



Healthy Waters Coalition Update November & December 2016

The Healthy Waters Coalition is a diverse group of municipal and state water and wastewater organizations, and conservation and sustainable agriculture organizations working in Washington DC and in communities throughout the country. The Coalition is focused on strengthening links between our working agricultural lands and the quality of our Nation's waters with a specific focus on nutrients. Please feel free to circulate this list to your members and let us know if you have any colleagues who would find this monthly update informative. If you do not wish to receive these updates, we can remove you from our lists.

Below is an overview of the related press coverage and other materials from the month of November & December.

National Activities

[EPA's National Lakes Assessment Finds Nutrient Pollution is Widespread in Lakes](#)

EPA Press Release

USEPA has released the results of its latest National Lake Assessment, which indicates that nutrient pollution is widespread in the nation's lakes, with 4 in 10 lakes suffering from too much nitrogen and phosphorus.

[Fact Sheet: Impact of USDA Investments to Protect and Sustain America's Water Supply](#)

USDA Press Release

Examples of results achieved by USDA's investments since 2009 to improve water quality and availability.

[USDA Announces New Conservation Opportunities to Improve Water Quality and Restore Wildlife Habitat](#)

USDA Press Release

Secretary Vilsack announced new Conservation Reserve Program practices to protect water quality and add an additional 1.1 million acres targeted to benefit wildlife, pollinators, and wetlands.

Regional and Local Activities

[PA's Lagging Bay Cleanup Gets Fiscal Transfusion, But Needs More](#)

The Chesapeake Bay Journal

Pennsylvania's lagging Bay cleanup got a much-needed fiscal transfusion when restoration leaders met in early October and pledged \$28 million to fund conservation efforts in the commonwealth.

[Why Big Industry is Paying Small Farmers to Cut Pollution in the Ohio River](#)

West Virginia Public Radio

Some water quality advocates think getting big industrial polluters to pay for farm runoff prevention projects is an innovative way to control water pollution, but critics call it "pay-to-pollute."

[Who Will Pay for Water Pollution Cleanup Divides Urban and Rural Iowa](#)

PBS Newshour

A special report on the tensions between rural agriculture and urban areas over keeping water clean.

[Can a Real-Time Monitor in the Baltimore Harbor Improve Pollution Education](#)

Govtech

The instruments to be installed by USGS and USEPA will measure water quality data, eventually including nitrogen levels.

[Gulf Dead Zone No Smaller, Yet Hypoxia Task Force Cites Improvement](#)

New Orleans Times-Picayune

A federal-state task force charged with reducing the nutrients that form the annual low-oxygen dead zone outlined a variety of bright spots from their work with Midwestern farmers, but found the size of the 2016 summer low-oxygen area nowhere near its long-term goal.

[Matthew Could Impact the Neuse River and Pamlico Sound for Months, Years](#)

Public Radio East

Local scientists have increased monitoring of the Neuse River and Pamlico Sound following Hurricane Matthew- algal blooms and low dissolved oxygen are a few of the problems being detected due to nutrient loads and storm water runoff.

[Water Quality Improvement Program Expanded Across Ohio](#)

The Columbus Dispatch

A popular program aimed at improving the spread of fertilizer on Ohio farmland is expanding beyond its western Lake Erie basin roots.

Research and Studies

[Researchers Examining Effectiveness of Stream Restoration](#)

The Chesapeake Bay Journal

The Smithsonian's Muddy Creek research project is one of a series of studies under way to try to answer questions- and resolve disputes- about the efficacy of stream restorations.

[Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms and U.S. Geological Survey Science Capabilities](#)

USGS Report

Despite advances in scientific understanding of cyanobacteria, many unanswered questions remain about occurrences, environmental triggers, and ability to predict timing.

[New Research Offers Insight into Managing Agricultural Runoff and Coastal Dead Zones](#)

Phy Org

A study published in Ecology Letters adds to a growing body of work examining the relationship between harmful algal blooms in the Gulf of Mexico and agricultural runoff.

[Study Says Salt Marshes Have Limited Ability to Absorb Excess Nitrogen](#)

Phy Org

Add fertilizer to your garden and your plants will probably grow bigger and taller. Add fertilizer to a salt marsh and the plants may not get any bigger at all.