



# Toxic and Emerging Contaminants

## Refining Scope and Metrics

Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Monthly Meeting

April 8th, 2026

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# Indicators Discussion Highlights (from March)

- High-level impairment statistic serves as a “report card” but doesn’t show progress of work being implemented, changes over time, increased monitoring, etc.
- Need for standardized metric(s) across jurisdictions (and/or better communication of differences) for tracking tools and indicator(s)
- Value of a “clearinghouse” of information for cross-jurisdictional issues and tools to aid local implementation
- Suggestion of concentrating TCW convening to less frequent symposia rather than monthly meetings
- Attendance, captured in some form, can track information sharing towards the target

See [Canva Board](#) and [meeting minutes](#) for all responses.

# Current TCW Tools

- [TCPP Indicator](#)
- [PCBs Geonarrative](#)
- [Mercury Geonarrative](#)
- [Science Needs Database](#)
- The many tools, maps, and research developed by you!

The screenshot displays the Science Needs Database interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Science Needs Database logo and links for Science Needs, Download, SSRF Guidance, About, and Log In. Below the navigation bar, there are filter sections for Goals, Primary Outcomes, Categories, and Need. The Primary Outcomes filter is set to 'Toxics Contaminants'. A search button is visible on the right. Below the filters is a table with columns for Goal, Primary Outcome, and Category. The table lists several science needs related to toxic contaminants. To the right of the table is a map titled 'PCBs in the Chesapeake Bay 2022'. The map shows the Chesapeake Bay watershed with orange shading indicating areas of concern. A legend is visible on the map. Below the map, there is a list of five items related to PCBs: 1. PCB Impairments, 2. PCB TMDLs as of 2022\*, 3. PCB TMDLs in Development, 4. PCB TMDLs Planned for Development, and 5. PCB Impairments without Existing or Planned TMDLs. The map is powered by Esri and data is provided by data.pa.gov.

Goal	Primary Outcome	Category
Toxic Contaminants	Toxics Contaminants Policy and Prevention	Data Gathering, Synthesis
Toxic Contaminants	Toxics Contaminants Policy and Prevention	Data Gathering, Literature Review, Research, Synthesis
Toxic Contaminants	Toxics Contaminants Research	Research, Synthesis
Toxic Contaminants	Toxics Contaminants Research	Data Gathering, Research, Synthesis
Toxic Contaminants	Toxics Contaminants Research	Data Gathering, Monitoring, Research
Toxic Contaminants	Toxics Contaminants Research	Data Gathering, Monitoring, Research, Synthesis
Toxic Contaminants	Toxics Contaminants Research	Data Gathering, Research, Synthesis
Toxic Contaminants	Toxics Contaminants Research	Data Gathering, Monitoring, Research

**PCBs in the Chesapeake Bay 2022**

- 1 PCB Impairments
- 2 PCB TMDLs as of 2022\*
- 3 PCB TMDLs in Development
- 4 PCB TMDLs Planned for Development
- 5 PCB Impairments without Existing or Planned TMDLs

# Discussion Questions

- Consider the content and utility/value of the “ideal” Indicator product:
  - To what degree should it report:
    - **Indicator Status** (e.g., static periodic “Report Card”)?
    - **Indicator Trends/Changes** (statistical or otherwise)?
    - **Incremental Progress** toward toxics mitigation (e.g., monitoring efforts; TMDL/IP changes, (de)listings)?
    - **Actionable Information** (e.g., research/monitoring/restoration priorities by contaminant/waterbody/locale; management strategy developments/successes)?
    - Other?
  - On what information/data/metrics should it focus?
  - At what spatial/temporal resolution?



# Discussion Questions (cont.)

- In addition to the Indicator, what tools/resources should TCW offer?
    - Consider: audience, purpose, content, sources, timing, effort needed to create & maintain
  - Generally, how can TCW as a Bay-wide group add value/perspective beyond existing jurisdictional products?
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