CHESAPEAKE BAY WATER-QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

MARYLAND RIVER INPUT MONITORING (RIM) PROGRAM AND NONTIDAL NETWORK (NTN) STATIONS
NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT LOADING AND TRENDS COMPONENT

QUALITY-ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN

JULY 2024

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Resource Assessment Service
Tidewater Ecosystem Assessment
Annapolis, Maryland

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Chesapeake Bay Program Office
Annapolis, Maryland

IN COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Water Science Center
Baltimore, Maryland

QUALITY-ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN (QAPP)

for the

Maryland River Input Monitoring Program and Nontidal Network Stations

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Revision History

This table shows changes to this controlled document over time. The most recent version is presented in the top row of the table. Previous versions of the document are maintained by Quality Manager.

Document Control Number	History/ Changes	Effective Date

CONTENTS

Tables

Figures

A. Project Management

A.1 Introduction

This Quality-Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) describes quality-assurance goals and measures for the Maryland River Input Monitoring (RIM) Program and the Nontidal Network (NTN) designed to support Chesapeake Bay restoration programs.

The project, the *Chesapeake Bay River Input Monitoring Program*, includes the monitoring of nutrient and suspended-sediment concentrations and streamflow in selected Maryland rivers representing major inflow to Chesapeake Bay. This project is supported through Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) cooperative funds. The objectives of this project are to:

- Characterize nutrient and suspended-sediment concentrations in terms of flow and load for four (4) major tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland at or above the head of tide, including the Susquehanna River at Conowingo, Maryland; the Potomac River at Chain Bridge, at Washington, D.C.; the Patuxent River near Bowie, Maryland; the Choptank River near Greensboro, Maryland;
- Determine trends that might develop in response to nutrient- and sediment-control programs in the Bay's major watersheds;
- Provide nutrient and suspended-sediment data for calibration of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed model (WSM) and loading inputs to the Chesapeake Bay Water-Quality (WQ) model; and
- Integrate the information collected in this program with other elements of the monitoring program to gain a better understanding of the processes affecting the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

The MD DNR and the USGS conduct this project cooperatively. Sampling events, goals, and objectives for this project are overseen by the USGS Project Chief, Alex Soroka, and the USGS Supervisory Hydrologic Technician, Brenda F. Majedi.

The project, *the Chesapeake Bay Nontidal Network*, includes the monitoring of nutrient and suspended-sediment concentrations and streamflow of about 120 water-quality monitoring stations operated across the watershed; four stations (listed below) representing the small and/or urban watershed component are monitored by USGS MD-DE-DC personnel. All water-quality sample collection is consistent with protocols set forth by the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. This network provides the principal data for reporting of water-quality conditions in the watershed, including nutrient and sediment loads and trends in loads and concentrations. The primary objectives of the Chesapeake Bay Nontidal Watershed Water-Quality Network are to:

- Quantify sediment and nutrient loads in the tributary strategy basins of the Chesapeake Bay watershed;
- Assess the factors affecting nutrient and sediment status and trends;
- Improve calibration and verification of partners' watershed models;
- Estimate changes over time (trends) in sediment and nutrient concentrations that are related to the implementation of Best Management Practices, or other anthropogenic factors.

The USGS is one of several participating partner agencies, and provides nutrient and suspended-sediment concentration data, for the following four monitoring stations in the network, which were chosen to represent the small and/or urban watershed component:

  - Chesterville Branch near Crumpton, MD
  - Watts Branch at Washington, D.C.
  - Rock Creek near Joyce Road, Washington, D.C.
  - Hickey Run at National Arboretum at Washington, D.C.

The results from this monitoring program will eventually fold into results for the entire Chesapeake Bay NTN, which requires five years of data following NTN protocols to estimate loads and at least 10 years of data to estimate trends (Langland and others, 2012).

A.2 Distribution List

This QAPP will be distributed to the following project participants:

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A.3 Project/Task Organization

Alexander Soroka, USGS, is the Project Chief for the Maryland River Input Monitoring Program and the quality assurance officer for the USGS Maryland Nontidal Network. He is responsible for the technical design, operation, and execution of the respective programs as outlined in the annual scope of work to MD DNR. Also, he is responsible for evaluating and describing the data collected for the program, meeting the quality-assurance and quality-control goals for the program, and producing USGS reports.

Tom Parham is MD DNR's Chesapeake Bay Program Grants Coordinator. He is responsible for overseeing the administrative aspects of the program including fiscal management, coordination among other administrators, and coordination with cooperating agencies and institutions, and approves the technical design, conduct, and data analysis of the program. He also is tasked with assuring that all project commitments, the project timetable, and deliverables are completed.

Scott Ator is the USGS MD-DE-DC Water Science Center (WSC) Water Quality Specialist. As a quality-assurance officer, he is tasked with technical leadership and oversight of water quality quality-assurance and quality-control activities in the WSC, which include training and field audits of field staff and standard procedures for review, analysis, and approval of water-quality data. While these are regular responsibilities of the USGS WSC Water-Quality Specialist, he may recommend additional quality-control activities to the USGS Project Chief if necessary.

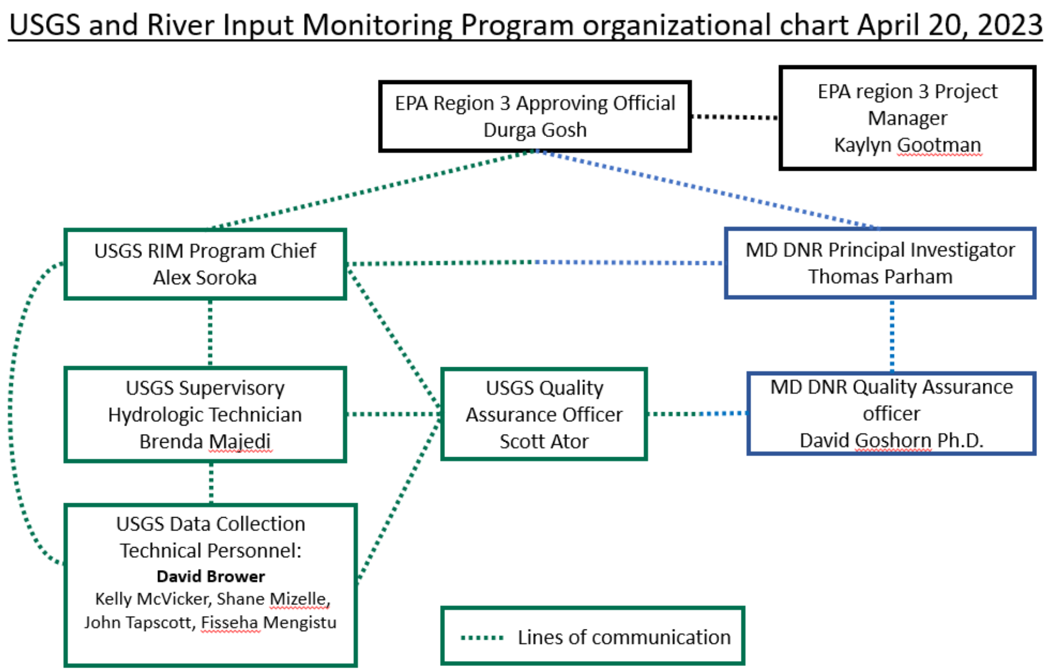

Figure 1 Organizational chart of the U.S. Geological Survey River Input Monitoring Program edited in April, 2023

A.4 Problem Definition/Background

The decline in water quality of the Chesapeake Bay within the few last decades has, in large part, been attributed to excessive nutrients entering the estuary from its surrounding tributaries. In an effort to improve the water quality of the Bay, Federal, State, and local governments have initiated point and non-point source nutrient-reduction programs within the tributary basins discharging to the Bay. Monitoring at key sites can help to quantify improvements in water quality and verify the effectiveness of nutrient-control measures implemented in the watersheds.

In addition, the quality of the river discharge, and the timing and magnitude of the pollutant concentrations and loads delivered to the estuary are important data needed to enhance knowledge of or need to strengthen other components of the Chesapeake Bay water-quality monitoring program. The integration of all of these components leads to a better understanding of the factors influencing water quality that can then be translated into better water-quality management for the Bay and its tributaries.

With these general goals in mind, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' (MD DNR) Resource Assessment Service, in cooperation with the USGS, initiated the Maryland River Input Monitoring (RIM) component of the Chesapeake Bay Water-Quality Monitoring Program. Four major tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay – the Susquehanna, Potomac, Patuxent, and Choptank Rivers – were initially selected for the River Input Monitoring Program in 1985 by the State of Maryland. Combined, these rivers contribute over 70 percent of the flow to the entire Chesapeake Bay and they contribute nutrients and suspended sediments from a wide range of land-use, geologic, and hydrologic conditions found in the Bay watershed. Monitoring stations were established near the most downstream non-tidally affected portion of each above-named river to monitor nutrient and suspended-sediment concentrations and streamflow. Data collected from these four monitoring stations are used to calculate nutrient and suspended-sediment loadings and transport to tidal tributaries of the Bay.

In addition to the RIM program, the USGS coordinates and collects water-quality data at the following stations as part of the Chesapeake Bay Program Nontidal Network (NTN) for long-term monitoring of agricultural or urban watershed inputs into the Chesapeake Bay: Chesterville Branch near Crumpton, Maryland, and Watts Branch, Hickey Run, and Rock Creek, in the District of Columbia. In Water Year 2011, the Chesterville Branch station was added to the network to represent the agricultural land-use component. In Water Year 2013, Watts Branch, Hickey Run, and Rock Creek were added to the network to represent the small, urban land-use component. A consortium of members from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Washington, D.C. District Department of the Environment, and the U.S. Geological Survey chose the three urban stations that best represent urban land use and basin size and on the ability to instrument and collect representative suspended-sediment and nutrient data suitable for long-term analysis of loads and trends in accordance with existing NTN methods. Inclusion of above-named streams adds under-represented sites to a network historically oriented towards larger watersheds.

A.5 Project/Task Description

At each monitoring station, water-quality samples representative of the entire river cross section are collected using USGS protocols to determine concentrations of selected nutrient species and suspended sediment in the river. Samples for water-quality analysis are collected on a monthly, fixed-frequency basis at each monitoring station as well as during stormflow events. Samples are collected during all four seasons and across different flow regimes in order to capture seasonal and hydrologic variability of the water quality at each station. When combined with the continuous, 15-minute flow record from the USGS stream gage at each station, it is possible to estimate nutrient and suspended-sediment loads on a monthly and annual basis with a known level of confidence. Additionally, water-quality field measurements are made for dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance, water temperature, and air temperature.

