



Considerations of the Human
Dimensions of 'Triplets' for TMDL
Management

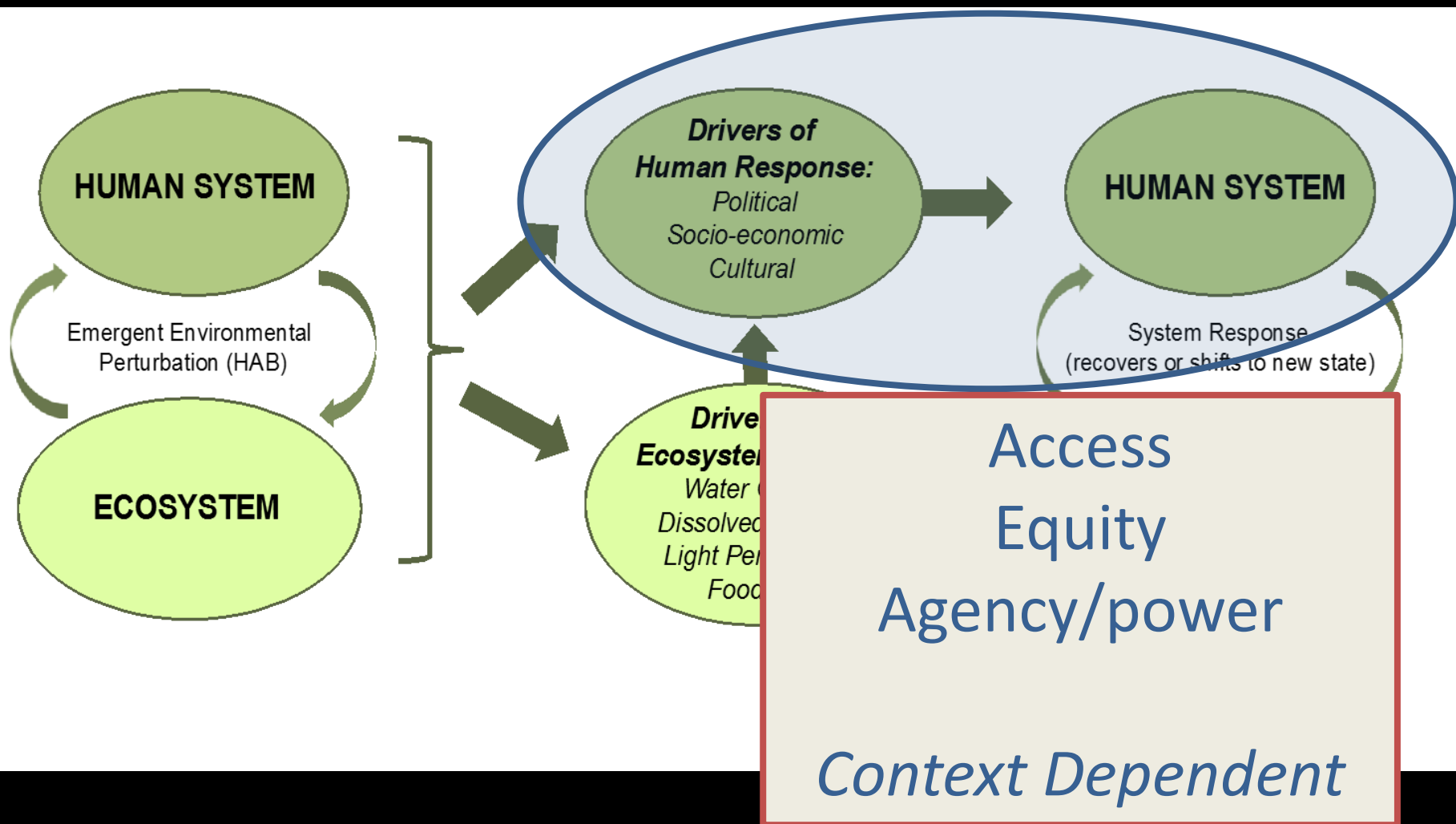
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Common Human Drivers

