

## **Topics**

- NPDES Permit Requirements for Benthic Sampling
- Expectations for Benthic Sampling Reports
- Benthic Sampling Methodology & Comparability
- Report Submittal Requirements & Procedure

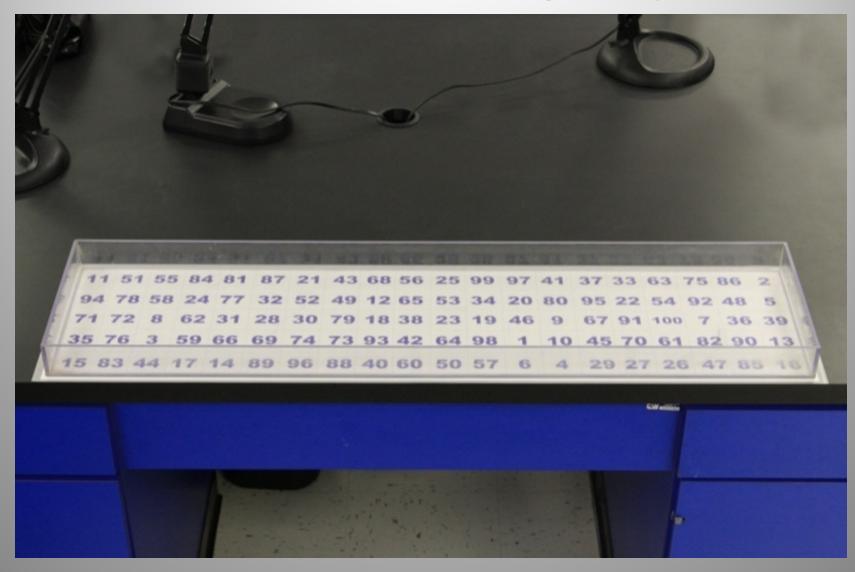
#### NPDES Permit Language for Bio Monitoring

- Benthic survey must be conducted between April 15 & October 15
  - Data outside this window is not comparable
- Annual survey as close to baseline survey date as possible (rule of thumb - 30 day window)
  - 15 days on either side of baseline anniversary date
- Survey to be conducted in accordance with Standard Conditions for Environmental Assessments on Wadeable Streams provided with WVDNR Scientific Collection Permit and WVDEP's WVSCI protocol
  - Standard Conditions refers to EPA 1999 RBP Manual "in general" (good secondary reference)
  - 2009 or more recent WVDEP-WAB SOP (WVSCI protocol & Narrative Guidance)
    - Provides specific details for producing comparable samples for WVSCI calculation
    - This is the primary reference

#### NPDES Permit Language for Bio Monitoring (ctd.)

- Within 90 days provide:
  - RBP scores
  - Chemical data (Specific Conductance, TDS, pH, SO₄, alkalinity, Ca, Mg, Na, K) from same time & locations as benthic macroinvertebrate samples
  - Benthic macroinvertbrate data:
    - Must report the following: WVSCI score & metrics, raw data (IDs and count), # of grids picked to reach 200 count subsample
    - Entered into WVDEP-DNR database and submitted via export queries (ensure you are using most recent version of database)
    - Submit habitat and WQ data by export queries
  - Representative legible photographs of survey sites
  - Narrative Executive Summary
  - Information sent to Regional NPDES Supervisor & ERA and Headquarters ERA

# **Gridded Sorting Tray**

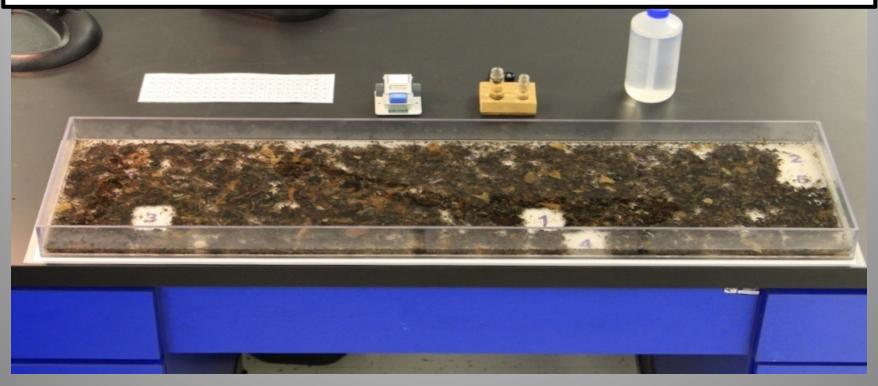


# Gridded Sorting Tray with sample



#### Report number of grids picked to get 200 organism subsample:

Minimum of 4 grids must be picked (randomly re-subsample if necessary)



## Generic Benthic Report Outline

- Introduction
- Methods and Procedures
- Site Locations and Descriptions
- Results
- Discussion and Conclusions
- References
- Figures
- Appendices

## Generic Benthic Report

#### Introduction

- Description of mining operation, large scale geographic location, etc.
- Methods & Procedures: What, How & Who
  - Bio: Net type & size, sieve size, # of kicks, sample area, reference texts, identification keys used, who collected & who identified
  - Chem: who collected, who analyzed, what suites analyzed (make sure MDLs below criteria; pH, Temp & SpCond need to be taken in the field; TDS needs to be lab analyzed)
  - Habitat: method & parameter description
- Site Locations & Descriptions
  - Table with BAS nomenclature, coordinates, & sample date
  - Physical description of BASs (why is the site at that location include relationship to outlets, confluences, residential areas, & other BASs where applicable)
  - Document significant influences within 100 m reach of each BAS when they exist

