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# Organic compounds in surface sediments and oyster tissues from the Chesapeake Bay

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Organic Compounds in Surface Sediments and Oyster Tissues from the Chesapeake Bay

### Final Report to the

# Environmental Protection Agency, Year 1 and 2 Grant No. R 806012010

by

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> > July 31, 1981

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ABSTRACT

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This report contains three parts. In Part I, the methodology to extract and analyze sediment and oyster tissue samples from the Chesapeake Bay is described in detail. Remaining problems are clearly identified. Part II contains the results and their discussion. Part III contains a number of appendices with detailed data. For those readers interested in still more detail, the complete bank of processed data is on computer tapes at this institute and at the Environmental Protection Agency-Chesapeake Bay Program office at Annapolis, Maryland. Also included in Part III we give the results of volatile halogenated organic compounds determined in water collected near the outfalls of several chlorine using facilities as well as from river mouths. The distribution of the total and a few specific organic compounds within the Bay is presented by histograms. Mass spectrometric analyses clearly reveal the fact that one specific class of organic compounds, hydrocarbons, are the most prominent pollutants in the Bay. The application of two different search routines, one concentrating on compounds at levels  $\geq$  50 ppb and the other on temporal changes, allows a quick determination of areas where problems may exist and where additional research may be indicated. Two unusual sediment samples collected during the fall 1979 cruise are discussed separately: Sample 2-19-S which clearly indicates a recent dumping of DDT and polychlorinated biphenyls, and Sample 2-27-S which contained very high concentrations of unsubstituted polynuclear aromatics.

#### INTRODUCTION

 $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$ The production of synthetic organic chemicals has greatly increased since the Second World War. The benefits from these are obvious: pesticides to insure better crop yields, synthetic fibers with a variety of properties which sometimes make them more desirable than natural ones, and plastics of all sorts to replace glass and metals in a variety of uses. The list could go on and on. Unfortunately, there are times when the benefits are outweighed by environmental costs. These costs are incurred when toxic synthetic organics enter the environment due to misuse, ignorance in assessing their total impact, careless discharges or spills. When they enter the natural environment, these chemicals may be taken up by plants and animals from where they may accumulate in food chains. This can lead to toxic effects (acute or chronic) in plants and animals or the substance can accumulate to levels in animals that makes them unfit for human consumption. Either way, the environmental costs are high.

Research reported in this document is the result of a project designed to develop reliable information on organic compounds in the Chesapeake Bay which have previously been designated toxic as well as those which have not been categorized as either toxic or non-toxic due to lack of study.

Before the objective could be reached, several obstacles had to be overcome and decisions had to be made. These included:

- (a) The selection of sample types
- (b) The selection of sampling locations
- (c) The method of sample preparation
- (d) The method of sample extraction
- (e) The method of fractionating the extract
- $(f)$  The methods of compound identification and quantitation

The selections and decisions would have been 'greatly simplified if a predetermined group of compounds to be looked for had been chosen. However, limiting the search to such a group would obviously eliminate the likelihood of finding compounds not in this group. Therefore, we attempted to develop an analytical scheme which would extract, identify and quantitate as broad a spectrum of organic compounds as possible with gas chromatography and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. This, of course, limits the set to those which are stable and volatile enough to pass through a gas chromatograph. Also, it must be realized that any extraction scheme which is intended to yield a broad spectrum of compounds will likely sacrifice some quantitative information for more qualitative data.

 $\label{eq:2} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{i=1}^T \frac{1}{T_i} \sum_{j=1}^T \frac{1}{T_i} \sum$ PART I

#### 1. SAMPLE COLLECTION

The number of samples that can be analyzed for their content of organic compounds is limited because of the effort involved in such analyses. For this reason, it is not feasible to lay down a grid and mechanically collect sediment samples at every node. As an alternative, the locations were selected according to their potential to contain pollutants, their representation of a particular area of the Bay (upper, central, lower) and their closeness to existing oyster beds from which the tissue samples had to be taken.

Sediment and oyster sampling locations are shown in Figures 1 and 2. The location of these sampling areas is described in Tables 1 and 2. Position data was determined by Loran C and by shore bearings that were translated on charts to latitude and longitude. Both sets of data are given in Table 3 and Table 4 for the first cruise, and in Table 5 and Table 6 for the second cruise.

During the first sediment collection cruise, Loran C reception was poor for stations north of 19, leading to questionable accuracy for the Loran C coordinates. In such cases, station reoccupation was based on shore bearings. A more sophisticated Loran C system was used during the second cruise and accurate bearings were obtained for all stations.

Loran C was not available for much of the first oyster collection cruise. Station reoccupation was thus based on shore bearings, but Loran C coordinates again were obtained in the second cruise.

Using the two strongest Loran C chains only for reporting, the position accuracy was estimated to be within 200 ft. A comparison with shore bearings in some cases, however, indicated that the accuracy was much better. The



Chesapeake Bay Sediment Sample Locations **Figure 1** 



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#### Locations of Sediment Collections

- **1.** Lynnhaven Inlet mouth, an area of intense small boat traffic.
- 2. Little Creek Inlet mouth, a Naval Base with considerable ship traffic and maintenance activities.
- 3. Channel leading to Hampton Roads, positioned to demonstrate inputs from commercial activity in the James and Elizabeth Rivers.
- 4. Bay mouth, north channel, representative of this region.
- 5. York River mouth, with inputs from paper and oil industries as well as Naval traffic.
- 6. Cherrystone Inlet mouth, potential agricultural chemical runoff.
- 7. Nassawodax Creek mouth, potential agricultural chemical runoff.
- 8. Rappahannock River mouth, the major river input in the area.
- 9. Nandua Creek mouth, potential agricultural chemical runoff.
- **10.** Midbay transect.
- **11.** Junction of Pocamoke and Tangier Sounds representing potential agricultural chemical runoff.
- 12. Midbay transect.
- 13. Potomac River mouth, monitoring inputs from many types of commercial activities.
- 14. Northwest of Smith Island, potential agricultural chemical runoff from Wicomico River area.
- 15. Midbay transect.
- **16.** Hooper Straits, potential agricultural chemical runoff from Nanticoke River area.
- 17. Patuxent River mouth, monitoring inputs from military and industrial establishments.
- 18. Midbay transect.

Table 1 (continued).

Locations of Sediment Collections  $-2-$ 

- 19. Midbay transect.
- 20. Eastern Bay mouth, potential agricultural chemical runoff.
- 21. Severn River mouth, covering urban runoff from the Annapolis area.
- 22. Northern tip of Kent Island, potential agricultural chemical runoff.
- 23. Baltimore Harbor mouth, monitoring a multitude of potential pollution sources.
- 24. Gunpowder River mouth with urban, industrial and military inputs.
- 25. Midbay transect.
- 26. Elk River mouth, potential agricultural chemical runoff, representing inputs through C & D canal.
- 27. Susquehanna River mouth, covering the major river input to Chesapeake Bay with its industrial runoff.

### LOCATIONS OF OYSTER COLLECTIONS

- 1. Lynnhaven Inlet
- 2. Kiptopeke Inlet
- 3. Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel
- 4. North side of Cherrystone Inlet
- 5. York River 0.25 mi from oil refinery
- 6. Middle of Mobjack Bay
- 7. Mouth of Occohannock Creek
- 8. Rappahannock River mouth
- 9. Hacks Neck on south side of Butcher Creek
- 10. Outside Onancock Inlet
- 11. 0.25 mi east of Tangier Island
- 12. 1.5 mi southwest of Smith Point light
- 13. Potomac River mouth
- 14. Kedges straight north of Smith Island
- 15. 10 meters north of Hooper Is. light
- 16. 15 meters north of Point No Point light
- 17. Patuxent River mouth
- 18. 0.25 mile off Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant
- 19. 300 meters north of Sharp Island light
- 20. 500 meters north of Holland Point
- 21. 1 mile west of Poplar Island
- 22. Belvedere Shoal along Baltimore entrance channel
- 23. 2 miles southwest of Swan Point

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# SEDIMENT STATIONS SPRING 1979



#### OYSTER SAMPLES SPRING 1979



Navigation was by LORAN C, when available, and by shore bearings.<br>The uncertainty in position is much larger than in sediment sampling,<br>reflecting the natural difficulties in collecting any marine biota.<br>This uncertainty r the samples at a particular station. Where no uncertainty is reported, the sample was collected at the given position as nearly as could be determined by navigation methods available.

# SEDIMENT STATIONS FALL 1979

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# OYSTER SAMPLES FALL 1979



conversion of Loran C coordinates to latitude-longitude coordinates is not always accurate (even though Loran C coordinates may be very reproducible) due to differences in wave propagation over land and water. Proper correction factors to account for these effects are not yet available for the Chesapeake Bay. Thus, where latitude and longitude coordinates have been derived from Loran C data, the latter are more accurate.

All sediment samples were collected with a 0.1  $m^2$  stainless steel Smith-Mcintyre grab sampler (manufactured by the University of Rhode Island, School of Oceanography). Precautions to prevent contaimination included rinsing with sea water (from an intake 4ft. below the surface) and methanol. During sample retrieval, the integrity of the collected sediments was protected by solid stainless steel doors covering the top of the sample. Of the contained sediment, only the top 3 em were transferred to precleaned one-quart glass jars (detergent washed, acetone rinsed and heated to 200°C for 12 hours), using a methanol rinsed stainless steel scoop. The jars were sealed tight with Teflon-lined covers and immediately placed in a box containing dry ice, where they remained until the freeze drying.

Most oysters were collected with a four-foot wide commercial oyster dredge, with the exception of stations 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9. At station 1, there are no public oyster grounds and the oysters had to be bought from the owner of the beds. At station 2, the oysters were scraped from concrete pilings at the Kiptopeke ferry pier. At station 3, they were scraped from the concrete pilings at the northern span of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (at a depth of 2ft. below surface). At stations 4, 7 and 9, the oysters were taken by hand from shallow tidal mud flats.

All oysters were kept alive on ice until shucking, which was done on shipboard when conditions permitted. Otherwise they were shucked in the

laboratory within 12 hours from collection. In both cases, the oyster shells were cleaned under flowing water with a wire brush before they were opened. Liquor and meats were transferred to precleaned glass jars, sealed with Teflon-lined covers and stored on dry ice until the freeze drying.