The USGS's National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data (U.S. Geological Survey, variously dated, accessed here: [National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data (NFM) | U.S. Geological Survey (usgs.gov)] describes the USGS sample-collection protocols in detail. Data-collection quality will be monitored by the assessment of field blanks and replicates and by annually conducting and documenting the results of random field audits. Additional documentation is listed in the MD-DE-DC WSC internal quality-assurance plan. In addition, the guidance is followed as set forth in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Methods and Quality Assurance for CBP Water Quality Monitoring Programs, Chapter 5, Nontidal Water Quality Monitoring, accessed here: https://d38c6ppuviqmfp.cloudfront.net/documents/Nontidal.pdf .

Samples for water-quality analysis are collected on a monthly, fixed-frequency basis, as well as during stormflow events. An electronic project field data sheet is completed for each sample using USGS Superfly software; an example of data recorded for each water-quality sample collected is listed in Attachment A. Data are electronically uploaded to the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) data management system using the Superfly software. Water-quality data are reviewed when received from the laboratory. Reviewed and approved mean-daily discharge data for the previous water year for the four River Input Monitoring stations and the four Chesapeake Bay NTN stations will be accessed at USGS Water Data for Maryland by the Project Coordinator at MD DNR by April 15 ; updated monthly and annual loads will be forwarded by July 15. USGS nutrient, chlorophyll (analyzed by the University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL)), and suspended-sediment data will be reviewed, approved, and uploaded directly to the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) via the Chesapeake Center for Collaborative Computing (C4), via the Data Upload and Evaluation Tool (DUET).

Quarterly progress reports describing field and other project activities and issues will also be submitted to the Project Coordinator. Additionally, data interpretation of RIM nutrient trends and trend explanation will be performed by project hydrologists and incorporated into various USGS and/or MD DNR reports.

A.6 Data-Quality Objectives and Criteria for Measurement Data

The data collected for the RIM program and the Chesapeake Bay Nontidal Network program provides Chesapeake Bay resource managers with information that can help to quantify changes in water quality, quantify nutrient loads critical for evaluating progress towards reducing controllable nutrients to the Bay, and verify the effectiveness of nutrient-control measures taken in the watersheds. A calibrated model was developed that can simulate constituent relationships, seasonal variation, and changes in trends. As a result, water-quality samples need to be collected monthly throughout the year under different streamflow conditions to determine loads within a known confidence interval. Once completed, this information is then given to researchers and Bay resource managers.

Several laboratories provide data for the four Maryland RIM stations and the Nontidal Network stations. The USGS National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) in Denver, Colorado, provides the nutrient analyses; the USGS Kentucky Sediment Laboratory, in Louisville, Kentucky, provides the suspended-sediment analyses; and the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) in Solomons, Maryland, provides the chlorophyll-A analysis for the RIM program stations. Detailed quality-assurance procedures are described for each laboratory at the following links: the NWQL in Mahoney (2005), available at http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2005/1263/pdf/OFR2005-1263.pdf; the USGS Kentucky Sediment Laboratory in Shreve and Downs (2005), available at http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2005/1230/; and the CBL available at https://www.umces.edu/nutrient-analytical-services-laboratory

A.7 Special Training

Field personnel are trained in USGS water-quality sample-collection protocols, record management, quality-assurance procedures, vehicle operations, and water-quality instrument maintenance and troubleshooting. Laboratory personnel must by trained in analytical methods, quality-control procedures, record management, and instrument maintenance and troubleshooting.

A.8 Documentation and Records

Water-quality field measurements of water and air temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and specific conductance are recorded on the project field sheet for each sample collected. All data are recorded using standardized field data sheets (Attachment A). These data are electronically entered into the USGS NWIS data management system by the technicians who collect the data. These data are provided electronically to MD DNR.

Water-quality samples for the RIM and NTN programs are submitted for nutrient analysis to the USGS NWQL in Denver, Colorado. A customized laboratory schedule is requested for each sample submitted: NWQL Schedule 1965 is requested for the four RIM program stations; Schedule 2580 is requested for the Watts Branch, Hickey Run, and Rock Creek stations (Attachments B_1 and B_2); and Schedule 2755 with adds of particulate N, dissolved phosphorus, and total phosphorus is requested for the Chesterville Branch station. Suspended sediment is collected for each sample collected and is analyzed at the USGS Sediment Laboratory in Louisville, Kentucky; the chlorophyll-A is collected with the RIM station samples and is analyzed at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons, Maryland. Each laboratory has its own specific analytical services request form (ASR), which is completed and mailed with each sample. Attachment C is an example of the ASR sent to the NWQL for the Maryland RIM program.

All paper and electronic records, including calibration information, are archived at the USGS MD-DE-DC WSC per USGS protocol; paper records have mostly been eliminated and have been replaced by electronic records.

A web site has been created to provide detailed information about the RIM project as well as simple access to Maryland's concentration and load data. The site includes general information, data retrieval options, a water chemistry page that describes sources and chemical behavior of the water-quality constituents, trends in the constituents, methods used in the project, Chesapeake Bay related publications and links, a glossary, and a bibliography. This site can be accessed at: https://www.usgs.gov/centers/chesapeake-bay-activities/science/chesapeake-bay-water-quality-loads-and-trends

B. Measurement/Data Acquisition

B.1 Experimental Design

This document provides a detailed description of the monitoring and analysis components of a study conducted by the MD DNR Assessment Service and the Chesapeake Bay Program Nontidal Network, in cooperation with the USGS, to quantify nutrient and suspended-sediment loads entering the Chesapeake Bay to determine trends in constituent-concentration data occurring at these tributary stations.

The number of events to be sampled and the number of samples per event are based on the requirements of the load-computation model. Water-quality samples are collected on a monthly, fixed-frequency basis and during varying stormflow conditions (about 8 to 12 stormflow samples per site per year) in order to capture the hydrologic and seasonal variability of nutrient and suspended-sediment concentrations. Continuous 15-minute flow measurements are also collected. Using a multivariate model, the seasonal relationship between constituent concentration and streamflow at each site is established. Using the continuous flow record, a cumulative load of nutrients and suspended sediment can be determined.

Station Description

The location of the four Maryland RIM water-quality monitoring stations was chosen by determining the location of existing stream-gaging stations near the most downstream nontidal reach of each selected river. The monitoring stations selected for the Maryland RIM program are located on the Susquehanna River at Conowingo, Maryland; the Patuxent River near Bowie, Maryland; the Choptank River near Greensboro, Maryland; and the Potomac River at Chain Bridge at Washington, D.C. The NTN monitoring stations were selected to represent varying land use and basin size, and are located at Chesterville Branch near Crumpton, MD; Watts Branch at Washington, D.C.; Rock Creek at Joyce Road, Washington, D.C.; and Hickey Run at National Arboretum at Washington, D.C. The location of the monitoring sites and drainage area information are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Location of the Maryland River Input Monitoring Program and Nontidal Network water-quality stations (listed in descending order of drainage area)

Station Name	USGS Station	Latitude deg-min-sec	Longitude deg-min-sec	Drainage (sq. mi.)
Susquehanna River at Conowingo Dam, MD	01578310	39-39-28	76-10-29	27,100
Potomac at Chain Bridge River, D.C.	01646580	38-55-46	77-07-02	11,570
Patuxent River nr. Bowie, MD	01594440	38-57-21	76-41-36	348
Choptank River nr. Greensboro, MD	01491000	38-59-50	75-47-10	113
Rock Creek at Joyce Road, Washington, D.C.	01648010	38-57-37	77-02-31	63.7
Chesterville Branch nr Crumpton, MD	01493112	39-15-25	75-56-24	6.1
Watts Branch at Washington, D.C.	01651800	38-54-04	76-56-32	3.28
Hickey Run at National Arboretum at Washington, D.C.	01651770	38-55-00	76-58-09	0.99

B.2 Sampling Method

USGS personnel collect water-quality samples at each site in accordance with Chapter A4 of the USGS National Field Manual for the Collection of Water Quality Data (U.S. Geological Survey, variously dated).

Water-quality samples are collected on a monthly, fixed-frequency basis and during varying high-flow (stormflow) conditions on a seasonal basis, in order to capture the hydrologic and seasonal variability of nutrient and suspended-sediment concentrations. Twelve monthly, fixed-frequency samples and about 8 to 12 stormflow samples are collected at each site per year. The average stormflow coverage is two to three samples per season per site; stormflow sample collection depends largely upon hydrologic and meteorologic conditions, as well as safety considerations. The monitoring program emphasizes the collection of water-quality samples during periods of stormflow because most of the river-borne nutrient and suspended-sediment load is associated with storm events. Discrete samples are collected during selected storm events over the rise, peak, and falling limb of the hydrograph. Water-discharge data are also collected for each of the rivers throughout the period.

A stormflow (or high-flow) event is defined as a significant increase in discharge based on the antecedent precipitation, the magnitude of discharge, and the season of the year. Storms selected for sampling are dependent on flow conditions and the previous sampling history. An attempt is made to sample a representative range of storm types and sizes throughout the year. Operational definitions of stormflow conditions are described for each of the monitoring sites and are used as guides for sample-collection procedures. These, however, are not meant to be rigid definitions of stormflow conditions. Stormflow events are predicted through weather forecasts, precipitation amounts, and river stage.

Water-quality samples are collected at each of the sites listed below using isokinetic, depth-integrated sampling techniques when flow conditions warrant, which provide samples representative of stream conditions. A DH-81 (hand-held), DH-95 (weighs 35 pounds), or D-95 (weighs 65 pounds) isokinetic sampler, or a stainless-steel weighted-bottle sampler, is used depending upon river flow conditions -- at least 1.5 cubic feet per second of flow is required to collect a sample using the isokinetic sampler. The DH-81, DH-95, and D-95 isokinetic samplers are composed of a white-painted aluminum body with Teflon fins, and use a Teflon nozzle; they are fitted with a one-liter sample-collection bottle made of Teflon or polyethylene. Sampler selection is site dependent.

The weighted-bottle sampler, used when river discharge conditions do not warrant isokinetic sampling, or where unique logistical and safety issues preclude the use of isokinetic sampling devices, is made of stainless steel and holds a one-liter bottle made of Teflon, polyethylene, or glass. The weighted-bottle sampler is lowered to the water with a hand reel and synthetic rope (nylon or polyethylene) configuration. There is about an eight-inch unsampled zone due to the distance from the channel bottom to the sample bottle neck's opening.

The general approach for the collection of water samples is the Equal-Width Increment (EWI) sampling method in which an equal transit-rate technique is used while lowering the sampler. This method involves the collection of water-quality samples at the centroids of equal-width increments along the river cross section. Samples are collected at eight to ten sections of the river, yielding a cross-sectional, depth-integrated sample; minor variations in the technique are used to conform to site conditions. Samples are collected along the width of the stream and composited into a churn splitter, which is a device that homogenizes the water-sediment mixture. Subsamples for laboratory analysis are filled from the churn splitter. All sample-collection and processing equipment is prewashed following stringent protocols to minimize contamination.

