

Workshop on
PFAS
Chemicals-
State Water
Resources
Control Board:

March 6, 2019

- **Jane Williams**
- **Executive Director**
- **California Communities Against
Toxics**
- **PFAS Chemicals: An Emerging
Threat to Groundwater**



Sources of PFAS in the Environment

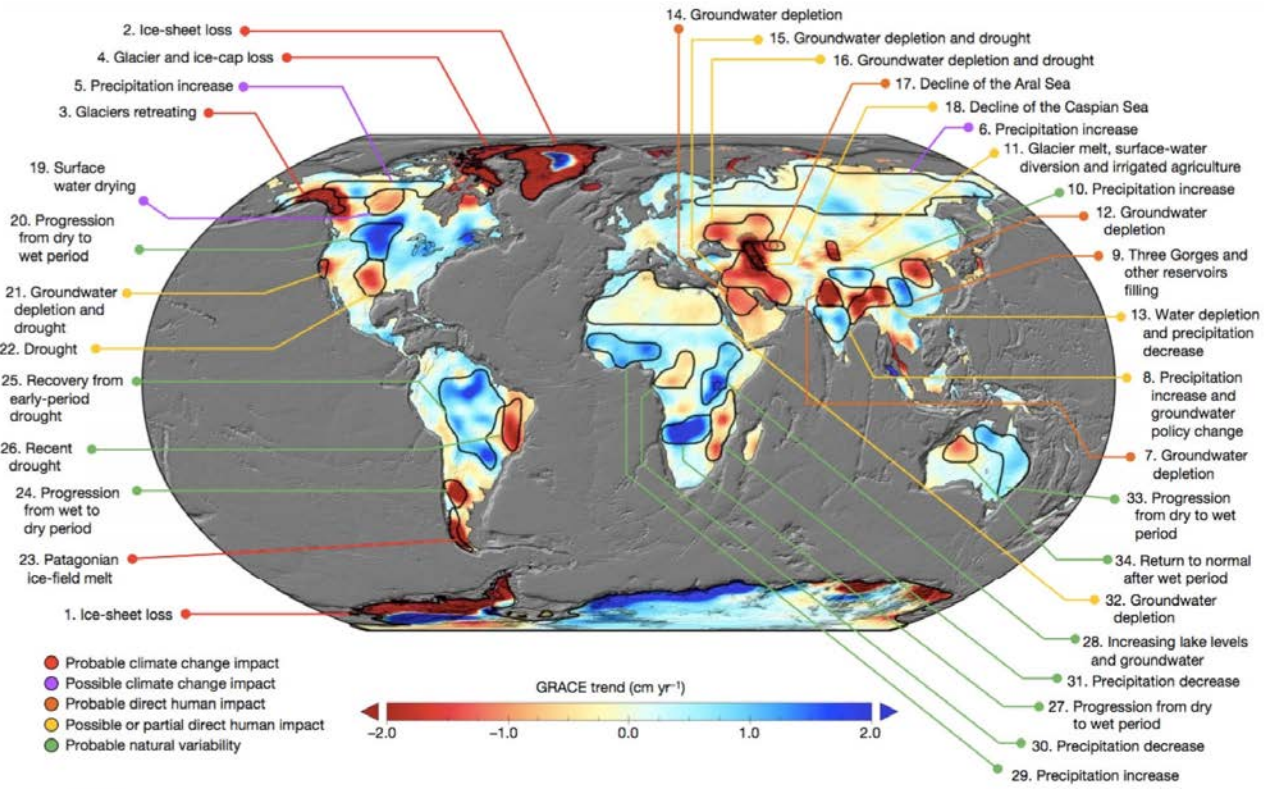
Many Threats
to
Groundwater
from PFAS
Uses.



- Direct release of PFAS or PFAS products into the environment
 - Use of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) in training and emergency response
 - Release from industrial facility
- Chrome plating and etching facilities
- Landfills and leachates from disposal of consumer and industrial products containing PFAS
- Wastewater treatment effluent and land application of biosolids

Global Problems: PFAS Contamination is now one of them.

“Our future challenges could not be more clear from looking at this map.”



Rodell et al, 2018

CS T. Support us today and receive this limited edition Grist sticker!

What is Aqueous Film Forming Foam?

