USGS science for a changing world

GeoHealth Newsletter

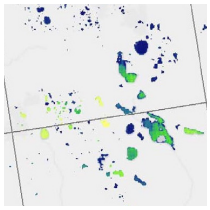
Vol. 14, No. 3, 2017

The U.S. Geological Survey's Environmental Health Newsletter

A Preview of What's In This Issue

The title of each article links to the on-line version

Satellite Imagery Used to Measure Algal Bloom Frequency—Steps Toward Understanding Exposure Risk



Study explores the utility and limitations of currently available remotely sensed satellite data for identifying the frequency of algal blooms in the Nation's lakes and reservoirs.

Multi-State Survey Measures Parabens in Municipal Wastewater Biosolids

Study provides new information about the composition and concentrations of five parabens—preservatives in pharmaceuticals and personal care products—present in biosolids collected from municipal wastewater treatment plants across the United States.

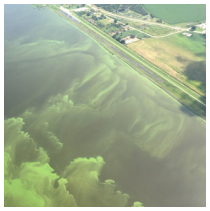
Cyanobacteria from 2016 Lake Okeechobee Harmful Algal Bloom Photo-Documented

New report provides photographic documentation and identification of the cyanobacteria present in Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee River, and St. Lucie Canal during an extensive algal bloom in 2016.

Commonly Used Chemicals Transported to Agricultural Field through Municipal Biosolids Application

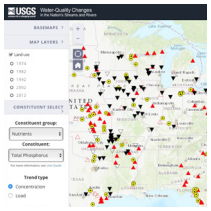
Commonly used chemicals transferred to wastewater treatment plants were detected in municipal wastewater biosolids applied to agricultural field plots and were detected in the rainfall runoff from the plots.

Evaluating Linkages Between Algal Toxins and Human Health



The amino acid ß-methylamino-L-alanine (BMAA) is produced by cyanobacteria and has been suggested by human health researchers as a causal factor for neurological diseases. An objective review concluded that this hypothesis is not supported by existing data.

Interactive Map Provides a Long-Term Look at Changes in River and Stream Quality



A new USGS interactive map provides a comprehensive, long-term assessment of changes in the chemical composition and quality of our rivers and streams over the last four decades.

Evaluation of Radon in Groundwater and Indoor Air in Pennsylvania

Existing groundwater and indoor air radon-222 concentrations or activities were aggregated and evaluated for 16 geologic units throughout the State of Pennsylvania to provide a better understanding of potential human exposure to radon.

Enhancement of Trichloroethene (TCE) Biodegradation in a Simulated Groundwater System

This laboratory-based study provides information for understanding enhancement of TCE biodegradation in a simulated groundwater system.

Efficacy of Eggshell Analyses as a Nonlethal Method to Estimate Mercury Exposure in Bird Embryos

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientists evaluated a nonlethal method to estimate mercury in the embryos of 23 bird species using mercury content in eggshells. This method was effective for a wide range of ages and species.

USGS Scientists Receive Award for Pioneering Work on White-Nose Syndrome in Bats

Dr. Carol U. Meteyer and Dr. David S. Blehert received the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Memorial Award from the Wildlife Disease Association and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians for their pioneering work on white-nose syndrome in bats.

Program Scientist Receives Award for Research on the Effects of Road Dust Control Chemicals

Dr. Bethany Kunz received the 2017 Environmental Excellence Award from the Federal Highway Administration for her exemplary research to advance knowledge of the effects of transportation on the natural environment.

Two Scientists Receive Early Career Excellence in Leadership Award

The USGS 2016 Early Career Excellence in Leadership Award was given to Dr. Denise M. Akob and Dr. Karl B. Haase. Drs. Akob and Haase have demonstrated outstanding leadership through their scientific accomplishments and service to the USGS.

Program Scientist Receives Meritorious Service Award

Dr. Isabelle M. Cozzarelli received the U.S. Department of Interior's second highest honorary award—the Meritorious Service Award—for her contributions to understanding the biogeochemical controls of contaminant degradation in the subsurface.

Michael J. Focazio, Editor
Kathy E. Lee, Managing Editor
David W. Morganwalp, Coordinating Editor
Stephanee R. Walker, Copy Editor

The GeoHealth Newsletter provides information on new USGS environmental health science activities related to safeguarding the health of the environment, fish and wildlife, domesticated animals, and people.

The title of each article links to the on-line version, which have links to additional information. For additional information contact:

David W. Morganwalp
U.S. Geological Survey
913 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
geohealth@usgs.gov

GeoHealth

Sign up to receive email notifications about new issues and to access past issues at:

https://www2.usgs.gov/envirohealth/geohealth/

Scan this with your smartphone QR code reader app to get past and future issues of the USGS GeoHealth Newsletter