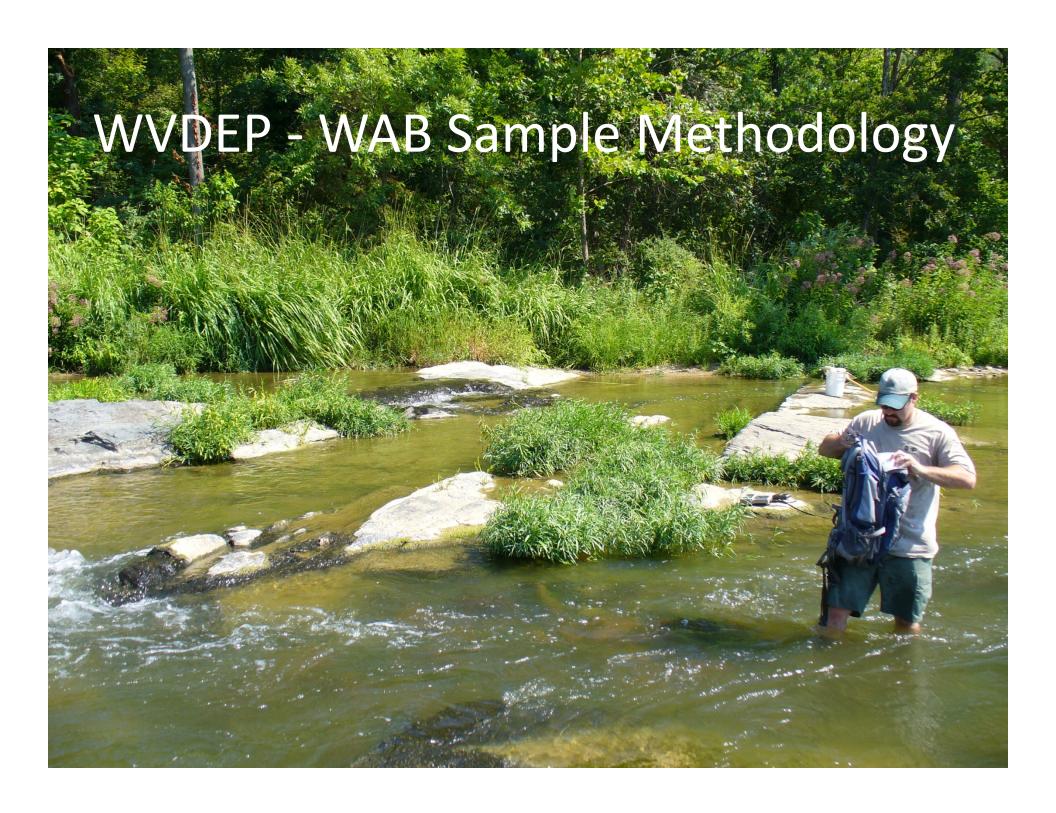
# Generic Benthic Report (ctd.)

- Results
  - Tables and/or narrative with site by site summaries
- Discussion & Conclusions (Executive Summary)
  - tie ALL data together with influences, activities, geology, land use, etc. to develop big picture analysis of information
  - Should NOT be a wordy regurgitation of results
  - Site comparisons where significant differences exist attempt to make sense of them with respect to natural cycles, sample variation, sample error, and surrounding impacts. Oddities and excursions should be examined.
  - Annual reports should have cumulative discussions of changes in impacts and results (gas well, residential construction, logging, mining construction, natural effects)

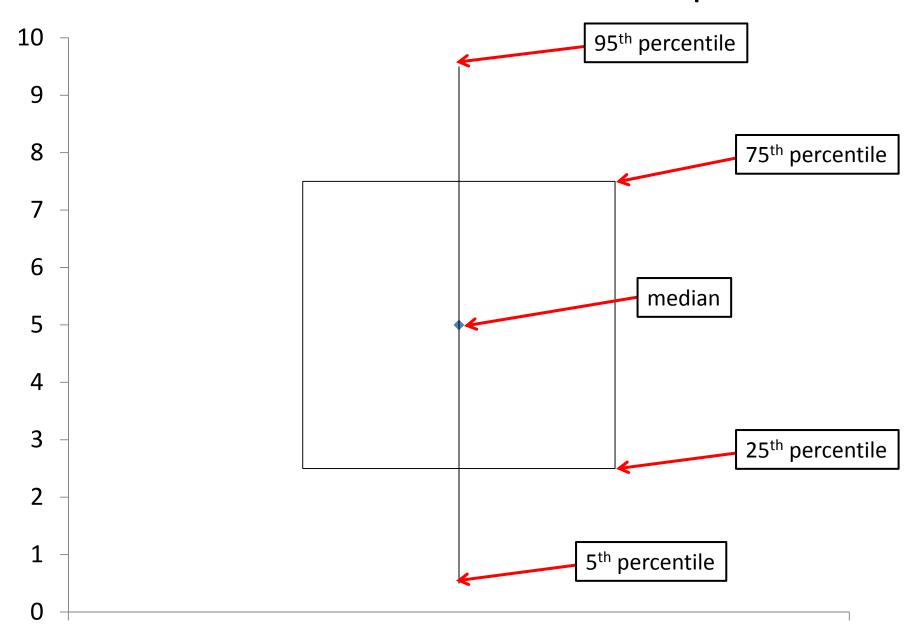
## Generic Benthic Report Outline (ctd.)

- Appendices, Figures, & References
  - Photos: upstream, downstream, & typical sample substrate
    - Should be from appropriate visit, in focus, & well lit
    - Should represent conditions at the time of the sample represented
  - Field Forms: field verified coordinates, field notes
    - Good for verification when data conflicts, is absent, or is nebulous
  - Taxa Lists, Metric calculations, Database Screenshots
  - Maps
  - Chemical Analyses: data verification, unit ?s
  - Reference Text List

