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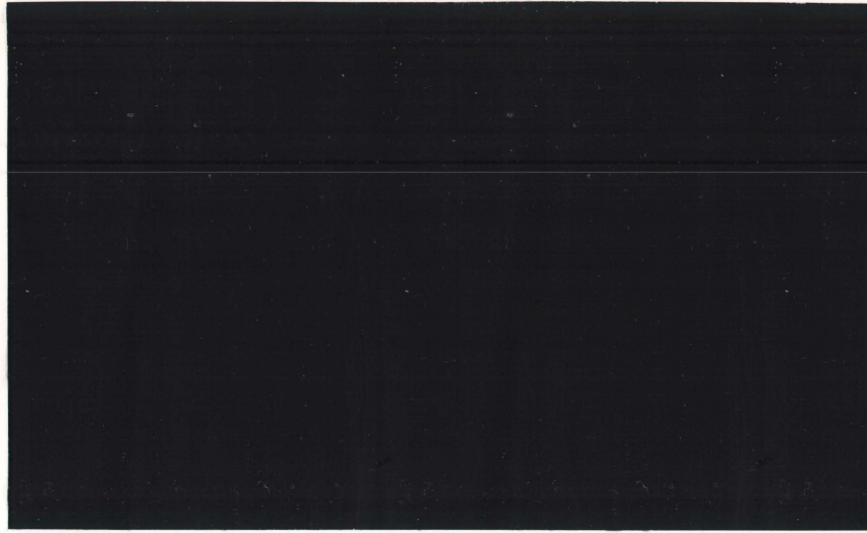
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REPORT OF A WORKSHOP TO ASSESS THE
NEED FOR AN OMPA-SPONSORED SYNTHESIS
ACTIVITY ON POLLUTION IN CHESAPEAKE BAY

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A Report to The
Office of Marine Pollution Assessment

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REPORT OF A WORKSHOP TO ASSESS THE
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ACTIVITY ON POLLUTION IN CHESAPEAKE BAY

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Workshop Held 29 July 1981

EPA Central Regional
Laboratory, Annapolis, MD

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Approved for Distribution

JR Schubel

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HIGHLIGHTS OF OPENING REMARKS BY DR. R.L. SWANSON, DIRECTOR
OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION'S
OFFICE OF MARINE POLLUTION ASSESSMENT.

- This is an exploratory workshop whose principal purpose is to determine whether, or not, a special synthesis effort sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Marine Pollution Assessment (OMPA) focussed on pollution in Chesapeake Bay and its management problems would be useful and welcome.
- We are contemplating a synthesis effort and *not* a research program.
- If we decide to conduct an effort, it will be at a modest level of funding over a two to three year period.
- We may elect to do nothing.
- I asked the Marine Sciences Research Center (MSRC) of the State University of New York (SUNY) to organize and lead the workshop because OMPA has a Cooperative Agreement with MSRC in the general area of pollution in coastal waters of the United States, and because several members of the MSRC's faculty have worked extensively in the Chesapeake Bay.
- We have no further commitment to MSRC or to any other organization at this point.

CONCLUSIONS OF WORKSHOP

- An appropriately planned and coordinated OMPA-sponsored synthesis effort would be a valuable and welcome addition to Chesapeake Bay activities.
- Any OMPA-sponsored synthesis effort should be management oriented.
- Any OMPA-sponsored synthesis effort should be coordinated closely with and build upon EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program.
- OMPA should assign someone soon to serve on the Environmental Protection Agency Chesapeake Bay Program Management Committee to minimize duplication and to ensure maximum effectiveness of a follow-on OMPA-sponsored activity.

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- An OMPA-sponsored synthesis effort should select tasks that will complement work already done under the EPA CBP but it should not pick up unfinished EPA tasks.
- Syntheses can be done for a variety of purposes which include: research, teaching, management.
- The form and substance of the most useful synthesis product will depend to a large extent upon the audience for which it is intended and the uses to which it will be put.
- Synthesis products might include: written summaries, oral summaries, workshops, diagnostic models, systems to provide ready access to a group of experts, interactive computer systems.
- In making decisions, each decision maker usually relies directly upon the advice of a small number of trusted and respected experts, and not directly upon data and information banks, or general synthesis documents.
- Published documents are usually one year, or more, "out of date" by the time they appear. There is no convenient and economical way to keep them current, and often they are too general to be of direct use to the manager faced with a problem that requires a decision.
- Interactive computer systems may provide managers with an important decision making tool, but their development will be difficult, costly, and time consuming. The American Management Association has stated that development of effective interactive computer systems for environmental management will be the most difficult systems to develop.
- Perhaps the greatest value of synthesis documents to managers is to inform the public of the best scientific thinking on the natural processes that characterize the Bay, how society has affected those processes, and on how various management strategies can be expected to affect the quality of the Bay and the uses society makes of it. Authoritative and properly presented synthesis documents can provide the basis for understanding why specific management strategies are being pursued.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORKSHOP

- If a monograph series is to be the synthesis product, it should be targeted to managers and to questions and problems managers most face.

- Topics for monographs should be selected jointly by scientists, managers and citizens, perhaps through the Chesapeake Bay Program Management Committee. Topics might be selected from among the 7 remaining subject areas identified at the outset of the EPA CBP¹, from the list of "uses of the Bay²," or from other sources³.
- Once topics have been selected, monographs should be developed around a series of specific management questions.
- Each monograph should be the result of a collaborative effort of one, or more, scientists working with one, or more managers.
- Each monograph should exemplify how the best and most up-to-date scientific information can be brought squarely to bear on important management questions. The reports should indicate how well the management questions can be answered with existing data and knowledge, and what benefits management could expect from more research into specific questions.

¹The ten subject areas listed below were identified at the outset of the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program. The last seven are not being addressed by the EPA CBP and might be considered as possible topics for a monograph series.

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| 1. Submerged aquatic vegetation | 4. Shoreline erosion | 7. Hydrological modifications |
| 2. Toxics | 5. Dredging and disposal | 8. Shellfish bed closures |
| 3. Eutrophication | 6. Fisheries modification | 9. Wetlands |
| | | 10. Small boat effects |

²Uses of the Bay that have been identified on a number of occasions and that might serve as topics for a monograph series.

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| 1. Fisheries and wildlife | 4. Recreational uses |
| 2. Transportation | 5. Electricity generation |
| 3. Waste placement | 6. Shoreline development |
| | 7. Mining |

³Other subjects suggested at workshop as possible topics for an OMPA-sponsored monograph series.

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| 1. Human pathogens | 4. Unintentional introduction of new/species |
| 2. Chlorination | 5. Drainage basin management and environmental quality within the Bay |
| 3. Crisis management/catastrophic events | |

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