



Public Notice

Maryland Department of the Environment

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Webster Field Annex WWTP Dye Tracer Study

September 24th through September 28th, 2018

St. Inigoes, St Mary's County, MD - Scientists and engineers from Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE), Shellfish Monitoring Program, together with staff from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Shellfish Sanitation Program will begin conducting a hydrographic study beginning September 24th, 2018. They will be tracking the flow and dispersion of wastewater discharging into the St. Mary's and Potomac River's from the Webster Field Annex Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

There is one 24-hour dye injection period scheduled during the study. During this time, Rhodamine WT dye will be released from the Webster Field WWTP beginning the night of September 24th at approximately 8:00 PM, and will continue until approximately 8:00 PM on September 25th. As a result of the dye injection, portions of the lower St. Mary's River in the general vicinity of Inigoes Creek, and the Potomac River may turn reddish in color for a brief time and will be visible from the shores along the immediate area of the wastewater treatment plants discharge. Please note that this dye is not harmful to people or the ecosystem.

Information collected during this study will be used by MDE to evaluate the impact of wastewater discharges on shellfish growing areas, and will help scientists determine where shellfish may be safely harvested.

If you have any additional questions you may also contact the principal investigator Billy Evans at 443-996-2373.