



Diagnostic Tools to Evaluate Impacts of Trace Organic Compounds on Aquatic Populations and Communities

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Acknowledgements

- **Kent Thornton**, FTN Associates Ltd.
- Kelly Munkittrick & Karen Kidd Univ. New Brunswick, Canada
- Steven Bartell, E2 Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- Katherine Kapo, Montani Run, LLC
- Abby Markowitz, Condatis

Acknowledgements Tetra Tech

- Henry Latimer
- Jennifer Flippin
- Marcus Bowersox
- Jeroen Gerritsen
- Jeff White
- Vladi Royzman

- Jaime Gilliam
- Chad Barbour
- John Roberts
- Lei Zheng
- Herb Brass
- Leijun Wu
- Brenda Decker





Research Objectives

- Develop and apply a procedure to prioritize TOrCs
- Develop and test diagnostic tools to identify whether TOrCs are a cause of biological impairment
- Develop a relational database of TOrC exposure data; temporarily residing at: http://werf2.tetratech-ffx.com/
- Develop a Collaboration Plan for fostering partnerships among stakeholders in Phase 2





Project Focus

- Organic contaminants of emerging concern
- Surface water only
- Ecological integrity, not human health
- Wastewater-influenced sites
- Effects on aquatic populations and communities





Which TOrCs should I monitor?







TOrC Prioritization Approach

Compiled:

TOrC occurrence data

■ TOrC fate information (ECOSAR, PBT Profiler)

Predicted toxicity and endocrine activity thresholds (ECOSAR, PBT Profiler, EU, FDA)



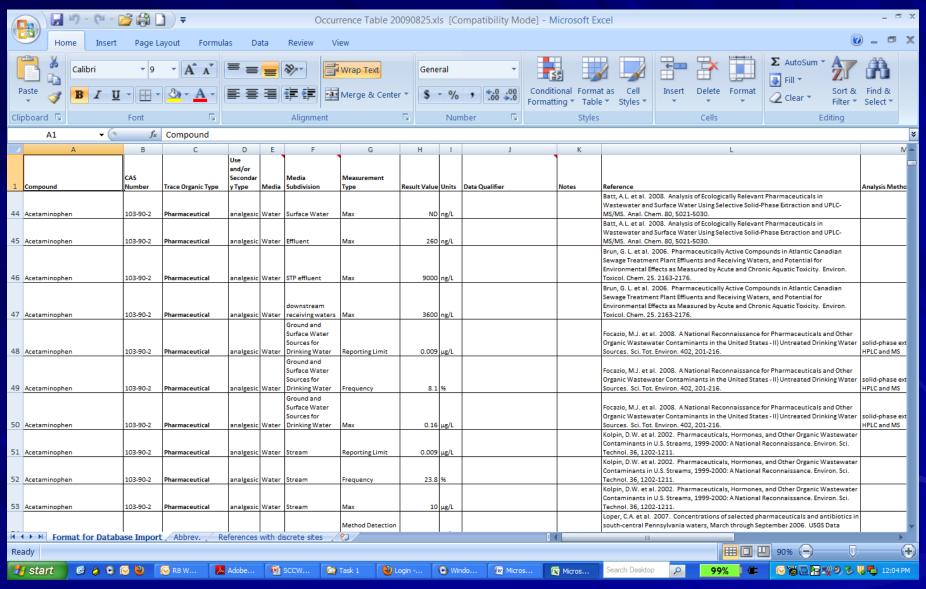
Occurrence Data

- Over 100 studies examined; 70 studies used
- Information from > 700 sites
- Over 500 TOrCs, including 48 high risk, high production volume TOrCs with no occurrence information
- Over 30 monitoring organizations represented
- Included as supplemental information