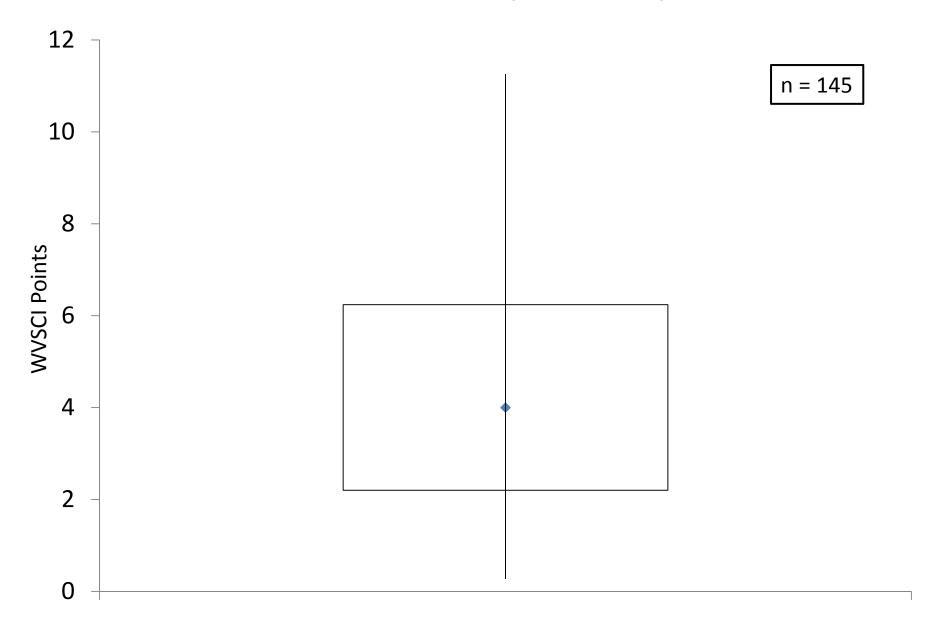




## Box And Whisker Plot Example



#### Difference in WVSCI for Same Day WAB Duplicates (1997 - 2010)

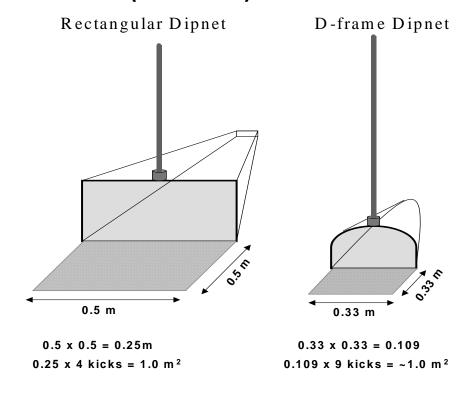


# Methodology & Comparability

- Follow methods to ensure repeatable, comparable benthic samples
  - Annual surveys for years into the future
- Reference pgs. 190-192 in 2011 WAB SOP for restrictions on calculating WVSCI
- Reference pgs. 159-164 in 2011 WAB SOP for Benthic Sampling Protocols
- Reference pgs. 169-175 in 2011 WAB SOP for Sample Processing Protocols

## Methodology and Comparability

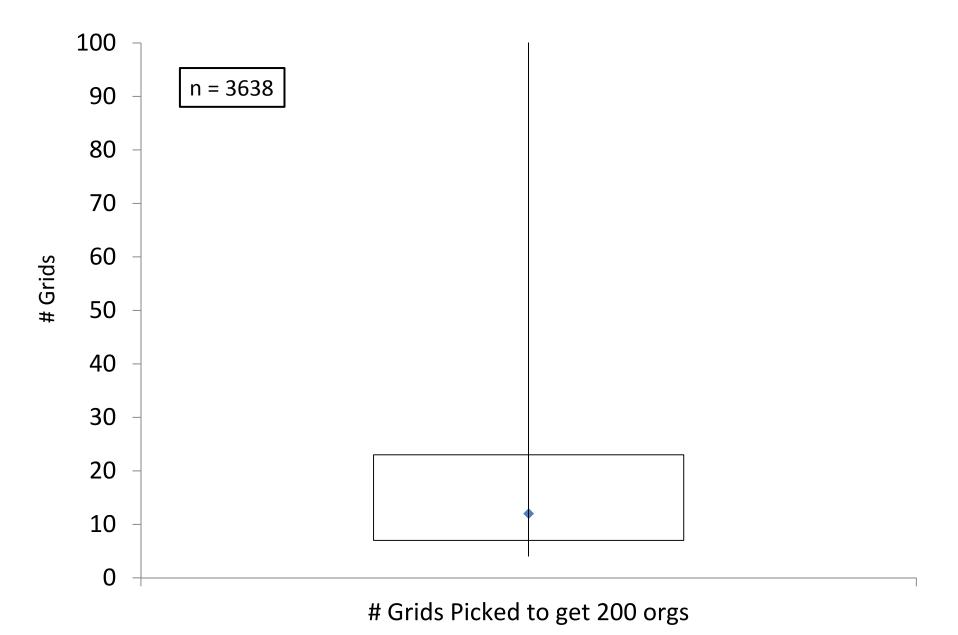
- 595-600 μm mesh net and #30 (600 μm) sieve for all new baseline surveys
  - 500  $\mu$ m mesh net and #30 (600  $\mu$ m) sieve acceptable on projects that have already used this equipment for baseline
- Rectangular kicknet (0.5 m)  $\rightarrow$  4 kicks x 0.25 m<sup>2</sup> = 1.0 m<sup>2</sup>
- D-frame kicknet (0.33 m)  $\rightarrow$  9 kicks x 0.109 m<sup>2</sup> = 1.0 m<sup>2</sup>



#### Methodology and Comparability (ctd.)

- Taxonomic resolution for the WVSCI is family level except for Nematoda & Collembola. However, all taxa should be identified to the genus level or lowest practical taxon. (2011 WAB SOP p. 176)
  - Chironomids to family
- WVSCI on properly subsampled, riffle/run samples only
  - Inappropriate to calculate WVSCI on multihabitat or total picks
     >240 organisms
  - Inappropriate to calculate WVSCI on samples taken in non-flowing conditions
- Total # organisms: 200 ± 20% (160 ≤ x ≤ 240)
  - If there are > 240 organisms a manual random re-subsample or WVDEP performed electronic re-subsample must be performed in order to maintain comparability. This is NOT rarefaction, which is inappropriate for this use.
  - If there are < 100 organisms, the samples will be scrutinized for comparability</li>

#### WVDEP WAB grid counts to get 200 organism subsample



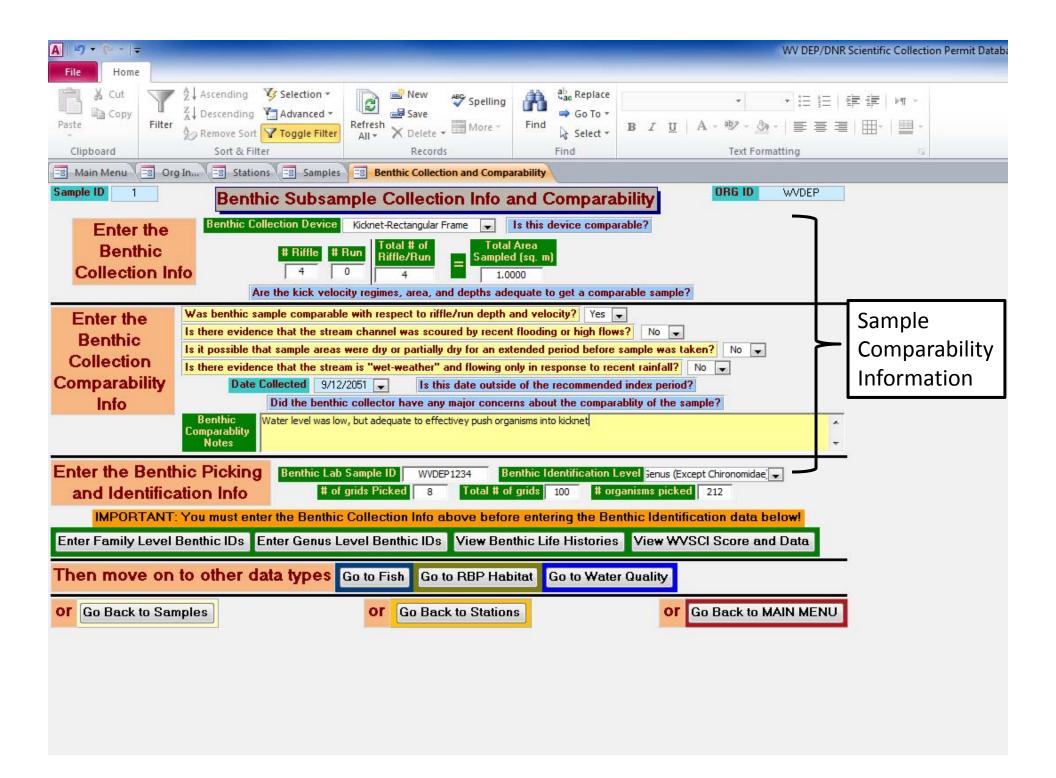
#### Methodology and Comparability (ctd.)

