

Delaware River Basin Commission

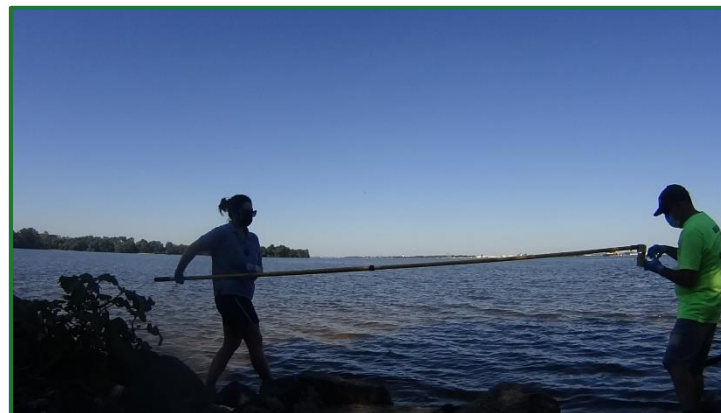
Seeking WQAC Input on Recreation Uses in the Estuary

December 3, 2020

John Yagecic, PE

Manager, Water Quality Assessment DRBC

Presented to an advisory committee of the DRBC on December 3, 2020. Contents should not be published or re-posted in whole or in part without permission of DRBC.



Goal of this Session

- DRBC has received feedback from individual stakeholders
- No specific recommendation(s) from the WQAC
- Not looking for a recommendation today, but seeking feedback on
 - Data / information gaps
 - Areas of consensus
 - Possible paths forward

DRBC Water Resources Program (WRP)

From WQAC Minutes, April 30, 2020

- Mr. Tambini noted that the recreation use study is included in DRBC's Water Resources Program (WRP) for FY2020-2022. The WRP provides detail on DRBC's plans and initiatives. Mr. Tambini noted that DRBC must prioritize given limited resources. Mr. Tambini indicated that the WQAC advises the Commissioners and invited the WQAC to weigh in on water quality priorities for DRBC.

Final edits on WRP for FY 2021-2023 happening now

Seeking WQAC feedback

- Scale and Scope?
- Related studies and actions?
- Priority?

Scale and Scope Questions

- Expanded recreational opportunities vs. Zone 3 & upper 4 designated use change?
 - Expanded opportunities – certain locations under certain conditions (data driven)
 - Estuary-wide

Scale and Scope Questions

From EPA's Water Quality Standards Handbook

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-10/documents/handbook-chapter2.pdf>

Option 2

Designate either primary contact recreational uses or secondary contact recreational uses for all waters of the State and, where secondary contact recreation is designated, set bacteriological criteria sufficient to support primary contact recreation. EPA believes that a secondary contact recreational use (with criteria sufficient to support primary contact recreation) is consistent with the CWA section 101(a)(2) goal. The rationale for this option is discussed in the preamble to the Water Quality

Scale and Scope Questions

- Change criteria but not the use?
 - EPA recommended criteria support contact recreation
 - States 303d list as subcategory 5-Alt (or state equivalent)
 - Impaired, but an alternative restoration approach is being pursued

EPA Office of Water 820-F-12-058

Table 1. Recommended 2012 RWQC.

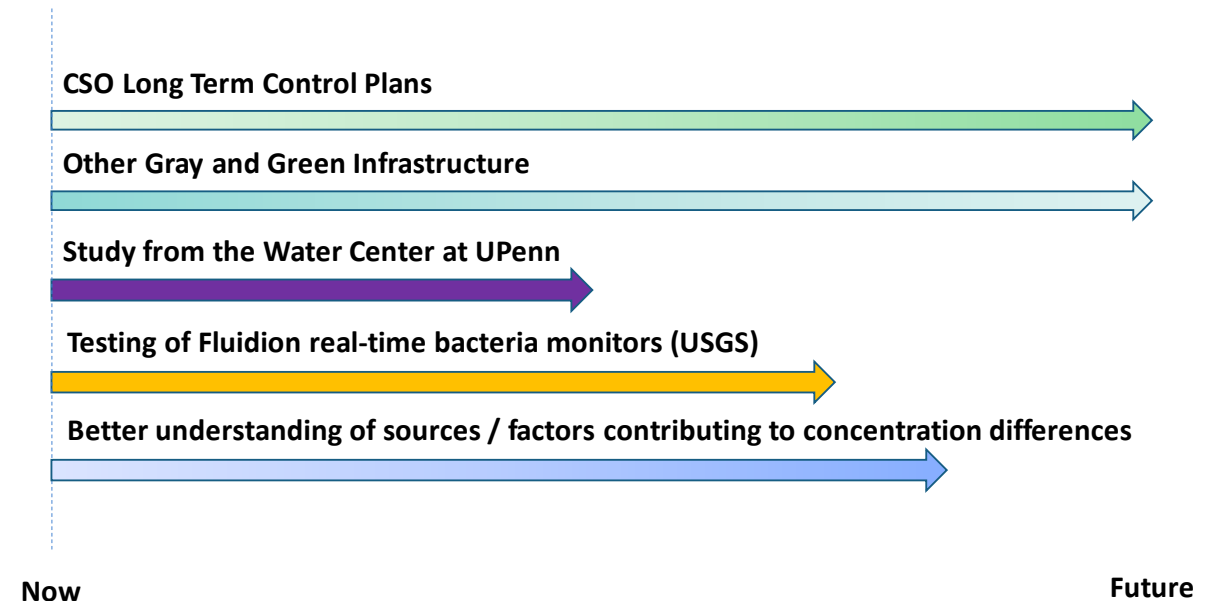
Criteria Elements	Estimated Illness Rate (NGI): 36 per 1,000 primary contact recreators		OR	Estimated Illness Rate (NGI): 32 per 1,000 primary contact recreators	
	Magnitude			Magnitude	
Indicator	GM (cfu/100 mL) ^a	STV (cfu/100 mL) ^a		GM (cfu/100 mL) ^a	STV (cfu/100 mL) ^a
Enterococci – marine and fresh	35	130		30	110
OR					
<i>E. coli</i> – fresh	126	410		100	320
Duration and Frequency: The waterbody GM should not be greater than the selected GM magnitude in any 30-day interval. There should not be greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of the selected STV magnitude in the same 30-day interval.					

^a EPA recommends using EPA Method 1600 (U.S. EPA, 2002a) to measure culturable enterococci, or another equivalent method that measures culturable enterococci and using EPA Method 1603 (U.S. EPA, 2002b) to measure culturable *E. coli*, or any other equivalent method that measures culturable *E. coli*.

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/rwqc2012.pdf>

Related Studies and Actions?

- Examination of recreational activities for inundation & ingestion?
- What activities are primary contact recreation? Under what conditions?
- Hazard Mapping?
- Challenge to philanthropic funders (10,000 new rain barrels in a year)?
- Rolling catalog of load reductions?



Priority?

- How should advancing recreational uses be prioritized by DRBC relative to other water resource challenges or issues such as:
 - Emerging Contaminants (PFAS, etc)
 - Freshwater salinization
 - PCBs

Discussion