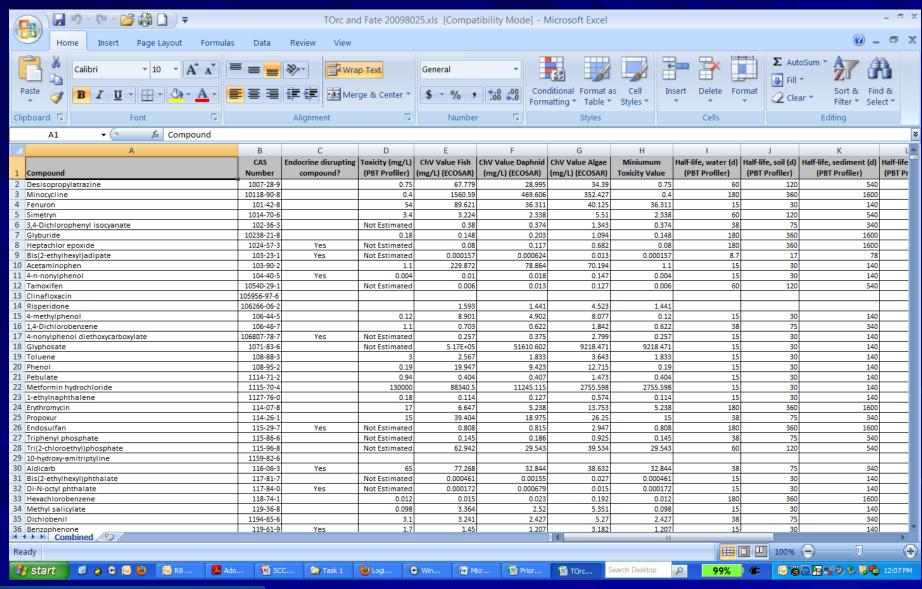
Occurrence Database: Results and Sources







