Measuring Microplastics: A Workshop Towards Building Best Practices for Sampling, Extraction and Analysis

Hosted by: HORIBA, SCCWRP, and the University of Toronto
In coordination with the State of California Water Resources Control Board
and the California Ocean Protection Council

Held at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority
3535 Harbor Blvd
Costa Mesa, CA 92626, USA

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Microplastics are increasingly being recognized as pervasive in the environment, including the water column, sediments, animal tissue and even drinking water. That pervasiveness has led to product bans for small plastics, such as microbeads used in cosmetic products, to larger plastic items that can degrade into microplastics, such as bags and straws. In addition, there are new and planned requirements to monitor microplastics in the environment and in drinking water.

Implementing monitoring programs requires reliable standardized methods and best practice guidelines. Such methods enable comparison of studies among regions, and the ability to compare quantification among sources. Although people have been quantifying and characterizing microplastics in samples for more than a decade, standard field and laboratory methods, or the reference materials necessary for quality assurance, do not yet exist.

The workshop is an excellent opportunity to hear from microplastics experts from around the world about the latest advances in sampling and measurement methods. The workshop is being conducted in collaboration with the State of California Water Resources Control Board and the California Ocean Protection Council, which have legislative mandates to develop standardized microplastics monitoring methods for ocean and drinking waters. This workshop will focus on exploring a path toward method standardization, with the experts recommending studies California management agencies should invest in to better achieve standardization and an understanding of method repeatability.

Workshop Objectives:

1. Facilitate a conversation among the management community, stakeholders and microplastics experts to enhance understanding of policy-makers needs regarding microplastics method standardization.
2. Discuss state of the science regarding sampling, extraction and analysis methods.
3. Identify the research necessary to reach shared goals, including design of studies necessary to develop standardized methods for microplastics analysis.

Seating is limited and preregistration is required. Please go here to register:
https://microplasticworkshop.eventbrite.com