

# **Vermont Fish Contaminant Monitoring Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

Public link to FCMC meeting [Click here to join the meeting](#)

### **Call to order**

Wadman called the Spring meeting of the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Committee (FCMC) at (10:32, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022) on Microsoft Teams.

### **1. Roll call**

Pam Wadman conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

FCMC Members:

Pam Wadman (Health),  
Tim Clear (DEC)  
Jim Deshler (DEC),  
Jud Kratzer (F&W),  
Bernie Pientka (F&W),  
Margaret Murphy (F&W),

Guests:

Sarah Vose (Health), (present 10:30-11:00)  
Karen Knaebel (DEC)

### **2. Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2021 FCMC meeting**

Wadman motioned to approve minutes from November 19, 2021 FCMC meeting, motion approved by Murphy, seconded by Kratzer.

### **3. Agency Updates**

Health: Vose: Announced the release of EPA PFAS drinking water health advisories today, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Health will be evaluating this information.

Wadman: The draft Fish Mercury Report, as reviewed by the FCMC, will be modified before finalization to eliminate comparisons to previous Safe Eating Guidelines, that are not necessary for the support for the Safe Eating Guidelines. Health is working to develop communication materials for fish Safe Eating Guidelines using the Vermont Fish Mercury Card as a starting point, with input from health risk communications experts. We expect to have final materials developed before December 2022.

DEC: Clear: DEC is developing a proposed sampling and analysis plan (SAP) for fish and surface water to follow up on the 2021 effort for the Vermont Surface Water, Fish Tissue, and Wastewater Treatment Facility Effluent Monitoring Report. The proposed sampling plan will be shared with the FCMC for comment before finalization.

F&W: Murphy: Although F&W biologists are in communication with DEC to assist with potential sampling efforts for 2022, details are being worked out at the staff level.

**4. Discussion: Summer 2022 Fish Sampling Targets**

Wadman led the discussion of sampling efforts with current priorities being to support PFAS investigation and follow up on mercury in certain fish populations.

Other Investigations: Health is aware of fish contamination investigations by UVM, Dartmouth and EPA. Fish may also be required for some site-specific investigations in the future.

This year an effort by Dartmouth for the Lake Champlain Basin Program will be assessing opportunistically caught fish from Lake Champlain for mercury and PFAS.

Mercury: Kratzer discussed the project by UMass students collecting yearling brook trout from streams around the state. This is an opportunity to also obtain edible-size trout for mercury analysis. The samples will be analyzed for mercury at Dartmouth. Wadman will contact Dartmouth for the SAP, obtain cost estimates, and share with FCMC for any decision making on the important assessment of mercury in edible-sized brook trout.

PFAS: DEC is leading the 2022 PFAS investigation to follow-up on the report from the 2021 effort. The draft SAP will be shared with the FCMC.

Deshler reminded us that DEC only has capacity to sample fish from the shore, F&W assistance will be needed for collection of fish samples from a boat.

**5. Adjournment**

Wadman called the Spring meeting of the FCMC adjourned at 11:26