### 2. SAMPLE PREPARATION

Frozen sediment samples were thawed at room temperature and transferred to clean stainless steel trays for freeze drying. In order to prevent contamination of samples during the freeze-drying process, it was found necessary to periodically clean the chamber walls with solvents and subsequently run the freeze dryer for approximately two days at elevated temperatures  $(100^{\circ}c)$ . In addition, the sample trays are shielded by covering them loosely with solvent rinsed aluminum foil. A stream of clean  $N_{2}$  was fed into the vacuum line to prevent backstreaming of pump oil. The pressure in the line was held at 250 microns. Clean  $N<sub>2</sub>$  was again used to bring the drying chamber up to atmospheric pressure at the end of the freeze-drying process. Freeze drying of sediments takes approximately 48 hours. Homogenization occurs after the freeze-drying process in a stainless steel pan with cover. Eight steel balls of 2 em diameter and mechanical agitation are used to break up and homogenize the sediment. The resulting dry, fine powder was transferred to Teflon-covered jars and kept in a freezer at approximately -25°C until extraction.

Oysters were allowed to thaw at room temperature, homogenized at 45,000 rpm in a Virtis homogenizer (Model #45) and then transferred into stainless steel trays. Freeze drying of oysters takes approximately 36 hours. The dry cake was broken up into small pieces with a mortar and pestle, transferred into a glass vial and stored in a freezer until extraction.

#### 3. EXTRACTION METHOD AND CHOICE OF SOLVENT

Compared to pure hydrocarbons, organic compounds possessing functional groups or heteroatoms within ring structures can be expected to be more prone to modification by chemical reactions. For environmental samples,. which commonly contain large numbers of organic compounds, a multiplicity of artifacts is likely to result from methodology that is not carefully executed. Thus, much attention and careful screeing of extraction methods are indicated.

Two main parameters are available to prevent the generation of artifacts: the solvent and the method of extraction. Their choice, however, also depends on extraction yields. Very little is known about the detailed mechanisms involved in the extraction of organic compounds from sediment and tissue. While the extraction of such compounds in tissue probably is influenced mainly by simple partitioning, there is always some doubt that the solvent makes effective contact to allow partitioning to take place (this would require breaking of all cell walls). In sediments, the interplay between mineral matrices and organic material is so complex (and dependent on sediment type) that any attempt to hypothesize about mechanisms of extraction seems pointless. Thus, an empirical approach is likely to provide the best answers.

Five solvents were selected to check the extraction yields and to evaluate artifact formation in both sample types. These were:

- (a) Diethyl ether ( $Et<sub>2</sub>0$ )
- (b) Methylene chloride  $(CH_2Cl_2)$
- (c) Tetrahydrofuran (THF)
- (d) Ethyl acetate (EtAc)
- (e) Methanol-toluene azeotrope

Soxhlet apparatus was chosen as the physical method of extraction because it has the dual advantage of leaving the sample cool and providing an efficient, continuous reflux-distillation extraction. Extraction methods that expend more energy in the sample (reflux extraction, ultrasonic agitation) were discarded because of the potential for artifact generation.

Two of the solvents, THF and EtAc, were quickly eliminated because of impurities present. The methanol-toluene azeotrope led to the formation of artifacts (methyl-esters) that interfered with the analysis at a later stage. Et<sub>2</sub>0 and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> both appeared to give similar extraction yields as judged from internal standards and comparison of chromatograms. Both solvents were similar in their extractive power based on recovery of added internal standards, but extracts with Et<sub>2</sub>0 appeared to be more complex (Figures 3A to 3D). Recoveries for CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at two different spiking levels are presented in Table 7.

In a next step, these differences were further pursued in ten replicate extracts of sediment and oyster tissue. Without addition of a multiple-compound internal standard, chromatograms of extracts from the two sample types with both solvents indicated substantial compositional differences, while the replicates within one sample type and one solvent were very uniform. An inspection of mass spectra from GC-MS runs provided additional evidence for compositional differences and at the same time furnished some clues about their origin. Most of the major components in Et $_2$ O extracts had mass spectra that were dominated by a tropylium ion  $(m/e = 91)$ , (Figure 4), with little additional fragmentation that could positively be identified as originating from one compound. Other characteristic mass spectra found only in  $Et<sub>2</sub>0$  extracts contained fragment pairs at m/e = 45 and 73. Both sediment and tissue extracts had one compound in common which was identified as bibenzyl (1,2-diphenylethane). Many more

- a. Aliquot of sediment sample extracted with diethyl ether.  $\bar{V}$
- b. Aliquot of same sample extracted with methylene chloride.
- c. Aliquot of oyster sample extracted with diethyl ether.
- d. Aliquot of same sample extracted with methylene chloride.









### Table 7: Internal Standard Recoveries  $CH_2Cl_2$  as Extraction Solvent)

At the lower spiking level, internal standards were added to exhaustively extracted and then rewetted sediment. This was followed by freeze drying. The spikes at higher levels were added directly to exhaustively extracted and dried sediment. The rest of the procedure (48-hour Soxhlet extraction, solvent evaporation and injection into GC) was the same for both samples.



FIGURE 4: Mass chromatograms of fragments with *mje* = 91 in diethyl ether extracts.

a. Sediment sample

b. Oyster sample






Figure 4B

mass spectra of similar characteristics were present in  $Et_{20}$  extracts of both sample types, but they were not identical. Further evidence for this fact emerged from retention information which, again with the exception of bibenzyl, differed between sediment extracts and tissue extracts. None of these compounds were found in extracts with  $CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>$ , although an active search was made for them. An estimate of the ratio of the mass spectrometric detection limit to the signals encountered for these compounds in Et<sub>2</sub>O extracts ( $\langle$ 1/10<sup>2</sup>) made it unlikely that these compositional differences were caused by differences in extraction yields. Thus, our efforts focused on artifacts, and the following hypothesis was adopted to further test the generation of artifacts in  $Et_{2}0$ extracts. Since both sample types have a common denominator in bibenzyl and the mass spectra of a large number of compounds in  $Et_{2}0$  extracts were bibenzyllike, this compound was a prime suspect. It is known that under proper circumstances. bibenzyl can react to form benzyl radicals (trace amounts of peroxide in  $Et<sub>2</sub>0$  could provide such a reaction mechanism via hydroperoxide radicals). The benzyl radicals could then react with components of the sample to generate artifacts that were different for both sample types.

The basic correctness of these observations was confirmed on a sediment collected in a different area of the Bay. A decision to proceed with  $CH_2Cl_2$ at this point would seem to be indicated, except for the fact that problems were encountered earlier with this solvent. Although nothing unusual could be detected by GC-MS in  $CH_2Cl_2$  extracts, E.C.-chromatograms indicated the formation of low level chlorinated artifacts or contaminants. It was established that artifact formation or contamination occurs during the reflux phase in the Soxhlet apparatus, and that the presence or absence of a thimble is of no consequence. Maximum concentration of individual artifacts or contaminants were estimated to be at levels (10 ppb. Since the detection of chlorinated

compounds in the Bay environment is of major importance and the origin of these artifacts is not understood, the use of  $CH_2Cl_2$  certainly is not ideal. Thus was decided to further pursue the problems encountered with  $Et_{2}$ O and try to eliminate bibenzyl or to break the chain of reactions that eventually lead to the artifacts.

Elimination of bibenzyl or purchase of bibenzyl-free  $Et<sub>2</sub>0$  proved to be impossible. It is equally impractical to eliminate the presence of ether peroxide by distillation in a routine application of this solvent. Thus, further experiments concentrated on checks to assure that the benzyl radical hypothesis was basically correct and to try to quench the formation of this radical. The following variations for the extraction were incorporated:

- (a) Addition of synthesized bibenzyl to  $CH_2Cl_2$
- (b) Addition of synthesized bibenzyl to  $Et<sub>2</sub>0$  to approximately double the original concentration.
- (c) Addition of quinone to  $Et<sub>2</sub>0$  to quench the benzyl radical formation

Extractions of a homogenized sediment were repeated with solvents a to c and, in addition, again with unmodified  $Et_{2}0$  and  $CH_{2}Cl_{2}$ . The extract with solvent  $a$ , compared with the pure CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> extract, contained bibenzyl as the only extra peak in the chromatogram. The extract with solvent b qualitatively was similar to an extract with regular Et $_{2}$ O, but the artifact concentrations $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ were not increased according to expectations. Solvent~ gave an extract that contained again an abundance of artifacts similar to b and contained no evidence that any quenching to suppress the bibenzyl radical occurred. In retrospect, it was concluded that the amount of quinone added to  $Et<sub>2</sub>0$  may have been consumed mainly by the peroxide. Thus, while the results of these experiments proved that the formation of artifacts is not yet fully comprehended, they also demonstrated that there is no simple solution to a suppression of such

artifacts. This left us with no other choice than  $CH_2Cl_2$ , although it is by no means beyond criticism.

The artifact problem was further pursued after all samples had been extracted with  $CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>$ . A series of unsubstituted PNA's were exposed for 48 hours to the following solvents:

- (a) Et<sub>2</sub>0, "distilled in glass" grade (from bottle; contains lOppb bibenzyl)
- (b) CH2Cl2, "distilled in glass" grade
- (c)  $CH_2Cl_2$  + residue of Et<sub>2</sub>0 from bottle after concentration in a rotary evaporator
- (d) Freshly distilled  $Et<sub>2</sub>0$
- (e) Freshly distilled  $Et<sub>2</sub>0 + 30$ ppb of bibenzyl
- (f)  $CH_2Cl_2$  + 30ppb of bibenzyl

The results are presented in Table 8. An interpretation of those data clearly suggests that the ether peroxide is primarily responsible for the artifacts and that radical-formation is not limited solely to the presence of bibenzyl.

### TABLE 8

Recovery of Aromatic Standards after 48 h. contact with different solvents.





Residue from redistillation of 300 ml  $Et_2^0$ ; (5ml) added to 250 ml  $CH_2^cCl_2$  $1)$ 

 $\frac{8}{2}$ 

#### 4. GEL PERMEATION CHROMATOGRAPHY (GPC)

Any method of extraction that is not specific for a narrowly defined type of interaction between solvent and solute, but is designed to give reasonable extraction efficiencies for a broad spectrum of organic compounds, is likely to contain large amounts of non-toxic solutes. Thus, a major problem encountered in such extracts was the overwhelming presence of biogenic substances that completely buried any toxic organic compounds at expected levels. Based on mass spectral information, which suggested many of the major peaks in the chromatogram to be of steroid/terpenoid structure, GPC was selected as a major candidate for a first separation of these extracts.

In the choice of a suitable resin, we were guided mainly by a comprehensive survey of the elution behavior of pesticides (Pflugmacher and Ebing, 1978). Four different BioBeads, S-X2, S-X3, S-X8 and S-Xl2 were tried. With the exception of S-Xl2 (exclusion limit: M.W. 400), in which much of the toxic compound test mixture S9 (Table 9) was co-eluted with biogenic lipids, all BioBeads have similar separation abilities. However, S-XB required the least amount of solvent and was preferred for that reason. Proper separation was further investigated with four different solvents, respectively. solvent systems: toluene/EtAc (3/1),  $CH_2Cl_2$ , n- $C_6H_14/CH_2Cl_2$  (50/50). Good separation of toxic compounds in S9 from biolipids was achieved by both  $CH_2Cl_2$  and toluene/EtAc, but the latter contained too many impurities (from EtAc). n-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>14</sub>/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (85/15) finally led to unacceptable separation. BioBeads S-X8 and  $CH_2Cl_2$  were thus accepted as basic column parameters for the gel permeation chromatography. Details are found in Table 10.