Beginning Water Year 2013, samples for suspended-sediment analysis are collected directly from the river using the sample sampler used to collect the water-quality sample, in order to be consistent with the USGS National Water Quality Network (NWQN) and National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) national programs. Samples are sent directly to the USGS Kentucky sediment laboratory for analysis of concentration; percent sand-fines is typically requested for storm samples. Samples are either composited at the laboratory or analyzed separately for QC purposes. Previously, suspended-sediment samples were collected from either the churn splitter or directly from the stream depending on flow conditions and QC requirements. This information is noted on the field form.

Susquehanna River

USGS personnel collect water samples from the Susquehanna River at the Conowingo Dam in Conowingo, Maryland (USGS Site ID 01578310). Well-mixed samples are collected using the multiple vertical method which most closely approximates the equal-discharge-increment method. The stainless-steel weighted-bottle sampler is fitted with a one-liter sampler bottle (either made of polyethylene or Teflon, depending on analytes) suspended by a nylon rope. Isokinetic samplers such as the D-95 are not an appropriate method for sampling this site due to the churning action of the water from the turbine outflows.

Restricted access on the Susquehanna River at Conowingo Dam requires that a variation of Equal-Discharge Increment (EDI) sampling be used. This method involves the collection of water-quality samples at the centroids of equal discharge increments along the turbine outflow. The sampler is suspended from the catwalks at the turbine outflow. The number and location of cross-section samples are dependent on the characterization of flow from the turbines at the time of sampling. Previous testing at Conowingo Dam has shown that this approach provides a representative sample for flows confined to the turbines. However, sampling from the turbines can be unrepresentative of spillway discharges since the flows originate from different locations in the reservoir's vertical profile. Sampling from the spillway during stormflow events is not allowed due to safety and security concerns. Storms on the Susquehanna are operationally defined as occurring when water passes over the spillway. This represents a storm discharge exceeding 80,000 cubic feet per second (ft^3/s), the maximum turbine capacity.

The USGS NWQN (National Water Quality Network) program was restarted in January 2008 at the Susquehanna River site. The NWQN program provides support for the fixed-frequency sample collection and analysis. Fourteen samples are collected in each water year; at this site, the months of January through May have semi-monthly sample collection. In addition to the nutrient and suspended-sediment constituents, pesticides and major

ions are collected at the Susquehanna River at Conowingo site. Two changes to the sample-collection and processing protocol are necessary to accommodate the NWQN program: (1) a two-person sampling team collects the samples; and (2) samples for pesticide analysis are composited into a Teflon churn splitter; samples for nutrient and major ion analysis are collected into a separate polyethylene churn splitter. NWQN is a fixed-frequency sampling program.
In mid-water year 2010, the NWQN program has added support for analysis of bacterial DNA at the Susquehanna River site. Dr. Byron Crump, formerly of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Horn Point Laboratory, analyzes the samples. This collaboration will help to describe the genetic diversity of bacterioplankton in large rivers of the United States. The sampling protocol has been tested and refined at two large river systems in the NWQN network.

Potomac River
USGS personnel collect water samples from the Potomac River at Chain Bridge in Washington, D.C. (USGS Site ID 01646580) using the multiple-vertical method for all flow conditions. Water-quality samples are collected using the stainless-steel weighted-bottle sampler fitted with a one-liter bottle (either made of polyethylene or Teflon, depending on analytes). During the majority of flow conditions, samples are collected from six equally-spaced points along the river cross section from Chain Bridge; during extreme stormflow conditions, additional section(s) may be added depending on the professional judgement of the hydrologic technician. Depth-integrated, isokinetic samplers cannot be collected at Chain Bridge during any flow condition (low-flow and stormflow conditions) because all flow conditions exceed the safe limits of the samplers. Previous testing has shown that the water column at this location is well-mixed and samples within the near-surface zone (1-2 meters) are considered to be representative of the stream's vertical profile. Samples for RIM are composited into an 8-L polyethylene churn splitter; samples collected for the NWQN program are collected in three churn splitts – two polyethylene (one specifically for PFAS analytes) and one Teflon which is specially for the pesticide analytes.

The USGS NWQN program provides support for the fixed-frequency sample collection and analysis. Eighteen samples are collected in each water year; at this site, the months of February through July have semi-monthly sample collection. In addition to the nutrient and suspended-sediment constituents, pesticides, major ions, and new beginning February 2023, samples for PFAS analysis are collected at the Potomac River at Chain Bridge site. Two changes to the sample-collection and processing protocol are necessary to accommodate the NWQN program: (1) a two-person sampling team collects the samples; and (2) samples for pesticide analysis are composited into a Teflon churn splitter; samples for nutrient and major ion analysis are collected into a separate polyethylene churn splitter; and samples for PFAS are collected in a separate, third polyethylene churn. In mid-water year 2010, the NWQN program has added support for analysis of bacterial DNA at the Potomac River site. Dr. Byron Crump of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Horn Point Laboratory will analyze the samples. (http://hpl.umces.edu/faculty/bcrump/resar.htm). This collaboration will help to describe the genetic diversity of bacterioplankton in large rivers of the United States.

A storm event on the Potomac River at Chain Bridge is operationally defined as about double the discharge reading at the USGS Little Falls Dam (USGS Site ID 0164500) or when continuous water-quality parms at the Little Falls site indicate stormflow conditions; specific conductance and turbidity are frequently used as stormflow indicators. There is occasion when stormflow samples are collected below th thresholds, typically after a runoff event following a dry spell.

Patuxent River
USGS personnel collect water samples at the Patuxent River at Governors Bridge on Governors Bridge Road in Bowie, Maryland (USGS Site ID 01594440). Cross-sectional, depth-integrated water-quality samples are collected at 8 to 10 sections along the bridge. Samples are collected using the stainless-steel weighted-bottle sampler fitted with a one-liter polyethylene bottle suspended by a nylon rope. Samples are composited into a polyethylene churn splitter.

During stormflow conditions, samples are collected using a DH-95 or D-95 isokinetic sampler. A storm event on the Patuxent River at Bowie is operationally defined as a USGS gage height of greater than about 7 feet or a discharge of greater than 800 cubic feet per second (cfs or ft^3/s). There is occasion when stormflow samples are collected below these thresholds, typically after a runoff event following a dry spell.

Choptank River
USGS personnel collect water samples at the Choptank River nr Greensboro, MD (USGS Site ID 01491000) located at the end of Red Bridges Road in Christian Park. Prior to the spring of 2000, an abandoned automobile bridge across the river served as the sampling platform. For safety reasons, the bridge was removed by the Caroline County Department of Public Works. The bridge was replaced as a sampling platform in fall 2001 by a cableway system constructed by the USGS. The cableway with A-frame anchors is a standard USGS river crossing system that is often used to sample inaccessible rivers.

Samples at the Choptank River are collected by wading in the river when flows allow, using the DH-81 isokinetic sampler fitted with a one-liter polyethylene bottle. Samples are collected at 6 or more points along the river cross section. During extreme low-flow conditions, grab samples are collected at the gage control (v-notch weir) with a one-liter poly bottle filled manually.

During stormflow events, when wading safely is not possible due to water levels and/or velocities, sampling is performed with a DH-95 off of the manned cableway. Wading samples are typically collected between the old bridge wingwalls about 10 feet above the gage using the DH-81. Sampling for storms or monthly samples below the weir is almost always avoided due to the effects it has on sediment suspension, water aeration, etc., unless it is absolutely necessary due to conditions or equipment problems precluding the use the cableway or wading between the wingwalls.

A storm event on the Choptank River near Greensboro, MD is operationally defined as a USGS gage height of greater than 4 feet or a discharge of greater than 400 cubic feet per second (cfs or ft3/s). There is occasion when stormflow samples are collected below these thresholds, typically after a runoff event following a dry spell, where a discharge of at least twice that of the pre-storm discharge is deemed appropriate for sample collection.

Chesterville Branch
USGS personnel collect water samples at the Chesterville Branch nr Crumpton, MD (USGS Site ID 01493112) located off of River Road (Rte. 291), about 70 to 90 feet upstream from the surface-water gage located at River Road when conditions are suitable for wading. Samples are collected monthly on a fixed-frequency basis, and during storm events.

Samples at the Chesterville Branch site are collected using EWI techniques from 5-10 locations along the river cross section using the DH-81 isokinetic sampler fitted with a one-liter polyethylene bottle. Samples are collected with a DH-81 by wading in the river when flows allow; during extreme low-flow conditions, grab samples are also collected at 5-10 locations. During high-flow events when conditions preclude wading, samples are collected from the downstream side of the culverts using a DH-95 isokinetic sampler.

Watts Branch
USGS personnel collect water samples from Watts Branch at Washington, D.C. (USGS ID 01651800) 10 feet upstream from the Minnesota Avenue Northeast bridge in Washington, D.C. EWI fixed-frequency samples are collected using a DH-81 isokinetic sampler equipped with an appropriate nozzle dictated by stream depth and velocity at time of sampling. When EWI conditions are not present, a DH-81 without a nozzle is used to collect an equal width, nonisokinetic sample. Samples are composited into an 8-liter polyethylene churn splitter, processed, and shipped overnight to the National Water Quality Laboratory in Denver, CO for analysis.

Additionally, suspended-sediment samples are collected from each in-stream sampling location and sent to the USGS sediment lab in Louisville, KY for composite concentration and sand/fine analysis. Very-high stormflow conditions require samples to be collected using a DH-95 or D-95 isokinetic sampler.

The sewershed nature, engineering, and morphology of Watts Branch make defining a storm event difficult. The operational definition of a storm event is a discharge value twice that of baseflow discharge with no associated precipitation, i.e. flow induced by point source pollution (broken sewer or water main) or an increase in stage associated with rainfall.

Hickey Run

USGS personnel collect water samples from Hickey Run at National Arboretum in Washington, D.C (USGS ID 01651770). Equal width, depth-integrated, isokinetic water-quality (EWI) samples are collected from a cross-section approximately 100 yards south of New York Avenue where the stream emerges from a subterranean, engineered channel. Fixed-frequency samples are collected using a DH-81 equipped with an appropriate nozzle dictated by stream depth and velocity at time of sampling. When EWI conditions are not present, a DH-81 with no nozzle is used to collect an equal width, nonisokinetic sample. Samples are composited in an 8-Liter, polyethylene churn sample splitter, processed, and shipped overnight to the National Water Quality Laboratory in Denver, CO for analysis. Additionally, suspended-sediment samples are collected from each in-stream sampling location and sent to the USGS sediment lab in Louisville, KY for composite, sand/fine analysis. Very-high stormflow conditions require samples to be collected using a DH-95 or D-95 isokinetic sampler.

The sewershed nature, engineering, and morphology of Hickey Run make defining a storm event difficult. The operational definition of a storm event is a stage twice that of baseflow with no associated precipitation, i.e. flow induced by point source pollution (broken sewer or water main) or an increase in stage associated with rainfall.

