

Expert Science Panel
Closed Session Summary
May 2, 2023

The Expert Science Panel (Panel) met from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM remotely via zoom. The objectives of the day were: (a) Provide an update on the second intercalibration study, (b) Discuss the documentation plan and initiate the process to develop recommendations, (c) Discuss potential improvements to the CASA proposal.

(a) The second intercalibration study (ILS) started with ten out of the twelve laboratories that participated in the baseline study.

SCCWRP prepared the split samples and subsampled every cubitainer to measure conductivity, hardness, alkalinity, and pH to ensure homogeneity of the split samples.

The samples were shipped on May 24 and arrived at the laboratories on time. All laboratories started the test as planned and results are expected 10 days after test completion. It was noted that only nine labs are participating in the first round. The 10th lab had scheduling and staffing issues. The next batch of samples will be prepared on May 12, and shipped to the labs on May 15.

(b) The Panel discussed the documents that will be produced to complete the project. These documents include: a concise Guidance Document with the list of recommendations, a Technical Support Document, and an appendix with technical details for the historical data analyses and intercomparison exercises.

The Panel initiated conversation about the recommendations for the Guidance Document. The recommendations fall in one of four categories: Accreditation/audits, method-specific best practices, training, future studies.

Over the next 2 months, the Panel will meet bi-monthly to develop the three documents. The Panel asked SCCWRP to provide implementation support by first drafting outlines and conceptual graphics that the Panel will then refine.

(c) The Panel discussed the CASA proposal and formulated a written response to CASA's request. Overall, the Panel reiterated that improving lab performance is the priority before adding other goals or study design elements. The Panel also discussed available studies and existing testing guidelines to control for hardness effects. The Panel recommends that CASA review these documents before revising the specific questions and study design.