Further studies centered around the determination of elution volumes for toxic organic substances. to be collected for further separation on high performance liquid chromatography. While it was originally envisioned to

### COMPOSITION OF STANDARD S9 USED TO CHECK EXTRACTION YIELDS.



# TABLE 10

# Data for Gel Permeation Chromatography



separate three fractions (0-140 ml, containing mainly biogenic and other non-toxic compounds for disposal, 140-220 ml, containing essentially all toxic compounds of concern, and  $>$  220 ml, containing sulfur, again for disposal), this turned out to be impossible. In a first methodology report (Bieri et al.,<br>1979a) it was mentioned that the first fraction contained at least two compounds that should be considered for analysis: dibutyl phthalate and malathion. More comprehensive testing revealed the presence of seven more at 100% and of eleven from approximately 2% to 80% in this fraction. Details are found in Table 11. It is likely that still more toxic organic compounds will elute in this fraction in a sample extract, and as a consequence, this fraction as a whole cannot be discarded. Further tests suggest four fractions must be distinguished: fraction Gl from 0-100 ml, fraction G2 from 100-140 ml, fraction G3 from 140-220 ml and fraction  $G4 > 220$  ml. Most man-made toxic organic compounds have a high probability of eluting in fractions G2 and G3, while Gl and G4 can be discarded.

In practice, a further separation or analysis of G2 turned out to be limited by technical problems. There are so many large and very polar molecules in this fraction that damage to either the HPLC column or to the GC-capillary occurs after just a few samples. Thus, before G2 can be analyzed it will be necessary to remove these molecules by some additional step.



# Gel Permeation Chromatography of Standard Compounds

 $\cdot$ 

### Table 11 (continued)

Gel Permeation Chromatography of Standard Compounds Page 2



 $\bar{\theta}$ 

# Table 11 (continued)<mark>.</mark><br>Gel Permeation Chromatography of Standard Compounds Page 3

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#### 5. HIGH PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY (HPLC)

Fraction G3 must be further characterized and simplified for the detailed analysis by GC and GC-MS. Normal adsorption chromatography using silica gel could be used, but HPLC has certain advantages. They are as follows:

- Fraction volumes are smaller. This reduces the necessary concentration factor.
- Reproducibility is enhanced once the solvent program has been worked out (with silica gel the water content necessary for deactivation is difficult to control).
- There is less chance of sample contamination.

There are also some disadvantages, such as limited capacity and dead-time for recycling of the column. These, however, appear to be of secondary importance.

The methodology used for the HPLC separation was much influenced by Wise et al. (1977) and makes use of an analytical LiChrosorb NH<sub>2</sub> column with programming of solvent flow and polarity. Three fractions were derived. Fraction 1 is of mainly aliphatic nature but also contains some slightly polar chlorinated hydrocarbons. Fraction 2 contains compounds of slight to moderate polarity such as aromatics and more polar chlorinated hydrocarbons. Fraction 3, finally, contains polar compounds. Since some compounds again elute in more than one fraction (see Table 12), it is important that the experimental parameters of the HPLC (Figure 5) are kept constant and are carefully monitored to maintain reproducibility. With modern, fully automated instruments this is no problem.

Table 12 indicates that most organic compounds of concern can be expected to elute mainly in fractions 2 or 3. Thus. these two fractions were emphasized in the analysis.

### TABLE 12

HPLC FRACTIONATION OF STANDARD COMPOUNDS USING THE ELUTION SCHEME OF FIG. 5

Fraction 1

Normal Alkanes:

 $n - C_1$ 3- $n - C_3$  (92%)

Polycyclic Aliphatics:

Cholestane (74%)

Chlorinated Hydrocarbons:

Aldrin (29%) Heptachlor (28%)  $p, p'$ -DDE (36%)  $o, p'$ -DDE  $(16\%)$  $p, p'$ -DDT  $(14\%)$ 

Fraction 2

Normal Alkanes:

 $n - C_1$ 3-n-C<sub>32</sub> (8%)

Polycyclic Aliphatics:

Cholestane (26%)

Aromatic Compounds: two rings to seven rings

#### Phthalates:

Dimethyl phthalate Diethyl phthalate Dibutyl phthalate Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate

Carbamates: Butylate CDEC

Hydrazine: 1,2-Diphenylhydrazine

Ether: Phenyl ether Fraction 3

Amine: Dicyclohexylamine

Aldehyde:

Nonanal

Alcohol:

Octanol

Triazine:

Ametryn Atrazine

Benzidine:

3,3-dichlorobenzidine

Phenols:

2,6-dimethyl phenol 2,4-dichloro phenol 2,4,5-trichloro phenol

 $1.73$ 

TABLE 12 (continued).

HPLC Fractionation of Standard Compounds Using the Elution Scheme of Fig. 5.

Fraction 1

Fraction 2

Fraction 3

Chlorinated Hydrocarbon:

BHC's (  $\propto$  ,  $\upbeta$  ,  $\chi$  ) Chlordane Dieldrin Endrin Heptachlor epoxide<br>Aldrin (71%) Heptachlor (72%)<br>
p, p'-DDE (64%)<br>
o, p'-DDE (84%)<br>
p, p'-DDT (86%)

# HIGH PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY - NH<sub>2</sub> COLUMN

Solvents: A. n-Hexane, B. 2-Propanol



Fractions Collected:

 $F_1 = 0 - 7.5$  min.  $F_2 = 7.5 - 19$  min.  $F_3 = 19 - 35$  min.

### Figure 5

#### 6. GAS CHROMATOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS (G.C.)

G.C. analyses are performed on either modified Varian 2740 or Varian 3700 gas chromatographs. All instruments are equipped with approximately 27m glass capillary columns, deactivated with silanol groups and statically coated with SE-52. (Grob et al., 1979; Godefroot et al., 1980). The internal diameter of these columns varies between 0.28 and 0.33 mm. The carrier gas was helium, adjusted to a flow of 3 ml/min, except for the EC detector where helium is replaced by nitogen. Temperature programming extended from  $75^{\circ}$ C to  $280^{\circ}$ C at  $6^{\circ}$ C/min. Adsorption and "tailing" for each column were checked with special mixtures according to Grob (1978).

Before an analysis, a "daily standard" was routinely injected and analyzed to evaluate the response factors and retention. The composition of this standard is given in Table 13. Intermittently, an aromatic retention standard (Table 14) was injected to test the retention of a number of unsubstituted PNA's. Since these PNA's are found in most samples and can be identified either by mass spectrometry or by pattern recognition, a daily injection of the aromatic retention standard was found to be unnecessary.

After separation, output signals are generated by FID and ECD. All signals were recorded in analog form on a strip chart recorder and simultaneously digitized by H.P. A/D converters, from where they were fed to a H.P. 3354B data system.

Each sample extract was analyzed in the following manner:

(a) The GPC fraction containing most of the pertinent information, fraction G3, after concentration to 0.2 ml (concentrated 400 times), was injected into capillary columns and detected by FID. An aliquot of this fraction was also injected with only two times concentration and detected by E.C.

## COMPOSITION OF THE DAILY STANDARD USED FOR GC



### TABLE 14

# AROMATIC RETENTION STANDARD

### The following compounds are used to calculate retention indices (ARI).



(b) Based on these chromatograms, a decision to further separate GPC fraction G3 on HPLC was made. In samples where the concentration of individual compounds was )20-40 ppb (below the limit chosen for data interpretation), or where the composition was simple (only a few peaks with concentrations )20-40 ppb present) there was no need to develop more detailed fractions. Complex samples containing many peaks )20-40 ppb were separated by HPLC into 3 subfractions, G31, G32 and G33, and these were then reanalyzed by G.C. All G32 fractions were injected twice without and with a PNA standard superimposed to derive aromatic retention indices.

Every G.C. analysis generated a raw file in the H.P. 3354B that was further processed by suitable software. This processing will be described in the chapter on Data Processing.

#### 7. GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY-MASS SPECTROMETRY (GC-MS)

Of the numerous peaks commonly encountered in fractions derived from sediment or tissue samples, only some fall into the category of "toxic organic compounds." Many of these G.C. peaks relate to compounds that, at the concentrations they are encountered, are of little concern. For this reason, there must be a mechanism that allows to distinguish between the two types. In the molecular weight range up to about 520, there is little else one can do but to identify the compounds and make a decision on this basis. This requires a thorough analysis by GC-MS. Another approach is the use of specific chromatography to remove unwanted compound types such as was done with the (biogenic) steroid and triterpenoid compounds by GPC.

The detailed qualitative analysis includes the following steps:

- (a) Separation of the sample on a glass capillary column similar to those used for the GC analysis.
- (b) Scanning of the mass range from m/e = 51 to *mje* = 517 (one scan per 2.8 sec.) and storage of the mass spectra on a disc.
- (c) Reconstruction of a chromatogram from recorded ionic data.
- (d) Construction of a chromatogram for specific fragments that either are characteristic of known toxic compounds or are known to occur repetitively in samples (although their molecular structure may not be identifiable).
- (e) Printout of mass spectra for peaks detected in d and, if possible, identification of the associated structures. Where structural isomerism can lead to almost identical fragmentation for different isomers, combination of mass spectral information with retention data is necessary for identification.
- (f) Printout of mass spectra for all peaks in the reconstructed chromatogram that in e have been missed.
- (g) Identification of the compounds in f.

The structural information must now be transferred from the reconstructed chromatogram to the FID chromatogram. Since the chromatograms are plotted on

different scales, this can often not be achieved directly (by pattern recognition). To assist in this task, an additional chromatogram resulting from a D/A conversion of data fed to the computer is plotted on a scale similar to the FID output. The most powerful method of correlation, however, is based on the use of relative retention indices.

A summary of the chemical methodology is presented in Figure 6.



Selected samples

**Figure 6** 

#### 8. USE OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR DATA REDUCTION AND DISPLAY

A Hewlett Packard 3354B laboratory automation system serves to collect, process and store gas chromatographic data using system software and basic programming.