## Take care when sampling:

- After high water events (scour)
- After periods of drought or very low flows (areas that were recently dry)
- During very high flows (bugs washed over/around or out of net)
- During very low flows (bugs not washed into net efficiently)

## Do not sample during turbid conditions

- If you can't see the bottom, don't sample
- Unrepresentative chemical samples (high TSS & total metals)
- Cannot effectively perform several important RBP measures
  - Epifaunal Substrate, Embeddedness, Sediment Deposition
- Cannot effectively select best available habitat for benthic sample



## Methodology and Comparability (ctd.)

- RBP done independently at each site for each visit and over the entire 100m reach
- Do not calculate total RBP for dry streams
  - Cannot realistically evaluate Epifaunal Substrate/Available
     Fish Cover, Velocity/Depth Regimes, Riffle Frequency,
     Channel Flow Status
- BASs must be sampled within days of each other to maintain ability to compare sites

## Recommendations

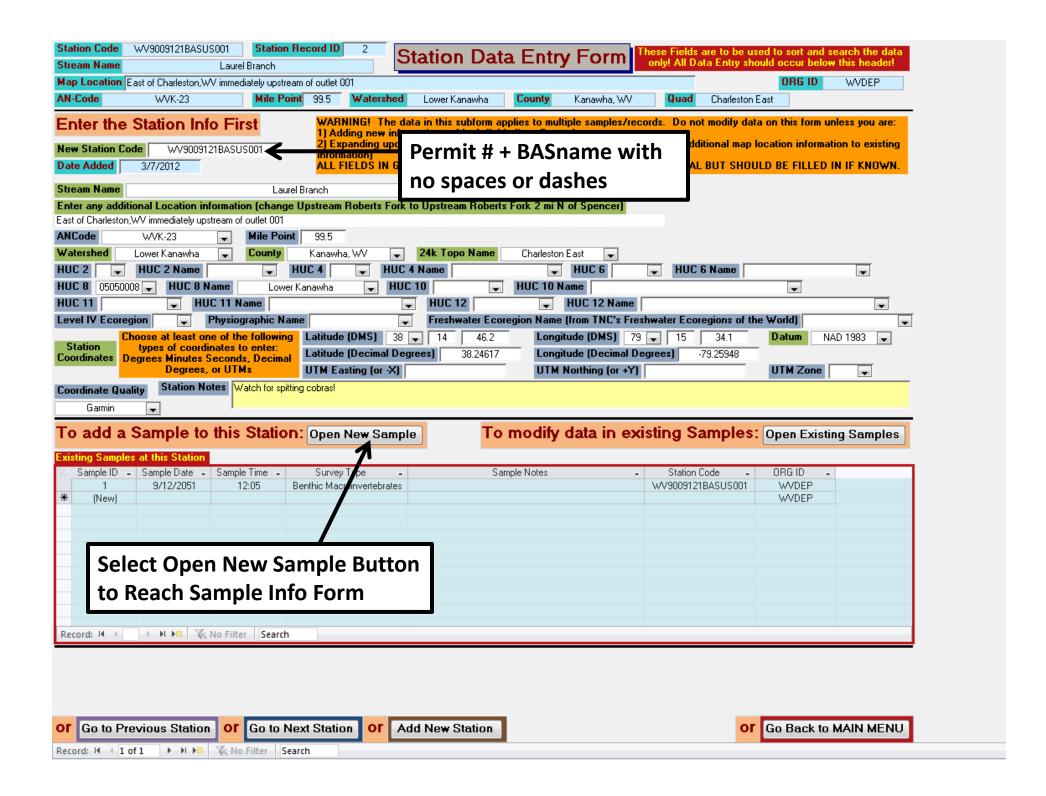
- Sampling at very end of index period not recommended (<1% WVDEP samples, egg hatches, recently dry streams = short colonization, fresh leaf fall)
- Sample watershed reference when available (yearly variation control sites)
- Perform duplicate benthic sampling (WVDEP-WAB does 2.5%)
- Get duplicate identifications (WVDEP-WAB gets 5%)
- Perform duplicate chemical sampling and field blank analyses

