

The Passaic River Creel/Angler Survey: Expert Panel Review, Findings, and Recommendations

Brent L. Finley,¹ Timothy J. Iannuzzi,² Natalie D. Wilson,³ Jason C. Kinnell,⁴ Valerie A. Craven,¹ Stanley Lemeshow,⁵ Christopher M. Teaf,⁶ Edward J. Calabrese,⁷ and Paul T. Kostecki⁷

¹Exponent, 631 First Street, Suite 200, Santa Rosa, CA 95409 ²BBL Sciences, 326 First Street, Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21403. ³N.D. Wilson & Associates, LLC, 12948 Victoria Avenue, Huntington Woods, MI 48070. ⁴Triangle Economic Research, 2775 Meridian Parkway, Durham, NC 27713. ⁵Exponent, 631 First Street, Suite 200, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. ⁶Ohio State University, Biostatistics Program, M200 Starling Loving Hall, 320 West 10th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210. ⁶Florida State University, Center for Biomedical & Toxicological Research & Waste Management, 2035 East Paul Dirac Drive, Suite 226HMB, Tallahassee, FL 32310. ⁷University of Massachusetts, Morrill Science Center N344, Amherst, MA 01003. ⁷University of Massachusetts, Morrill Science Center N344, Amherst, MA 01003

ABSTRACT

A Creel/Angler Survey (CAS) was conducted to provide site-specific information on recreational fishing in the lower six miles of the Passaic River (Study Area). Information collected during the CAS will be used to develop site-specific exposure factors, including fish consumption rates, for use in the human health risk assessment required by an Administrative Order on Consent as part of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for the Study Area. An expert panel was convened to provide an independent opinion regarding the need for, design of, and implementation of the CAS. The expert panel was charged with evaluating whether the conduct of a CAS is necessary to support an accurate risk assessment for the Study Area and whether the proposed CAS is sufficient to characterize local fish consumption behavior for risk assessment purposes. The expert panel agreed that a CAS is necessary and concluded that the proposed CAS, with specific modifications to the study design and data analysis, would provide the information necessary to estimate site-specific fish consumption rates. Revision of the CAS to accommodate the expert panel recommendations enhanced the quality of the data collected and ensured that the data will support the assessment of human health risks from consumption of fish from the Study Area.

Key Words: creel survey, angler survey, fish consumption, expert panel, peer review.