



National Water Quality Monitoring Council

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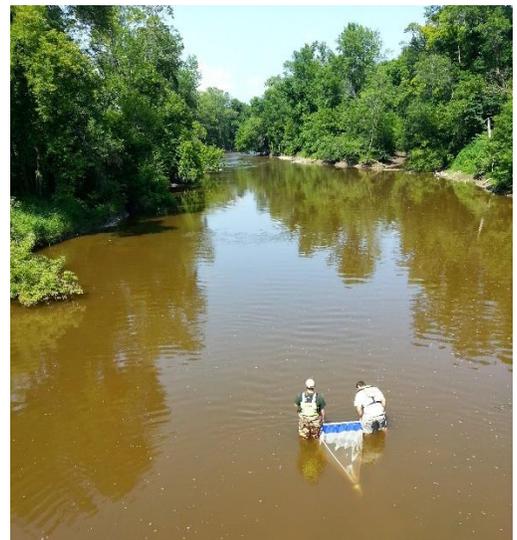
NWQMC Webinar Series

Microplastics in Great Lakes Tributaries

Presented by

Austin K. Baldwin, USGS Hydrologist

Tuesday, July 14th, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EDT



Microplastics—plastic particles less than 5mm in diameter—are a growing contaminant of concern in freshwater systems. Sources are known to include abrasive beads in personal care products, fibers shed from synthetic clothing during washing, breakdown of larger plastic litter, and pre-production pellets and powders, among others. These particles are ingested by aquatic organisms, resulting in digestive system obstruction and damage, as well as bioaccumulation of toxic or endocrine-disrupting contaminants inherent to the plastic or sorbed to the surface of the plastic.

In 2014, as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and in cooperation with the State University of New York at Fredonia, the USGS began the first large-scale study of microplastics in rivers. Sampling 29 Great Lakes tributaries across 6 states, the study quantifies and characterizes different types of microplastics relative to land use, wastewater effluent contribution, and flow condition.

The webinar is free; pre-registration is required. Please login 10 minutes early.

To register for this session: Go to

<https://doilearn.webex.com/doilearn/k2/j.php?MTID=t4e473f18d8d87014345b131f4050b20d> and register.

Once you are approved by the host, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the session.