Rock Creek

USGS personnel collect water samples from Rock Creek at the Joyce Road Bridge in Rock Creek Park near Washington, D.C (USGS ID 01648010). Fixed-frequency samples are collected from the Joyce Road bridge using a either a weighted-bottle sampler or a DH-95. Some fixed-frequency sample collection requires the use of a DH-95 due to elevated stream stage or velocity; typically in the winter/spring. Stormflow samples use the DH-95 water-quality sampler configured with an appropriate nozzle dictated by stream depth and velocity at time of sampling. When EWI conditions are not present, a weighted-bottle sampler is used to collect an equal width, nonisokinetic sample. Samples are composited in an 8-Liter, polyethylene, churn sample splitter, processed, and shipped overnight to the National Water Quality Laboratory in Denver, CO for analysis. Additionally, suspended-sediment samples are collected from each in-stream sampling location and sent to the USGS sediment lab in Louisville, KY for compositing and analysis for concentration and percent sand/fines. During stormflow conditions, samples are collected using a DH-95 or D-95 isokinetic sampler depending upon flow, equipped with an appropriate nozzle dictated by stream depth and velocity at time of sampling A storm event for Rock Creek at Joyce Road is operationally defined as at least double the discharge, in cubic feet per second. On occasion, stormflow samples are collected below these thresholds; for example, after a runoff event following a dry spell.

Parameters Monitored

The parameters monitored as well as lab codes and analytical methods for the Maryland River Input Monitoring Program and the Non-tidal Network are shown in Table 2. Samples are analyzed at the USGS National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL). Parameters analyzed are specific to each program: NWQL Schedule 1965 is requested for the four RIM program stations; Schedule 2580 is requested for the Watts Branch, Hickey Run, and Rock Creek stations (Attachments B_1 and B_2 respectively); and Schedule 2755 with adds of particulate N, dissolved phosphorus, and total phosphorus is requested for the Chesterville Branch station. Suspended sediment is analyzed for both programs at the USGS Sediment Laboratory in Louisville, Kentucky; and chlorophyll-A, monitored for the RIM stations only, is analyzed at the the University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory Laboratory in Solomons, Maryland.

Field measurements, including water temperature, specific conductance, pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity will be measured at the same time samples are collected for chemical analysis, using methods described in the USGS National Field Manual.

Table 2. Maryland River Input Monitoring Program and Nontidal Network parameters monitored
[Parm = parameter; LC – labcode; NWQL = USGS National Water Quality Laboratory; DHMH = Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Laboratory; mg/L = milligrams per liter; NFM = National Field Manual]

Lab Code	Parameter Code	Parameter/ Methodology	Reference	Reporting Level
LC 2607 USGS	P49570	**Particulate Nitrogen (TPN)** *Elemental Analysis on glass-fiber filter* EPA method 440.0	USEPA (1997)	0.06 mg/L
LC 2754 USGS	P62854	**Total Dissolved Nitrogen (TDN)** *Alkaline Persulfate digestion* I-2650-03	Patton and others (2003)	0.1 mg/L
	P00600	**Total Nitrogen (TN)** Total Nitrogen, calculated = P49570+P62854		
LC 3116 USGS	P00608	**Dissolved Ammonia (NH_3)** *Colorimetry, DA, salicylate-hypochlorite* I-2522-90	Fishman (1993)	0.04mg/L
LC 1977 USGS	P00613	**Dissolved Nitrite as Nitrogen (NO_2)** *Colorimetry, ASF* I-2542-89	Fishman (1993)	0.002 mg/L
LC 3156 USGS	PP0631	**Dissolved Nitrite & Nitrate as NO_2+NO_3** *Colorimetry, DA, enzyme-reduction diazotization* *I-2547-11*	Patton and others (2011)	0.04 mg/L
LC 3157 USGS	PP0631	**Dissolved Nitrite & Nitrate as NO_2+NO_3, NTN** *Colorimetry, DA, enzyme-reduction diazotization* *I-2548-11*	Patton and others (2011)	0.08 (RIM) or 0.02 (NTN) mg/L
LC 2333 USGS	P00665	**Total Phosphorus (TP)** *Colorimetry* EPA method 365.1	Fishman and Friedman (1989)	0.006 mg/L
LC 2331 USGS	P00666	**Total Dissolved Phosphorus (TDP)** *Acid persulfate (filtered)* EPA method 365.1	Am. Public Health Assoc. (1995)	0.006 mg/L
LC 1978 USGS	P00671	**Dissolved Orthophosphate (PO_4)** *Colorimetry, ASF, phosphomolybdate* I-2606-89	Fishman (1993)	0.008 mg/L
LC 2612 USGS	P00681	**Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC)** UV promoted persulfate oxidation, IR detection O-1120-92	Brenton and Arnett (1993)	0.46 mg/L
LC 2606 USGS	P00694	**Total Particulate Carbon (TPC)** EPA method 440.0	USEPA (1997)	0.10 mg/L
LC 2608 USGS	P00688	**Particulate Inorganic Carbon (PIC)** EPA method 440.0	USEPA (1997)	0.06 mg/L
LC 2611	P00689	**Particulate Organic Carbon (POC)**	USEPA (1997)	0.05 mg/L

USGS		EPA method 440.0		
LC 169 USGS	P00530	**Total Suspended Solids (TSS)** Residue at 105 deg C, gravimetric I-3765-89	Fishman and Friedman (1989)	15 mg/L
n/a	P80154	**Total Suspended Sediment (SSC)** *Filtration, evaporation* ASTM test method D3977-97 Method C	Shreve and Downs (2005) USGS Kentucky Sediment Lab	0.5 mg/L
LC 56 USGS	P00955	**Dissolved Silica as SiO_2** *Colorimetry, ASF, molybdate blue* I-2700-89	Fishman and Friedman (1989)	0.12 mg/L
n/a CBL	P32210	**Chlorophyll A (Chlo-a)** *Hydroscopic glass-fiber filtration*	CBL	0.62 mg/L
n/a	P00010	Water Temperature (ºCelsius)	Field parameter, USGS NFM (variously dated)	0.1 mg/L
n/a	P00095	Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	Field parameter, USGS NFM (variously dated)	1 us/cm
n/a	P00400	pH (standard units)	Field parameter, USGS NFM (variously dated)	0.1 mg/L
n/a	P63680	Turbidity, FNU	Field parameter, USGS NFM (variously dated)	0.1 FNU
n/a	P00300	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Field parameter, USGS NFM (variously dated)	0.5 mg/L

B.3 Sample Handling and Custody

Sample Treatment and Preservation

Processing of water-quality samples collected by the USGS follow strict protocols which are documented in the USGS National Field Manual (U.S. Geological Survey, variously dated). Nutrient samples are composited in a pre-cleaned polyethylene churn splitter. Samples for whole-water analysis are collected directly from the churn while churning at a rate of 1.0 ft/second. The whole-water samples are fixed with concentrated sulfuric acid (1 mL/125 mL of sample). Samples for dissolved-phase nutrients are collected with a peristaltic pump from the splitting device and filtered in line with a 0.45-µm (average pore size) polycarbonate capsule filter. All nutrient samples are placed immediately on ice and chilled to a temperature of 4 degrees Celsius. Samples are shipped on ice overnight to the NWQL in Denver, Colorado, according to USGS technical memorandum 02.04 (W.D. Lanier, 2002). This document can be found at (http://nwql.usgs.gov/Public/tech_memos/nwql.02-04.html).

Suspended-sediment samples, collected concurrently from the river with the water-quality samples, are shipped to the USGS Sediment Laboratory in Louisville, Kentucky, for analysis. Chain-of-custody procedures and protocols for analysis are documented in the quality assurance plan for the USGS Kentucky WSC Sediment Laboratory (Shreve and Downs, 2005).

Samples for chlorophyll-A analysis are pulled directly from the churn splitter. A 100-mL sample is filtered through a glass-fiber filter; a 50-mL sample will occasionally be filtered, particularly for very turbid storm samples. Samples are wrapped in foil and placed immediately in the freezer. Samples for chlorophyll-A are shipped on ice overnight to the laboratory within two weeks of collection. Analysis is performed by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Bay Laboratory in Solomons, Maryland.

B.4 Analytical Methods

Analytical methods for the constituents collected for the Maryland RIM program are documented in Table 2 and described in the USGS National Water-Quality Laboratory documents.

Laboratory Analysis

Water-quality samples collected by the USGS for the Maryland River Input Monitoring Program are analyzed by the USGS National Water-Quality Laboratory (NWQL) in Denver, Colorado; the USGS Kentucky WSC Sediment Laboratory in Louisville, Kentucky; and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Bay Laboratory in Solomons, Maryland. Analytical techniques employed by the laboratory are documented in Table 2.

Detailed laboratory methods and quality-assurance procedures are described for the NWQL in Mahoney (2005), available at http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2005/1263/pdf/OFR2005-1263.pdf; for the USGS Kentucky Sediment Laboratory in Shreve and Downs (2005), available at http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2005/1230/; and for the UMCES CBL at: https://www.umces.edu/sites/default/files/Chlorophyll%20Fluoromtretic%20Method%202022-1.pdf (2022).

B.5 Quality Assurance/Quality Control

Quality assurance and quality control are a significant component of the monitoring program. The quality-assurance effort includes documentation of concentration variability within the cross section, quality assurance of sample-collection techniques and field personnel using field blanks and replicates, and accounting for variability within and among the analyzing laboratories.

Field blanks are collected using certified inorganic blank water (IBW) purchased from the NWQL. A field blank is collected on site using the same sample-collection equipment and procedures that are used to collect the environmental sample. A minimum of one field blank per station per year is collected and analyzed for all monitored parameters. There may be instances where topical blanks are collected as well, which may not include all parameters typically measured.

Replicate samples are typically collected twice per site per year during varying flow conditions. Replicates are analyzed for all monitored parameters. Field quality control is checked during random field audits. The project field manager assures that samples are collected, labeled, and preserved according to standard operating procedures.

Laboratory quality-control methods are documented by each laboratory's quality-assurance documents, and are listed above in section B.4 of this report.

The USGS NWQL is one of several laboratories that participates in the Chesapeake Bay coordinated split-sampling program (CSSP) in which samples are collected from the Potomac River at Key Bridge at Washington, D.C. (USGS Site 01647595) by D.C. Department of the Environment personnel and are processed in triplicate by USGS personnel and submitted to the USGS National Water-Quality-Laboratory in Denver, Colorado. The CSSP was established in June 1989 to establish a measure of comparability between sampling and analytical operations for water-quality monitoring throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Results are forwarded to the water-quality data manager at the Chesapeake Bay program, who performs an analysis to determine if results differ significantly among labs. The USGS typically participates in this program twice per year, and will continue to participate pending availability of funding for this effort.

B.6 Instrument/Equipment Testing, Inspection, and Maintenance

Instrument sensors for field measurements of water temperature, pH, specific conductance, and dissolved oxygen are cleaned and thoroughly inspected between sampling events. If any sensor is not functioning correctly, it is determined whether it is necessary to perform maintenance and/or replace the instrument.

