

Toxic Contaminant Data for the Columbia River Basin





Two Issues

- A. How to share the data that has been compiled for the State of the River Report

- B. Planning a repository for future data collected in the Basin



Status of Toxics Data

- Located in multiples sites (public, private databases, compilations, written documents)
- Some publicly accessible and others are not
- A portion of the data are available only in hard copy records
- Quality assurance information is often missing especially where data are scarce (ID, MT)
- Issues with existing databases
 - differing formats
 - some have missing or insufficient information



State of the River Report Data

- Compilations of data
 - Hg, DDT, PCBs and PBDEs –excel spreadsheets
 - Status of compilations:
 - Fish tissue data largely complete
 - need review for consistency and duplicate records
 - some data sources are yet missing from the DDT and PCB compilations
 - Sediment data compiled for PBDEs and fairly complete for mercury
 - Sediment and water column data for DDT and PCBs and water column data for mercury needs to be compiled
 - Avian and mammal data is only partially available; no compilation done



Access to the Data

- Originally intended to be available as an electronic appendix, but:
 - some of the data are of unknown quality
 - EPA Region 10 only allows pdfs on its website
 - transfer the data into the new version of STORET or USGS CRUISE?
 - make data available upon request.
 - metadata need to be written
 - need to add fields (analytical method used...etc)



Example: Mercury Fish Tissue Data

- Current compilation consists of 7,436 records from 43 sources including approximately 170 studies from 1969 to present. Sources include:
 - 6 publicly accessible databases
 - 3 non-public accessible databases
 - 17 written reports
 - 12 private data compilations
 - 4 CDs of data compilations or study results
 - 1 hard copy published data compilation



Mercury in Fish Tissue con't.

- This compilation is close to completion.
- Issues with it include:
 - Data needs to be re-checked for duplicate records, consistency in study and source names.
 - NWIS needs to be checked for data, and reports on American Falls Reservoir may yield additional data.
 - Some records are missing information including fish species, tissue sampled, length, weight and study information
 - There are no data from Canada
 - There is currently no information on analysis method or quality control in the compilation



Future Data Collection

- Need for a central location and format to facilitate easier access
- Enter data into an existing system?
- Efforts underway in the Northwest to assist in data sharing between agencies