EFFECTS BASED CHARACTERIZATION OF CHEMICALS IN PUGET SOUND BIOTA

This project aims to improve our understanding of the impacts of chemicals in Puget Sound. We will evaluate the relationships between exposures to chemicals carried by wastewater and stormwater runoff in order to identify those most likely to be causing harm. In addition, we will develop more effective methods of detecting pollutants in fish and shellfish tissues.

What we’re doing

We will be investigating the many trace organic chemicals in the Puget Sound and their impacts on aquatic life through three approaches:

- identify source-specific chemical tracers in water and tissues for source apportionment and exposure characterization
- measure and evaluate the relations between chemical exposures and biological responses of organisms in controlled and field settings.
- optimize methods for chemical recovery and identification utilizing high resolution mass spectrometry approaches

WHAT YOU CAN DO

We use thousands of chemicals in our daily lives. For many of them, we have only a limited understanding of their effects in the environment. You can limit the chemicals that you use in your home and workplace as much as possible. Be sure to dispose of things like used oil, old paint, and unwanted chemicals properly. For larger-scale impacts, support increased regulation of chemical production and use in commercial industrial settings.

ABOUT UW TACOMA AT CENTER FOR URBAN WATERS

UW Tacoma at the Center for Urban Waters (CUW) is a research group using advanced laboratory facilities to investigate the behavior and impacts of chemicals in the environment so that they can be effectively managed. We work with regional policy makers and environmental managers in developing sustainable solutions to restore and protect the Puget Sound.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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