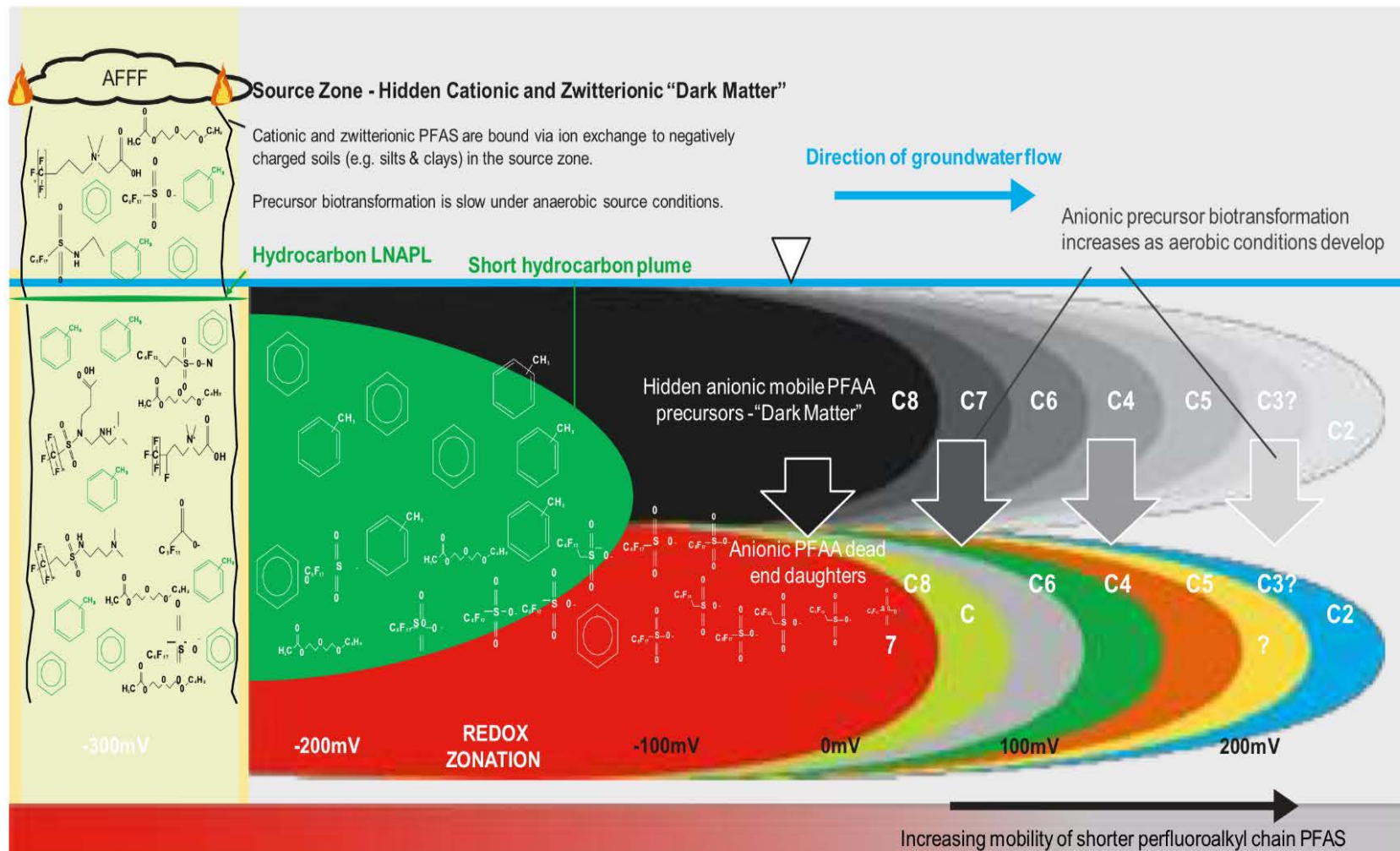
AFFF



A man walks through Aqueous Film-Forming Foam after a test of the sprinkler systems aboard the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, May 19, 2010. Photo: U.S. Navy

Conceptual Models of AFFF Sites show us what we should be looking for at the leading edges of the plumes.

Conceptual Site Model of a Fire Training Area





Groundwater Sampling

This is a huge Contamination Problem for the DOD.

Component	Total Installations with known or suspected release of PFOS/PFOA (as of August 31, 2017)	Number of Installations Sampled where results exceeded EPA LHA (as of August 31, 2017)	Total number of groundwater wells sampled	Number of groundwater wells that tested above the EPA LHA
Army	64	9	258	104
Navy/USMC	127	40	1,368	784
Air Force	203	39	1,022	719
DLA	7	2	20	14
Total	401	90	2,668	1,621