Chromatographic output signals are integrated over half-second intervals, digitized, and stored as raw files on a magnetic disc. Software for the following operations is available to:

- (a) Calculate concentrations of G.C. peaks by reference to internal or external standards, discriminate against peaks with less than a predetermined minimum concentration and calculate relative retention indices (an aromatic retention index (ARI), a pesticide retention index (PRI).
- (b) Display both processed and normalized data on the H.P. 33548 system console (H.P. 2648A terminal) and line printer (H.P. 98668).
- (c) Plot bar-graphs from processed data on a Tektronix 4662 flat bed plotter and on the H.P. 2648A terminal, the latter for visual inspection only.
- (d) Plot chromatograms from raw data on a Tektronix 4662 flat bed plotter (adapted from Overton et al ., 1979) and on the H.P. 2648A terminal, the latter again for-visual inspection.
- (e) Tabulate all peaks in the reconstructed chromatograms from GC-MS, giving their position relative to the scan number, ARI, the number of ions at the maximum and the four largest peaks in the mass spectrum.
- (f) Compare G.C. peaks (defined by their retention index) in samples collected at a particular station at different times and flag samples in which the concentrations of a given peak either are 10 times larger or smaller than the concentration in the first sample. If the fall sample does not contain a particular peak detected in the spring sample, it is assumed that the peak is present below a 1 ppb threshold and a ratio based on this assumption is printed out. However, if a peak is present in the fall sample, but cannot be found within the retention window in the spring sample, it is listed as a new compound if its concentration exceeds 50 ppb.
- (g) Compare peaks (defined by retention index) in gas chromatograms of samples from all Bay stations and flag stations in which the concentrations of some peaks exceeds 50 ppb.

(h) Search data files for peaks eluting within a specified retention index window and list sample identification codes, retention indices and concentrations.

A schematic representation of the data processing is given in Figure 7.

The first four software packages are system software or are written in BASIC on the 3354B system. Package e is a FORTRAN program (C. Hein, 1980) run on the M.S. data system. Packages f to h are written in FORTRAN using RATFOR pre-processor software and run on an IBM 370/156 mainframe using data files on magnetic tapes produced by H.P. 3354B software.

Software package a quantitates peaks in the chromatograms by reference to an internal or external standard (originally p-quaterphenyl, but later changed to 1 ,1'-binaphthyl), to remove all peaks of less than a preselected concentration, and to calculate retention indices using appropriate marker compounds. Since specialized retention indices define the position of a toxic compound in the chromatogram much more precisely (Bieri, 1977; Bieri et al., 1979; Lee et al., 1979) than absolute retention data, they are important for interpolation purposes in samples that have not been analyzed by GC-MS (it is too time-consuming and expensive to analyze every sample by GC-MS). A listing of ARI's established within this project and a comparison with published data (Lee et al., 1979), after conversion from their retention standards to ours, is given in Table 15.

Package b allows a visual check and review of data in storage.

Package c generates a chromatogram-like display in which peak concentrations are displayed in bar-graph form. Compared to the analog chromatograms (Figure 8a), complexity is dramatically reduced by the elimination of peaks corresponding to below-threshold concentration (Figure 8b). The position of the peaks is better defined, and since the unresolvable background is removed,



FLOW DIAGRAM FOR USE OF COMPUTER PROGRAMS

Figure 7

### TABLE 15

 $\sim 10^7$ 

 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{$ 

 $\sim 100$ 

AROMATIC RETENTION INDEX



 $\sim 1000$ 

Table 15 (continued).



<sup>#</sup> M. L. Lee, D. L. Vassilaros, C. M. White and M. Novotny, Anal. Chem. 51, 768 (1979)  $\star$  : EPA 129 Priority Parameters

\*\*:  $n=6$ 

\*\*\*:  $n=24$ 

 $\sim$ 

 $\Delta \tau$ 

### FIGURE 8: Computer-generated displays of results

- a. Gas chromatogram reconstructed from digital data stored on disc.
- b. Bar graph of the same data set after processing to replace time with aromatic retention indices and elimination of compounds present below threshold concentration.





baseline drifts are absent in the bar-graph display. Every line in this bargraph thus conveys relevant information, with the position of the bar in the chromatogram relating to molecular structure (within the typical limitations of structure definition by a retention index) and the height representing concentration (semi-quantitative).

Package d allows the reproduction of chromatograms from stored digital data. The chromatograms in this report have been generated by this software package. Such chromatograms are particularly useful because they can be scaled to concentration. Distortions caused by slippage in the paper transport mechanisms, common in some strip chart recorders, are also eliminated. An additional advantage of this program is that it delivers chromatograms ready for publication.

Package e serves mainly to simplify and improve the quality of the mass spectrometric analysis. It also provides an important link to the data obtained by the FID, since ARI's are independently calculated from the mass spectrametric data. The program is self-running and continuously lists peak maxima present in the ionic data (Table 16). It does, however, require the presence of a positive and negative slope in sequence to respond with a printout; that is, insufficiently resolved peaks with changing slope in magnitude, but not in sign. are not listed.

The last three packages address the data bank with specific questions such as:

> Are there any sampling locations in which a particular compound is present above a given concentration?

> Are there any sampling locations in which a particular compound is standing out?

Are there any significant changes in the concentration of a given compound at a particular station as a function of time?

### TABLE 16 ·

Computer-generated output from GC-MS raw data.

 $\langle x \rangle$  EPBSe  $\langle x \rangle$ 

**G32+NAPHTHALENE** 2-22. -6



COMPOUND aphthalene (STD) e - Naphthalene e - Naphthalene iphenyl t - Naphthalene Naphthalene -Naphthalene -- Naphthalene 4 - Dihydro - 1,4 - Ethenona-

phthalene  $2 - \text{Naphthalene}$ cenaphthylene

- Naphthalene

ixture

enaphthene

Package f serves to address any substantial changes in the sample composition at a specified location. Any new compound of greater than the minimum specified concentration added between two samplings at the same location would immediately be picked up by this program. Likewise, . any dramatic change between two samplings in the concentration of compounds ordinarily present in a specified location would raise a flag.

Package g allows similar inquiries for the total data set. It flags the presence of unusual compounds at above the specified minimum concentration in a particular station or area of the Bay. This program detects the introduction of new compounds to the Bay.

Package h searches the data base for compounds characterized by a retention index window. In addition to a printout of the data search, this information can also be delivered as a histogram, with the height of the bar representing concentration and the position of the bar representing the station location.

PART II
### 1. PROCEDURE BLANKS

In the discussion of the solvent extraction, it was pointed out that CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> also is not ideal and leads to the generation of artifacts. They show up in all of the twelve procedural blanks, in both FID and ECD chromatograms (Figures 9 and 10). The chromatograms are on an expanded scale (normalized to the largest, non-solvent peak). Mass spectrometry clearly identifies the largest of these peaks as chlorinated compounds containing five or six chlorine atoms (Figures 11-13). Attempts to identify the structures have not been successful, but we know that they are not aromatic and probably also contain one nitrogen atom. Although the concentration of some of these artifacts in some blanks can be as high as about 40 ppb and for this reason would be expected to be clearly visible in sample extracts, we have not been able to find any of these artifacts in any of the samples.

These artifacts were not present in solvents. We also established that they are not contaminants introduced by glassware (flasks, test tubes, pipettes, etc.) or septa. An experiment in which  $CH_2Cl_2$  was exposed to the laboratory atmosphere also gave negative results. We must thus conclude that these artifacts are generated during the Soxhlet procedure and that the presence of organic compounds from samples inhibits or suppresses their generation. Soxhlet refluxing of solvent in the presence of light appears to stimulate the formation of many artifacts, but the major artifacts are also present when the Soxhlet reflux is carried out in the dark. More research is needed to understand these discrepancies.

## Chlorinated Artifacts in Procedural Blanks

- FIGURE 9: FIGURE 10: Blank chromatogram, electron capture detector, Artifacts discussed are labeled a, b and c, Blank chromatogram, flame ionization detector,
- FIGURES ll-13: Mass spectra of compounds a,  $b$  and  $c$ .

### RESULTS

It is impossible to incorporate and discuss the vast amount of data we have collected in this report and at the same time make it readable. A complete data set for station 23 is found in Appendix I to demonstrate this problem. As a compromise, we present only data that have been judged to be of significance and refer the reader interested in more detail to a number of appendices or to the complete data bank which is provided on tape. Reference to the appendices will be made at appropriate places in the text.





# FIGURE 11

# Mass Spectrum of Compound A









# FIGURE 12

Mass Spectrum of Compound B

SEQUEN<br>GCID **PAGE** 44 З EP 896 1-BLANK#4  $+ 58$ 





 $\alpha$  .





## FIGURE 13

Mass Spectrum of Compound C





Figure 13, continued



## 2. VARIABILITY OF MAJOR ORGANIC POLLUTANTS IN SEDIMENT SAMPLES

To assess the variability of pollutants in sediments, ten replicate samples were collected at the mouth of the York River (Station 05S). Each was separately processed and analyzed. The statistical evaluation of these analyses is shown in Table 17. PNA's only could be compared because they were by far the largest peaks present in the chromatograms--a situation that is not uncommon in sediments (Gyger and Blumer, 1974; Bieri et al., 1978; Hites et al., 1981). The homogeneity found in these replicate analyses is expected because of the general distribution pattern of PNA's.

# TABLE 17

# 058-Replicates. Reproducibility of Major Identified Peaks

 $\bar{\chi}$ 



## 3. PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH INSUFFICIENT RESOLUTION AND SPECIFIC DETECTOR RESPONSE

#### A. Evaluation of FID Chromatograms

Almost all samples that contain high concentrations of organic compounds also are characterized by very complex chromatograms. Although the best available methodology was applied to get chromatograms of highest resolution, only partial separation is achieved in many peaks. The presence of an unresolvable complex envelope (UCM) indicates areas where separation is utterly insufficient. In such chromatograms, peak integration by electronic means or by computers has always been a problem. In one case, the available integration software of the H.P. 33548, although it is quite flexible, is incapable of coping with the complexity of the chromatograms. As a result, discrepancies were noted when the integrated output was compared with the chromatograms.

A typical example is benzofluoranthene. This compound has three isomers (benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(j)fluoranthene and benzo(k)fluoranthene) that elute very close to each other. The integration of this peak can go wrong in two different ways, as demonstrated in Figures 14a and b. If the baseline is held constant between the interval containing benzofluoranthene, the peak area is too large because some of the unresolvable envelope is included. If the baseline is forced as in Figure 14a, the integrated area is much too small. In the latter example, the computer even disregarded the second half of the split benzofluoranthene peak. Either increased or decreased column resolution would have allowed to properly integrate the benzofluoranthene isomers.



""-J ""-J



Demonstration of integration problems for insufficiently resolved peaks, vertical splitting.<br>The solved peaks, vertical splitting.

 $\approx$ 

There is a method available to correct such discrepancies in future analyses. It is based on vertical splitting as in Figure 14c, but with a baseline that represents a polynomial approximation to the UCM. Software to implement this method is being developed.

It clearly is very difficult to find a correct method to derive quantitative data from chromatograms that are as complex as those discussed here. The proposed corrective step mentioned above promises to be superior to what was available for the semi-quantitative data in this report, but there still will be limitations to achievable accuracy.

