

WQX User Meeting August 27, 2020

There were approximately 36 participants.

The next WQX User Call is scheduled for September 24, 2020

Agenda:

1. Discussion of WQX Benthic Macroinvertebrate best practices document
2. What's new WQX/WQX Web?
3. How's My Water Way Released
4. Open Discussion

Webinar documents: <ftp://newftp.epa.gov/storet/xfer/how/2020-08-27>

- 1. Discussion of WQX Benthic Macroinvertebrate best practices document - Jesse Boorman-Padgett** Earlier this year workgroup was formed to develop guidance on using benthic macroinvertebrate data. The guidance is designed to make the datasets more user friendly, promote consistency when entering data and maximize the extent the data can be reused by other WQP users. The workgroup assisted with addressing the new WQX 3.0 data elements that needed to be added and other elements that should be included with benthic submissions.

Jesse covered the new data elements that are outlined in the best practices guide.

Jesse highlighted the use of updating QAQC information. QAPPs outline the data quality objectives and contain metrics to maintain data quality. This information is for users who consume the data to compare data quality and protocol. It is optional but recommended. It can be uploaded as a document at the Project or Activity level.

The new data elements are included in WQX 3.0; however, Exchange Network users can still submit to WQX 2.2. Users who want to take advantage of the new data elements you must upgrade to WQX 3.0. WQX Web users have already been migrated to WQX 3.0 and must comply with the data element requirements when submitting benthic data.

Best Practice Document is on the WQX website.

<https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/best-practices-sharing-benthics-data>

- 2. What's new WQX/WQX Web? - Kevin Christian**

- a) WQX Website Updated**

The WQX Website has been redesigned. It is now bookmark friendly.

<https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data-wqx>

- b) WQP Workgroup**

A request has gone out via ListServe to the WQX User Community asking for volunteer to participate in a Water Quality Portal workgroup to assist with redesigning the WQX 3.0 elements would appear in the in the WQP data profiles (reports):

- Sample Physical/Chemical
- Sample report Biological Data
- Sample report Narrow

The other reports are not off the table. Any report missing WQX 3.0 elements will be redesigned.

Users who want to participate in the meeting can email the [WQX Help Desk](#).

c) WQX Web Enhancement

The option to generate an activity ID has been enhanced. An Activity ID will be generated from the values provided for Monitoring Location ID, Activity Date, Activity Time, Activity Type, Activity Depth, and Activity Sample Collection Equipment. This is only guaranteed to produce a unique Activity ID if you provide a unique Activity Time for each Activity at a Monitoring Location. The new enhancement adds Activity Depth, and Activity Sample Collection Equipment.

All templates in WQX Web have been upgraded to align with WQX 3.0.

Users who have questions can email the [WQX Help Desk](#).

3. What's new How's My Water Way – Released end of June.

<https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/hows-my-waterway>

Uses the WQP Summary Services and links down to the WQX Data.

4. Open Discussion

Inbound and outbound data retrieval from QAQC Services were discussed on the June WQX User call. Here are both the [WQX User Meeting 06/25/2020 \(PDF\)](#) (10 pp, 1 MB) and [Link to the code](#). Download the Code for WQX QA statistics.txt (“CA statistics code.R”) via the following url: <ftp://newftp.epa.gov/storet/xfer/How/2020-06-25/>. You can change the code to work for your state by simply changing “CA” everywhere in the code to your state abbreviation. The code was completed with Texas, California and South Carolina to retrieve preliminary statistics on what was the most flexible outlier. Users are encouraged to look at the code and provide comments/suggestions.

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