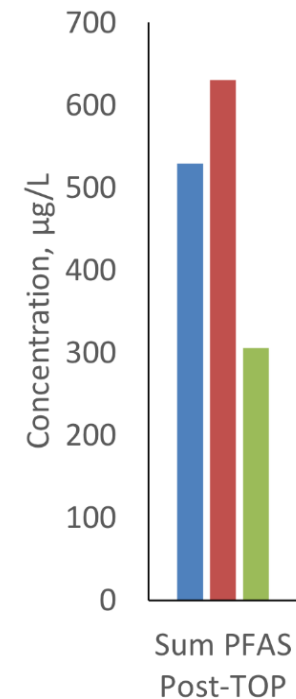
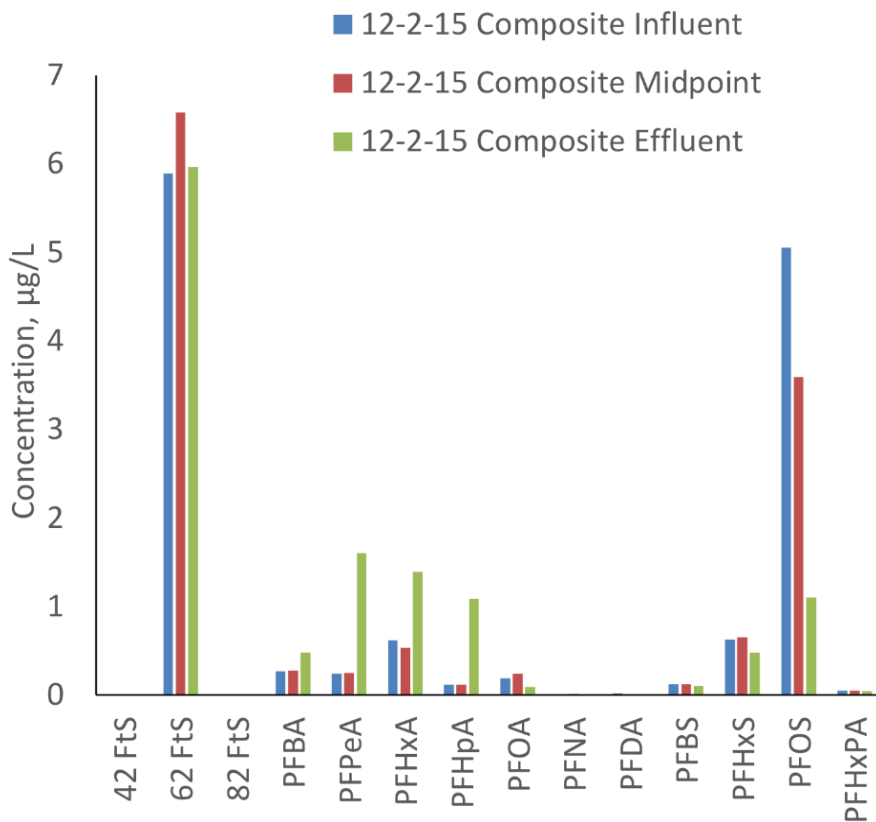
Testing: You only find what you look for.
 Message: Look for everything you can find with existing methods.

	ng/L	ng/L
4:2 FtTAoS	990	210
6:2 FtTAoS	53,000	6,900
4:2 FtS	230	7,500
6:2 FtS	5,700	220,000
8:2 FtS	11,000	370
PFBS*	64,000	43,000
PFPeS	49,000	NA