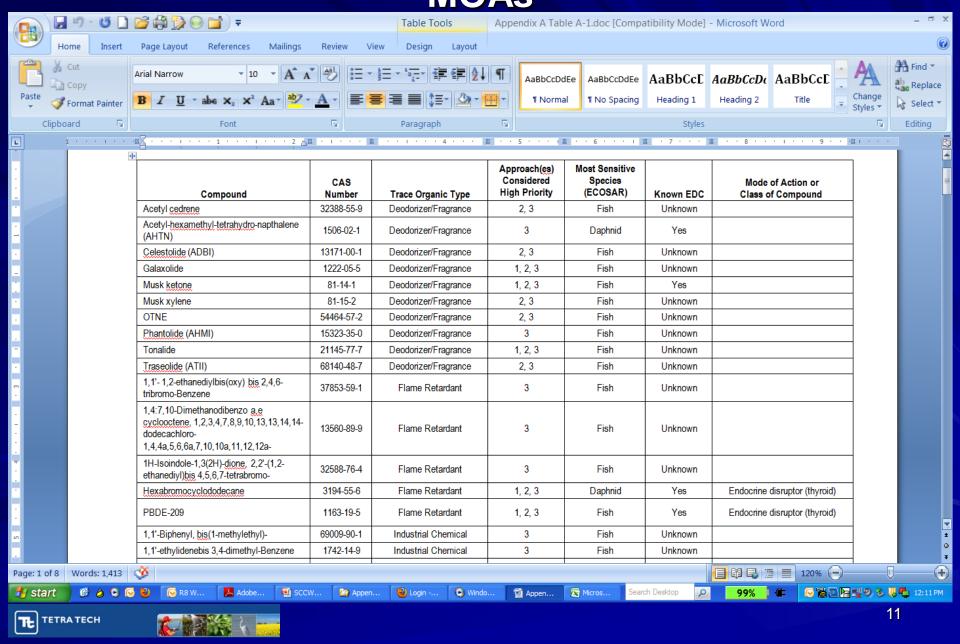
Occurrence Database: Fate and Effects







Occurrence Database: Prioritized TOrCs and MOAs

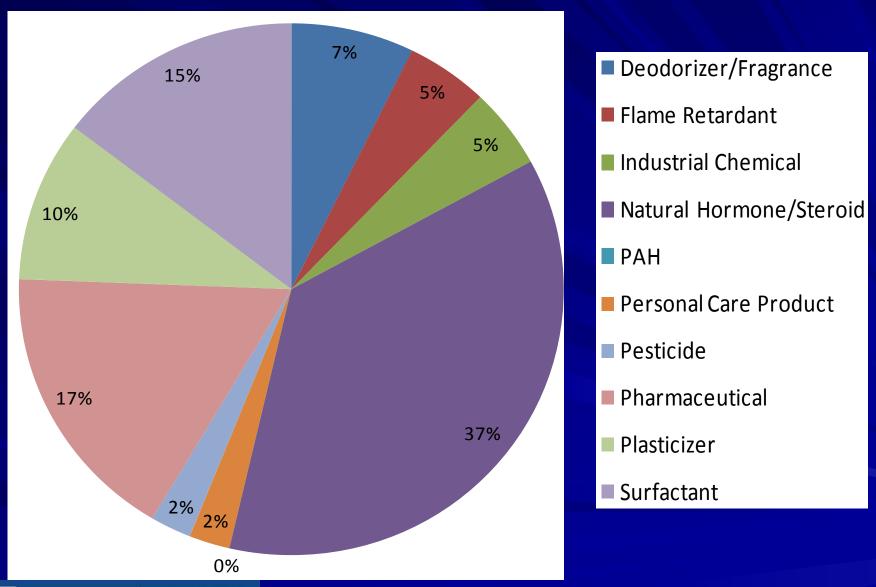


Prioritized TOrCs Based on:

- Maximum observed concentration vs. conservative effect thresholds (Risk-based)
- Risk-based + persistence and bioaccumulation potential scores (Risk + PB)
- 3) Persistence, Bioaccumulation, Toxicity– not occurrence-based(PBT)









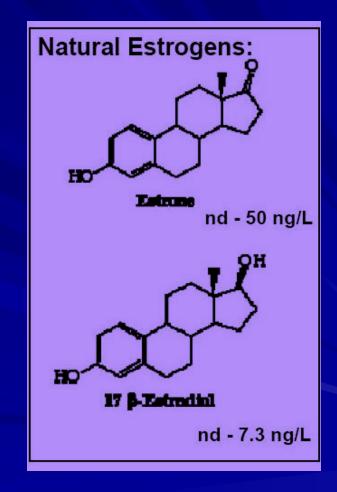
- Relatively few pharmaceuticals ranked as high priority as compared to the number monitored
 - Exceptions are synthetic steroids and hormones







- Most sensitive endpoint is predicted chronic toxicity rather than estrogenic activity for most high priority TOrCs
 - Exceptions are the few hormones





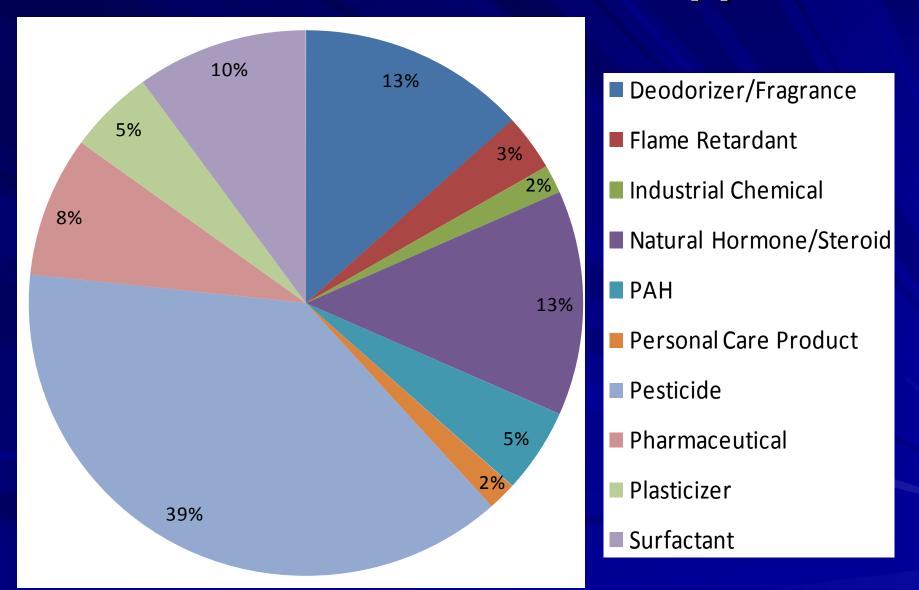


- Shortest TOrC list of all 3 approaches (41)
- Hormones, steroids, pharmaceuticals, and surfactants comprise most of the high priority TOrCs
- Wastewater discharges could be a major source of these TOrCs
- Most pharmaceuticals monitored may not present a risk to aquatic life.
- HOWEVER, many unknowns in terms of estrogenic and other endocrine activity effects of many of these chemicals





