

## Fish Sampling Workgroup Conf. Call

DRAFT Meeting Notes

December 7, 2018

### Attendees:

Chris Donley – Fish and Wildlife

Doug Krapas – Inland Empire Paper

Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane

Bud Leber – Kaiser Aluminum

Dave Dilks - LimnoTech

Karl Rains, Siana Wong, Brandee Era-Miller, Debbie Sargeant, Jim Ross – Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)

Jerry White - Riverkeeper

Joel Breems, Chris Moan - Avista

Mike Hermanson – Spokane County

Brandee Era-Miller and Siana Wong, Ecology, provided an update on the preliminary draft results from the bio-film sampling. Ecology has received approximately half of the data results and expects the rest of the data soon. The data will need to be reviewed and validated, and then it will be made available to the Fish Sampling work group and the Task Force. Some preliminary results indicate higher PCB levels at certain locations in both biofilm and sediment data, but it is too soon to say whether these results will hold.

The Fish Sampling Work Group outlined next steps, which include:

- Ecology EAP staff finish work on reviewing, evaluating, validating and reporting on biofilm and sediment sampling data collected in 2018. Draft results with the associated report are expected in the first quarter of 2019.
- Dave Dilks, LimnoTech, will then use these results combined with the water column/synoptic sampling results to update the 2012 Serdar model work on the Spokane River to identify PCB levels by reach.
- Identify sampling plan and locations for 2019 field work (targeting low flow conditions likely to occur in late August)
- Plan and conduct a Tech Track 2-day workshop, later in 2019.
- Hold on designing a process and studies for a fish tissue yardstick until updated Serdar model effort and the 2-day Tech Track workshop have been completed. Findings from these efforts will help that can inform next steps for measuring whether PCB levels are increasing, staying the same or declining in fish tissue. Ecology's next 10-year sampling effort is planned for 2022 but this date can also be moved up if desired. WDFW can also help with collecting fish for sampling. Revisit the fish tissue sampling study process toward the second half of 2019.
- Next Fish Sampling Work Group meeting will likely be held sometime during the 2nd quarter of 2019 to review biofilm and synoptic sampling results/draft studies.