PFHxS*	380,000	240,000
PFHpS	60,000	11,000
PFOS*	1,100,000	78,000
PFNS	3,000	NA
PFDS	<LOD	<LOD
PFBA	6,100	24,000
PFPeA	39,000	69,000
PFHxA*	27,000	130,000
PFHpA*	55,000	15,000
PFOA*	63,000	51,000
PFNA*	1,000	220
PFDA*	290	<LOD

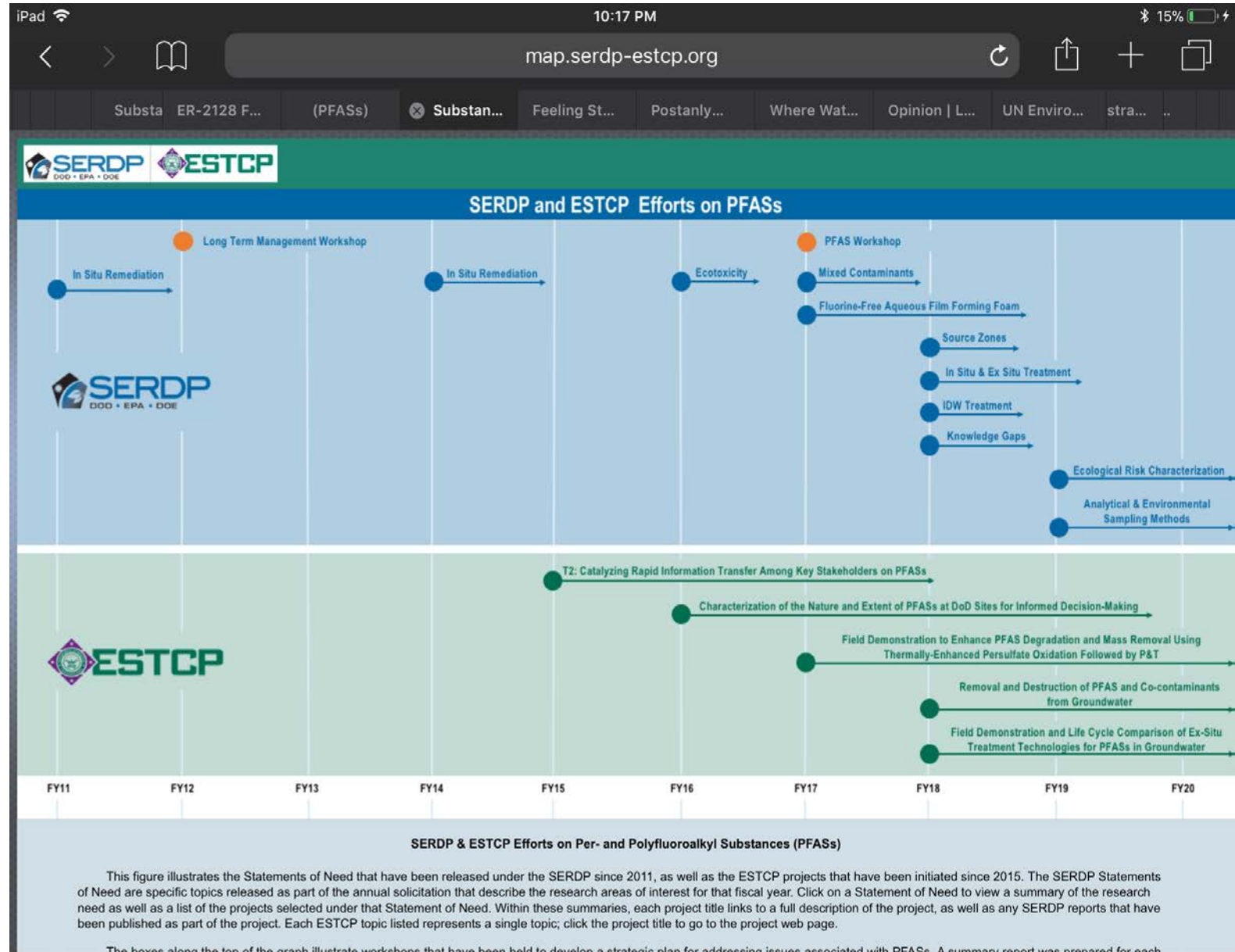
Directly Measured Analytes vs. Post-TOP Assay Total PFAS Mass

