

DETERMINING COMPARABILITY OF BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

Facilitator

Jerry Diamond, Tetra Tech, Inc.

Presenters

James B. Stribling, Tetra Tech, Inc., “The Relationship of Performance Characteristics and Data Quality to the Comparability of Biological Assessments”

Lisa Houston Huff, Alabama Dept. of Environmental Management, “Evaluation of Periphyton, Macroinvertebrate, and Fish Community Assessment Techniques as Indicators of Nutrient Enrichment and Changes in Nutrient Stream Loading”

John Volstad, Versar, “Integration of Stream Monitoring Data Across Maryland Jurisdictions: Comparison of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling Protocols”

Karen Blocksom, USEPA, “A Comparison of Single and Multiple Habitat Rapid Bioassessment Sampling Methods for Macroinvertebrates in Piedmont and Northern Piedmont Streams”

LeAnne Astin, ICPRB, “Integrating Biological Monitoring Data from Diverse Sources: Lessons in Database Development and Data Synthesis from the Potomac Basinwide Assessment Project”

James Carter, USGS, “Assessment of the variation in methods used by state agencies for collecting and processing benthic macroinvertebrate samples”

Edward Rankin, Center for Applied Bioassessment & Biocriteria, “An Evaluation and Review of State Surface Water Monitoring Programs in Region V: A Template for Evaluating State Programs”

Erik Leppo, Tetra Tech, Inc., “Comparability of Biological Assessment Methods – Prince George’s County and the Maryland Biological Stream Survey”

Biographical Sketch of Facilitator

Jerry Diamond is a Director of Tetra Tech’s Owings Mills, MD office and has served as an EPA contractor to the Methods Board for several years where he helped formulate a comparability framework for biological methods. All of the presenters in this workshop have been actively involved in the issues of comparing bioassessment methods and data for a variety of purposes such as developing local, regional or national assessments. Many of the presenters have also dealt with the problem of identifying performance and data quality of different bioassessment methods.

Workshop Description

This workshop will summarize current studies evaluating performance of bioassessment methods, quality of data produced, and comparability of methods, data, and assessments. Emphasis will be placed on the tools or methods used to compare methods and data, what strategies appear to work for comparing methods, and the level at which comparability can be evaluated. Participants will work with actual situations in which comparability issues are at stake and discuss what is needed in terms of data quality and performance information, data quality objectives for various programs and monitoring purposes. This workshop will strive to determine how, and on what level(s) comparability of biological assessment methods is feasible. Next steps in terms of bioassessment comparability guidance will be identified.