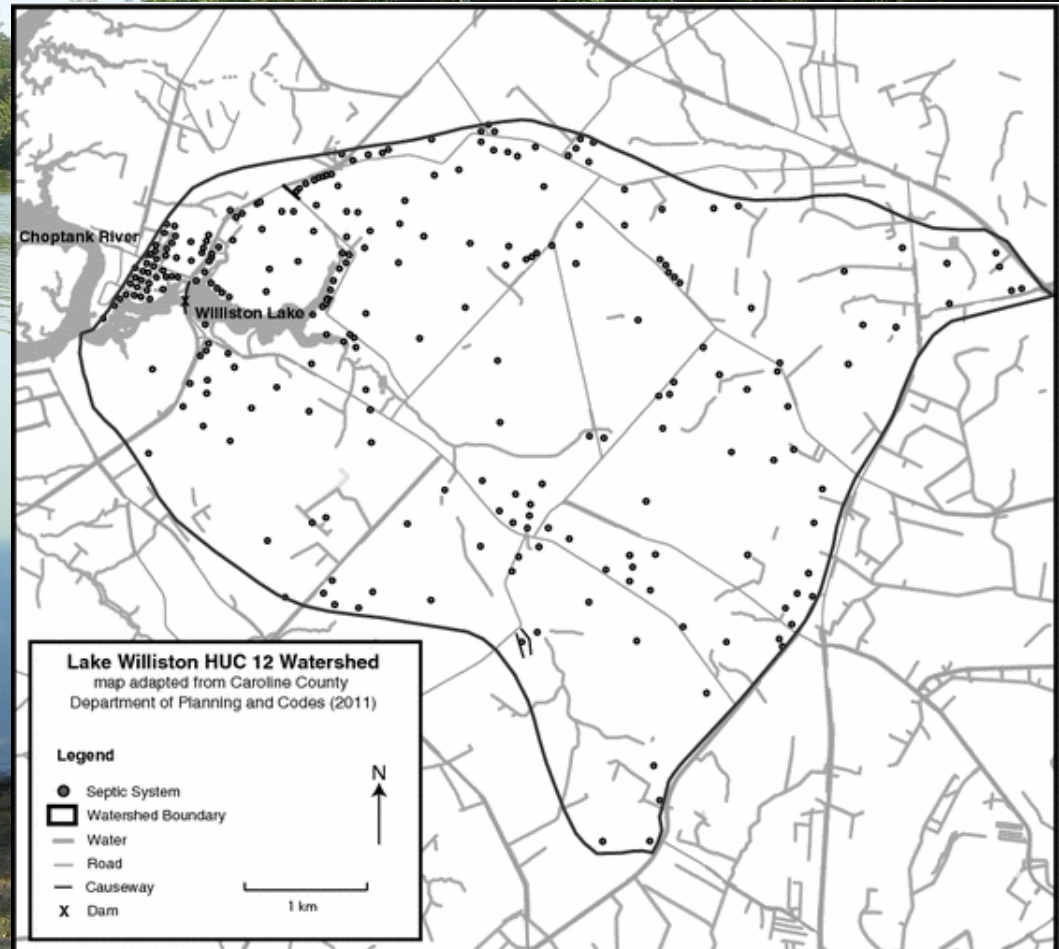
- Human health
- Economics
- *Other important considerations:*
 - Cultural perceptions, knowledge & beliefs
 - *non-economic* values (e.g., place-meaning, identity)
 - Social memory/legacy (socio-historical dynamics)
 - Diversity and complexity of “communities”



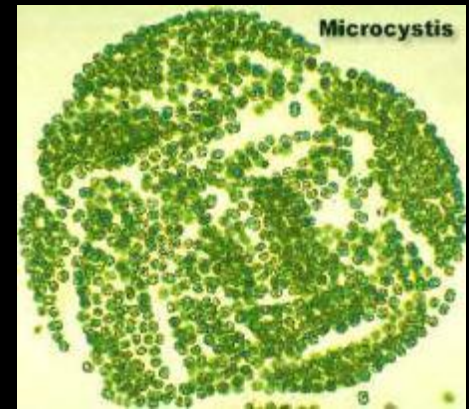
Human decisions about WQ concerns are filtered through social lenses



Williston Lake, Caroline County, MD



Understanding Stakeholder Responses to HAB & WQ



- Girl Scouts: liability, Camp's economic vitality, health risks
- Neighboring landowners: lake access, health risks, property value
- County Gov't: TMDL credit
- Farmers: blame, increased regulations



