



EPA Seeks Public Comments on Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy and Dioxin Reassessment

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released two important documents for public comment. The first, *Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy*, sets internal EPA strategies for dealing with contaminated sediment issues. The second is the draft *Dioxin Reassessment Study*, which will serve as the scientific basis for national dioxin policies and program development.

The *Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy* was developed by EPA to streamline decision-making with regards to contaminated sediment issues within and among the Agency's program offices. The document proposes to accomplish this task by promoting and ensuring consistent sediment assessment, risk assessment, and approaches to management.

The goals of the strategy include 1) preventing further sediment contamination that may pose unacceptable ecological or human health risks; 2) clean up existing sediment contamination, when practical; 3) ensure that sediment dredging and dredged material disposal is managed in an environmentally sound manner, and 4) develop and consistently apply methods for analyzing contaminated sediments. The strategy will have far reaching implications throughout EPA, including the development of superfund clean-up policy, pesticide applications, and other pollution prevention and reduction programs.

A coalition of environmental groups under the guidance of the Coast Alliance is reviewing the document, and will submit comments to the EPA

before the deadline of October 30. For further information about these comments, contact Melissa Sagun, Coast Alliance, 202/546-9554 phone, 202/546-9609 FAX. To obtain a copy of the strategy, call 513/891-6561 and ask for EPA document number EPA 823-R-94-001.

EPA's *Dioxin Reassessment Study* is the result of a three-year scientific review of dioxin and its toxicology. Although it has expanded the agency's knowledge in these areas, the document is not yet complete. In fact, upon release of the draft document, the EPA issued a call to scientists, industries, governments, and others across the nation for new data on dioxin which can be incorporated into the reassessment.

The reassessment is expected to be completed by late 1995, after scientific peer review. Comments on the document will be accepted for the next 4 months, through mid-January 1996. The document is huge (2,000 pages), but summaries of applicable sections are available. For information on how to obtain the document, contact Dianne Stephan at 202/452-8700 phone or 202/452-9110 FAX.

A final note of related concern: the EPA is scheduled to release dioxin ocean dumping guidelines during the next few months. Environmental groups are concerned about the implementation of these guidelines before the final dioxin reassessment is complete. Look for further information in the next issue of *Habitat Hotline*.



RESOURCES

How Estuaries are Polluted - Adapted from a graphic by *U.S. News and World Report*, this poster depicts how industries, motor vehicles, farms, and residential areas contribute to the pollution of estuaries. The poster was produced by Connecticut Sea Grant in conjunction with the Norwalk Maritime Center. For a copy, send \$2 to CT Sea Grant, University of Connecticut, 1084 Shennecosset Rd., Groton, CT 06340-6097.

Toward a Watershed Approach: A Framework for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, Protection, and Management - What is a watershed? What can individuals do to protect watersheds? This booklet from Coastal America is an important reference tool for understanding the needs to work across man-made political boundaries and consider habitat protection on a watershed basis. Available free of charge from the Coastal America Office, (202) 482-5483; FAX (202) 482-0714.

Local Actions, Regional Impacts: The Effects of Local Decisions on the Delaware Estuary - This nine minute video was developed to accentuate the importance of local land-use decisions in the overall scheme of preserving the Delaware Estuary region. Produced by the Delaware National Estuary Program, the video does an excellent job of pointing out the need for planning and describing zoning and planning protection programs proposed or in use for protecting the estuary. For a copy of the video and accompanying brochure, please contact James Walsh, Pennsylvania Coordinator of the Delaware Estuary Program, 717/787-2529.

Universities Water Information Network (UWIN) - For fishermen and aquatic resources professionals on line. UWIN seeks to serve as a clearinghouse for water resources information. Posting information or using the system is free. Current services include an Expert Directory, a directory of water resources research since 1967, and an information base including the National Institutes for Water Resources publications directory and a directory of water resources information for the public. Additional services are being developed. For further information including how to hook up to UWIN, contact Faye Anderson, FAX (618) 453-2671 or e-mail Faye@uwin.c-wr.siu.edu.