Most PFAS Mass is Missed with the Current Test Method.

~95-98% of PFAS mass is not directly measured by target analyte list



There is a Research Agenda for PFAS by DOD/DOE



Common Consumer Products Contain PFAS Chemicals

Perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS)

Kemi.se › se › substance-groups › perflu...

May 17, 2017 · PFOS has been used in the past in cleaning products, in fire fighting foams and as an ... attention has been drawn to PFOS in connection with a major manufacturer, 3M, having decided to phase out its ...

Shop for cleaning products containing PFOS

Sponsored ⓘ



Clorox Bleach -
121oz, Cleaners a...

\$3.99

Target

★★★★★ (6k+)



Lysol Toilet Bowl
Cleaner - 32 oz...

\$20.60

ULINE



Bar Keeper's Friend
Spray And Foam...

\$4.99

Bed Bath & Beyond

★★★★★ (58)



Certol International
USA/128-1 Muriati...

\$9.99

Google Express



Store pickup

Tsp All Purpose
Heavy Duty Clean...

\$3.98

Lowe's

★★★★★ (98)



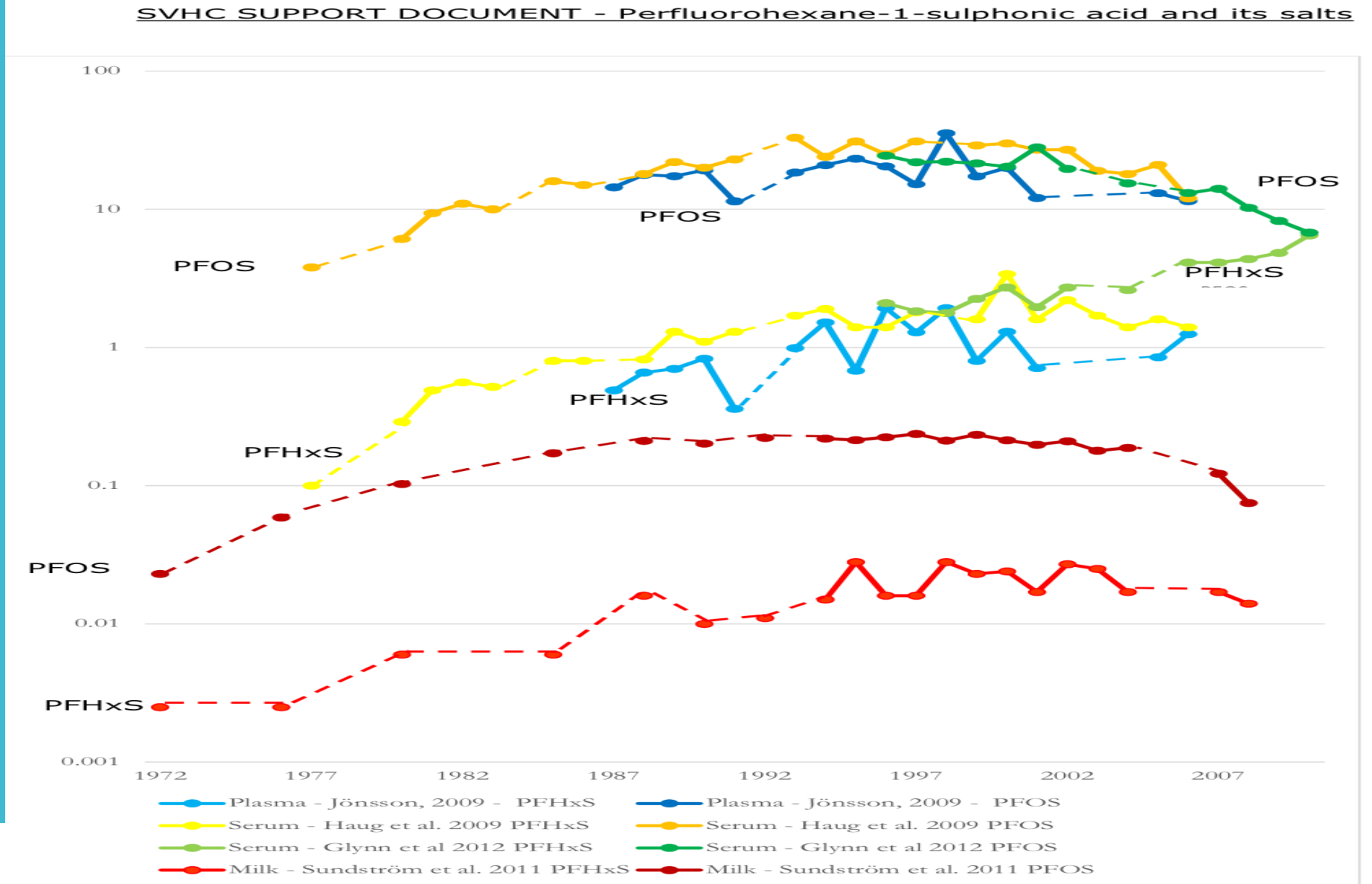
View

Drinking Water With PFAS Contamination Raises Your PFAS Body Burden by 29- 38%..



This study compared detection of perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs) in public drinking water with PFAA serum concentrations for 1566 California women. PFAA occurrence in drinking water from U.S. EPA's third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) database was linked by residential zip code to study participants. Detectable water concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) ranged from 0.020 to 0.053 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) from 0.041 to 0.156 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Forty percent of detectable concentrations exceeded the 2016 Health Advisory Level of 0.07 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for combined PFOA and PFOS concentrations. Serum concentrations of PFOS and PFOA significantly differed between participants with and without detectable measures of these compounds in water (Wilcoxon $P \leq 0.0007$). Median serum concentrations of PFOS and PFOA were 29% and 38% higher, respectively, among those with detectable levels in water compared to those without detectable levels. Validation of this approach and replication of these results in other study populations are warranted.

Plasma,
Serum, and
Breastmilk all
have some
PFAS
Chemicals in
them.



8. Concentrations of PFHxS and PFOS in human plasma, serum and milk. Data from Haug *et al.* 2009, Jönsson 2009, Sundström *et al.* 2011, and Glynn *et al.* 2012.

Polar Bears are Impacted: More PFAS in polar bears than PCBs, Dioxin, PBDEs, and Mercury Combined



