

PLEASE BE SURE TO ADD NEWSLETTER@SMRWA.ORG TO YOUR ADDRESS BOOK.
TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS E-NEWSBRIEF, SCROLL TO BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE.



WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

July 15, 2020

[Join or Renew](#)

Environmental Group Tests for PFAS Chemical Pollutants in St. Mary's River

INSIDE THIS EDITION

>>PFAS Testing in St. Mary's
River

>>Bay Paddle for Oyster
Recovery

Last month, the St. Mary's River Watershed Association tested the tidal waters of the St. Mary's River for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a group of over 4,700 compounds known collectively as "PFAS." The laboratory analysis reported that at least one PFAS compound was detected at six of the ten sites studied. In the water samples collected at these six sites, the laboratory reported PFAS levels that ranged from 5.1 to 9.1 parts per trillion (ppt).

"These numbers are not alarming," said Bob Lewis, executive director of the Association. "PFAS are found in so many things we use or wear every day. We all have detectable levels in our blood. Even the rain can carry minute amounts of these compounds."

In early
March, the Navy
hosted a public
meeting to inform
the public of its
work to terminate
the use of PFAS
compounds that
cause adverse
health impacts, to
locate sites on
Base where PFAS





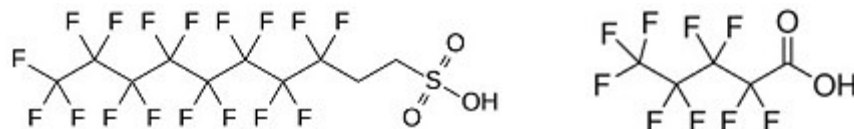
are present, and to clean up these polluted sites.

Over 200 countians attended the meeting.



The Association contracted a laboratory certified by the EPA for PFAS testing. The equipment they use is state-of-the-art. PFAS are measured in tiny amounts—parts per trillion (ppt)—making sampling and analysis very technical and difficult. The Association has great confidence in their testing program and the final data.

At five sites, the compound 1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorodecanesulfonate (8:2 FTS) was detected at levels from 5.1 to 9.1 ppt. Church Cove was the highest and Horse Shoe Point was the lowest. The other three sites were Windmill Point, Broom Creek, and Seminary. Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA) was reported at one site near the mouth of St. Ingoes Creek, Raleys Shore, at 7.6 ppt.



"We tested for 28 compounds using the same EPA protocols that the Department of Defense uses. These are the only two compounds we can definitively say are in the water," said Lewis.

Testing was also completed on oysters at six sites and no PFAS was detected. The laboratory's method of detection in oysters was 1000 times higher than in the water samples suggesting that further study is needed. The Association has shared the lab results with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for their review and interpretation regarding public health safety of both the waters and shellfish.

MDE will be conducting their PFAS testing of waters and oysters in the St. Mary's River this summer and we can expect results in the fall. Currently, Maryland has no regulatory standards for PFAS pollution, although an aggressive effort is underway to test and filter, if necessary, drinking water throughout the state. Sixteen states have at least a drinking water maximum level for PFAS either in effect or coming into effect this calendar year. The EPA has no regulatory standards for PFAS pollution.

"We'll know more about PFAS pollution in the St. Mary's River when the state completes their testing program," said Lewis. "Our study suggests that the St. Mary's River may be a lot like many other tidal waters up and down the east coast where people have congregated and use PFAS laden products on a daily basis."

PFAS can be found in sunscreens, cosmetics, clothing, polishes, paints, and food containers—just to mention a few of the most common products we use daily. The Association plans to publish on its website a white paper "PFAS in St. Mary's" by the end of this month. www.SMRWA.org

The 1st ever attempt to SUP the entire length of the Chesapeake Bay

ANNAPOLIS, MD (Wednesday, July 1, 2020) – Annapolis native Chris Hopkinson today announced that he will attempt an ambitious 240-mile journey from Havre de Grace, MD to Virginia Beach, VA atop a 14-foot paddleboard over the course of just nine days. The Bay Paddle, presented by Flying Dog Brewery, will take place September 18-26,

2020 to raise awareness and funds for the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) to plant oysters in the Chesapeake Bay.

Hopkinson has set a fundraising goal of \$200,000 for his journey, which will launch from Concord Point Lighthouse in Havre de Grace on Sept. 18. [Read more.](#)



OUR MISSION

To protect, improve, and promote the sustainability of the St. Mary's River Watershed through the collaborative efforts of economic, agricultural, environmental, social, cultural, and political stakeholders in the community.

We're on the web!

www.smrwa.org



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

Upcoming Events:

- RiverFest 2020
Saturday, September 26
GATHERING CANCELLED
Historic St. Mary's City

TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS E-NEWSBRIEF, REPLY TO THIS EMAIL AND TYPE INTO THE SUBJECT LINE - UNSUBSCRIBE.
OR EMAIL US AT newsletter@smrwa.org AND REQUEST TO BE REMOVED FROM THIS E-NEWSLETTER LISTSERV.

