STORET/WQX Conference Call – October 31th, 2013 12:00- 1:00 P.M. Eastern Time

Introduction (Charles Kovatch)

- The minutes from all previous conference calls are available over the web: http://www.epa.gov/storet/confcalls.html
- The next scheduled call will be December 2013. The exact date will be emailed via the list server when the call gets closer.
- Please email STORET@epa.gov and let EPA know you attended the call so that meeting rosters may be kept.
- If you have a special topic you would like to lead for an upcoming call, please email Kovatch.Charles@epamail.epa.gov.
- EPA would like to hear comments you have on the quality of these conference calls. Please send them to STORET@epa.gov
- Please subscribe to the STORET automated server for announcements regarding conference calls: http://www.epa.gov/storet/listserv.html

Agenda

1. Review of Biological Monitoring Data Submission

2. Discussion on Biological Intent

3. Discussion on how information on harmful Algal Blooms is collected and stored.

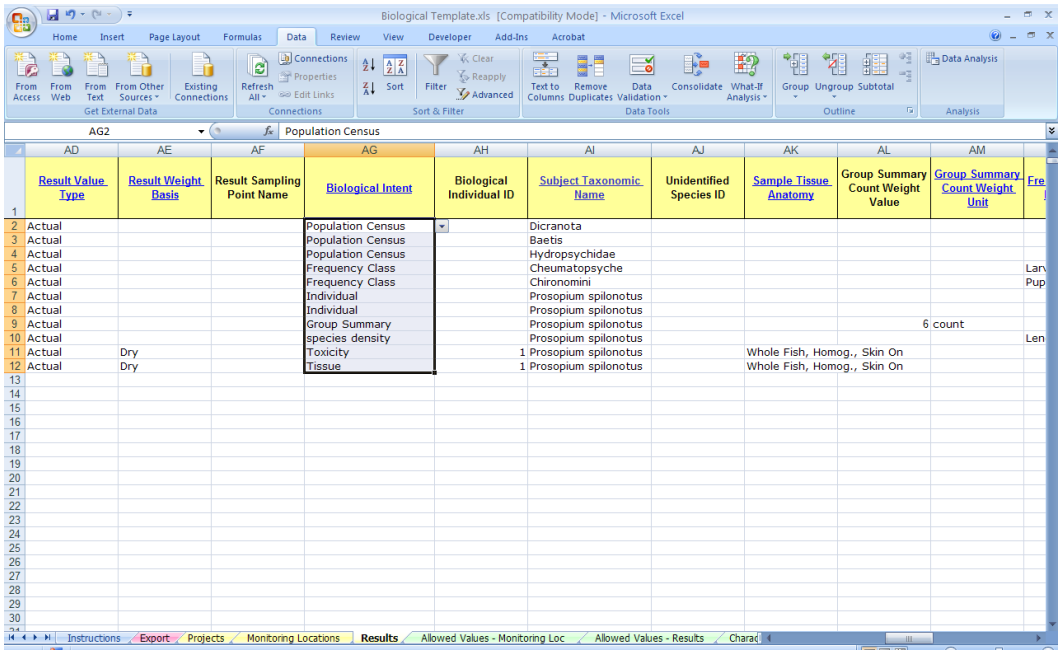
Review of Biological Monitoring Data Submission (Charles Kovatch)

We have worked a lot with the user community establishing in mapping and flowing physical/Chemical data to WQX, and we are excited to have almost every state participating. Moving forward, we would like to focus more on biological, habitat, metric and indices data in order to make a more robust dataset available. We are happy to offer assistance for those with repositories of biological data that are unsure how to map data to the WQX schema.

We have received a number of inquiries on the best way to collect and store information related to harmful algal blooms. Wanted to get feedback if this is the way you are storing harmful algal bloom data or if there are other ways that may capture your data better.

Discussion on Biological Intent *species density* (Michael Brennan)

WQX Biological Intents categorize the type of data you are reporting. Today we wanted to introduce a new biological intent -*species density*. The Field Biological intent specifies what type of data are you reporting, toxicity data, tissue sample data, or perhaps a summary of the average weight or length of the organisms that you surveyed. One data element available for the Biological intent field is *Population Census*. *Population Census* can be used to record the count of a specific macroinvertebrate sampled in a stream.