### B. Evaluation of E.C. Chromatograms

Three well-known factors contribute to make the evaluation of E.C. chromatograms difficult:

- 1. The E.C. detector response is not as uniform as the FID, but varies with the number of substituted halogens present. Thus, any conversion of area units to concentration via the use of a particular internal or external standard cannot be expected to be generally applicable.
- 2. The response of the E.C. detector is not limited to the presence of halogen. Organic compounds containing 0, S or P and certain unsaturated hydrocarbons may give substantial E.C. signals.
- 3, The sensitivity of the E.C. detector for some halogenated compounds is much higher than the sensitivity of the GC-MS system. Where the concentration of such compounds is too low to generate good mass spectra, confirmation of a structure identification based on retention is impossible.

While factor 1 affects only the accuracy of a stated concentration, factors 2 and 3 contribute to serious discrepancies. Searching the data bank for specific chlorinated hydrocarbons or pesticides within their characteristic retention window indicates the presence of such compounds, but confirmation by GC-MS often is not possible. An example is given in



co 0

Table 18, where the E.C. data bank for sediments was searched for p,p'-DDT. The table contains two outstanding concentrations: 3,057 ppb for station 2-19-S and 13,402 ppb for station 2-27-S. A corresponding search for p, p'-DDT in the FID data bank (Table 19) again indicates a concentration maximum in station 2-27-S, but the mass spectrum (Figure 15) shows no evidence for the presence of p,p'-DDT. Both mass spectrum and retention identify this compound as benzo(b)naphtho(2,1-d)thiophene. It is this sulfur-bearing compound that contributes to most of the peak at the position of p,p'-DDT in the E.C. chromatogram. The maximum in sample 2-19-S, however, is real, as documented by the mass spectrum in Figure 16 (with some hexachlorobiphenyl superimposed) and the retention parameter.

While p,p'-DDT has been singled out for this discussion, similar caution is suggested for other chlorinated hydrocarbons.



 $\sim$   $\sim$ 



Table 19 (continued).<br>Page 2

 $\sim$   $\sim$ 



 $84 - 1$ 

### FIGURE 15

Mass spectrum of a peak identified in a computer search of the EC files as p, p'DDT. The mass spectrum clearly shows that this is a misidentification, caused by a high response of benzo(b)  $n$ aphtho $(2,1-d)$ thiophene in the EC detector, and elution of this compound is the same retention window as p,p'-DDT.



2-275 G32 REINJECT TO CHECK SMALL PEAKS







Figure 15, continued

## FIGURE 16

Mass spectrum of p,p'-DDT in sample 2-19-S.<br>In this sample, the identification is correct.

20



% TOTAL IONIZ.

**BASE** 

S \*\*S\* E2SES

<u>իալագրարակական կատարական արդյունների կատարանքների կախնից կատարանքների կատարանքների համար արտարական կատարանքներ</u>  $50$ 100  $150$ ◎ 500





### 4. SEDIMENT SAMPLES

Of the three fractions that were derived (G31, G32, and G33), only the G32 fraction is discussed in detail. Examples of chromatograms from G31 fractions are presented in Appendix II. Since these fractions were judged to contain little information that could be correlated to toxic effects, no further effort was expended except to derive the chromatograms and store that information as raw data. Most G33 fractions contained only a few minor peaks and were not further pursued for this reason. Exceptions are noted in the text.

As mentioned before, the G32 fraction contains the majority of toxic compounds and, for this reason, most of the time available was expended in the analysis of this fraction.

A general overview of the presence of organic compounds in the Bay is presented in station histograms, Figures 17a and l7b, In these figures, the sum of the concentrations in individual peaks of the chromatograms is represented *by* the length of the bar (on a logarithmic scale). The numbers on the verticalaxis refer to station numbers whose position is found in the chart to the left.

Several interesting observations are immediately evident:

- (a) The upper part of the Bay (north of the Patuxent River) contains organic compounds more uniformly and generally at higher concentration than the lower part.
- (b) Concentration sumsof organic compounds present in lower Bay sediments tend to be higher at rivermouth stations (Lynnhaven, station 1; James, station 3; York, station 5; Rappahannock, station 8; Potomac, station 13; Patuxent, station 17) than in open Ray stations or in samples close to the Eastern Shore.
- (c) In the upper Bay, samples collected at rivermouths also tend to be high, but since in this area hydrocarbon levels are high in general, this feature is not obvious.
- (d) Concentrations in sediments from the mouth of the Susquehanna River are indicated to be highly variable (it is relatively low in spring 1979, but very high in fall of the same year).

FIGURES 17-28: Station histograms for sediment samples collected during spring (a) or fall (b). The station locations and station numbers are indicated in the map. The vertical axis of the histograms contains the station numbers, the horizontal axis the concentrations on a logarithmic scale. Concentrations  $\langle 10$  ppb were omitted.

 $\mathcal{A}$ 





SUM OF ALL PEAKS

Figure 17b

(e) Compared to other locations, seasonal variability is also indicated for a station southwest of Tillman Island, which shows an unusually high concentration sum in fall 1979.

While the concentration sums allow a judgement of the quantitites of organic compounds encountered in the Bay, Figures 18a and 18b convey much more relevant information insofar as they now represent the concentration sums of a group of compounds that contains many toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic and teratogenic members, the polynuclear aromatics or PNA's. All of the PNA's whose concentrations have been summed are unsubstituted and known to be generated in high temperature processes. As such, they are likely to be man-made pollutants (Youngblood and Blumer, 1975; Grimmer and Bohnke, 1972).

Although a "natural" origin in forest and prairie fires can be postulated (Youngblood and Blumer, 1975), their obvious preponderance in sediments near large population centers, industrial complexes and dense transportation networks (Baltimore, greater Norfolk area) or at the mouths of rivers that connect to such centers (James, Potomac, Susquehanna and Chesapeake-Delaware Canal) must be taken as evidence of man-made input.

All the trends that have been listed for Figures 17a and 17b generally also apply to the PNA's. Item e is a special case that will be discussed separately. Thus, statements a-d remain valid for PNA-sums, but "organic compounds" should now be replaced *by* "organic pollutants."

Station histograms for major individual PNA's are found in Figures 19 to 27. They indicate that Baltimore Harbor, the Chesapeake-Delaware Canal and, in the fall 1979 sample, the Susquehanna River may be major sources of pollutants in sediments of the Chesapeake Bay.

A comparison of Figures 17 and 18 reveals that unsubstituted PNA's are the main pollutants contained in the sediment extracts. This is true throughout



Figure 18a

pp t



Figure 18b

ARI :

193.9 Dibenzothiophene



Figure 19a

100 naa 001<br>1

ARI :

18g

Dibenzothiophene 193.9



97

Figure 19b

Phenanthrene 200



Figure 20a

ppt

100 ppm 1

10 ppm
ARI : 200

Phenanthrene



**10 ppm** 

Figure 20b

ppt

100 ppm 1

ARI: 285.4 Fluoranthene

ppm



Figure 21a

100 ppm 1 ppt

ARI : 285.4

Fluoranthene



Figure 21b

ARI 300

27 26 25  $24$ 23 22 21  $20$ 19 18  $18<sub>2</sub>$  $17$ 16 15 14 13 Ħ,  $14<sub>3</sub>$  $12$ X12  $\begin{smallmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{smallmatrix}$ 10 0 10X 8  $\overline{\mathscr{J}}$ €  $\epsilon$  $\clubsuit$ 3  $\overline{\mathbf{z}}$  $\pmb{\mathfrak{g}}$ 



P

yrene

ppm

Figure 22a

ppt

100

bÐM

ppm



@ r ۰e

D



d qq

 $\mathbf{1}$ 

Figure 22b



23 22  $21$ 20 19 18  $18<sub>2</sub>$ 17 16 15 14 x<sup>15</sup> 13  $24<sub>8</sub>$ .  $12$  $\mathbf{1}$ **x12** 10 0  $10\%$ \$  $\overline{\mathscr{C}}$ € G

4

3

 $\boldsymbol{2}$ 

 $\pmb{\mathbb{I}}$ 

Figure 23a

100 ppm 1 ppt

10

ppm



Figure 23b

ARI :



Figure 24a

 $ppk$ 

100 ppm 1

10

ppm

100 ppm 1 ppt

ARI :

400

Chrysene 100 ppb 1

ppm

10

ppm





Figure 24b



 $\pmb{\S}$ 

Figure 25a



Figure 25b



Figure 26a



Figure 26b

ppm i ppt

ppm

100 ppb 1 ppm



Figure 27a

100 ppm 1 ppt



Benzo(ghi)perylene





the Bay, except for station 2-19-S. Although many other compounds are present (see individual bar graphs at the different stations in Appendix III) and have been identified by GC-MS (Table 20), their concentration in general is low relative to those of unsubstituted PNA's. It is also interesting to note (Table 20) that fluorene and many substituted aromatic hydrocarbons such as naphthalenes, biphenyls and acenaphthlenes are present, most of them very likely deriving from petroleum.

Other compound-types from EPA's priority pollutant list (EPA/NROC, 1977) have been specifically sought but could not be found. This should not be interpreted that they are absent, but that their concentration relative to the hydrocarbons is so low they cannot be recognized in superimposed mass spectra.

In general. the complexity of upper Bay samples is formidable. Except for unsubstituted PNA's, there are few peaks in the high resolution chromatograms that represent one or two compounds only. More often, the mass spectra indicate the simultaneous presence of many compounds; while it is possible to separate and identify some of the more prominent components, others may not be recognizable.

The preponderance of hydrocarbons in the sediment samples did also manifest itself in a retention index-based search for chlorinated hydrocarbons. While ECD chromatograms allow an enhanced detection of such compounds, mass spectrometric confirmation for their presence often could not be established because the response turned out to be caused mainly by overlapping hydrocarbons. These problems are discussed in a separate paragraph.

A general assessment of the state of pollution within the Chesapeake Bay can be summarized as follows:

1. The organic pollution in sediments of the upper Bay consists mainly of unsubstituted PNA's of pyrogenic origin. These PNA's originate mainly

Table 20. Compounds identified by mass spectrometry – sediment samples. Numbers relate to position of peak in the chromatograms<br>(in ARI units). Code: A – identified by comparison with reference spectrum<sup>1,2)</sup>; Ai – by int B - by mass spectrum and published ARI<sup>3)</sup>; C - by mass spectrum and ARI established by standard in our laboratory; D - by mass spectrum and ARI extrapolated from crude oil sample.

