

Short Course: Integrating Ecological and Human Well-being Risk Assessment

Overview

Risk assessments for ecological and human health and well-being endpoints are often seen as separate processes. New research has demonstrated that they are not. The terminology and the criteria used in each are different due to their separate routes of development. They share, however, the fundamentals of the exposure-response paradigm and having to deal with cumulative effects. In a number of recent scientific papers, it has been demonstrated that Bayesian network relative risk models (BN-RRM) can be built to describe ecological effects of Hg and other stressor in a major riverine system and can estimate the efficacy of mitigation tools such as bank stabilization and use of best management practices in the watershed. It is also possible to build adaptive management tools that assist in the planning of long-term management actions. In this class, attendees will use several examples that will demonstrate how ecological and human well-being risk assessment can be integrated. Attendees can bring their own case studies as well. The course will begin with a review of the basic principles of risk assessment and risk calculation methods. The second half will be spent in the exploration of other case studies, some of which will be provided, but the use of other examples supplied by students will be welcomed.

Class Location and Time: Class starts at 1:30 pm in the University Club room in the Hilton Garden Inn hotel and last approximately 2 hours with time built in for a break.

Instructor: Dr. Wayne G. Landis, Western Washington University. Any questions concerning the class, please contact Wayne at wayne.landis@wwu.edu.