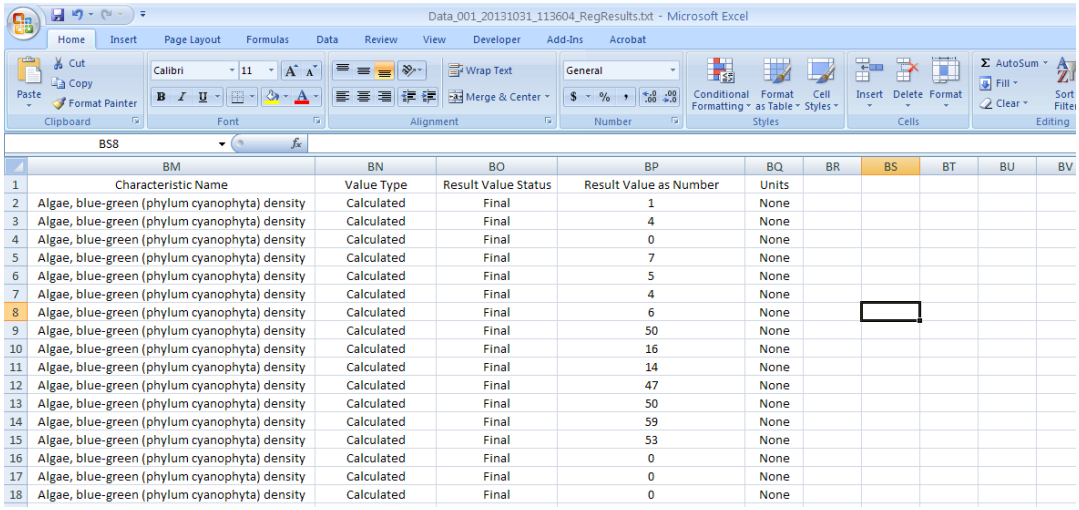


	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	AJ	AK	AL	AM	
1	Result Value Type	Result Weight Basis	Result Sampling Point Name	Biological Intent	Biological Individual ID	Subject Taxonomic Name	Unidentified Species ID	Sample Tissue Anatomy	Group Summary Count Weight Value	Group Summary Count Weight Unit	Fre
2	Actual			Population Census		Dicranota					
3	Actual			Population Census		Baetis					
4	Actual			Population Census		Hydropsychidae					
5	Actual			Frequency Class		Cheumatopsyche					Lar
6	Actual			Frequency Class		Chironomini					Pup
7	Actual			Individual		Prosopium spilonotus					
8	Actual			Individual		Prosopium spilonotus					
9	Actual			Group Summary		Prosopium spilonotus			6	count	
10	Actual			species density		Prosopium spilonotus					Len
11	Actual	Dry		Toxicity	1	Prosopium spilonotus		Whole Fish, Homog., Skin On			
12	Actual	Dry		Tissue	1	Prosopium spilonotus		Whole Fish, Homog., Skin On			

Another data element available for the Biological Intent field, *Individual*, can be used when capturing detailed information of one individual organism. When *Population Census and Individual* are listed as Biological Intents, Count is required as the Characteristic. Some of our users provided feedback that having the characteristic required as count doesn't work when recording biovolume, or species density. A new biological intent was added to the WQX schema called Species density. Please see our website for an updated biological template (http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx/wqxweb_downloads.html) or access the WQX Web biological template through the following link http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx/products/WQXWeb_Biological_Package.zip.

Discussion on how information on harmful Algal Blooms is collected and stored.

There is a multitude of algae, and plankton speciesthat may exist in a lake, however only one specific Phylum produces a harmful algal bloom, the phylum cyanophyta. Documenting targeted sampling for Harmful Algal Toxins can be tricky since data submitters do not want to give the implication that a water body was completely absent of Algae. So we ask that data submitters document harmful algal bloom data as Characteristic name ***Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta)***



	BM	BN	BO	BP	BQ	BR	BS	BT	BU	BV
1	Characteristic Name	Value Type	Result Value Status	Result Value as Number	Units					
2	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	1	None					
3	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	4	None					
4	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	0	None					
5	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	7	None					
6	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	5	None					
7	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	4	None					
8	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	6	None					
9	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	50	None					
10	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	16	None					
11	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	14	None					
12	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	47	None					
13	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	50	None					
14	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	59	None					
15	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	53	None					
16	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	0	None					
17	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	0	None					
18	Algae, blue-green (phylum cyanophyta) density	Calculated	Final	0	None					

Gerald Burnette, HydroGeoLogic, Inc – Some of our clients document harmful algae at the species level, are you saying for reporting harmful algal toxins, you want all of the algae scaled up to the phylum level for data submittal to WQX? It seems like we would be losing some valuable information be scaling up algae to the phylum level. Scaling algal species to the phylum level works great when no cyanophyta are identified, but we are getting results of a particular species of cyanophyta, is there any way we can convey that information?