Risk + PB Approach







Risk + PB Approach

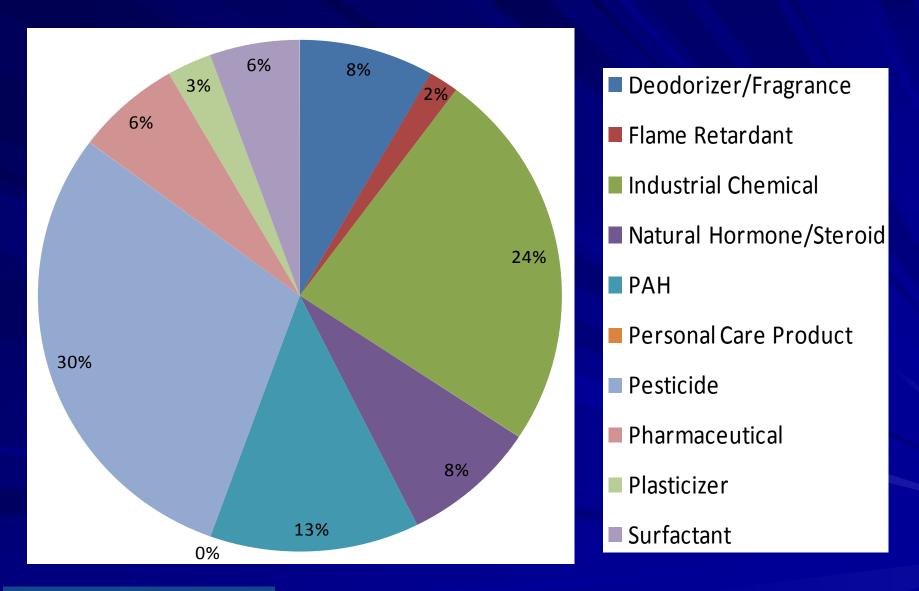
Hormones, steroids, pharmaceuticals, and surfactants still important

- Half of the TOrCs are persistent or bioaccumulative chemicals: pesticides and fragrances.
- Wastewater discharges may or may not be a major source of some of these TOrCs





PBT Approach







PBT Approach

Most are pesticides, PAHs, and industrial chemicals

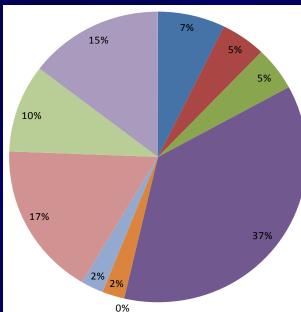
Wastewater discharges may not be a major source of these TOrCs

This is the longest list of high priority TOrCs (108).



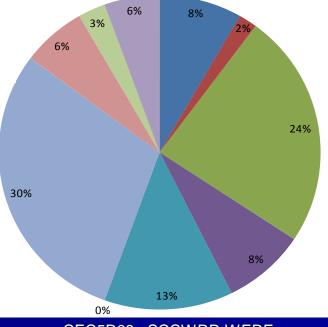


Summary of Prioritizations

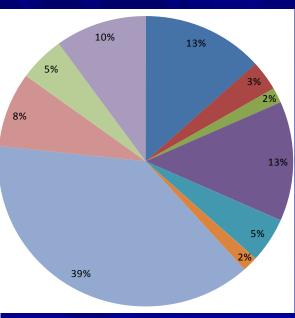








CEC5R08 SCCWRP-WERF Workshop



PBT

High Priority TOrCs Using All Approaches

- 17α-ethynylestradiol
- 4-n-nonylphenol
- 4-Nonylphenol
- Bis(2-ethylhexyl)adipate
- Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
- Campesterol
- Cholesterol
- Coprostanol
- Desmosterol
- Di-N-octyl phthalate
- Epicoprostanol
- Galaxolide

- Mestranol
- Musk ketone
- para-nonylphenol
- PBDE-209
- Pentachlorophenol
- Stigmastanol
- Stigmasterol
- Tamoxifen
- Tonalide
- β-sitosterol
- Hexabromocyclododecane





Some Common TOrCs May Be Low Risk

- Caffeine is almost always measured but was low risk using all 3 approaches
- But some TOrCs that are low risk may be useful surrogates for co-occurring high risk TOrCs that are more difficult to measure
- Not enough information to determine which TOrCs tend to co-occur in wastewater discharges but WERF research and other programs in progress.