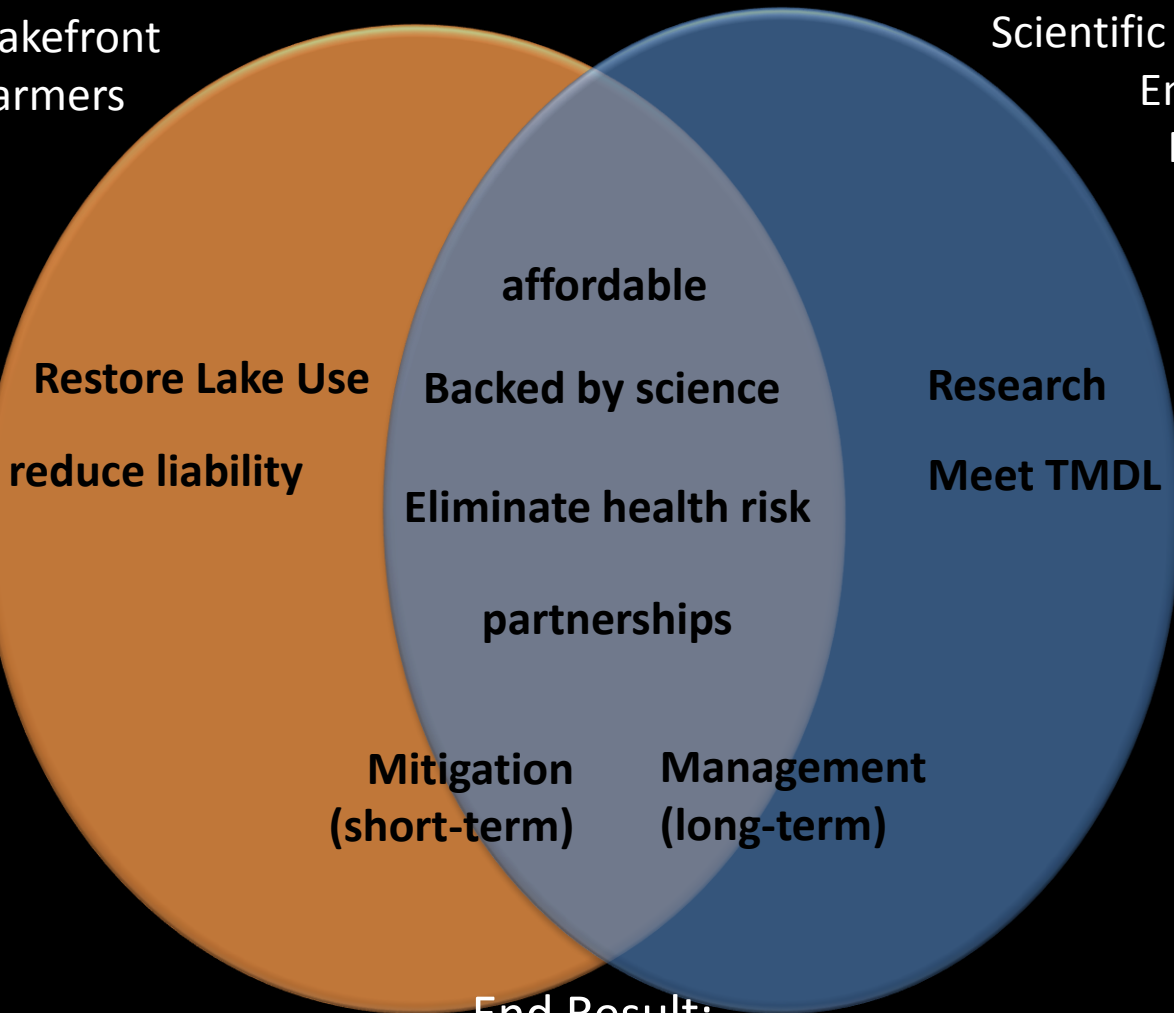
"Pfiesteria Hysteria"



Value of Collaborative Decision-making on Water Quality and HAB BMPs

Girl Scouts/Lakefront Residents/ Farmers

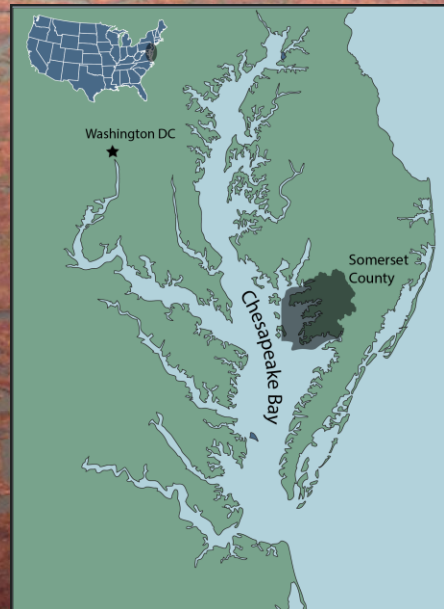
Scientific Community/ Environmental Professionals



End Result:

Lake Drainage and barley straw mitigation, watershed management plan in development through NFWF

Deal Island Peninsula, Somerset County, MD



Climate Change and Triblet Engagement



*Water Quantity over
Water Quality*

Pond

I understand protecting the wetlands and all of that. I get that, but boy, the wetlands. We're losing the wetlands! ...And there's [things we can do], but we're up against such rigid regulations and they have to be amended especially for areas like this so that property owners... can ...protect [their properties]. This is certainly first and foremost on my list because I would like to bring in some material and try to keep the water off my property, but I'm not allowed to because, oh, it's wetland!

Concluding Thoughts

- Understanding social context is critical
- Triplet focus locally relevant
- Human response is influenced by socio-cultural, socio-economic, socio-political drivers
 - Access, equity, agency
 - Social legacy of places
- No on-size-fits all answer; value of social science research for teasing out answers
- Collaborative planning/decision-making => opportunities to fit TMDL goals to local needs, priorities

Ethnographic Methods

- Participant observation
- 28 semi-structured interviews
 - Relationship to local landscape?
Knowledge/perceptions of HABs, environmental changes? Concerns about risks? Attitudes towards mitigation & management?
- Qualitative text analysis & social network analysis

Emergent Williston Lake “Community”/Stakeholder Network