	Station									Code
Compound	$1 - 01 - S$	$1 - 22 - S$	$2 - 22 - S$	$2 - 23 - S$	$1 - 25 - S$	$2 - 25 - S$	$1 - 26 - S$	$2 - 26 - S$	$2 - 27 - S$	
Naphthalene	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	B,C
Benzothiophene	3.6	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	3.5	-	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	3.5	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	c
Benzothiazole	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	۰	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	-	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	-	21.1	A
2-Me-Naphthalene	54.4	53.6	53.2	52.9	53.1	53.2	53.4	55.0	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	B, C
1-Me-Naphthalene	63.5	61.8	61.7	61.9	61.7	62.0	61.8	63.7	63.8	B,C
Unknown	-	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	92.7	$\qquad \qquad -$	-	$\qquad \qquad -$		$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	
Biphenyl	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	B, C
Et-Naphthalene	۰	103.5	103.5	103.4	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	103.5	103.7	103.4	-	B, D
C <sub>2</sub> -Naphthalene	106.2	106.4	106.2	106.3	106.3	105.8	106.3	106.3	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	B, C
C <sub>2</sub> -Naphthalene	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	109.9	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	B,D
$C2$ -Naphthalene	110.5	110.1	110.6	110.2	110.3	109.9	110.0	110.3	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	B,C
C <sub>2</sub> -Naphthalene	$\blacksquare$	$\overline{\phantom{m}}$	$\overline{\phantom{m}}$	110.9	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	÷	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	111.1	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	B, D
1,4-Dihydro-1,4-Ethenonaphthalene	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	112.3	112.0	112.8	113.1	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	112.6	$\frac{1}{2}$	A
C <sub>2</sub> -Naphthalene	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	114.7	114.7	115.2	114.9	114.6	114.8	115.3	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	B,C
Acenaphthylene	117.8	117.0	116.8	117.3	117.1	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	116.9	117.5	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	B,C
$C_2$ -Naphthalene	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	118.8	118.7	119.4	$\rightarrow$	118.7	118.9	119.3	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	B, D
Acenaphthene	127.5	126.1	126.2	126.8	126.3	125.7	126.3	127.0	127.0	B,C
4-Me-Biphenyl	$\overline{\phantom{m}}$	127.6	127.6	128.4	128.6	127.5	127.8	128.3	-	B,D
3-Me-Biphenyl	$\qquad \qquad -$	129.9	129.7	130.6	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	129.8	129.9	130.5	$\qquad \qquad -$	B,C
$C_3$ -Naphthalene	-	132.3	132.9	132.9	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	132.2	132.2	132.9	-	D
Dibenzofuran	135.4	134.1	134.3	135.1	134.9	134.5	134.4	135.1	135.2	B, C
$C_3$ -Naphthalene	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	137.3	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	137.4	137.9	137.4	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	D
C <sub>3</sub> -Naphthalene	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	137.7	137.7	138.5	138.3	138.6	138.9	138.5	-	D
$C_3$ -Naphthalene	139.4	138.8	138.7	139.6	139.4	140.4	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	139.6	$\blacksquare$	D
C <sub>3</sub> -Naphthalene	144.3	143.3	143.4	144.4	144.0	143.3	143.6	144.3	$\overline{a}$	D
Unknown	-	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	-	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{m}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	145.8	-	
C3-Naphthalene	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	147.1	147.3	147.9	147.4	147.4	147.2	148.1	-	B,C
Me-Acenaphthylene		-	$\overline{\phantom{m}}$	$\rightarrow$	147.4	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	-	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	В
Me-Acenaphthylene		$\rightarrow$	$\qquad \qquad$	150.8	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	151.0	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	Ai
C <sub>3</sub> -Naphthalene			-	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\qquad \qquad -$	151.5	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{m}}$	-	D
Fluorene	152.4	151.2	151.4	152.4	152.0	151.5	151.6	152.1	152.1	B,C
C <sub>3</sub> -Naphthalene	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	152.8	153.1	153.9	$\overline{\phantom{m}}$	153.2	$\overline{\phantom{m}}$	153.5	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	D
Me-154,		$\qquad \qquad -$	154.7	155.3	-	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	$\blacksquare$		$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	Αi
$c_2 - 154^{4}$		-	154.7	155.3	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	155.6	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	156.0	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	Ai



 $\equiv$ *0'>* 



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 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2.$ 

 $\frac{1}{8}$ 

 $\hat{A}^{(0)}$ 



 $\epsilon_{\rm{max}}$ 

 $\overline{\phantom{a}}$  $\circ$ 



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0

 $\sim 10^{-1}$ 

 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

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1) EPA/NIH Mass Spectral Data Base, Heller and Milne (eds.), NSRDS-NBS 63 (1978).

2) Registry of Mass Spectral Data, Stenhagen, Abrahamsson and McLafferty (eds.), John Wiley & Sons (1974).

3) Calculated from data of Lee et al. (1979).

4) In cases where substitution is present, it is not always possible to differentiate between substitution on one or more carbon atoms. Thus, C<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>, etc. is used instead of ethyl-dimethyl-,<br>ethyl-methyl- or trimethyl-. Where substituted compounds of structurally different isomers have overlapping ARI's, it sometimes is equally impossible to make a decision to which of the isomers the substituted compound belongs. In such cases, the compound name of the unsubstituted structure is replaced by the molecular weight. "154" thus could be either biphenyl or acenaphthene; "202" could stand for fluoranthene, acephenanthrylene or pyrene, etc.

5) Internal Standard

N w

from the combustion of fossil fuels in power generation, home heating, and automotive sources and associated highway runoff. Baltimore and its harbor appears to be a major source as indicated by the station histograms showing a maximum at the mouth of Baltimore Harbor. Other. contributions appear to enter the Bay via the Chesapeake-Delaware Canal, the Severn River and perhaps the Chester River. There is little doubt that substantial contributions are also made by the Susquehanna River, as indicated by the very high concentrations encountered at its mouth in the fall of 1979. However, periodic removal of size fractions containing most of the organic load at times of high water flow rates complicates the collection of meaningful samples, as discussed in a separate paragraph.

Numerous substituted aromatic hydrocarbons in these samples conform with the trends of the pyrogenic fraction and indicate that the same sources may also contribute petroleum hydrocarbons. Very few substituted aromatic hydrocarbons were found in sample 2-27-S (mouth of Susquehanna River, fall 1979) due to the preponderance presence of unsubstituted PNA•s.

Midbay stations 19, 18 and 15 appear to be within the sphere of influence of the upper Bay, as indicated by a concentration gradient and compositional similarity.

2. In the lower Bay (south of station 18), most of the organic pollutants appear to concentrate in samples collected within river mouths. Midbay stations 4 and 10 were so clean that no further analyses were attempted. The same was true for samples 6 and 7 collected near the southern part of the Eastern Shore and sample 2 collected at Little Creek inlet. Although the density of the sampling is not sufficient to prove that most of the

organic compounds are transported to the Bay by rivers, one is tempted to use this interpretation. Samples 9, 12, 14 and 16 contained enough organic material to warrant HPLC separation, but the level of individual compounds is quite low. This is seen from the histograms which indicate about 100 ppb or less for the sums (Figure 17) and (10 ppb for most individual compounds (Figures 19-27). As in the upper Bay, pyrogenic PNA's dominate in these samples, and an array of substituted aromatic compounds of likely fossil fuel origin makes up the rest, There appears to be more variability in the relative contribution of these two fractions than in upper Bay samples.

The presence or absence of organic pollutants in sediments should not be judged without some knowledge about the mineralogical sediment characteristics, given in Table 21. Since most pollutants of low solubility are likely to be associated with fine particular matter (organic detritus, silt and clay), a sample consisting of almost pure sand under equivalent rates of pollutant input can be expected to contain lower concentrations of pollutants than a sample that has more silt and clay. Although we have given preference to silt and clay in the collection of these samples, some did not contain significant amounts of fines. In cruise 1, for example, samples from stations 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 27 contained  $>80\%$  sand. It is not surprising, therefore, that most of these samples contain very low pollutant levels. Where exceptions are found, as in stations 1, 9 and 27, the state of pollution must be serious. Lynnhaven stands out in this respect. Most river mouth stations in the lower Bay, on the other hand, are characterized by sand contents of (20% and for this reason have the potential to contain pollutants at higher levels. The same is true for all samples of the upper Bay, with the exception of the sample from the mouth of the Susquehanna River.

## Table 21: Sediment Analysis



 $^{\star}$ This sample contained a large shell fragment listed as gravel:  $\,$  values are recalculated for zero gravel content.

92

 $\sim 100$  km s  $^{-1}$ 

It is difficult to correctly take the sediment characteristics into account for comparison of data. As a simplistic approximation, we assume that organic pollutants are mainly associated with the silt and clay fraction. The concentration sum for all organic compounds in individual stations then has to be divided by the fraction of silt and clay. Results are presented in Figures 28a and 28b. It would appear from these histograms that the silt-clay fraction from the Lynnhaven area contains pollutant levels that are comparable to those from the mouth of Baltimore Harbor and the Chesapeake-Delaware Canal. The concentration of organic compounds in the silt-clay fraction from station 27 is also increased substantially by the normalization, but most results from upper Bay samples have changed very little because their silt-clay contents were initially high. The fact that samples 2, 4, 6, 7 and 10 still remain empty after the normalization to silt and clay is explained by the absence of data in the data bank. The concentrations for individual compounds in these chromatograms were too low to be evaluated.







Figure 28a

128

ppt

 $\mathbf i$ 

100 ppm

10

pom

ppm



# SPECIAL CASES

#### 5a, STATION 19

The samples collected at this station were unusual in two aspects. One was a large increase in the overall concentration of organic compounds between the spring and fall samples; the other was a concurrent compositional change. The chromatogram for sample 2-19-S is dominated by a very large peak that was identified (by mass spectrometry and retention) to be p,p'-DDT. o,p'-DDT is also present, but the derivatives p,p'-DDE and o,p'-DDE could not be detected. Also present in abundance are polychlorinated biphenyls (Table 22). Compared to the chlorinated hydrocarbons, the concentrations of PNA's are very small.

2-19-S is the only sample collected in the Bay in which chlorinated hydrocarbons assume such an overpowering presence. From the fact that the DDT derivatives, p,p'-DDE and o,p'-DDE, could not be found, one must conclude that the presence of the former is the result of a relatively recent dumping operation. The relatively high PCB levels, not found in any of the other samples, point in the same direction.

In view of the drastic changes in the sample composition between the two cruises, this station and an area surrounding it (Figure 29) was resampled about six and one-half months later (in cooperation with EPA, Annapolis).

Analysis of the G3 fraction by EC (Table 23) indicated p,p'-DDT to be present at levels (30 ppb, with 20 ppb found in sample MC lAS (the station closest to station 19). This sample was further separated by HPLC and the presence of p,p'-DOT was confirmed (Table 24).