Michael Brennan USEPA – Yes if you are identifying algae down to the species level, go ahead and submit those records as biological data. The guidance we provided was only for instances where you are sampling for the phylum as a whole and not drilling down to the species level.

Dwane Young USEPA - To add to what Michael said, if you are drilling down to the phylum for blue green algae (cyanophyta) record this information at the regular results level, alternatively if you were sampling at the individual species level, you could submit that as biological data, in order to record this information as species density or population census

Gerald Burnette, HydroGeoLogic, Inc – There still appears to be a bit of a disconnect with the prescribed logic. If we are doing a phytoplankton data submission, what is the end user going to see? Do they get the biological intent in the report? Or is that for validation samples.

Dwane Young USEPA -The biological intent is provided in the report

Gerald Burnette, HydroGeoLogic, Inc – Lets say for example we do a standard phytoplankton sample for reporting species density, and identify a good mix of algae species. If we assess the presence of HABs, and receive positive results, then this information is only going to be reflected through the species density records reported under the biological results. I'm concerned that someone retrieving it our submitted information, will think that the only thing that was found was blue green algae, when in fact, this was a targeted sampling. I would like to suggest users have the option of designating a specific intent, so when people are retrieving HAB data they are informed it was a targeted analysis.

Dwane Young USEPA –So if you were doing an analysis and found different species of algae, they wouldn't get reported because you are only looking for blue green algae

Gerald Burnette, HydroGeoLogic, Inc – Correct -Some clients are reporting everything they find, other cases they are only reporting cyanophyta. If you only see cyanophyta, that's all they were looking for. Im concerned about the implications if folks don't see other phylum.

Dwane Young USEPA –I would like to open the question up to the user community what do you think about having a new intent that was specifically for harmful algal bloom samples.

STORET user 1 – Sounds good to me

STORET user 2 – Sounds great

Dwane Young USEPA – Well we can send an email out to the listserve to determine whether it's a bad idea or not.

Gerald Burnette, HydroGeoLogic, Inc – If you went this route and created a new intent – what if no cyanophyta were found? Do we have to still go back and submit it as physical chemical data, or can we somehow submit it as biological data so its still in one place?

Dwane Young USEPA – I think that this could be submitted as biological. We jus have to confirm that a characteristic name could be a phylum we just have to be careful how far we go down this road. Michael will send out an email to make sure there is not anything that we are missing.

Participants on the call (based on who emailed STORET@epa.gov)

Fred Schenerman	**Maryland Department of the Environment**
Alexander Yeboah	**Maryland Department of the Environment**
Tom Nasuta	**Maryland Department of the Environment**
Priya Papali	**Maryland Department of the Environment**
Vimala John	**Maryland Department of the Environment**
Thomas R. Dallaire	**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**
Scottie Wallace	**Mississippi Band Of Choctaw Indians**
Lisa Helmuth	**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**
Donald Kean	**North Carolina Department of Natural Resources**
Tina Rice	**C R I T I G E N**
Robert Simpson	**EPA Region 2**
Michael J. Whitman	**West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection**
Joe Gross	**North Dakota *Division Of Water Quality***
Margaret Novak	**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**
Bruce Tuttle	**Idaho Dept. of Water Resources**
Chris Nuemiller	**Washington Department of Ecology**
Jonathan Burian	**EPA Region 5**
Susanne Meidel	**ME Department of Environmental Protection**
Ben Cole	**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**
Kayren Pittman	**Alabama Department of Environmental Management**
Jon Becker	**US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4**
Eric Wilson	**Gulf Coast STORET, LLC**

Deb Soule	**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services**
Diane Stevenson	**Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs**
Molly Pullket	**Pennsylvania DEP**
RICK LANGEL	**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**
Andrea Thomas-	**North Carolina Department of Water Resources**
Cathy Alexander	**Ohio Division of Surface Water**
Stacey Sobat	**Indiana Department of Environmental Management**
Valerie Alley	**Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality**
Melanie Titus	**New Hampshire**
Robert Cook	**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 6**
Cynthia Johnson	**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**
Gerald Burnette	**HydroGeoLogic, Inc**
Arlene Garcia	**Pueblo of Acoma**
Steve Spencer	**Shoalwater Bay Tribe**
Tim Bowren	**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**
Debbie Dotson	**Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma**
Micah Isaacs	**Citizen Potawatomi Nation**
Kayren Pittman	**Alabama Department of Environmental Management**
Bill Kramer	**USEPA**
Lemonteh' Horne	**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**
Siteria M. Gregory	**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**