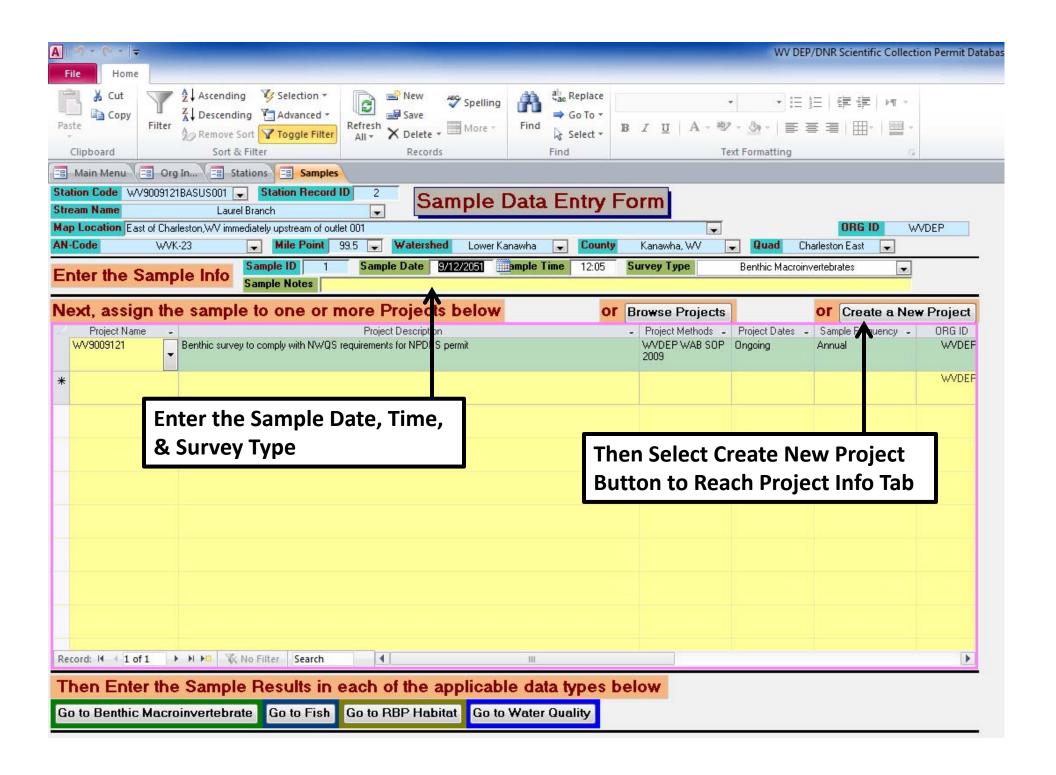
## Field Training

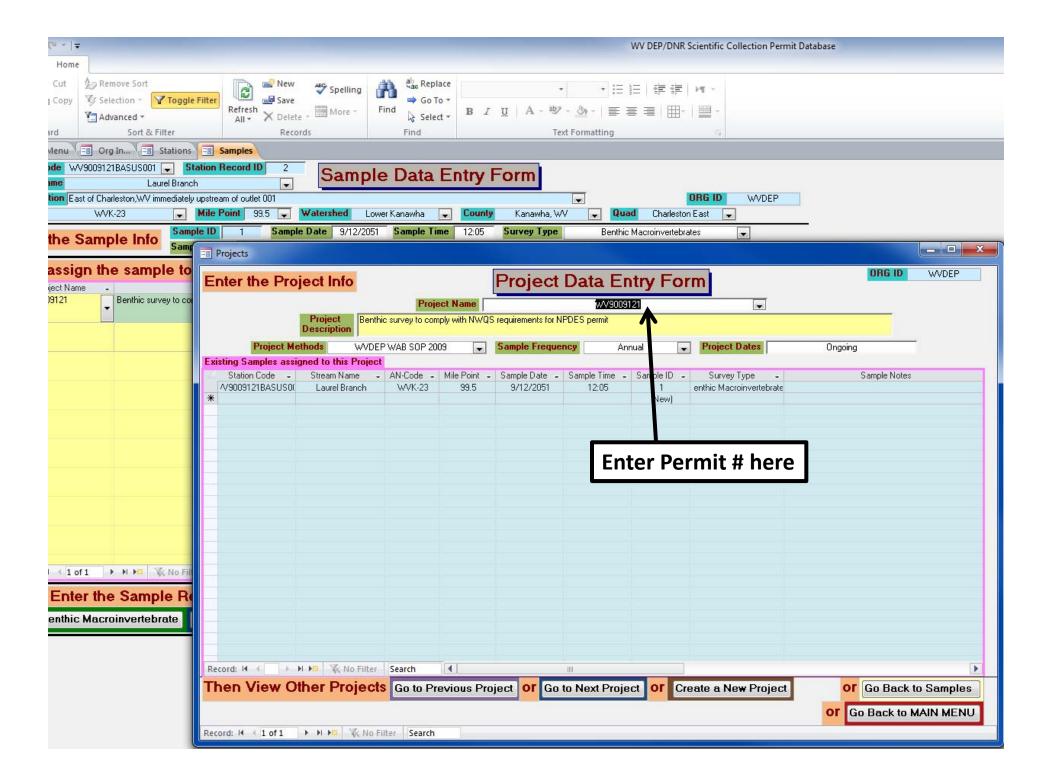
- No large-scale field training as in the past
- Available by appointment by organization
- WAB representative will lead
- ≤10 active participants per training
- Manager must be present
- Will cover field-based assessments & sampling techniques in interactive format

# WVDEP-DNR Scientific Collection Permit Database

- Format 2 fields as outlined to standardize submittal and streamline import & export of data
- New Station Code = Permit# + BASname with no spaces or punctuation (ensures unique identifier)
  - Example: WV10xxxxxBASUS001
- Project Name = Permit# (WV10xxxxx)
- Submit export queries by project (permit#) with digital copy of report to WVDEP headquarters ERA via email
  - kevin.d.seagle@wv.gov
- Submit written copies to Region and HQ for review and archival
- Submission of these queries to WVDEP does NOT satisfy Scientific Collection Permit requirements to submit data to WVDNR at the end of sample year









#### WV DEP/DNR Scientific Collection Permit Database

To enter Station Information (Including Stream Name,	To export data into multiple Excel flat files	
Location, Coordinates, Watershed, County), Sample	(Project, Station, RBP Habitat, Water	
Data (Including Project, RBP Habitat, Benthic, Fish, and	Quality, Raw Benthic, WVSCI Benthic, and	
Water Quality Data) select:	Raw Fish) at a location of your chosing	
Data Entry Form	select one of the below:	
Data Lifty ( Gill	Export All Data	
	Export All Data	
To enter (one time only) your Organization Information	Browse Projects	
(Including Addresses, Electronic Addresses, and	Export Data by Project	
Phone Numbers) select:		
Organization Info	Note: Select Yes for the first 8 prompts	
	(this is updating the WVSCI scores into a	
Database and WVSCI Questions can be directed to: Michael J. Whitman	fixed table), and then select the location	
Environmental Resource Specialist III	to which you wish to export the Excel files.	
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection	To export by project, you must type in the	
Division of Water and Waste Management COO	exact name of the project as documented	
Watershed Branch-Watershed Assessment Section 601 57th Street S.E.	in the DATA ENTRY FORM. You will be	
Charleston, WV 25304-2345	prompted for this before exporting each of	
Phone: (304) 926-0499 ext. 1088 Fax: (304) 926-0463	the Excel files.	
Email: michael.j.whitman@wv.gov		