PFHxS and PFOS In the Polar Bears and Seals of the Arctic

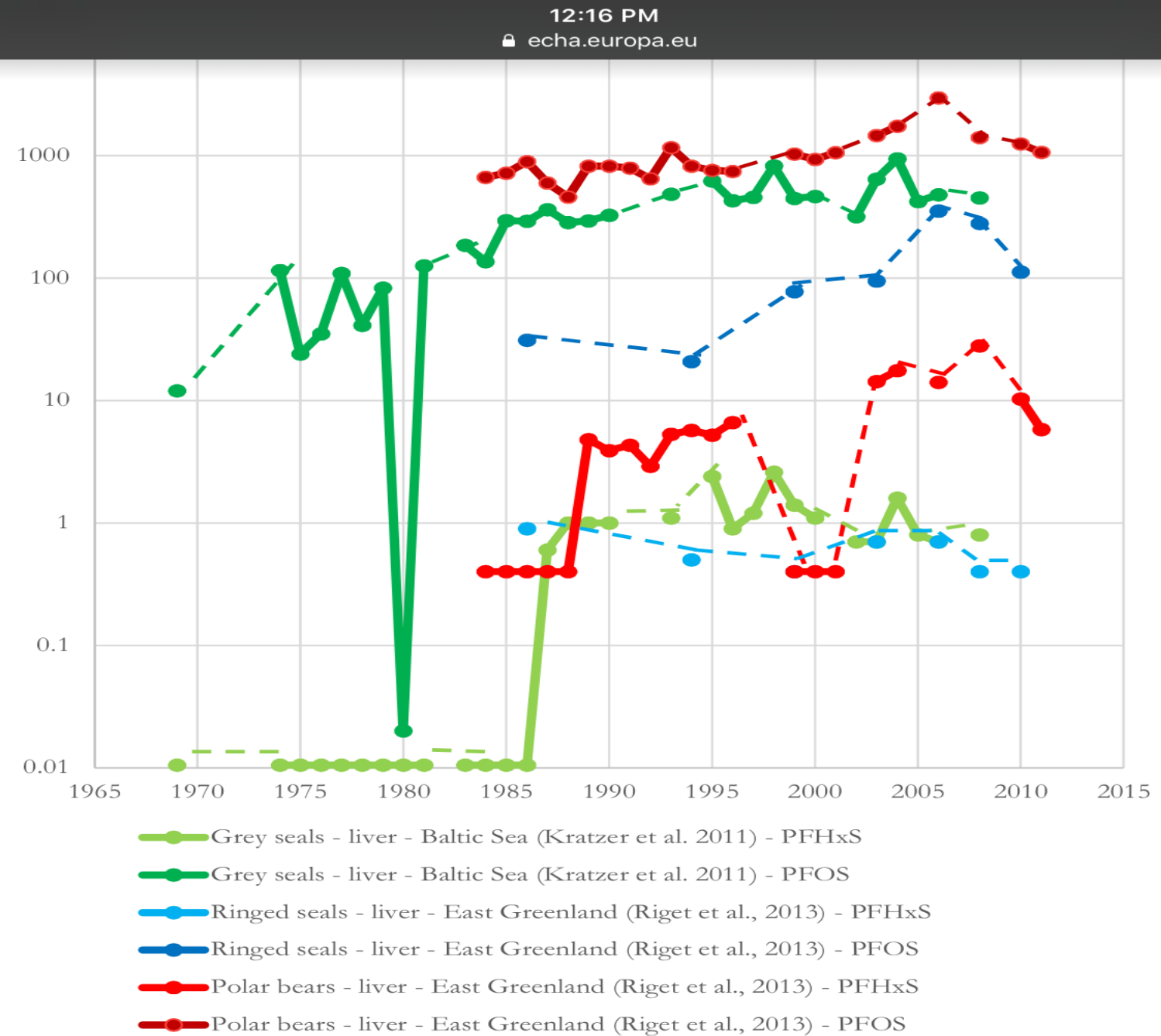


Figure 4. Concentrations of PFHxS and PFOS in seals and polar bears. Data from Kratzer *et al.*

How do PFAS Move Through the Environment?

Environmental Fate and Transport for PFAS and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances *continued*