Sample MC lAS/G3 displayed a relatively large peak at the retention of Aldrin (corresponding to 131 ppb relative to an o,p'-DDD standard). This peak was missing in the G32 fraction after HPLC and thus could not have been Aldrin. It was also absent in G31 and G33 of this sample. Sample MC6AS/G3 gave a peak

## TABLE 22

### Compounds identified in sample 2-19-S. Numbers refer to the position of the peak in the chromatogram (in ARI - units).

 $\mathcal{L}$ 

in Li

Compound



Table 22 Compounds identified in sample 2-19-S -2- (continued)








 $\omega^{\frac{1}{2}}$ 



Figure 29

### TABLE 23

Data on additional samples collected near station 19-S (derived from wallcoated glass capillary columns and E.C. detector; concentrations based on external standards).

G3 fraction (all concentrations in ppb).



# TABLE 24

G31, G32 and G33 HPLC fraction of sample MC lAS



corresponding to 575 ppb of Aldrin and was selected for analysis by GC-MS. The mass spectrum revealed the peak at the retention of Aldrin to be anthraquinone (or anthracenedione), a compound used as a bird repellant. At this time, we are unable to explain the absence of this peak in all three HPLC fractions.

The changes in sample composition and concentration occurring at station 19 between the first and the second cruise are likely the result of a narrow local inhomogeneity present in the sediments, caused by the dumping of pesticides at high concentration in a container (such as a bag, carton or sheetmetal container) which in time eroded away or was disturbed in the sampling process, thus contaminating the area.

#### 5b, STATION 27

The spring sample collected at the mouth of the Susquehanna River did not show anything unusual. Main components were unsubstituted PNA's of pyrogenic origin, with concentrations of a few ppb for individual compounds. The sample collected during fall, however, was different. Although pyrogenic PNA's again were standing out as major sample components, their concentrations were higher than those in the first sample, in some cases by factors  $>10,000$ . These PNA concentrations, to our knowledge, are the highest ever encountered in a sediment sample. They exceed the concentrations reported by Laflamme and Hites (1978) reported for the Charles River by about a factor of 10.

In view of these unusual results, three more aliquots of this sediment were extracted, but all analyses confirmed the presence of PNA's at such extreme levels. A GC-MS analysis of the polar fraction (G33) in addition revealed the presence of carbazole (at ppm levels) and benzocarbazoles in this sample.

A summary of the G32 analyses is found in Table 25. This table in addition contains the results for sediment samples that were collected about six and one-half months later with the assistance of Dr. Owen Bricker near station 27 (samples MC lBS to MC 6BS), and two soil samples (MC ncs and MC DES) collected near a dump draining into the Susquehanna close to its mouth. The location of these additional sampling sites is shown in Figure 30.

Although the PNA concentrations in these later collections clearly are much lower than in sample 2-27-S, they are enhanced relative to the first sample. The highest concentrations are encountered in the deepest part of the river mouth north of station 27 (lBS, 4BS and 6BS), while samples closer to shore (3BS and 5BS) or south of station 27 (2BS) contain the same PNA's at

Table 25. Quantitation of Aromatic Compounds Extracted from Sediments near Susquehanna River Mouth

Notes:

1. Aromatic compounds eluted between biphenyl and benzo(ghi)perylene were quantified

2. Flame ionization detector

3. "Pyrogenic" PNA's were marked by \*



+::> 0

 $\mathbb{R}^2$ 

Table 25 (continued).



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 $\begin{array}{c} 141 \end{array}$ 

 $\sim 100$ 

 $\hat{L}$ 



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 $\bar{z}$ 

 $\sim$ 

.j:>, N

 $\bar{z}$ 



Location of additional sampling sites near station 27-S (June 2, 1930)

only about l/3 to 1/2 of the large maximum at the beginning of March 1979, so that scouring may have been less extensive, affecting only the finest particles (which may be the main carriers of PNA fractions). The near uniformity of the samples collected in June 1980 over an extended area around station 27 would suggest that spatial differences may not be very important in this case and that temporal variations in the sediment character are much more important.

Although many of these details can only be guessed at, we believe they are a good example of the limitations inherent in the analysis of organic compounds in single sample collections. These observations and data clearly show that Bay sediments are not static but change continually, responding not only to catastrophic events like tropical storm Agnes, but to relatively small seasonal or in some areas maybe even tidal changes. Areas that are sinks for organic pollutants at some times of the year may become sources at other times. Particles under such circumstances may become an important vehicle for pollutant transport.

#### 6. OYSTER SAMPLES

It was evident from the chromatograms that oyster tissue extracts were much less complex than those from sediments, and that the concentration of individual compounds was substantially lower than in sediments. These original observations were confirmed after processed data sets were inspected. To discuss the oyster extracts in more detail, we again present a data summary in the form of station histograms (Figures 32 to 35). The histograms in which the concentrations representing the sum of all peaks are plotted (Figures 32a and b) immediately convey the fact that there are no visible trends similar to those in the corresponding sediment histograms.

The mass spectrometric analyses in Table 26 show that the oyster extracts contain many compounds whose structure we could not identify. In addition, methylesters of  $C_{14}$  and  $C_{16}$  fatty acids were present in most samples, as were some ketones. We can only hypothesize that many of these compounds have a biogenic origin, and since they are often present in higher concentration than identified pollutants, the sum-histograms to some extent may not represent the pollutant content in oysters. It is perplexing to note the lack of correlation between oyster samples and sediments. Dibenzothiophene is only found in the histogram for all samples (Figure 33) south of Calvert Cliff (station 18). This compound in sediments is definitively more prominent in the upper Bay (Figure 19). Of the PNA's, only two (fluoranthene and pyrene) were found to be present in oysters from several locations. Benzo(e)pyrene was identified in stations 2-03-B and 2-22-B (Table 26). No benzo(a)pyrene could be detected in the same samples.

Table 26 also indicates the presence of several chlorinated compounds which were not encountered in sediments. While this may be metabolites or

FIGURES 32-35: Station histograms for samples of oyster tissue collected during spring (a) and fall (b). The station locations and station numbers are indicated in the map. The vertical axis of the histograms contains the station numbers, the horizontal axis the concentrations on a logarithmic scale. Concentrations  $\langle 10 \text{ pb}$  were omitted.







ARI : 192-196 Dibenzothiophene

Figure 33a



ARI : 192-196 Dibenzothiophene



#### ARI : 282.4-286.4 Fluoranthene





Figure 34b

154

 $ppt$ 



Figure 35a

 ${\color{black} \mathsf{ppt}}$ 



Table 26. Compounds identified by mass spectrometry - oyster samples. Numbers relate to position of peak in the chromatograms (in ARI units). Code: A - identified by comparison with reference spectrum<sup>1,2)</sup>; At - by interpretation of mass spectrum;<br>B - by mass spectrum and published ARI<sup>3)</sup>; C - by mass spectrum and ARI established by standard in our la spectrum and ARI extrapolated from crude oil sample.



 $\overline{\phantom{a}}$  $\mathcal{L}$ 

### Table 26 (continued).



### Table 26 (continued).



#### Table 26 (continued).



1) EPA/NIH Mass Spectral Data Base, Heller and Milne (eds.), NSRDS-NBS 63 (1978).

2) Registry of Mass Spectral Data, Stenhagen, Abrahamsson and McLafferty (eds.), John Wiley & Sons (1974).

3) Calculated from data of Lee et al. (1979).

the result of bioconcentration, it is also possible that they are artifacts of the analysis which could not be seen in the sediment extracts because they were masked by high hydrocarbon levels.

The main problem encountered in the analysis of oyster tissues was the presence of biogenic compounds and their derivatives, often commanding a major presence in the chromatograms. Their retention relative to unsubstituted PNA's (as routinely used for the G32 fraction) turns out to be ill-defined. Retention indices of these compounds appear to be well-defined for a particular column as one notes in Table 26, but may vary (up to six retention units) if different columns are used. Since specific searches are based on ARI's, interpolation of chromatograms bracketed by GC-MS analyses in this case is not reliable and may lead to false conclusions. A simple remedy would be to analyze such fractions on one GC-column only.

### 7. "FLAG" TABLES (SPECIFIC SEARCHES)

### A. Search for Compounds  $>$ 50ppb in Sediments

The information for this search is compiled in Tables 27a and 27b. The complete search lists are in Appendix IV. It confirms and expands in detail what has already been discussed in the station histograms: that most organic pollutants are found in the upper Bay and that unsubstituted PNA's are the major contributors. Comparing Table 27a with Table 27b, one may be tempted to conclude that the samples collected in fall 1979 contain a more diverse set of compounds than those collected in spring. This, however, is not so as Table 20 indicates: it is an artifact of the cut-off at 50 ppb. In addition, Table 27b contains a number of compounds such as 4H-cyclopentaphenanthrene, 2-phenylnaphthalene, methyl-phenylnaphthalene and one methyl-202 isomer that relate directly to the very large pyrogenic fraction encountered in sample 2-27-S. Again, Table 20 shows that they are also found in other samples but at levels  $\leq 50$  ppb.

Sample 1-22-S contains 9-fluorenone, and sample 2-25-S contains two  $C_2$  and two  $C_3$ -naphthalenes, a  $C_2$ -biphenyl or  $C_2$ -acenaphthene isomer, dibenzothiophene and  $C_3$ -biphenyl/C<sub>2</sub>-dibenzofuran. Again, many of these compounds have been identified in other samples at lower concentration. The high concentrations of relatively volatile compounds in sample 2-25-S could possibly indicate contact with No. 2 fuel.

With few exceptions, maximum concentrations for different compounds were encountered near Baltimore Harbor (stations 22 and 23) or near the mouth of the Chesapeake-Delaware Canal (station 26) if sample 2-27-S is excluded from the discussion.

## Table 27a

# List of compounds  $\geq 50$  ppb (dry wt.) in sediment samples - Spring 1979. Stations

in which no compound exceeded this lower limit are not listed.



Table 27a (continued).



### Remarks:

In cases where substituted PNA's overlap in their retention and cannot be positively identified, Me- or C<sub>2</sub>- is followed by the molecular weight of the unsubstituted compound. Thus, Me-202 could be Me-fluoranthene, Me-pyrene or Me-acephenanthrylene, Me-228 could be Me-benzo(a)anthracene or Mechrysene/triphenylene, etc.

191

1) Identified by ARI only.

### Table 27b

## Listing of compounds  $\geq$  50 ppb (dry wt.) in sediment samples - Fall 1979.

Stations in which no compound exceeded this lower limit are not listed.



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# Table 27b (continued) (2)

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 $\sim$ 



0'\ 0'\

Table 27b (continued) (3)



### Remarks:

In cases where substituted PNA's overlap in their retention and cannot be positively identified, Me- or C<sub>2</sub>- is followed by the molecular weight of the unsubstituted compound. Thus, Me-202 could be Me-fluoranthene, Me-pyrene or Me-acephenanthrylene. Me-228 could be Mebenzo(a)anthracene or Me-chrysene/triphenylene, etc.