Uncertainties

- Occurrence data should be treated with some caution because:
 - Many questions regarding analytical methods, quantification of TOrCs
 - Not a complete compilation of all data collected in the U.S.
- Toxicity values could be underestimates for those chemicals which have limited structural activity-toxicity relationships available.





TOrC Lists Should Serve as a Tool!

- Lists of high priority TOrCs should <u>not</u> be taken as monitoring requirements or chemicals for regulation
- High priority TOrCs might vary with site factors, treatment available, etc.
- Prioritization approaches should help utilities and others organize and manage screening of TOrCs.
- A chemical by chemical approach may be okay for prioritizing TOrCs, but need to consider the cumulative risk of TOrCs at a site.



SCREENING SITES FOR TOrC RISK









Screening Approach

Influent factors:

population size and age distribution; types of inputs (e.g., hospital contribution)

Treatment factors:

Type of treatment; treatment performance; effluent consistency; frequency of upsets

TOrCs
predicted to
pose risk to
aquatic life?

Site observations:

fish intersex frequency; tissue hormone concentrations; TOrC data; population/community impairment

Site factors:

barriers to organism movement; refugia present; sensitive species; pH, temp; effluent dilution





What types of wastewater-influenced sites are most at risk from TOrCs?



Hypotheses

- Sites with WWTP influent high in hormones, steroids, plasticizers, and surfactants are higher risk
- WWTPs with lower nutrient removal rates are higher risk sites
- Sites having less effluent dilution are at higher risk
- Sites having more barriers to organism movement and emigration are at higher risk





Categorization of Site Risk Potential

WWTP Effluent TOrC Scenario	TOrCs in the Effluent Exceed Conservative	Population/Community Impact Observed?	Risk Potential
	Thresholds?	·	
A	Yes	Unknown	Possible
В	Unknown	Yes	Possible
С	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
D	No	No	Low

Note: If TOrCs exceed thresholds and the site is impacted, screening is unnecessary – diagnostics are needed





Site Risk Levels for TOrCs

Site Risk classification	WWTP Facility	Receiving Waterbody
LEVELI (Lowest)	Low risk	Lowrisk
LEVELII	Lowrisk	High risk
LEVELIII	High risk	Lowrisk
LEVEL IV (Highest)	High risk	High risk





Boulder Creek, before upgrade: Scenario A, Level IV

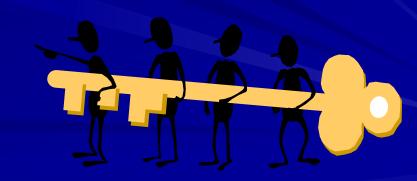
	Factor	Value	Risk
WWTP Input Characteristics	Industry/hospital- related influents	>5%	High
WWTP Treatment Characteristics	Level of treatment	Trickling filters, chlorination/dechlorination.	Medium - High
Receiving waterbody	Effluent dilution (low flow)	Effluent dominates flow (perhaps >70% of the time)	High
	Waterbody openness/barriers	Some diversions for irrigation and dams could prevent fish movement	High
	Presence of other potential sources of TOrCs	Urban runoff, agriculture, historic pollution from mining	High





DIAGNOSING RISKS DUE TO TORCS









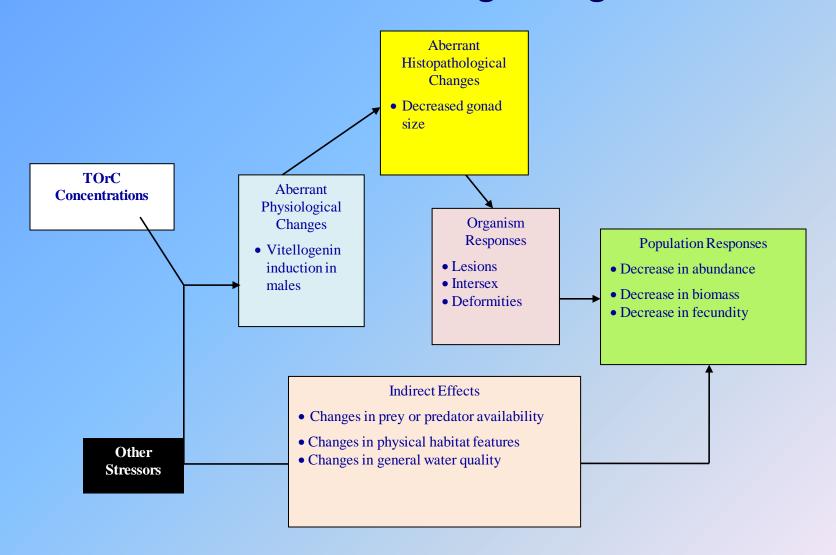
Do effluent TOrCs pose a risk to aquatic populations and communities?







