

Monitoring, Modeling and Decision-Making

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Our decisions have to be based on sound science. Do we need more monitoring data or should we rely on models? I don't trust models. How can we optimize management practice alternatives and locations to achieve the largest water quality improvement? I hear these comments and questions in most project discussions related to decision-making and management of surface water quality. My perspectives on the proper response to these questions and concerns will be presented.

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Monitoring, Modeling and Decision Making: Making It Work. If done properly the integration of monitoring and modeling for decision making has the potential to increase the effectiveness of most watershed management projects. Several examples from section 319 and other watershed-based projects will be presented documenting failures and successes associated with decisions made based upon the results generated integrating these tools. Recommendations concerning program and technical aspects for monitoring and modeling to support decision-making will also be presented.