1) Present only in chromatograms: since phthalates elute in the G2 fraction, all phthalates found in the G3 fraction must be considered to be contaminants.

2) Probably contamination - not present in GC-MS data.

# B. Search for New Compounds and for an Order of Magnitude Change in the Concentration of Specific Compounds in Individual Stations Between Spring and Fall (Sediment)

This search, like that for specific compounds (Figures 19 to 27), requires a definition of the retention window within which a compound must elute. Each ARI has a certain precision and error associated with it (Table 15). If the search window chosen is too small, the peak may not be recognized. On the other hand, if the window is too large, two different compounds may be recognized and compared as one. To minimize such mistakes, a strict quality control for the relative retention properties of capillary columns is necessary, and adequate standards for this purpose will have to be developed. Temporal searches, however, can never be perfect. They should point our attention to a situation that may require further investigation, but a critical review of the output is always a first step.

The complete search lists are found in Appendix  $V.$  Only three examples have been selected for discussion here. There are two stations for which - based on discussion in a previous chapter - we already know what to expect. Station 2-19-S, because of the dramatic compositional change between spring and fall 1979, should contain a listing of mainly new compounds. A flag for a tenfold concentration increase, though, can be expected for compounds where retention coincidence within the search window occurs. The printout for this station is found in Appendix V. Of twenty-six compounds, sixteen are indeed listed as new (cutoff at 50 ppb) and ten incidate a concentration increase. If these ten are checked with the mass spectrometric output, it is immediately evident that only the first listing is accurate (ARI = 244.5, a compound with

M.W. 192) and that others should be listed as new compounds. Although it has been said before, we state again that such coincidences in ARI's are a basic problem that cannot be avoided.

In the printout for station 2-27-S, the flag-list should indicate large concentration increases, especially for pyrogenic PNA's. Of the thirty-six compounds that are printed out (Appendix V), only eleven compounds are listed as increases, while the remaining are characterized as new compounds. However, one also notes that in every case where the new compound flag is raised, there is no entry for the spring sample. As was discussed previously, the spring sample consisted mainly of sand and the chromatogram contained only a few peaks that passed the integration threshold. It also is possible that missing compounds are outside the adopted retention window. If there is no entry for a particular compound in one of the samples compared, this compound will be listed as new if the corresponding peak is missing in the spring sample, or it will appear as a " $>$ 10 x decrease" if it is missing in the fall sample. Much of the apparent discrepancy is caused by the differences in the sediment character rather than the software.

As a third example, finally, we choose station 26-S. There are nine compounds flagged (Appendix V), most of which are indicating a concentra~ tion decrease while one compound at ARI 439.2 appears to increase.

A check in Table 20 indicates the presence of two different compounds with identical ARI  $(438.3)$  in sample 2-26-S, while there is no listing for sample 1-26-S. Thus, one would conclude from the mass spectrometry that the flag should indicate a new compound and not, as the search shows, a concentration increase. The discrepancy is caused by a small peak identified by the computer in the FID chromatogram of sample 1-26-S and falling within the range of the retention window for the search.

### C. Search for Compounds > 50 ppb in Oyster Tissue

Tables 28a and 28b contain a summary of the computer printouts for *!*  this search. Appendix VI gives the complete listing. It is immediately evident that the data for the spring cruise contain very little relevant information: only dibenzothiophene, 2-phenylnaphthalene and a  $C_{2}$ dibenzothiophene in station 10, and fluoranthene in station 22 are pollutants with concentrations )50 ppb. Methyl tetradecanoate and methyl hexadecanoate are of known biogenic origin. Unidentifiable compounds of probable biogenic origin are also present. Beginning with ARI 327.6, there are a series of peaks that did not show up in the GC-MS analyses and for this reason could not be identified. Their presence in the gas chromatograms only suggest that they are lab contaminants.

Compound-identification Table 26 indicates the presence of other pollutants, among them p, p'-DDE and some unidentifiable chlorinated hydrocarbons. Since they are not listed in the flag tables, they have concentrations  $\zeta$ 50 ppb.

The data for the fall cruise are similar to those for the spring 1979 cruise, except that a larger variety of substituted dibenzothiophenes appears to be present at levels  $>$  50 ppb in station 03. Station 03 also clearly stands out in Table 26 and for this reason deserves further discussion. A closer examination of the compositional details reveals that higher substituted naphthalenes, fluorenes, dibenzothiophenes and phenanthrenes abound. In addition, there are some chlorinated compounds present whose structure cannot be identified. Both features find a common denominator in surface oil slicks after prolonged exposure. Since the oyster samples for the second cruise were collected by boat

### TABLE 28a

List of compounds  $>$  50 ppb (dry weight) identified in oyster samples - Spring 1979

Stations in which no compound exceeded this limit are not listed.

Station

Compound	ARI	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20	22	23
Unknown $F_1$	104.2						106											
Unknown H	$138.1 - 141.6$				477 104		144		158			138 246			98 262		52 105	97
Unknown $(H_1+J+K)$ Unknown	158.0-159.0						56	86										
	$161.5*$						51											
Unknown	$164.6*$					53												
Methyl Tetradecanoate	191.1-193.5			166			136											
Methyl Hexadecanoate	251.4			133														
2-Phenylnaphthalene	255.6						87											
$C2$ -Dibenzothiophene	265.2						73											
Fluoranthene	285.2																63	
Contamination	327.6							53										
Contamination	359.6							59										
$^{\bullet}$	384.5							51										
Ħ	$386.7 - 387.2$							103		150								
Unknown	$391.7*$						53											
Contamination	413.0-413.5							137		188								
11	425.7													58				
Unknown	429.9*						55											
Contamination	438.1-438.4					50		169										
Contamination	462.1							199							61			
11.	483.5-485.4		50			57		195		179			64		69			
Ħ	490.5													94				
Ħ	517.0						72											
Ħ	531.7-533.0	51	65			59		189		62 162			57 100	59	75			
Ħ	560.8-561.5							117					82					
Ħ	572.6						103											
n	594.2-597.1		51			54		144	62		57		103	55	65			

\*Peak did not show up on MS

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### Table 28b

List of compounds  $>$  50 ppb (dry weight) identified in oyster samples - Fall 1979

Stations in which no compound exceeded this limit are not listed .



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from pilings of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, it is not unreasonable to suspect that these oysters indeed could have been exposed periodically to surface oil slicks. Two possible explanations can be offered for the seasonal differences. First, cool wintertime· temperatures inhibit oyster pumping rates, reducing probability of contact with polluted water. Second, fall-collected oysters may have been exposed to oily water before their collection and simply had less time to depurate.

## D. Search for New Compounds and for an Order of Magnitude Change in the Concentration of Specific Compounds in Individual Stations Between Spring and Fall (Oyster)

As for sediments, the complete search list is attached in Appendix VII, and only a few stations will be discussed here. In general, the search indicates a concentration decrease or new compounds appearing for all stations except 03, where the first two listings indicate a concentration increase. In view of the discussion of this station in the preceding chapter, the reasons for this exception are trivial. The same is true for stations which indicate concentrations )50 ppb in spring but contain no listing for fall: those are compounds that likely entered the chromatograms as lab contaminants. The exception is fluoranthene in station 22 which is listed twice, first at ARI 283.3 as a "new compound" and the second time at ARI 285.2 as a " *>* 10 x decrease." This problem is due to the retention index window difficulties that were discussed in the previous chapter.

One may correctly conclude that the temporal search for oysters is not very fruitful. But the reasons are understood and the problems can be corrected if more attention is paid to details and stricter quality control procedures are employed for the gas chromatography.

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## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Monitoring the environment for the presence of toxic organic compounds in a routine fashion is unlikely to be perfect in every respect. The methodology developed under this grant emphasized an unbiased approach in which a large variety of organic compounds is being extracted and analyzed. Extensive use of computers was employed, not only for cutting the cost of such analyses but also to improve them. Contrary to this, any biased approach would have to incorporate methodology narrowly tailored to specific compound properties which would have to be known in advance. Not only would the number of compounds that can be analyzed by such methods be very limited, but the chance of some unexpected pollutant being detected would have a low probability. Any attempt to cover a wide variety of organic compounds by such methods would require multiple extractions, separations and analyses, which would make it too time-consuming and expensive.

In this project, much emphasis has been directed towards a reliable interpretation of GC analyses to avoid the high costs of GC-MS analyses. The analytical scheme as presented here correlates the detailed information from GC-MS analyses to GC chromatograms with the help of specialized retention indices. One of them, the aromatic retention index (ARI) first proposed by Bieri (1977), was extensively used and tested. While it is not a perfect substitute for a GC-MS analysis, its application is indeed very powerful insofar as it for the first time allows a precise definiton of most peaks in the chromatograms and thus their defined storage in a computerized data bank which can be addressed for inquiries any time in the future. There is a good correlation between the GC and the GC-MS data where they both have been compared.

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As we have discussed, inconsistencies can occur where two or more compounds have ARI's that coincide within the error attached to an ARI determination. This is a basic problem that cannot be easily solved. Inconsistencies can also occur due to differences in the liquid phase, caused in the manufacture of glass capillaries or by aging. Strict quality control during manufacture and use is indicated. There also still are some flaws in existing software for the recognition and integration of peaks in cases of insufficient resolution and in the presence of a large UCM. More refined programming certainly is advised.

A substantial effort will be needed to determine suitable retention standard relationships between aromatic index markers and other compound types. As was mentioned in the discussion of oysters, methyl esters of fatty acids are not well-defined by aromatic retention standards. The use of pesticide retention standards failed not in principle, but because the E.C. detector also responds to many PNA's and other organic compounds. Additional efforts are needed to solve this problem.

Finally, there is some reason for dissatisfaction with the HPLC separation employed throughout the program. Since the GPC fractions underwent a solvent change from  $CH_2Cl_2$  to toluene during concentration, the initial conditions for the high performance separation were affected by the presence of the toluene. This resulted in some separation problems that by proper design can be corrected.

Finally, one needs to readdress the sedimentological characterizations of sediment samples. As long as the sediments to be extracted and analyzed are very similar, there is no problem. But if they vary as dramatically as they did in the Chesapeake Bay, from sand to silt/clay, the sedimentological composition cannot be neglected. We tried to correct this problem by

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normalizing the organic data to silt/clay in a first approach. Such a solution, however, is unsatisfactory insofar as samples consisting almost of pure sand do not contain high enough concentrations of organic compounds to allow analysis, so a normalization cannot be carried out. An alternate solution probably would be to separate and collect the silt/clay fraction from a sandy sample and perform an extraction on the fines only, How this could be achieved without contaminating the sample.and without also taking out some organic detritus is not yet clear.

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