Need to link exposure and effects at different levels of biological organization





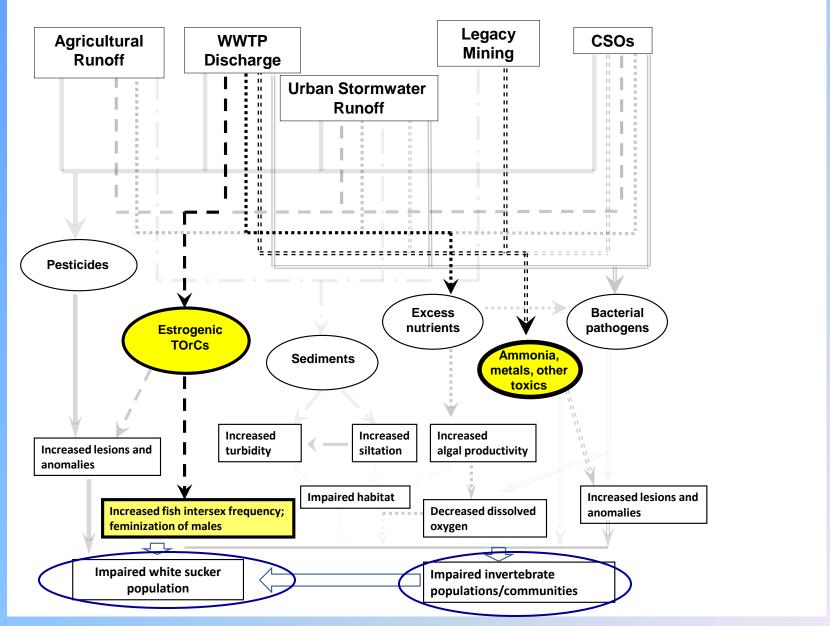
Evaluated 7 Case Studies

Site (WWTP)	Location	Percent Effluent	Potential Stressors in Addition to WWTP TOrCs	Biological Impairment?	TOrC Data?	Scenario Type	Risk Level
SCB	CA	<1	Legacy pesticides and PCBs; normal ocean temperature variation	Not Known	Water, Fish, Effluent, Sediment	Α	I or III, depending on WWTP
Guelph	ON	40	Channelization; low-head dams; agricultural runoff	Not known	Water, Fish, Effluent	А	П
Kitchener	ON	10 - 15	Urban runoff; low-head dams; agricultural runoff; CAFOs	Yes, fish	Water, Fish, Effluent	А	IV
Ravenna	ОН	>90	Urban runoff; septic systems	Yes – fish, macroinvertebrates	Predicted	В	IV
Mansfield	ОН	>80	Urban runoff; legacy industrial contaminants; industrial discharges; agricultural runoff	Yes – fish, macroinvertebrates; but upstream impaired too	Predicted	В	III
Taylor Run	PA	85	Urban runoff, stormwater	Yes – periphyton, macroinvertebrates	Fish Tissue	А	III
Boulder	со	>70	Urban runoff; legacy mining pollutants; agricultural runoff	Not Known	Water, Fish, Effluent	Α	Pre-upgrade= IV Post upgrade = II