## **Required Data For Query Submittal**

Elkins, WV 26241

Phone: (304) 637-0245 Fax: (304) 637-0250

Email: barbara.d.sargent@wv.gov

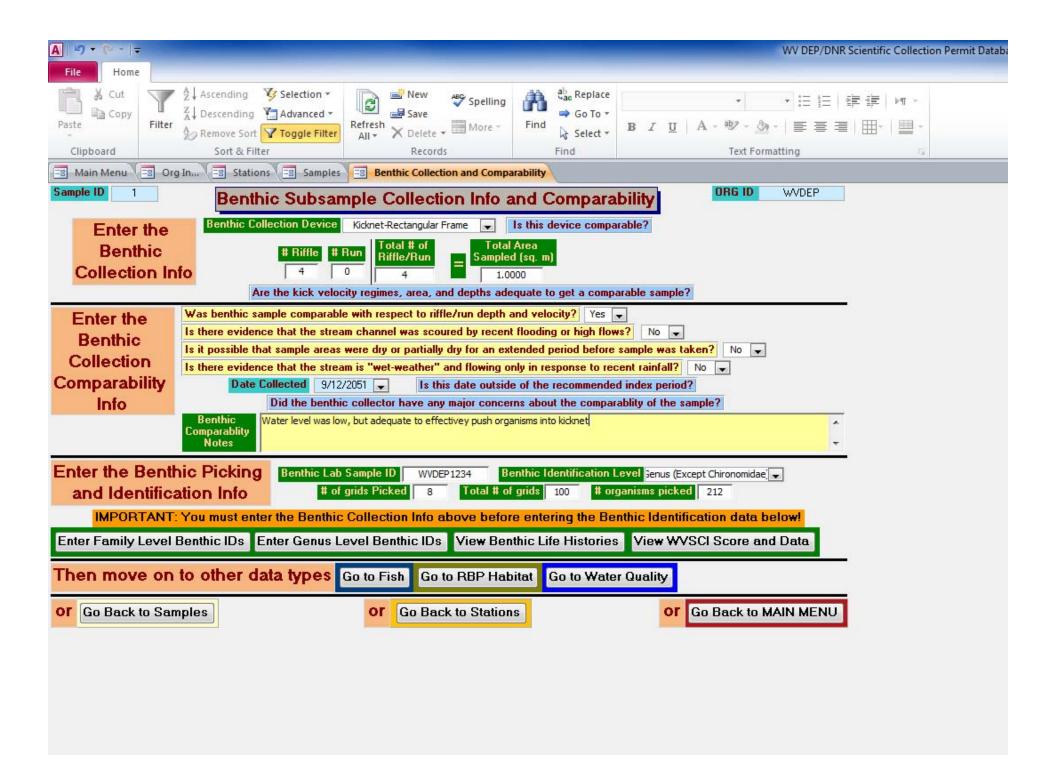
Web: http://www.wydnr.gov/wildlife/scollectpermit.shtm