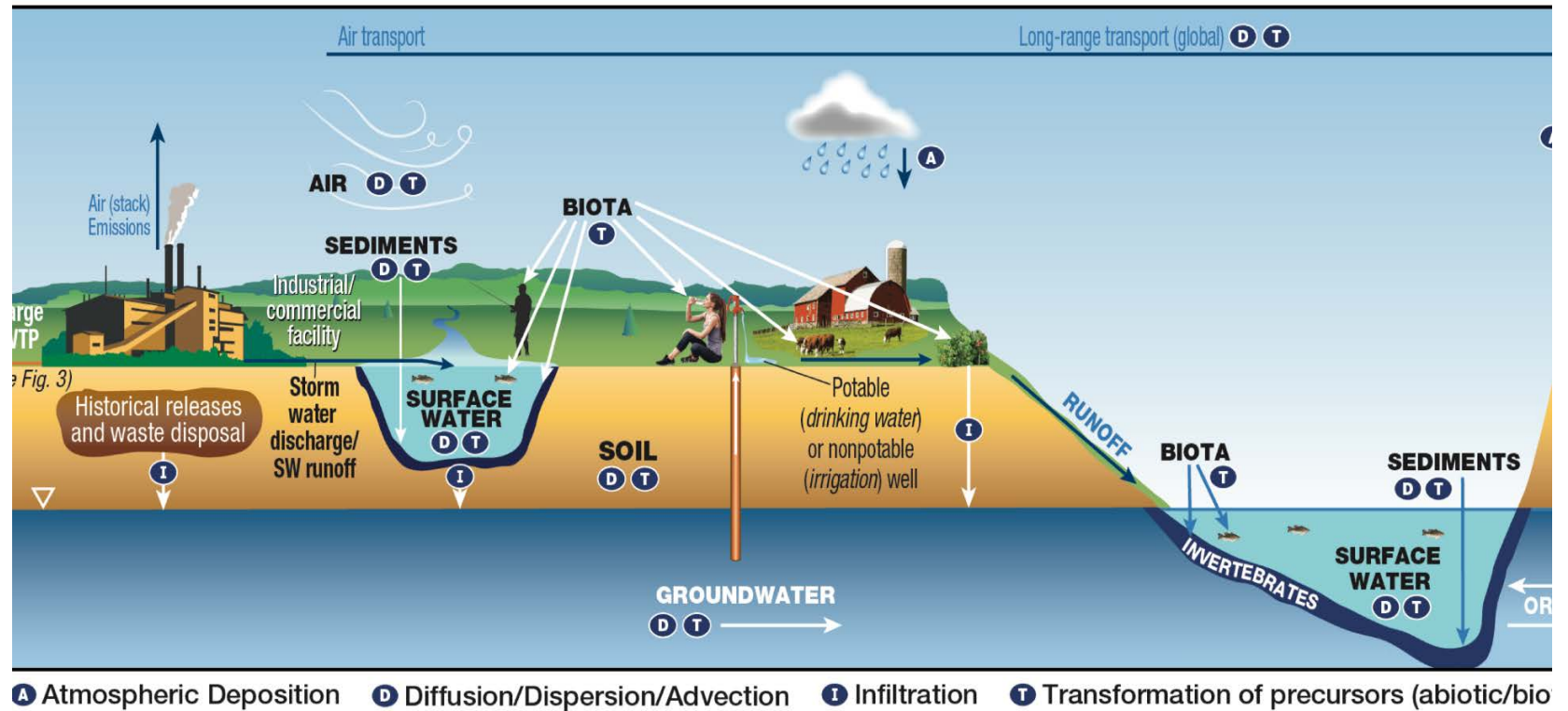


Figure 2. Conceptual site model for industrial sites.

(Source: Adapted from figure by L. Trozzolo, TRC, used with permission)

AFFF is also an occupational exposure hazard with firefighters the most exposed.



PFAS are a group of chemicals that pose significant threats to human health, including pregnancy complications and cancer. They can be found in many water supplies, but have recently been found in alarming amounts at US military bases, due in part to the military's heavy use of PFAS-containing fire-fighting foam.

Fire fighter exposures should not be ignored when setting priorities for action.



Project: Firefighter Occupational Exposures (FOX) Project

- > Study Group: Firefighters
- > Sample Collection Date: 2010 to 2011

Chemical measured	Indicates exposure to	Units	Number of people tested	Geometric mean	95% Confidence Interval		Selected Percentiles				Detection frequency	Limit of detection (LOD)
					Lower	Upper	25th	50th	75th	95th		
Et-PFOA-AcOH	EtPFOAAcOH	ng/mL	101	0.016	0.014	0.018	<LOD	0.016	0.023	0.060	65.3%	0.011
Me-PFOA-AcOH	MePFOAAcOH	ng/mL	101	0.16	0.13	0.18	0.086	0.14	0.24	0.61	100%	0.013
PFBuS	PFBuS	ng/mL	101	*	*	*	<LOD	<LOD	<LOD	0.020	6.9%	0.02
PFDeA	PFDeA	ng/mL	101	0.899	0.783	1.03	0.512	0.721	1.72	2.63	100%	0.032
PFDoA	PFDoA	ng/mL	101	*	*	*	<LOD	<LOD	<LOD	<LOD	0%	0.040
PFHpA	PFHpA	ng/mL	101	0.13	0.11	0.15	0.06	0.12	0.22	0.63	75.2%	0.059
PFHxS	PFHxS	ng/mL	101	2.26	2	2.54	1.61	2.27	3.13	4.64	100%	0.012
PFNA	PFNA	ng/mL	101	1.15	1.06	1.25	0.888	1.13	1.49	2.21	100%	0.075
PFOA	PFOA	ng/mL	101	3.75	3.37	4.17	2.96	3.86	4.89	9.54	100%	0.301
PFOS	PFOS	ng/mL	101	12.5	11.3	13.8	10.1	12.7	16.8	24.7	100%	0.083
PFOSA	PFOSA	ng/mL	101	0.032	0.027	0.037	0.019	0.029	0.050	0.151	95.0%	0.009
PFUA	PFUA	ng/mL	101	0.24	0.21	0.27	0.17	0.26	0.37	0.53	100%	0.010

We need a
state strategy
that looks at all
PFAS
Chemicals.

Why should we care about PFASs other than PFOS/PFOA?

- Many PFASs are used in AFFF and other products and identified in groundwater, sediments and soil, but won't be on 'lists' anytime soon.
 - Toxicity data and analytical standards exist for some but not all PFASs. Analytical methods (ideally, multilab validated methods) are also needed.
- Treating drinking water sources require knowledge of target contaminants (consider all PFASs as well as other chemicals present onsite) when identifying appropriate treatment technology
 - EPA 2016 Health Advisories for PFOS¹ and PFOA² have good info on treatment
 - Short-chain PFASs exhibit early breakthrough on GAC, limited removal by conventional ion exchange^{3,4}

Unfortunately “non-stick” chemicals breakthrough granular activated carbon.

e 1:

