

Water Quality Monitoring Activities by Interstate Commissions

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Abstract

Six interstate commissions receive grants from US EPA to carry out programs in their subject areas, and to coordinate and support the water pollution control and prevention efforts of their member states. Those commissions are:

- Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
- Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)
- Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC)
- New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC)
- Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC)

Interstate commissions perform a wide variety of water quality monitoring activities, including ambient network monitoring, trend monitoring, and compliance monitoring. . The commissions provide states with an opportunity to pool resources to undertake innovative approaches, and can provide greater monitoring coverage of shared waters than states could provide individually. In addition, the commissions are established as coordinating bodies; they are therefore ideally situated to facilitate collaborative monitoring activities by a number of agencies and other groups.

This presentation will provide examples of monitoring activities by six interstate commissions, including estuary monitoring (DRBC and IEC), ground water monitoring (DRBC), compliance monitoring (IEC), fish tissue (NEIWPC, ORSANCO), lake studies (SRBC), trend monitoring (DRBC, ORSANCO, SRBC) and biological monitoring (all commissions). It will also include examples of commissions' coordination of multiple agency monitoring activities, such as ICPRB's activities under the Chesapeake Bay Program. Interstate commissions can perform vital roles in developing, promoting and implementing collaborative monitoring efforts.