

**Presentation Type:**

Platform Preferred

**Track:**

Aquatic Toxicology and Ecology

**Session:**

Ecotoxicology and Risk Assessment of Aquatic Primary Producers

**Abstract Title:**

Aquatic Plant Water Quality Criteria

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**Abstract:**

The USEPA, as stated in the Clean Water Act, is tasked with establishing criteria values for various pollutants found in the waters of the United States. These criteria serve as guidance for States and Tribes to use in developing their water quality standards. The *Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses* ("the 1985 Guidelines") describes the current Office of Water methodology for deriving aquatic criteria. These OW guidelines focus primarily on deriving criteria based on animal toxicity data. An acute criterion uses a minimum of eight acute toxicity values for animals, but a chronic criterion uses the most sensitive of the final chronic value (FCV) for animals or the final plant value (FPV). In practices, though, it is essentially always the FCV. Data for plants recently have been considered more important to address, especially for herbicides. There are some limitations; however, associated with the use of the FPV because of an insufficient description of minimum data requirements for plants within the 1985 Guidelines. The availability of a more complete plant toxicity database is desirable. This would allow the USEPA to provide a more definitive recommendation for the optimal minimum dataset needed to assess the risk of chemicals to aquatic plants. This presentation will provide the status of the current effort for creating a methodology for the derivation of aquatic plant water quality criteria. The majority of the data for the analyses comes from EPA's publically accessible ECOTOX database.