Physical sampling gear is inspected before each use to assure that all parts are intact. Any gear that shows operational deficiency is not used until repairs or replacement is made.

B.7 Instrument Calibration and Frequency

The meters used to determine field parameters is a YSI EXO (4-parameter sonde measures water temperature, pH, specific conductance, and dissolved oxygen). Calibration checks of the field meter is performed prior to the sampling event. Specific instructions for calibration are found in the operating manuals provided with the instrument, and accessed here:EXO-User-Manual-Web.pdf (ysi.com). Fresh standards are used for calibration prior to each sampling period. The field technician is responsible for appropriate calibration checks.

A calibration record for each instrument and field parameter is maintained in an electronic folder on the USGS MD-DE-DC WSC network and also kept with the sample field sheet. The calibration form serves as documentation for calibration information for each parameter recorded. It is useful in determining drift in a probe, which indicates that maintenance is necessary. The field technician remains aware of questionable performance of any instruments, and determines when it is necessary to perform maintenance and/or replace an instrument or sensor.

B.8 Inspection Acceptance Requirements for Supplies and Consumables

The field technician routinely inspects equipment and supplies. The field technician is responsible for determining when supplies and consumables should be discarded. Special attention is paid to the condition of any filtration supplies (tubing, capsule filters, and filtration apparatus) and sampling equipment to assure that they are not contaminated. If contamination is suspected, the supplies are discarded. Any supplies that have exceeded their expiration date are also discarded and not used.

B.9 Data Acquisition

USGS streamflow data is used in the River Input Monitoring program but not directly collected as part of the project. Streamflow data is a necessary data input in the load estimation model. Site summaries of historic streamflow conditions are shown in Table 3. Period of record indicates the period for which there are published discharge values for the USGS station. The annual mean for the period of record is the arithmetic mean of the individual daily-mean discharges for the designated period of record. The highest and lowest daily means are the maximum daily-mean discharge and minimum daily-mean discharge, respectively, for the designated period of record.

Daily-mean discharges are computed by applying the daily mean stages (gage heights) to the stage-discharge curves (James and others, 2003). The USGS provides stage and discharge data for gaging stations on the world wide web (WWW). These data may be accessed at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/dv?referred_module=sw.

Table 3. Maryland River Input Monitoring and NTN site drainage area and historic streamflow conditions*. [mi^2, square miles; ft^3/s, cubic feet per second]

Period of Record	Drainage area (mi^2)	Annual Mean discharge (ft^3/s)	Highest Daily Mean discharge (ft^3/s)	Lowest Daily Mean discharge (ft^3/s)
			Choptank River near Greensboro (01491000)	
Water Year 1948 to 2022	113	140	8,700	0.35
			Susquehanna River at Conowingo (01578310)	
Water Year 1968 to 2022	27,000	40,940	1,120,000	269
			Patuxent River near Bowie (01594440)	
Water Year 1977 to 2022	348	392	13,700	56
			Potomac River at Chain Bridge (01646500)	
Water Year 1930 to 2022	11,560	11,450	426,000	121
			Watts Branch at Washington, D.C. (01651800)	
Water Year 1992 to 2022	3.28	4.66	204	0.14
			Hickey Run at National Arboretum at Washington, D.C. (01651770)	
Water Year 2013 to 2022	0.99	2.09	134	0.10
			Rock Creek at Joyce Road Washington, D.C. (01648010)	
Water Year 2013 to 2022	63.7	86.8	1,930	5.2
			Chesterville Branch nr Crumpton, MD (01493112)	
Water Year 1996 to 2022	6.12	8.18	722	1.7

*Source: USGS Water-Year Summary, NWISWEB: **http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis**

B.10 Data Management

All data will be collected using a standardized, site-specific field data sheet (see Attachment A). Field sheets are coded with the site ID (station number), date, collection time, and collector's initials. Field data are entered into the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) data-management system by technicians who collect the data using standard USGS data entry procedures.

Data analyzed by the UMCES CBL (chlorophyll analysis) are sent via electronic copy to the RIM Project Field Manager, where they are entered, checked, and verified in the USGS database by project staff. The original hard-copy data sheets are maintained and archived at the USGS MD-DE-DC WSC in Baltimore.

Data files are maintained on the USGS computer network and backed up electronically per USGS protocol. The USGS MD-DE-DC WSC in Baltimore stores the archived copies of the field data sheets, laboratory analytical services request (ASR) forms, and the CBL chlorophyll data sheets per USGS data-archive protocols. Copies of the original data sets are maintained by the Project Field Manager and provided to MD DNR in Excel format. Electronic files with appropriate metadata will be forwarded to the appropriate analysts.

Water-quality data are reviewed when it's received from the laboratory. Summary statistics are calculated and data plots are reviewed to identify anomalies in the data. When anomalies in the field parameters (water and air temperature, pH, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, barometric pressure) are identified, the data are verified against the original field-data sheet and corrected if necessary. When anomalies in the NWQL-analyzed data are identified, the laboratory analysis may either be repeated (rerun) if the sample is still available (nutrient samples are kept in the laboratory refrigerator and discarded after one month) or the data value verified at the laboratory for transcription errors. Anomalies in the USGS Kentucky Sediment lab-analyzed and the CBL-analyzed chlorophyll data are noted in the comment field in the data base. Reruns of sediment samples and chlorophyll samples are not possible because the entire sample is used in the initial analysis.

USGS will submit finalized, reviewed discrete water-quality data for the water year directly to the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program via the data upload and evaluation tool (DUET) on an annual basis, per the deliverable schedule listed in the RIM scope of work. Data transfer is delivered by April 15 following the end of the previous water year. Metadata files are linked to the data files that are transferred to MD DNR electronically. Water-quality and streamflow data are also available at the following website: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/.

Quality-control results will be transferred when the QC sample-time issue is resolved. USGS assigns different time stamps on the environmental and QC samples per several national programs' protocol (i.e. NWQN) as well as USGS database needs.

B.11 Data Analysis

USGS project staff from the Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania Water Science Centers perform data analysis for load and trend estimation.

Load-Estimation Procedure

Nutrient and suspended-sediment loads for the four Maryland tributary sites will be calculated using the Weighted Regressions on Time, Discharge, and Season (WRTDS) analysis software with Kalman filtering (Zhang and Hirsch, 2019) and flow-normalized loads and trends are estimated using WRTDS (Hirsch and others, 2010). This approach utilizes an extended period of streamflow and water-quality measurements to predict loads based on the relation of concentration with time, discharge and season. The method utilizes all measurements but weights the values based on nearest values in the dimensions of time, discharge and season. As a result, reported load estimates may fluctuate with periodic updates to the data series. This fluctuation results from newly collected data being included in the analysis and improving the characterization of historical periods. Over time, the load estimates stabilize and will likely show variations of less than 1 percent with subsequent updates.

C. Assessment/Oversight

C.1 Assessment and Response Actions

The USGS quality-assurance officer will conduct random field and office audits to ensure that data collection and data manipulation follow guidelines set forth in the to the quality-assurance plan. A minimum of one field audit will be conducted each year. The field audit will consist of examining all aspects of the field collection for accuracy and adherence to sampling procedures. The field audit will be representative of all sites, but will not necessarily require a visit to each site. A summary report documenting the field activities will be provided. Office audits will be conducted to ensure that all logs are completed and up-to-date, and that proper data management and manipulation is being conducted. The project chief will be immediately notified of any deficiencies and take immediate corrective actions.

The project field manager will continually monitor the logs and records associated with the project to assure that project schedules are being met. The project chief will immediately take any corrective action necessary if project schedules and procedures are being violated. The quality-assurance officer will perform and report on technical system audits and data-quality audits. Peer review of the project design and results will be solicited. Experts in the various field of study will be contacted for comments and suggestions on data analysis and study elements. Data-quality assessments will be conducted to determine whether the assumptions were met.

A USGS WSC Water-Quality Review is held every three years by the USGS Regional Water-Quality Specialist and Regional Staff. Field methods are observed for consistency with USGS protocols, and the WSC database is checked for consistency with field data sheets and published data.

C.2 Reports to Management

Quarterly progress reports are submitted from the USGS to MD DNR to describe quarterly project activities (Attachment D). Any deviations from scheduled project activities will be noted and the effect of these deviations on the final project outcome will be described. Corrective measures will also be suggested. The River Input project field manager (USGS) is responsible for producing and distributing progress reports.

D. Data Validation and Usability

D.1 Data Review, Validation, and Verification

Water-quality data will be verified using a previously developed data quality-control system. Field data are scrutinized during the data-entry phase; laboratory data are reviewed as they are released from the laboratory. Summary statistics are calculated and data plots are examined for outliers or anomalies. When anomalies in the field parameters (water and air temperature, pH, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, barometric pressure) are identified, the data are verified against the original field-data sheet and corrected if necessary. When anomalies in the laboratory data are identified, the laboratory analysis may either be repeated (rerun) if the sample is still available (nutrient samples are discarded after one month) or the data value verified at the laboratory for transcription errors. The data are corrected in the database if necessary.

Field audits are performed to assure that all data are collected according to standard operating procedures, and that the collection effort is consistent. The USGS Project Field Manager is responsible for performing quality control, or assuring that quality control is performed by appropriate staff.

All field-data sheets and information are thoroughly reviewed prior to data analysis to assure that all data were collected uniformly. Any data that are not collected according to standard operating procedures are examined to determine whether they are representative. All quality-assurance reports are examined prior to data analysis to verify that data were properly and consistently collected. Any deviations in data collection are taken into account during data analysis. All calibration logs are examined to determine how well the measurement instruments performed. If there appears to be significant drift in instrument performance, the data are adjusted accordingly. All raw data are kept in paper files. Field data are entered into the NWIS database and compared against the original field data sheet for errors. These errors will be corrected. Original (raw) data are retained by the project field manager. The field data sheets will be placed into a site-specific folder. A site-specific sample log is maintained in an Excel spreadsheet, which documents sample date and time, analyses performed, database record numbers, qc performed, and the like. The final verified computerized data set is forwarded to the data analysts.

D.2 Validation and Verification Method

All field technicians use the personal computing field form (PCFF) – an electronic field data sheet – which provides fields to record all physical parameters and cross-section variability data collected with the water-quality sample in electronic format, and includes the information needed for the analytical services request form (ASR). Attachment A shows a paper version of a field form, and Attachment C shows a paper version of the ASR; the electronic version includes the same fields. Data from this form are electronically uploaded to the USGS NWIS database. A printout of uploaded data is then reviewed for accuracy.

A substantial effort is incorporated into the monitoring program to document and ensure quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC). The quality-assurance effort includes documentation of observed concentration variability within the cross section, sediment transport analysis, quality assurance of sample-collection techniques and field personnel, and the variability within and among the analyzing laboratories. Field quality control is verified during random field audits. The project field manager assures that samples are collected, labeled and preserved in accordance with standard operating procedures. Field blanks are submitted to evaluate the potential for contamination of samples during their collection, processing, and transport.