Clean Water Act REAUTHORIZATION

Well, we can say that no news is not bad news, but we're not sure how good it is. Word has it that action on the Clean Water Act has been delayed until 1995. In the House of Representatives, the bill never got out of the Public Works Committee.

The Clean Water Network reports that they continue on vigil in the event that poor wetlands or takings amendments are tacked onto appropriations or other bills, but action on the entire Clean Water Act is highly unlikely this session of Congress.

In other news, the Clean Water Network is planning a strategy meeting for November 12-14 in Washington, D.C. The meeting will include the development of a strategy for strengthening the Clean Water Act, and will include workshops on risk assessment, unfunded mandates, takings, and electronic media, among others.

Limited travel scholarships are available. For further information on the meeting or travel funds, please contact Robyn Roberts, Clean Water Network, 202/624-9357 phone or 202/783-5917 FAX.

"For Wetlands, too; It's the Economy!"

Maryland Fisherman and former ASMFC Commissioner Testifies on Behalf of Wetlands

Avid fisherman and former ASMFC Commissioner Albert F. Goetze took the time this summer to testify before the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment in favor of strengthening the Clean Water Act.

Mr. Goetze stated that the debate on wetlands which has been part of the Clean Water Act reauthorization process has excluded an

important issue. "What's missing is a strong overriding concern for a major segment of our economy," stated Goetze.

"What's missing is a concern for the sale of seafood products, the income derived from recreational fishing, and most importantly, the fishermen and tidewater property owners."

Although many have argued that environmental regulations such as those dictated by the Clean Water Act

are a costly nuisance, Goetze maintained that the economy of the Eastern Shore of Maryland would collapse if the Chesapeake were not protected. "For wetlands, too, it's the economy," stated Mr. Goetze. "The economic issue, when put on the scale balance, far outweighs exclusive private property development rights."



Summer Flounder Habitat Needs

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Ocean Program (COP) has published a document which outlines the habitat requirements of summer flounder. The document, *Synthesis of Summer Flounder Habitat Parameters*, is the first in COP's Decision Analysis Series. This series is designed to synthesize information for managers on high-priority coastal ocean topics.

The summer flounder is considered over-exploited and at low levels of abundance.

The document summarizes available literature on summer flounder habitat, and includes a directory of experts. This information is vital to the resourceful management of the species.

For further information on NOAA's Coastal Ocean Program or to receive a copy of the summer flounder document, contact NOAA Coastal Ocean Office, 1315 East West Highway, Sta. 15140, Silver Spring, MD, 20910; 301/713-3338 phone or 301/713-4044 FAX.

Hull Paints: Hot Tamales - No More Heavy Metals!

Although anti-fouling paints have been great for boaters, they are a bane to the marine environment. These paints work by releasing toxins into the surrounding water to discourage the growth of barnacles, algae and other sea life. Copper-based paints have been used for decades, and in general contain fewer toxic metallic compounds. In 1988, the use of newer, more toxic organotin anti-fouling paints was restricted. In many states, only boat yards with special licenses can purchase and apply tributyltin (TBT) based anti-fouling paints.

A new alternative paint currently being tested uses a unique, non-toxic ingredient: hot pepper! It is reported that inventor Ken Fischer thought of the idea as he ate a deviled egg laced with tabasco and mulled over a \$1200 bill for painting the hull of his sailboat. The McCormick spice company is supplying the hot peppers for the paint, which is hoped to be on the market within the year.



Action Items

- ☛ Call the Clean Water Network to learn more about Clean Water Act Reauthorization (p.2)
- ☛ Learn more about the effects of local land use decisions -- order the free video from the Delaware Estuary Program (p.2). Pass this information on to others in your community!
- ☛ Find out more about EPA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy, contact the Coast Alliance (p.1)

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