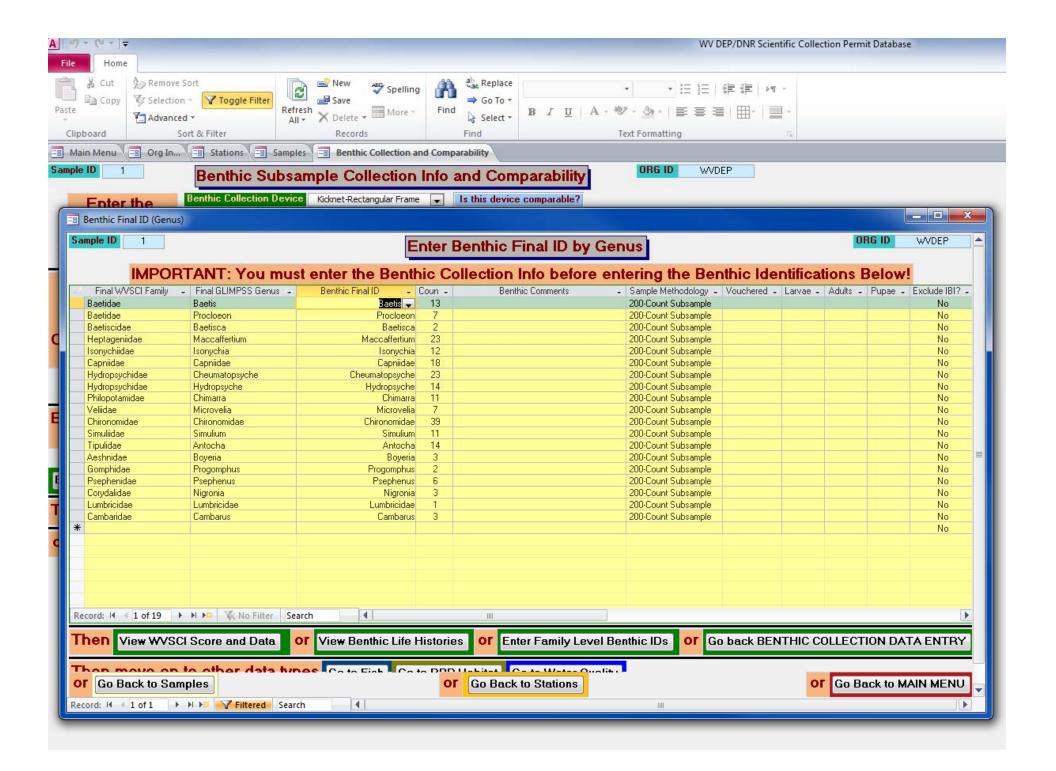


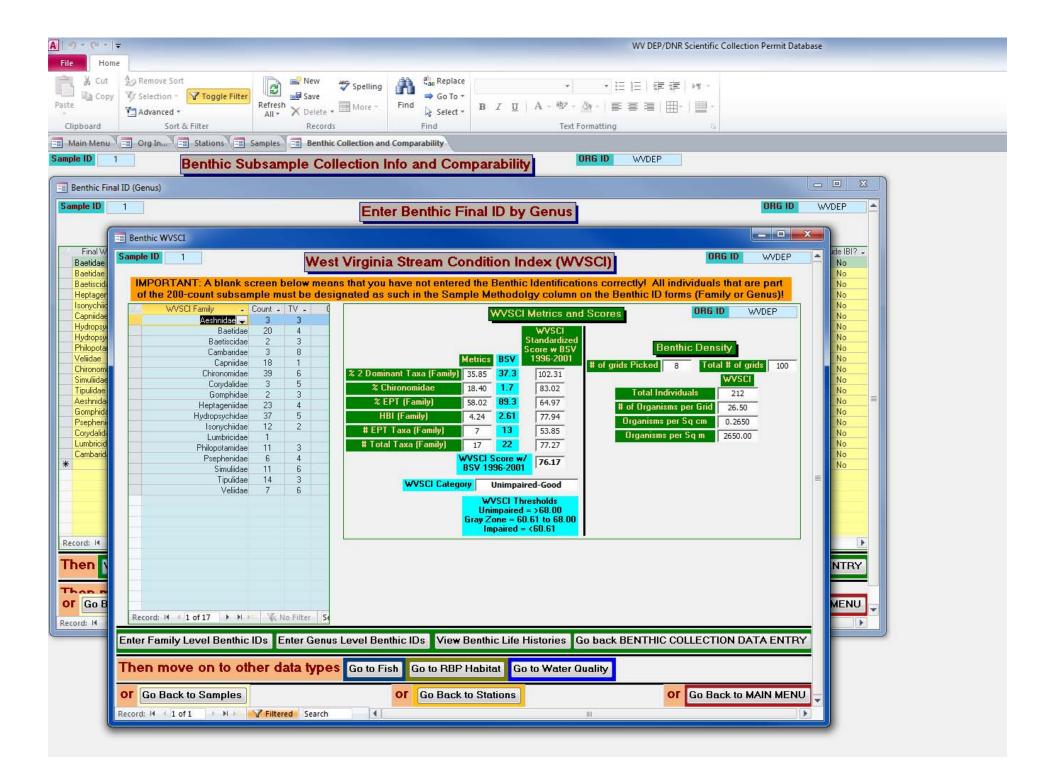


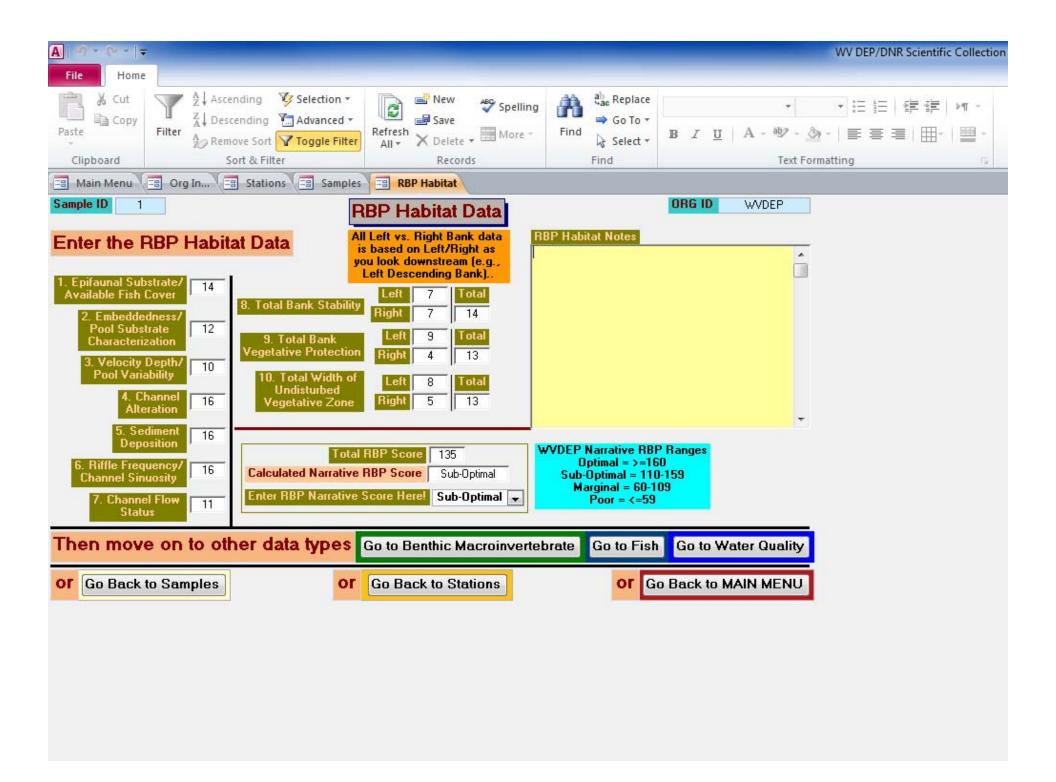
**EXIT DATABASE** 

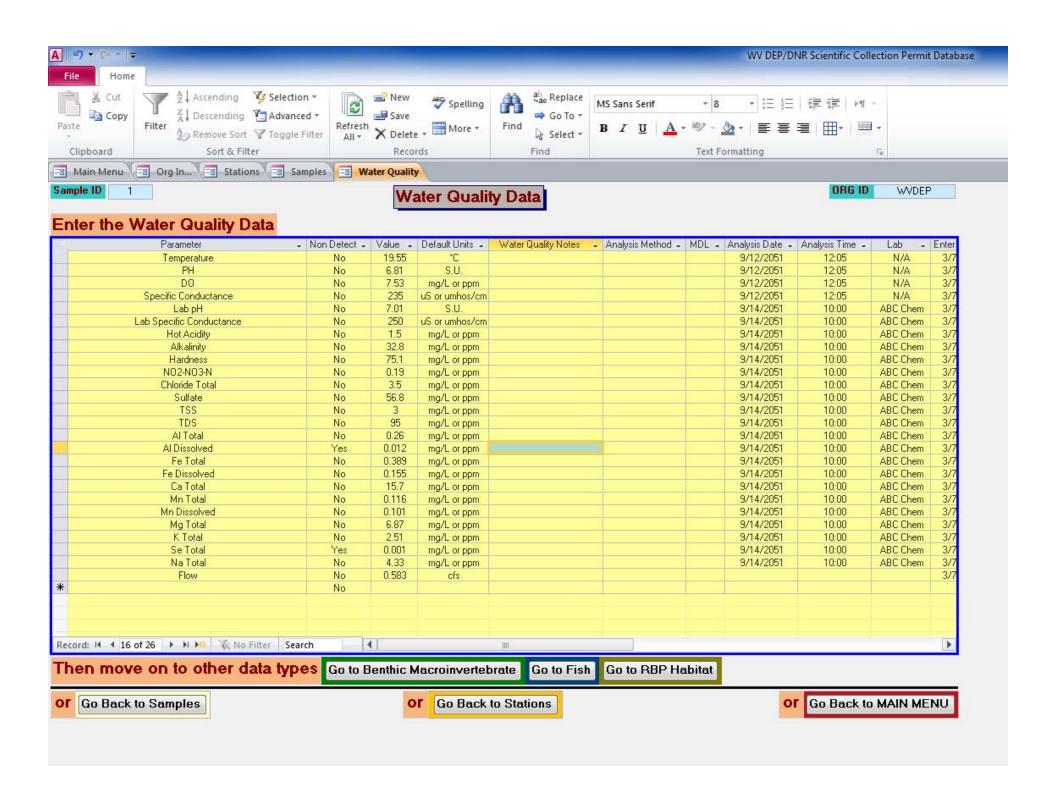
Version 4.01 20110705

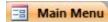




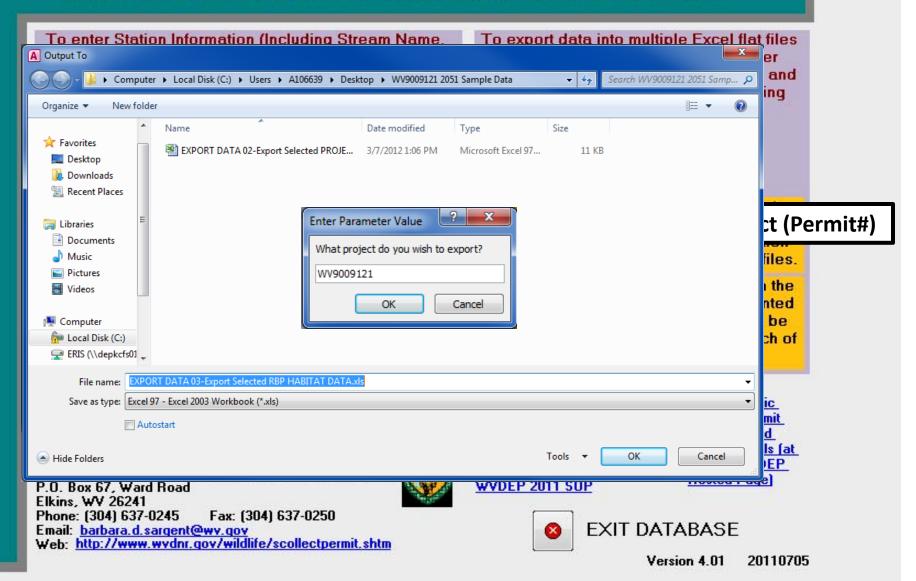


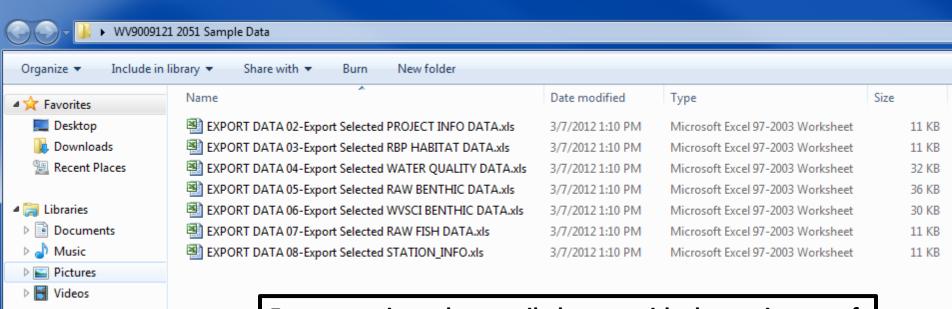






#### WV DEP/DNR Scientific Collection Permit Database





Export queries to be e-mailed to me with electronic copy of report upon submittal of hard copies to Regional NPDES Supervisor & ERA and Headquarters ERA



Computer

D 🕦 Network

Disk (C:)

## Database version 4.02

- Database will compact and repair on close, speeding up performance of databases with large data sets
- Requires ANCode and coordinates
- Color coded impairment or threshold status for WVSCI and RBP
- Has QA/QC color coding for data entry forms
- "No Fish" option for fish surveys
- Instruction manual includes station and project naming conventions for NPDES benthic sampling
- HQ ERA contact info on Main Menu
- Available for download online at:

http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/watershed/bio\_fish/Pages/Bio\_Fish.aspx

#### WV DEP/DNR Scientific Collection Permit Database for Stream Benthic Macroinvertebrates and Fish

To enter Station Information (Including Stream Location, Coordinates, Watershed, County), S Data (Including Project, RBP Habitat, Benthic, F Water Quality Data) select:	ample
To enter (one time only) your Organization Info (Including Addresses, Electronic Addresses Phone Numbers) select: Organization Info	
DMR Permit Submission Requirement, General DB, and N Water Quality Permit Guidance Questions can be directed Kevin D. Seagle Environmental Resource Analyst West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Division of Mining and Reclaimation-NPDES Permit Devel 601 57th Street S.E. Charleston, WV 25304-2345 Phone: (304) 926-0499 ext. 1512 Fax: (304) 926-0456 Email: kevin.d.seagle@wv.gov Web Link: WVDEP Narrative WQ Guidance	d to:
WVDEP WAB SOP and WVSCI Questions can be directed Michael J. Whitman Environmental Resource Analyst West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Division of Water and Waste Management Watershed Branch-Watershed Assessment Section 601 57th Street S.E.	d to:
Charleston, WV 25304-2345 Phone: (304) 926-0499 ext. 1088 Fax: (304) 926-0463 Email: michael.j.whitman@wv.qov Web Link: WVDEP Division of Water and Waste Manage	
Scientific Collection Permit Questions can be directed to: Barbara Sargent West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Scientific Collecting Permit/Endangered Species Program P.O. Box 67, Ward Road Elkins, WV 26241 Phone: (304) 637-0245 Fax: (304) 637-0250	

Email: barbara.d.sargent@wv.gov

Web Link: WVDNR Scientific Collection Permit

To export data into multiple Excel flat files
(Project, Station, RBP Habitat, Water
Quality, Raw Benthic, WVSCI Benthic, and
Raw Fish) at a location of your chosing
select one of the below:

Export All Data

Browse Projects

Export Data by Project

To EXPORT ALL DATA, simply choose a
location to which you want the 8 Excel
files saved.

To EXPORT PROJECT DATA, you must first choose a location to which you want the 8 Excel files saved. Then you must type in the exact name of the project as documented in the PROJECT DATA ENTRY FORM. You will be prompted for this before exporting all but the very first Excel files.

Important Links: WVSCI Document.pdf

WVSCI Addendum.doc

**EPA RBP Download Page** 

WVDEP WAB SOP (2011 or newer) DNR Scientific
Collection Permit
Database and
Training Materials (at
bottom of WVDEP
Hosted Page)