D.3 Reconciliation with Data-Quality Objectives

Data summaries of mean daily, mean monthly and annual nutrient loads, suspended-sediment loads, and daily mean streamflow will be given to MD DNR for further review and distribution to Chesapeake Bay Resource Managers and researchers.

D.4 Nutrient and Sediment Load Quality Assurance

Estimated nutrient and sediment loads will be computed by WRTDS for the water year in kg/day (concentration units in water-quality-file are mg/L) with associated standard errors (S.E.) and stand errors of prediction (S.E. PRED.). The USGS project chief is responsible for performing quality control through a technical review by colleague and associate USGS staff inside and outside the River Input project.

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Attachment A: Example of information recorded with each USGS water-quality sample

THINK TWICE. WORK SAFE. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

04/2003

USGS science for a changing world

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SURFACE-WATER QUALITY NOTES

NWIS RECORD NO ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

STATION NO. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ SAMPLE DATE ___ ___/___ ___/___ ___ ___ ___ MEAN SAMPLE TIME(CLOCK) ___ ___ ___ ___

STATION NAME ___________________________________ SAMPLE MEDIUM _____ SAMPLE TYPE _____ TIME DATUM ______ (eg. EST, EDT, UTC)

PROJECT NO. ___ ___ ___ ___-___ ___ ___ ___ ___ PROJ NAME______________________ SAMPLE PURPOSE (71999) ___ PURPOSE OF SITE VISIT (50280) ___

SAMPLING TEAM _____________________________________ TEAM LEAD SIGNATURE ________________________ DATE ___/___/________

START TIME ___ ___ ___ ___ GAGE HT _______ TIME ___ ___ ___ ___ GHT _______ TIME ___ ___ ___ ___ GHT _______ TIME ___ ___ ___ ___ GHT _______ END TIME ___ ___ ___ ___ GHT _______

QC SAMPLE COLLECTED? EQUIP BLANK ___ FIELD BLANK ___ SPLIT ___ CONCURRENT___ SEQUENTIAL ___ SPIKE ___ TRIP BLANK ___ OTHER ___

NWIS RECORD NOS. ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________

LABORATORY INFORMATION

SAMPLES COLLECTED: NUTRIENTS ___ MAJOR IONS ___ TRACE ELEMENTS: FILTERED ___ UNFILTERED ___ MERCURY ___ VOC ___ RADON ___

TPC ___ (VOL FILTERED______mL) TPC ___ (VOL FILTERED______mL) PIC ___ (VOL FILTERED______mL) DOC ___ ORGANICS: FILTERED ___ UNFILTERED ___

ISOTOPES ___ MICROBIOLOGY ___ CHLOROPHYLL ___ BOD ___ COD ___ ALGAE ___ INVERTEBRATES ___ FISH ___ BED SED. ___

SUSP. SED. ___ CONC. S/F SIZE RADIOCHEMICALS: FILTERED ___ UNFILTERED ___ OTHER _______________ OTHER _______________

LABORATORY SCHEDULES: ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________

LAB CODES: _________ ADD/DELETE _________ ADD/DELETE _________ ADD/DELETE _________ ADD/DELETE _________ ADD/DELETE _________ ADD/DELETE

COMMENTS: ____ DATE SHIPPED ___ ___/___ ___/___ ___ ___ ___

FIELD MEASUREMENTS

GAGE HT (00065) _______________ ft | COND (00095) ____________ µS/cm@25 °C | CARBONATE (00452) ____________ mg/L

Q, INST. (00061) __________ cfs MEAS. RATING EST. | TEMP, AIR (00020) _________ °C | HYDROXIDE (71834) ______________ mg/L

DIS. OXYGEN (00300) _________mg/L | TEMP, WATER (00010) _________ °C | E. COLI ( ) ______________ col/100mL

BAROMETRIC PRES. (00025) ______ mm Hg | TURBIDITY (61028) ______________ ntu | FECAL COLIFORM (31625) ___________ col/100mL

DO SAT. (00301) ___________ % | ALKALINITY ( ) ____________ mg/L | TOTAL COLIFORM (31501) __________ col/100 mL

eH (00090) _________ mvolts | ANC ( ) _________________ mg/L | OTHER: ____________________________

pH (00400) _________ UNITS | BICARBONATE (00453) __________ mg/L | OTHER: ____________________________

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sampler Type (84164) ________ Sampler ID ____________ Sample Compositor/Splitter: PLASTIC TEFLON CHURN CONE OTHER _____________

Sampler Bottle/Bag Material: PLASTIC TEFLON OTHER ___________ Nozzle Material: PLASTIC TEFLON OTHER _________ Nozzle Size: 3/16" 1/4" 5/16"

Stream Width: _______ ft mi Left Bank _______ Right Bank ______ Mean Depth: ______ft Ice Cover ______% Ave. Ice Thickness ______ in.

Sampling Points: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Sampling Location: WADING CABLEWAY BOAT BRIDGE UPSTREAM DOWNSTREAM SIDE OF BRIDGE ________ ft mi above below gage _____________

Sampling Site: POOL RIFFLE OPEN CHANNEL BRAIDED BACKWATER Bottom: BEDROCK ROCK COBBLE GRAVEL SAND SILT CONCRETE OTHER _____________

Stream Color: BROWN GREEN BLUE GRAY CLEAR OTHER _________ Stream Mixing: WELL-MIXED STRATIFIED POORLY-MIXED UNKNOWN OTHER _________

Weather: ***SKY-*** CLEAR PARTLY CLOUDY CLOUDY ***PRECIP-*** LIGHT MEDIUM HEAVY SNOW RAIN MIST ***WIND-*** CALM LIGHT BREEZE GUSTY WINDY EST. WIND SPEED___

TEMP- VERY COLD WARM HOT ***COMMENTS***____

Sampling Method (82398): EWI [10] EDI [20] SINGLE VERTICAL [30] MULT VERTICAL [40] OTHER _______ Stage: STABLE, NORMAL STABLE, HIGH RISING FALLING PEAK

OBSERVATIONS: ____

____

COMPILED BY: ______________________________ **CHECKED BY:** ______________________________ **DATE:** __________________

STN NO______________________

METER CALIBRATIONS

TEMPERATURE Meter MAKE/MODEL ____________________ S/N _____________ Thermister S/N _____________ Thermometer ID _____________

Lab Tested against NIST Thermometer/Thermister? N Y Date: ___ ___/___ ___/ ___ ___ ___ ___ **±**___________ °C

Measurement Location: CONE SPLITTER CHURN SPLITTER SINGLE POINT AT _______ ft DEEP VERTICAL AVG. OF _____ POINTS

FIELD READING # 1 _______ # 2 _______ # 3 _________ # 4 __________ # 5 __________ **MEDIAN:**___________ **ºC REMARK** ___ ___ **QUALIFIER** ___ ___

pH Meter MAKE/MODEL ________________________ S/N ___________________ Electrode No. _________________ Type: GEL LIQUID OTHER _____________

Sample: FILTERED UNFILTERED CONE SPLITTER CHURN SPLITTER SINGLE POINT AT _______ FT DEEP VERTICAL AVG. OF _____ POINTS

pH BUFFER	BUFFER TEMP	THEO-RETICAL pH FROM TABLE	pH BEFORE ADJ.	pH AFTER ADJ.	SLOPE	MILLI-VOLTS	BUFFER LOT NO.	BUFFER EXPIRA-TION DATE	COMMENTS
pH 7									
pH 7									
pH 7									
pH ___									
pH ___									
pH ___									
CHECK pH ___									

TEMPERATURE CORRECTION FACTORS FOR BUFFERS APPLIED?

CALIBRATION COMMENTS:

____
____
____
____
____
____
____

FIELD READING # 1 _________ # 2 _________ # 3 _________ # 4_________ # 5 _________ **USE:** __________ **UNITS REMARK** ___ ___ **QUALIFIER** ___ ___

SPECIFIC CONDUCTANCE Meter MAKE/MODEL ________________________ S/N __________________ Sensor Type: DIP CUP FLOW-THRU OTHER________

Sample: CONE SPLITTER CHURN SPLITTER SINGLE POINT AT _______ ft DEEP VERTICAL AVG. OF _____ POINTS

STD VALUE	STD TEMP	SC BEFORE ADJ.	SC AFTER ADJ.	STD LOT NO	STD EXPIRATION DATE	COMMENTS

Temperature compensation:

AUTO

MANUAL CORR. FACTOR= ___________

FIELD READING # 1 _________ # 2 ________ # 3 _________ # 4_________ # 5 ________ **MEDIAN:** ________**µS/cm REMARK** ___ ___ **QUALIFIER** ___ ___

DISSOLVED OXYGEN Meter MAKE/MODEL _________________________ S/N __________________ Probe No. ___________________________

Sample: SINGLE POINT AT _______ ft DEEP VERTICAL AVG. OF _____ POINTS BOD BOTTLE OTHER______________ Stirrer Used? Y N

Air Calibration Chamber in Water___ Air-Saturated Water ___ Air Calibration Chamber in Air ___ Winkler Titration ___ Other______________________

Battery Check: REDLINE _____ RANGE _____________ THERMISTER Check? Y N _________________ Zero DO Check: Y N Solution Date _________

WATER TEMP ºC	BAROMETRIC PRESSURE mm Hg	DO TABLE READING mg/L	SALINITY CORR. FACTOR	DO BEFORE ADJ.	DO AFTER ADJ.

Zero Meter Reading _________mg/lL Adj. to __________mg/L

Membrane Changed? N Y Date: ____/____/_______ Time: _______

Barometer Calibrated? N Y Date: ____/____/_______ Time: _______

FIELD READING # 1 _________ # 2 _________ # 3 _________ # 4_________ # 5 ________ **MEDIAN:** __________ **mg/L REMARK** ___ ___ **QUALIFIER** ___ ___

Attachment B1: USGS NWQL Schedule 1965 for Nutrient Analysis at USGS Maryland RIM water quality sites

STARLIMS Environmental Sciences About Help

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NWQL Catalog

Search

Description: 1965 - Chesapeake Bay River Inputs Project
Price: $396.37
Owner: MARYLAND/DELAWARE/DC DISTRICT (NAWQA/WRD)
Lab Code count: 13. Parameter count: 13.