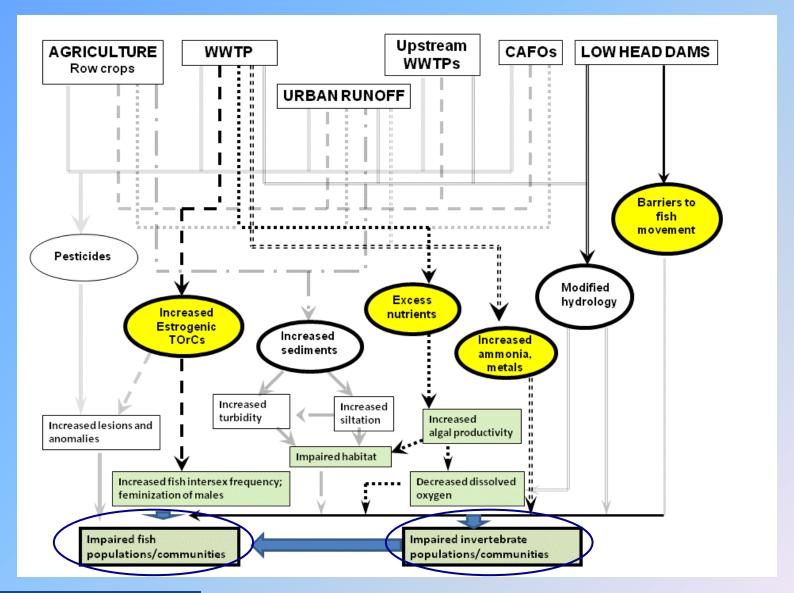
Many data gaps:







More levels of biological organization examined; Better diagnostics







Exposure And Effects Information At Multiple Biological Levels Is Critical

Site	Suborganism	Organism	Population	Community
SCB, CA.	Vtg. in male turbot; TOrCs and legacy CECs in livers; cortisol and thyroid hormones in blood	Ova-testis; intersex rate	Gender ratio; relative abundance	ND
Guelph, ON.	TOrC analyses in water; Vtg., hormone, enzymes in fish exposed in situ	14-d in situ fish studies	Wild fish population studies	Macroinvertebrate and fish bioassessments
Kitchener, ON.	TOrC analyses in water; Vtg., hormone, enzymes in fish exposed in situ	Intersex rate	Darter population studies	Macroinvertebrate and fish bioassessments
Ravenna, OH.	ND (predicted TOrC risk)	ND	ND	Macroinvertebrate and fish bioassessments
Mansfield, OH.	ND (predicted TOrC risk)	ND	ND	Macroinvertebrate and fish bioassessments
Taylor Run, PA.	TOrCs observed in fish tissue	ND	ND	Algal, macroinvertebrate, and fish bioassessments
Boulder Creek, CO.	Vtg. in male white suckers	Intersex in white suckers	Skewed sex ratio in white suckers	ND





Recommendations

- At first, evaluate those TOrCs that are known to occur and are high priority from a tox or EDC perspective – tailor the list of TOrCs to your site/region
- Screening of sites should include wastewater input, treatment, and waterbody factors, as well as site data
- Diagnosing effects of TOrCs requires exposure and effects data at multiple levels





Recommendations

- Suborganismal indicators may be more useful in documenting exposure than measurements of a partial list of TOrCs monitored infrequently
- Exposure information without population-level effects information is of limited use in understanding:
 - TOrC effects
 - Types of sites or populations most at risk
 - Levels of TOrCs that may pose a risk
- Large waterbodies present formidable challenges in diagnosing effects of TOrCs on biota. Efforts may best be focused on effluent-dominated systems, to further test and refine the screening framework.





Recommendations

- EPA's CADDIS or Environment Canada's EEM are useful for organizing and evaluating lines of evidence. For most sites, available data are unlikely to be sufficient for diagnosing effects specifically due to TOrCs.
 - Both approaches provide scientifically defensible procedures for eliminating non-TOrC stressors
- Typical aquatic bioassessments generally do not measure indicators of TOrC exposure or effects. They are most useful with other tools to diagnose whether TOrCs are affecting biota.



What Should Phase 2 Look Like?







Phase 2 Should:

Address critical data/information gaps in the form of testable hypotheses

Provide useful guidance or tools in the

Testable hypotheses organized according to 3 basic questions:

- Under what conditions do waterbody factors or WWTP factors drive aquatic ecological risks of TOrCs?
- 2. In what types of sites are "high" TOrC concentrations associated with observed biological effects?
- 3. Can a retrospective, stressor-identification approach partition the effects of TOrCs from other stressors or will the approach be a process of elimination where TOrCs are the most likely remaining cause of effects?





