



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Building Comprehensive Strategies to Reduce Toxics

Vincent McGowan, PE

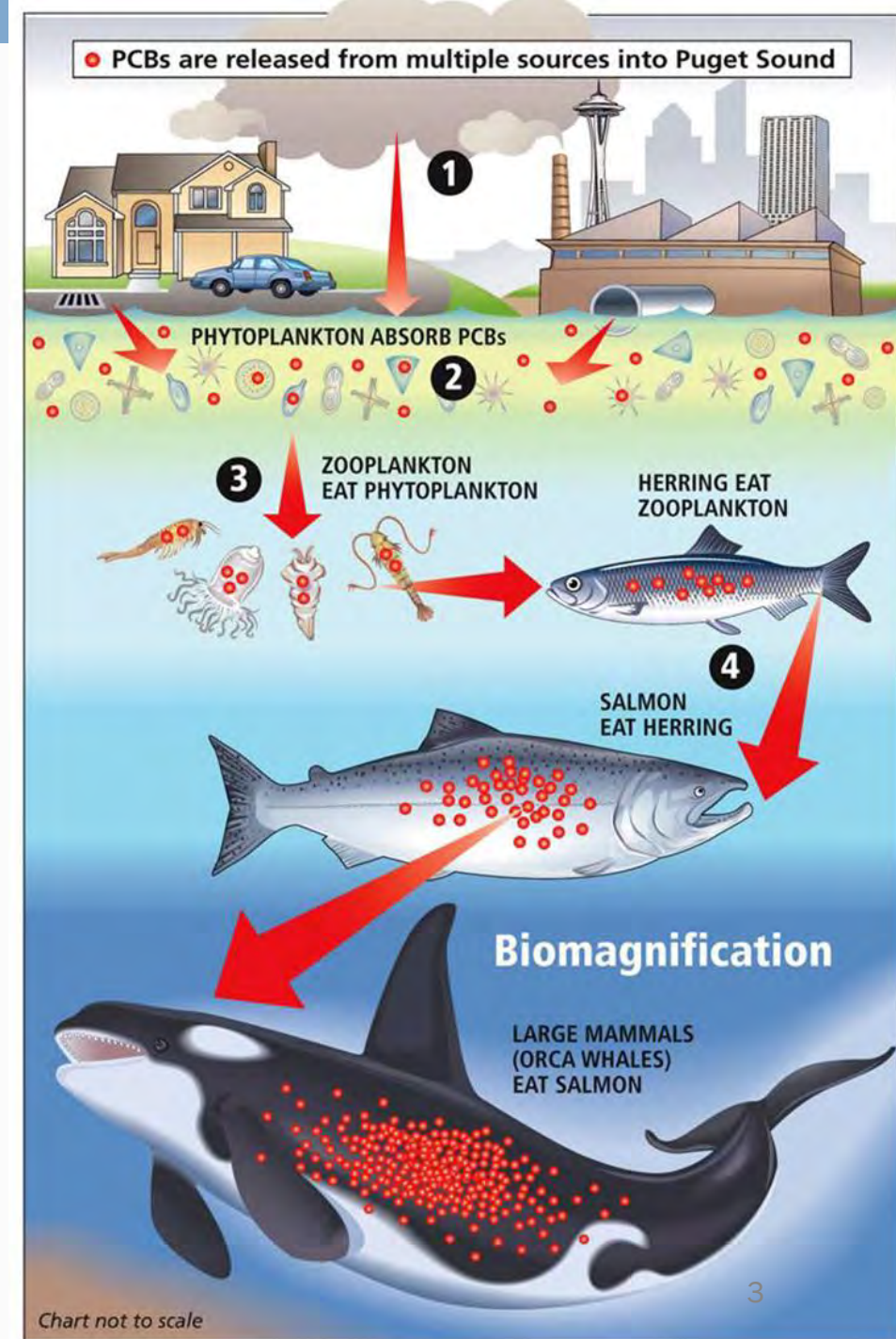
Expo 50 H2O Symposium May 30, 2024



What we focus on

Ecology uses different tools to focus on toxics that are the most:

- Persistent
- Bioaccumulative
- Toxic



Big picture look at toxics

- What are they?
- Where are they found in the environment?
- What are the sources?
- How to we manage them?

Spokane River is getting cleaner with local task force's help

Report shows success in reducing PCBs in the watershed

Mar 20, 2023

Stephanie May



Subscribe to our
blog ↗

Related links

[Improving Spokane Watershed](#)

[Spokane River](#)

[Water quality standards](#)

The steady work of a collaborative Spokane River group has led to the removal of more than 8,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the watershed. Environmental trends also indicate that total PCB concentrations are significantly decreasing in most areas of the Spokane River.

Addressing Priority Toxic Chemicals

We are taking action against toxic chemicals of high concern to human health and the environment.

6PPD

PFAS

PCBs

Phthalates

Flame retardants

Lead

Mercury

PAH

Washington's Toxics In Products Laws

These Washington laws are designed to keep toxic chemicals out of consumer products.

[Antifouling boat paint laws](#)

[Better Brakes Law](#)

[Children's Safe Products Act](#)

[Mercury Education & Reduction Act](#)

[Safer Products for Washington](#)

[+ See more](#)

Product Replacement Program

This program helps businesses transition away from toxic chemicals to safer products through technical support and funding.

[AFFF disposal](#)

[Automotive degreaser](#)

[Cosmetics](#)

[PCB lights](#)

[Recreational foam](#)

[+ See more](#)

Our work to keep toxics out of water in the first place



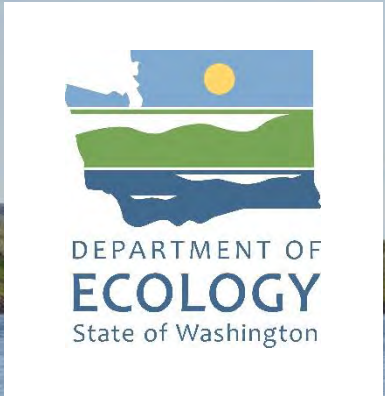
Looking ahead

Columbia River Lead Entity Grant

- Ecology's **Washington State Toxics Reduction Lead** cooperative agreement is funded by this program
- Objective is to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce toxics in the Columbia River

Back to the river





Thank you

Email: vincent.mcgowan@ecy.wa.gov

Phone: (360)789-1167

Bigger than Watershed Scale



- 1.The science arm of Ecology identifies and studies toxics of concern
- 2.Understanding where they come from is the next step
- 3.Chemical action plans are comprehensive strategy documents
- 4.Source elimination is the most effective way to address toxics
- 5 Otherwise, we have to clean them up (most expensive way to address toxics)