Add Schedule To Sample Template | Method Citation

SingleGrid | MultiGrid

Schedule

Schedule: 1965 - Chesapeake Bay River Inputs Project

Schedule	Labcode	Lab Code Description	Analyte	Parameter Code	Method	CAS #	DL	RL	Units	RL Type	C A	Cont. Type
1965 - Chesapeake..	2331	Low Level Phos - Fil	Low Level Phos-FIL	00666	CL020	7723-14-0	0.003	0.006	mg/L	DLDQC		FCC
1965 - Chesapeake..	2333	Low Level Phos -WW	Low Level Phosphorus - WCA	00665	CL021	7723-14-0	0.003	0.006	mg/L	DLDQC		WCA
1965 - Chesapeake..	2606	Tot Particulate Carb	TPC	00694	COMB6		0.10	0.20	mg/L	ltmdl		TPCN
1965 - Chesapeake..	2607	Tot Particulate N	TPN	49570	COMB7	17778-88-0	0.030	0.060	mg/L	ltmdl		TPCN
1965 - Chesapeake..	2608	Particulate Inorg C	PIC	00688	00127		0.06	0.12	mg/L	ltmdl		TPCN
1965 - Chesapeake..	2611	Particulate Org C	POC	00689	CAL06			0.10	mg/L	MRL		TPCN
1965 - Chesapeake..	2629	DOC, wf, 0.45 cap,HT	DOC, wf, 0.45 um capsule, HT comb IR	00681	CMB15		0.23	0.46	mg/L	DLBLK		DOC
1965 - Chesapeake..	2754	Alk-P-N, FCC	Alkaline Persulfate-Nitrogen, FCC	62854	CL063	17778-88-0	0.05	0.1	mg/L	DLDQC		FCC
1965 - Chesapeake..	3116	Ammonia - Kone	Ammonia, Kone	00608	SHC02	7664-41-7	0.02	0.04	mg/L	DLDQC	NE..	FCC or F..
1965 - Chesapeake..	3117	Nitrite - Kone	Nitrite, Kone	00613	DZ001	14797-65-0	0.001	0.002	mg/L	DLDQC		FCC or F..
1965 - Chesapeake..	3118	o-PO4 - Kone	ortho-PO4, Kone	00671	PHM01	14265-44-2	0.004	0.008	mg/L	DLDQC		FCC or F..
1965 - Chesapeake..	3121	Silica, Kone	Silica, filtered	00955	CL151	7631-86-9	0.06	0.12	mg/L	DLDQC	NE..	FU
1965 - Chesapeake..	3156	NO2+NO3, Kone	NO2 + NO3, as N, Kone	00631	RED01		0.04	0.08	mg/L	DLDQC	NE..	FCC or F..

Prerequisites and Auto Add Lab Codes

Parameter Name	Lab Code	Parameter Code	M	CAS Number	RL	Units	RL Code	Prerequisite Type
TPC	2606	00694	COMB6		0.20	mg/L	ltmdl	AutoAdd
TPN	2607	49570	COMB7	17778-88-0	0.060	mg/L	ltmdl	AutoAdd
PIC	2608	00688	00127		0.12	mg/L	ltmdl	AutoAdd

Attachment B2: USGS NWQL Schedule 2580 for Nutrient Analysis at the Non-Tidal stations Watts Branch, Hickey Run, and Rock Creek stations

NWQL Catalog

Search

Description: 2580 - MD.Bell.nutrients, TPCN, and metals
Price: $357.36
Owner: USGS - MARYLAND DISTRICT, MD
Lab Code count: 17. Parameter count: 16.

Add Schedule To Sample Template | Method Citations

SingleGrid | MultiGrid

Schedule

Schedule: 2580 - MD.Bell.nutrients, TPCN, and metals

Schedule	Labcode	Lab Code Description	Analyte	Parameter Code	Method	CAS #	DL	RL	Units	RL Type	C A	Cont. Type
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	69	SP. CONDUCTANCE LAB	Sp. Conductance Lab	90095	WHT03			5	uS/cm	mrl		RU
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	169	ROE AT 105 DEG C SUS	ROE AT 105 DEG C SUS	00530	SLD04			15	mg/L	mrl		SUSO
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	1571	CHLORIDE DIS IC	Chloride diss IC	00940	IC022	16887-00-6	0.02	0.04	mg/L	DLDQC	NE...	FU
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	1788	Cadmium, WF, ICP-MS	Cadmium, Water, Filtered, ICP-MS	01025	PLM43	7440-43-9	0.03	0.06	ug/L	DLBLK		FA
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	1792	Lead, WF, ICP-MS	Lead, Water, Filtered, ICP-MS	01049	PLM43	7439-92-1	0.03	0.06	ug/L	DLBLK		FA
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	2181	ICP-MS SETUP - FIL	ICPMS Setup - FIL	LC218	1				unsp	mrl		FA
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	2331	Low Level Phos - Fil	Low Level Phos-FIL	00666	CL020	7723-14-0	0.003	0.006	mg/L	DLDQC		FCC
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	2333	Low Level Phos -WW	Low Level Phosphorus - WCA	00665	CL021	7723-14-0	0.003	0.006	mg/L	DLDQC		WCA
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	2606	Tot Particulate Carb	TPC	00694	COMB6		0.10	0.20	mg/L	ltmdl		TPCN
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	2607	Tot Particulate N	TPN	49570	COMB7	17778-88-0	0.030	0.060	mg/L	ltmdl		TPCN
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	2754	Alk-P-N, FCC	Alkaline Persulfate-Nitrogen, FCC	62854	CL063	17778-88-0	0.05	0.1	mg/L	DLDQC		FCC
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	3116	Ammonia - Kone	Ammonia, Kone	00608	SHC02	7664-41-7	0.02	0.04	mg/L	DLDQC	NE...	FCC or F...
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	3117	Nitrite - Kone	Nitrite, Kone	00613	DZ001	14797-65-0	0.001	0.002	mg/L	DLDQC		FCC or F...
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	3118	o-PO4 - Kone	ortho-PO4, Kone	00671	PHM01	14265-44-2	0.004	0.008	mg/L	DLDQC		FCC or F...
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	3128	Copper, WF, cICP-MS	Copper, Water, Filtered, cICP-MS	01040	PLM10	7440-50-8	0.4	0.8	ug/L	DLBLK		FA
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	3138	Zinc, WF,cICP-MS	Zinc, Water, Filtered cICP-MS	01090	PLM10	7440-66-6	2	4	ug/L	DLBLK		FA
2580 - MD.Bell.nutrie..	3157	NO2+NO3, LL, Kone	NO2 + NO3, as N, LL, Kone	00631	RED02		0.01	0.02	mg/L	DLDQC		FCC or F...

Prerequisites and Auto Add Lab Codes

Parameter Name	Lab Code	Parameter Code	M	CAS Number	RL	Units	RL Code	Prerequisite Type
ICPMS Setup - FIL	2181	L2181	1			unsp	mrl	AutoAdd
TPC	2606	00694	COMB6		0.20	mg/L	ltmdl	AutoAdd
TPN	2607	49570	COMB7	17778-88-0	0.060	mg/L	ltmdl	AutoAdd
Sp. Conductance Lab	69	90095	WHT03		5	uS/cm	mrl	PreRequisite

Attachment C: NWQL Analytical Services Request (ASR) Form

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY – NWQL ASR

THIS SECTION MANDATORY FOR SAMPLE LOGIN

NWIS RECORD NUMBER / SAMPLE TRACKING ID	User Code	Project Account	LAB USE ONLY / NWQL LABORATORY ID
	M D	2 4 2 7 B 4 8 Ø 1	

STATION ID	Begin Date (YYYYMMDD)	Begin Time	Medium Code	Sample Type
0 1 5 7 8 3 1 0	2 0 0		9	9

Contact Phone Number			Contact Email
Brenda Majedi (443) 498-5227			blfeit@usgs.gov

SITE / SAMPLE / SPECIAL PROJECT INFORMATION (Optional)

State	County	Geologic Unit Code	Analysis Status*	Analysis Source*	Hydrologic Condition*	Hydrologic Event*	Chain of Custody	Sample Set
24			H	9		9		

NWQL Proposal Number	NWQL Contact Name	NWQL Contact Email	Program/Project

Station Name: SUSQUEHANNA R. @CONOWINGO, MD Field ID: ____

Comments to NWQL: ____

Hazard (please explain): ____

ANALYTICAL WORK REQUESTS: SCHEDULES AND LAB CODES (CIRCLE A=add D=delete)

SCHED 1: **1965** SCHED 2: ____ SCHED 3: ____ SCHED 4: ____ SCHED 5: ____ SCHED 6: ____

Lab Code:	Lab Code:	Lab Code:	Lab Code:	Lab Code:	
Lab Code:	Lab Code:	Lab Code:	Lab Code:	Lab Code:	A D
Lab Code:	Lab Code:	Lab Code:	Lab Code:	Lab Code:	A D

SHIPPING INFORMATION (Please fill in number of containers sent)

	ALF		COD		**FA**		FCN		IQE		IRM		RA		RU		SUR	1	**TPCN**
	BGC		CRB		FAM	1	**FU**		IQL		MBAS		RAM		RUR	1	**SUSO**		UAS
	C18		CU		FAR		FUS		IQM		OAG		RAR		RURCT		TBI	1	**WCA**
	CC		CUR		FCA		GCC		IRE		PHE		RCB		RURCV		TBY		
	CHY	1	**DOC**	1	**FCC**		GCV		IRL		PIC		RCN		RUS		TOC		

NWQL Login Comments: ____

Collected by: Brenda Majedi Phone No. (410) 238-4227 Date Shipped: ____

FIELD VALUES

Lab/P Code	Value	Remark
21/00095 **Specific Conductance uS/cm @ 25 deg C**		

Lab/P Code	Value	Remark
51/00400 **pH Standard Units**		

Lab/P Code	Value	Remark

Attachment D: Example of Quarterly Report to Maryland Department of Natural Resources

EXAMPLE

Chesapeake Bay River Input Monitoring Program

Quarterly Progress Report

January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023

Monitoring Sites:

- Susquehanna River at Conowingo Dam, Maryland (01578310)
- Potomac River at Chain Bridge, District of Colombia (01646580)
- Patuxent River near Bowie, Maryland (01594440)
- Choptank River near Greensboro, Maryland (01491000)

Funding:

Total project funding: $307,589 (New, begins SFY 2023)

- Maryland DNR: $194,284 ($48,571 per quarter)
    - Includes $8,000 Maryland DNR 117e Program funding to support stream gaging at the Marshyhope Creek near Adamsville, Delaware (USGS site ID 01488500) on the Eastern Shore.
- USGS: $113,305

Internal Acct #s: B4800

Start Date: July 1985

Completion Date: Ongoing

Project Personnel:

Alex Soroka, Physical Scientist
David Brower, Hydrologic Technician
Brenda Majedi, Supervisory Hydrologic Technician
Kelly McVicker, Hydrologic Technician
Shane Mizelle, Hydrologic Technician
John Tapscott, Hydrologic Technician

Project Objectives:

- Determine the ambient concentrations of nutrients and suspended sediment collected over a range in flow conditions near the point of tidal influence of four major Maryland tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay: the Susquehanna, Potomac, Patuxent, and Choptank Rivers.
- Estimate monthly, and annual loading of nutrients and suspended sediment entering the Chesapeake Bay from the non-tidal portions of the Susquehanna, Potomac, Patuxent and Choptank Rivers.
- Identify trends in constituent concentration data at the four tributary stations.

