

**Comment Response Document
Regarding the Total Maximum Daily Load of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in the Bush
River Oligohaline Segment, Harford County, Maryland**

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has conducted a public review of the proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in the Bush River Oligohaline Segment. The public comment period was open from February 10, 2016 through March 10, 2016. MDE received one written comment.

Below is a list of commentors, their affiliation, the date comments were submitted, and the number referenced to the comments submitted. The one comment received is listed below with MDE's response.

Author	Affiliation	Date	Comment Number
Dr. Frank Gostomski	Harford County Resident and Retired EPA Lead Scientist	March 10, 2016	1

Comments and Responses

1. I have reviewed the draft document establishing a TMDL of PCBs in the Bush River Oligohaline Segment in Harford County, Maryland. Being a resident of Harford County who uses the Bush River for waterfowl hunting and crabbing, I am very interested in its water quality. During my career at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency I was the lead scientist involved with publication of "U.S. EPA Quality Criteria for Water 1986" [Gold Book, EPA 440586001, May, 1987] which provided ambient water quality criteria for PCBs and I trust that you will utilize it in developing your final TMDL.

Response: The Bush River PCB TMDL does take into consideration the EPA recommended PCB water quality criteria for aquatic life and human health which have been revised by EPA since they were originally published in the Gold Book. MDE compares the human health tPCB water column criterion (0.64 ng/L) and the freshwater chronic tPCB criterion for protection of aquatic life (14 ng/L) with a site-specific bioaccumulation factor (BAF) derived water column target based on the tPCB Integrated Report fish tissue listing threshold (39 ng/g) to determine the endpoint that will be applied in developing a TMDL. MDE selects the most conservative and stringent of these criteria as the TMDL endpoint. For the Bush River PCB TMDL the site-specific BAF derived water column target (0.12 ng/L) was the most conservative and selected as the water column TMDL endpoint. Please refer to section 3.0 for additional information.