Products, Time Frame, Complexity

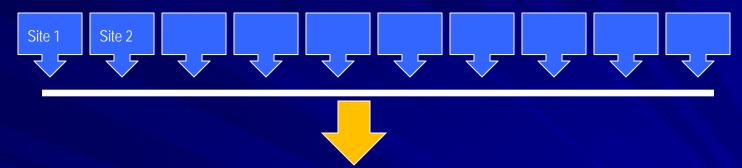
- Theme 1: refines the site screening process: deliver a useful screening tool within first year; may involve many sites; least complex technically
- Theme 2: identify relationships between TOrCs and biological integrity using subset of sites from Theme 1; provide tangible tools within 2 years to further refine screening and help diagnostics; intermediate complexity
- Theme 3: test diagnostic approaches using subset of sites from Theme 2; provide a useful diagnostic approach and tools within 3 years to assess if TOrCs cause or could cause effects; highly complex





Potential Phase 2 Design

Theme 1 Hypotheses: Refine Site Screening Process



Theme 2 Hypotheses: Relate TOrC concentrations to biological condition



Theme 3 Hypotheses: Refine and test diagnostics for TOrC effects







Coordination and Collaboration are Key

- California CEC prioritization and CEC monitoring efforts fit in well with Phase 2 goals
- Need participation from utilities as well as researchers and various monitoring organizations
- Multifaceted expertise is needed to make the linkages
 - TOrC concentration data in various matrices
 - Suborganismal endpoints: biomarkers, vtg, etc
 - Individual organismal endpoints: sex identification, growth, etc
 - Population/community endpoints: species fecundity, abundance, diversity, etc.





WEB-BASED DATABASE









Search Interface

- Geospatial Based
- Search Studies, Compounds, Locations, Date and other qualifiers
- Includes full Export in Excel
- Results in Summary Format or Export to Excel
- > Allows for batch import





Search Interface







Upload / Data Entry Interface

- Batch or Form Upload
- Review/approval process
- Includes geo-tagging of data based on county/zip/stream etc.
- Includes reference manager for administrators





Upload / Data Entry Interface



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Action	Organization	Title	Primary A
<i></i>	EPA	EPA National Fish Tissue Study	EPA OS



Name Type Search Reset

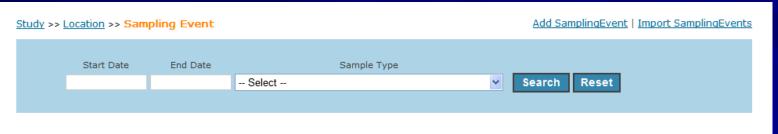
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Action	Name	Туре	Latitude	Longitude	Details	Sampling Events
00	Pine Flat Reservoir	Reservoir	36.8747	-119.2349		(2)
00	Mora Lake	Lake	48.0215	-90.9426		(2)
00	Jewelry Lake	Lake	38.1627	-119.7812		(1)
00	Bighorn Lake	Reservoir	45.1706	-108.1039		(2)
0	Dick Lake	Lake	47.8652	-90.4943		(2)





Upload / Data Entry Interface



Displaying 1 of 2 of 2

Action	Start Date	End Date	Sample Type	Details	Results
<i>></i> 🖨	5/23/2001		Composite Fish Tissue Predator		□ (47)
<i>></i> 🖨	5/23/2001		Study >> Location >> Sampling Event >> Result		

Displaying 1 of 10 of 47

Study >> Location >> Sampling Event >> Result

Compound

Media Type

Measurement Type

- Select - V

Search

Reset

Media Measurement Converted Action Compound Original Result Details *P* 🖨 1,2-dichlorobenzene Tissue Actual 0 ug/kg 0 ug/kg 1,3-dichlorobenzene Water Actual 0 ug/kg 0 ug/kg 1,4-Dichlorobenzene Tissue Actual 0 ug/kg 0 ug/kg 4-Nonylphenol Tissue Actual 0 ug/kg 0 ug/kg Acenaphthene Tissue Actual 0 ua/ka 0 ug/kg Acenaphthylene Actual 0 ug/kg 0 ug/kg Tissue Anthracene Tissue Actual 0 ug/kg 0 ug/kg Biphenyl Tissue Actual 0 ug/kg 0 ug/kg Carbazole Actual 0 ug/kg 0 ug/kg Tissue

Tissue

Actual

0 ug/kg

0 ug/kg

Chrysene