Progress this Quarter:

- Fixed-frequency and stormflow sample collection continued at all four MD RIM sites (Potomac, Susquehanna, Patuxent, and Choptank Rivers) per the scope of work. See the summary table below which lists samples collected at each site during this reporting period.
  - Monthly fixed-interval samples were collected at all four sites in January, February, and March 2023, including sample collection for the USGS National Water Quality Network (NWQN) program at the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers. The USGS NWQN program provides support for the fixed-frequency sample collection and laboratory analysis at the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers.
    - At the Susquehanna River at Conowingo, sample collection occurs twice per month for the months January through May per the NWQN program sampling plan. Thus, during this reporting period, six fixed-frequency samples were collected.
    - At the Potomac River at Chain Bridge, sample collection occurs twice per month for the months February through July per the NWQN program sampling plan. Thus, during this reporting period, five fixed-frequency samples were collected.
      - Note that the NWQN program added the collection of PFAS to the schedule of analytes beginning in February 2023.
  - Stormflow samples were collected at all four RIM sites this reporting period – see the Sampling Summary table below. Note that storm samples collected on the day of the monthly fixed-frequency sample day are counted as fixed-frequency samples, *not* as storm samples. They are listed in the *FF Storm Impacted* column but not double counted in the Total Samples Collected column.
  - Quarterly major ions were collected at all four sites during this reporting period. The USGS NWQN program provides support for major-ion analyses at the Susquehanna and Potomac River sites.
  - Sample collection continued at each site for the analysis of nitrogen isotopes and fluorescence by University of MD, and for bacterial DNA at the Susquehanna River.

Sampling Summary: January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023

Site	Monthly FF	***(FF Storm Impacted)***	Storm	QC	**Total Samples Collected**
Susquehanna at Conowingo, MD (01578310)	6	0	4	2	12
Potomac at Chain Bridge, D.C. (01646580)	5	1	3	3	11
Patuxent near Bowie, MD (01594440)	3	0	3	0	6
Choptank near Greensboro, MD (01491000)	3	0	2	2	7

a) QC, quality control. (Not all parameters analyzed for QC samples.)
b) FF, Fixed-frequency sample.
c) Note: Total Samples Collected does not include the *FF storm-impacted* samples, as these are already included in the monthly FF.

- Continued the operation and maintenance of the continuous water-quality instrumentation at the Susquehanna River near Darlington, Maryland during this reporting period. Operation and maintenance of the continuous water-quality instrumentation, review and approval of the data, and display of the data in near real time are provided as in-kind services. The data are displayed in near real time at the following webpage: **https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv/?site_no=01579550**

- Continued the operation and maintenance of the continuous water-quality instrumentation at the Potomac River near Washington, D.C., Little Falls Pumping Station during this reporting period. Operation and maintenance of the continuous water-quality instrumentation, review and approval of the data, and display of the data in near real time are is funded by a separate USGS program. The data are displayed in near real time at the following webpage: **https://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?site_no=01646500**
- Continued sending chlorophyll samples to the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) in Solomons, MD, which began analysis October 1, 2022 for all chlorophyll samples collected at the four Maryland RIM sites.

Plans for Next Quarter

- Provide to MD DNR the MD RIM Scope of Work and agreement for SFY 2024.
- Review the RIM QAPP for SFY 2024; update as needed and send signature page to MD DNR.
- Provide to DNR the monthly and annual 2022 load and trend computations approximately April 2023, and updated loads by mid-July 2023.
- Collect monthly fixed-frequency samples and stormflow samples at all four sites, including sample collection for the USGS NWQN programs at the Susquehanna River and the Potomac River near Chain Bridge, respectively, in April, May, and June 2023. Major ion analysis will continue as well.
  - Twice-monthly sample collection will occur at the Susquehanna River site through May 2023, and at the Potomac River at Chain Bridge through July 2023, per the NWQN sampling plan.
- Participate in the Chesapeake Bay Coordinated Split Sampling Program in June 2023. USGS typically participates in this program twice per calendar year, usually in June and December.
- Continue operation and maintenance of the water-quality instrumentation at the Susquehanna River at Darlington, MD and at the Potomac River at Little Falls.
- Continue to maintain gaging-station equipment required for real-time stage-discharge data displayed to the public.
- Continue to review and approve the discrete water-quality data that come back from the NWQL and Kentucky sediment laboratories; the provisional and approved water-quality and streamflow data are available at NWISweb: USGS Water Data for the Nation.
  - Approved data will be transmitted about April 2023 via DUET to the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO). An email to DNR will be sent once successful data transmission occurs.
  - Discharge data will be available for download on NWIS website: USGS Water Data for Maryland

Attachment E: USGS DUET METHOD LOOKUP TABLE

Look up table to correlate parmcode and method code to a DUET method code. The nulls are parm/meth combinations

parm_meth_lu

USGS_pcode	USGS_parm_nm	USGS_meth_cd	USGS_meth_nm	DUET_PARAMETER	DUET_METHOD	DUET_TITLE
00010	Temperature, water	THM01	Temperature, water, thermistor	WTEMP	F01	IN-SITU THERMISTOR
00061	Discharge, instant.	QADCP	Disch., meas., ADCP moving boat	FLOW_INS	F01	STREAM FLOW; INSTANTANEOUS
00061	Discharge, instant.	QSCMM	Disch., meas., midsection	FLOW_INS	F01	STREAM FLOW; INSTANTANEOUS
00061	Discharge, instant.	QSTGQ	Discharge, stg-disch rating	FLOW_INS	F01	STREAM FLOW; INSTANTANEOUS
00095	Specific cond at 25C	SC001	Specific conductance sensor	SPCOND	F01	IN-SITU SPECIFIC CONDUCTANCE AT 25 C
00300	Dissolved oxygen	LUMIN	Diss oxygen, luminescence sensor	DO	F04	IN-SITU DISSOLVED OXYGEN; OPTICAL DO PROBE
00300	Dissolved oxygen	MEMBR	Diss oxygen, membrane electrode	DO	F01	IN-SITU MEMBRANE ELECTRODE
00400	pH	EL003	pH, wu, field, electrometry	PH	F01	IN-SITU ELECTRODE METHOD
00400	pH	PROBE	pH, field, electrometric	PH	F01	IN-SITU ELECTRODE METHOD
00530	Suspended solids	SLD04	Sus solids, wat, 105C,wt (NWQL)	TSS	L01	GRAVIMETRIC; DRIED AT 103-105 C
00535	LOI of susp. solids	SLD05	LOI from suspended solids,weight	VSS	L01	GRAVIMETRIC; IGNITION AT 550 C

00608	Ammonia, wf	00048	Nutrients, wf, color, DA	NH4F	L02	
00613	Nitrite, wf	00049	Nutrients, wf, NaR, colorimetric	NO2F	L01	
00625	NH3+orgN, wu	KJ008	NH4+org-N, wu, WCA, kjeldahl, CF	TKNW	D01	DATABASE CALCULATED TKNW - METHOD 1
00631	NO3+NO2, wf	CL048	Nutrients, Cd reduct, color	NO23F	L01	COLORIMETRIC; AUTOMATED CADMIUM REDUCTION
00631	NO3+NO2, wf	RED01	NO3+NO2, wf, FCC,NaR, DA	NO23F	L03	ENZYMATIC NITRATE METHOD
00631	NO3+NO2, wf	RED02	NO3+NO2, wf, FCC,NaR, DA, LL	NO23F	L03	ENZYMATIC NITRATE METHOD
00665	Phosphorus, wu	AKP01	Nutrients, wu, WCA,persulfate,CF	TP	L04	ALKALINE PERSULFATE DIGESTION AND EPA 365.1
00665	Phosphorus, wu	CL021	P, wu, WCA, persulfate, CF	TP	L04	ALKALINE PERSULFATE DIGESTION AND EPA 365.1
00666	Phosphorus, wf	CL020	P, wf, FCC, persulfate, CF	TDP	L01	ALKALINE PERSULFATE WET OXIDATION + EPA365.1OR EPA 365
00671	Orthophosphate, wf	00048	Nutrients, wf, color, DA	PO4F	L01	
00681	Organic carbon, wf	OX006	DOC,0.45um cap,acid,persulfateIR	DOC	L03	UV OR HEATED PERSULFATE OXIDATION
00688	Inorg carbon, ss,total	00127	PIC	PIC	L01	PARTICULATE INORGANIC CARBON
00689	Organic carbon, ss,t	CAL06	POC, calculated			

00694	Total carbon, ss	COMB6	TPC, GFF, combustion	PC	L01	PARTICULATE CARBON (inorg+organic)
00940	Chloride, wf	IC022	Anions, wf, IC			
00940	Chloride, wf	IC024	Anions, LIS wf, IC			
00945	Sulfate, wf	IC022	Anions, wf, IC			
00945	Sulfate, wf	IC024	Anions, LIS wf, IC			
00955	Silica, wf	CL151	Silica, wf, DA	SIF	L01	COLORIMETRIC; AUTOMATED; MOLYBDENUM BLUE
00955	Silica, wf	PLA11	Metals, wf, ICP-AES (NWQL)	SIF	L01	COLORIMETRIC; AUTOMATED; MOLYBDENUM BLUE
32211	Chlorophyll a, phyto,spec		ug/l	CHLA	L01	ACTIVE CHLOROPHYLL-A
63676	Turbidity, NephRatio	TS098	HACH, sensor model 2100 AN, R-On	TURB_NTRU	L01	
63680	Turbidity, Nephelom	TS085	YSI Environmental sensor	TURB_FNU	L01	
63680	Turbidity, Nephelom	TS087	YSI Environmental, sensor 6136	TURB_FNU	L01	
70300	Diss solids dry@180C	ROE10	ROE, wf, 180C, by weight (NWQL)	TDS	L01	TOT. DISSOLVED SOLIDS; GRAVIMETRIC; DRIED AT 180 C
70331	Sus sed <0.0625mm,sd	SED02	Dry sieve	SSC_%FINE	D01	PERCENT OF SUSPENDED SEDIMENT PARTICLES PASSING THROUGH 0.062 MM SIEVE
70331	Sus sed <0.0625mm,sd	SED30	Wet sieve	SSC_%FINE	D01	PERCENT OF SUSPENDED SEDIMENT PARTICLES PASSING

						THROUGH 0.062 MM SIEVE
80154	Suspnd sedmnt conc	SED10	Sediment conc by filtration	SSC_TOTAL	L01	GRAVIMETRIC FILTRATION METHOD; DRIED AT 90-105
80154	Suspnd sedmnt conc	SED16	Sediment conc from size analysis	SSC_TOTAL	L02	GRAVIMETRIC EVAPORATION METHOD; DRIED AT 90-105 DEGREES C