and land-use and a risk assessment study of EDCs compounds and other environmental stressors on fish populations. | USGS (Kelly Smalling) |  | 2021 |
| Report and communicate results of study examining the influence of endocrine-disrupting compounds (EDCs) and their effects on fish conditions. The data collected at the long term monitoring sites (2013-2019) is being analyzed and published as a series of journal articles. The first is compiling long term, integrative indicators at the South Branch Potomac site, which could be a template for subsequent information. This information will be summarized with other data collected by the USGS into a series of synthesis PowerPoint presentations. | USGS (Vicki Blazer) |  | 2021 |
| Continue monitoring of and communicating results of fish conditions in areas of concern within jurisdictions. Specifically, USGS is working with PA, MD and WV. In addition, WV and PA are collaborating with USGS to assess the immune response of wild smallmouth bass. Expanded to include fish health as a result of PFAS presence. | PA DEP, MD DNR, WV DEP, USGS (Vicki Blazer) |  |  |
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| Initiate studies designed to address temporal and spatial changes in fish health in mixed use watersheds in the freshwater portion of the Watershed. The first will conduct a temporal assessment of smallmouth bass health and associations with land-use (including BMPs), climatic factors and stressors using existing data. The second is designed to determine if state collected DELT data can be used to assess how various fish health indicators respond to BMPs and other management actions. This will include a detailed comparison of DELT, health assessment index (HAI) and a more comprehensive assessment that includes both internal and external information. | USGS, WVU (Vicki Blazer) |  | 2021-2025 |
| Impacts of PFAS compounds on the health of fish (CB Watershed and elsewhere), including PFAS in fish plasma from some long-term monitoring sites | USGS (Vicki Blazer) |  |  |
| Continue studies and evaluate the relationship between the amount of impervious surface and the impact on fish conditions. During 2014 – 2018 the MBSS re-sampled streams that were sampled 20 and 14 years ago. These data will be used to examine for potential change over time in stream biological, physical habitat, and chemical conditions. | MD DNR |  |  |
| Continue stream IBI studies as part of the Maryland biological stream survey (MBSS) to evaluate health of fish communities. Data have been collected during 2019 and 2020 from several projects with targeted sampling locations.  As part of this, the MBSS Sentinel Sites were sampled annually for the 21st year in 2020.  During 2021, the MBSS is planning to add some sampling of sites with randomly selected locations. | MD DNR |  |  |
| 2.3 | Assess the effects of toxic contaminants on wildlife | PFAS in tree swallows (Andrews AFB) | USGS Patuxent |  |  |
| 2.4 | PFAS Methodology and Assessment | Gather information and communicate appropriate fish and portions of fish to analyze to assess impacts for consumption advisories, recommended methods, and review of the data | DNREC, TCW, technical experts tbd |  |  |
| Management Approach 3: Document the occurrence, concentrations, and sources of contaminants in different landscape settings | | | | | |
| 3.1 | Better define the sources and occurrence of EDCs and other toxic contaminant groups in different landscape settings | Communicate results of studies to identify the sources and occurrence of toxic contaminants contributing to degraded fish health. | USGS |  | 2021 |
| Continue Pennsylvania studies on occurrence of pesticides and hormones and other toxic contaminants in surface water with a focus on areas of concern. Communication of reported outcomes to the workgroup. | PA DEP USGS |  |  |
| Continue studies on the influence of wastewater reuse, urban stormwater ponds and associated contaminants on aquatic resources. | USGS (Emily Majcher) |  | 2021-2023 |
| Inform presence of select contaminants of emerging concern (including flame retardants, contemporary pesticides, and industrial by-products; and stain-resistant compounds, such as perfluorinated and phenolic compounds (PFCs) through monitoring of sediment, water, and bivalves as part of the regional Mussel Watch program (NOAA). Samples were collected in | NOAA Oxford |  | 2022 |
| Communicate outcomes of publications to inform presence of select UV filters, hormones, and antibiotics in eastern oysters and hooked mussels in urban streams and the Chesapeake Bay mainstem near both agricultural and urban landscapes. | UMBC, USDA FS |  | 2021-2022 |
| Communicate results of USGS inventory efforts of select toxic contaminants and ability to use data for assessment of status and trends | TCW and states, DOEEUSGS |  | 2021 |
| Continue to evaluate outcomes from Anacostia River sediment investigation to improve understanding of PCBs and other contaminants of concern in urban environments. | TCW, DOEE, USGS, UMBC, FWS |  | 2021-2022 |
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| 3.2 | Better define sources and occurrence of PFAS in the watershed | In collaboration with EPA, USGS will produce a nation-wide map of PFAS sources and a prioritization scheme for identifying DW monitoring sites for pilot study to be conducted in 2022. | USGS (Kelly Smalling) |  |  |
| Inventory state jurisdiction and DC efforts and studies underway to define occurrence in multiple media (not including drinking water) |  |  |  |
| 3.3 | Examine the co-occurrence of toxic contaminants with nutrients and sediments to inform co-benefit analysis (see MA 4) | Explore options to use existing databases (CBP, USGS, others) to spatially assess areas with nutrient and/or sediment impairments and monitoring and toxic contaminant impairments through creation of a story map or other graphic within CB Watershed, or geographically focused areas to be determined. Goal would be to spatially identify areas with potential for co-benefit reductions for consideration in 2 year milestones. | TCW; USGS, MDE, VDEQ, DOEE, DNREC, PA  All |  | 2021-2022 |
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| Management Approach 4: Science to help prioritize options for mitigation to inform policy and prevention | | | | | |
| 4.1 | Gather and summarize further information about direct and co-benefits for mitigation of toxic contaminants, and nutrient and sediment co-reductions. (~~also see Science portion of the Policy and Prevention Strategy and Work Plan)~~ | Inventory case studies where innovative remediation of sediments/water have occurred in the watershed and evaluate how they could be adapted or implemented for TMDL compliance. | USGS, working with academic and state partners |  | 2021-2022 |
| Study to explore water quality response to BMP implementation in agricultural watersheds using estrogenicity as an indicator of EDCs. | USGS |  |  |
| Establishing management relevant timelines to detect regional change in stressors following BMP implementation. We will use existing models and available, water quality indicator data that are of interest to managers and stakeholders for evaluating the effectiveness of management interventions within the Bay including mercury, total PCBs, herbicides (i.e. atrazine and metolachlor), and total estrogenicity. Similar outcomes will also be evaluated for nutrients and sediments. | USGS |  |  |
| 4.2 | Monitor/survey efficiency of BMPs to remove toxic contaminants (mostly PCBs and other contaminants) (~~also see Science portion of the Policy and Prevention Strategy and Work Plan)~~ | Bioretention efficacy and optimization for removal of toxic contaminants | UMCP |  | 2021-2022 |
| Design/testing of enhanced media in stormwater control structures for degradation of toxic contaminants | UMCP |  | 2021-2022 |
| Investigate impact of wet ponds (as a common, urban stormwater BMP) on PCB capture and association with land use | MDE and USGS |  |  |
| Riparian forest buffer removal of toxic contaminants | PSU |  | 2021-2022 |
|  | “Parking lot” for BMP science advances, for PCB and non-PCB contaminants (Inside and outside watershed) bibliography of case studies | All, maintained by USGS |  |  |
| 4.3 | Identify methods to link BMP science advancement (PCB removal in sediment capture BMPs) to stakeholder tools (e.g., CAST) | Work with the GIT-funding awardee to ensure project proceeds | EPA, and TCW, GIT-funding proposal awardee |  | 2021-2022 |
| 4.4 | Interact with source teams to communicate and apply findings on the co-benefits for mitigation of nutrients, sediment, and toxic contaminants | Communicate with agricultural, stormwater, and wastewater source teams to identify synergies with nutrient/sediment and toxic contaminant mitigation options in order to promote consideration of toxic contaminants as part of the 2-year milestones. (Consistent with STAC recommendations from CBP) | TCW chairs with selected investigators. |  | 2021-2022 |
| 4.5 | The Chesapeake Bay Commission will work collaboratively with the Bay Program partners to identify legislative, budgetary and policy needs to advance the goals of the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement. | CBC will, in turn, pursue action within our member state General Assemblies and the United States Congress. See CBC Resolution #14-1 for additional information on the CBC’s participation in the management strategies. | CBC |  | 2021-2022 |
| Management Approach 5: Gather information on issues of emerging concern. | | | | | |
| 5.1 | Continue to investigate previously prioritized issues of emerging concern including microplastics and PFAS. | Participate and provide communication to the workgroup on the microplastics risk assessment process within CBP (Internal POC Doug Austin). Improve understanding of | ~~STAC, TCW~~ |  | 2021-2022 |
| Track continued progress USGS NE region microplastics study and identify relevance to CB (Internal USGS POC Shawn Fisher) . | USGS, TCW |  | 2021-2022 |
| Aggregate and analyze recent regulations and management approaches related to UV filters, hormones, and antibiotics in other states to help outline possible strategies for CBP | UMBC, TCW |  | 2021-2022 |
| Track progress related to fish consumption advisories in neighboring watersheds (DRB) to help outline possible strategies for CB, advances in monitoring and analysis of PFAS in environmental media (excluding drinking water) | USGS, TCW |  | 2021-2022 |
|  |  | | | | |