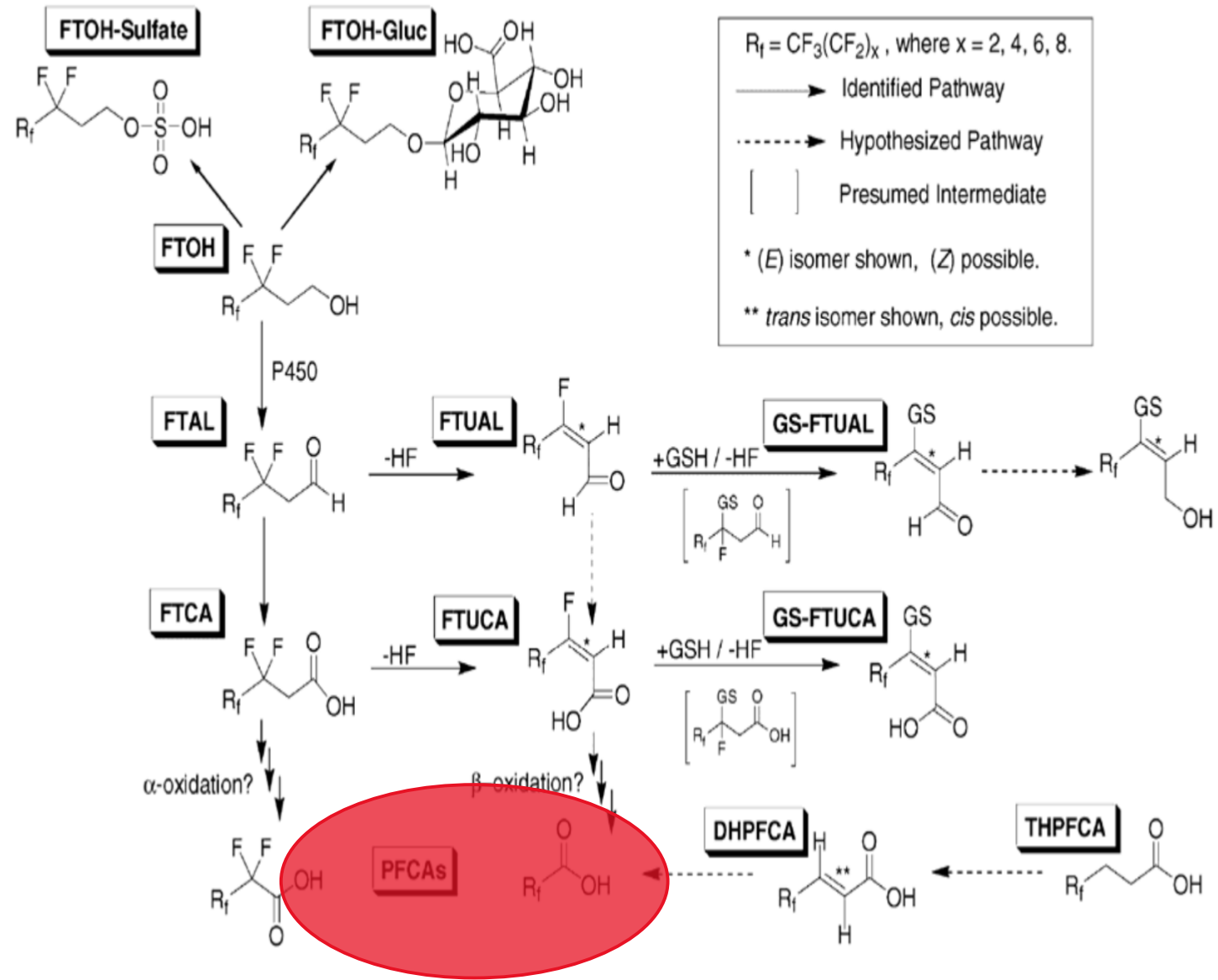
pilot test analytical results for ion exchange resin (IX-EFF-1) and granular activated carbon (GAC-EFF-1) after approximately 44,000 gallons treated

Target Analyte	Unit
6:2 Fluorotelomer sulfonate	ug/L
8:2 Fluorotelomer sulfonate	ug/L
N-ethylperfluorooctane sulfonamide	ug/L
N-ethylperfluorooctane sulfonamide	ug/L
N-methylperfluorooctane sulfonamide	ug/L
N-methylperfluorooctanesulfonamidol	ug/L
Perfluorobutane Sulfonate (PFBS)	ug/L
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	ug/L
Perfluorodecane Sulfonate (PFDoS)	ug/L
Perfluorodecanoic Acid (PFDA)	ug/L
Perfluorododecanoic Acid (PFDoA)	ug/L
Perfluoroheptane sulfonate (PFHpS)	ug/L
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHpA)	ug/L
Perfluorohexane Sulfonate (PFHxS)	ug/L
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)	ug/L
Perfluoro-n-Octanoic Acid (PFOA) - EPA PHA = 0.40 ug/L	ug/L
Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA)	ug/L
Perfluorooctane Sulfonamide (PFOSA)	ug/L
Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) - EPA PHA = 0.20 ug/L	ug/L
Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA)	ug/L
Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid	ug/L
Perfluorotridecanoic Acid	ug/L
Perfluoroundecanoic Acid (PFUnA)	ug/L
TOTAL DETECTED PFCs	ug/L

~44,394 gal Treated		
INF _{AVG}	IX-EFF-1	% Leakage
19	0.75	4.1%
0.26	0.0055 U	
0.053 U	0.0053 U	
0.049 U	0.0049 U	
0.040 U	0.0040 U	
0.061 U	0.0061 U	
1.1	0.0019 U	0.2%
1.1	0.83	73.2%
0.043 U	0.0043 U	
0.066 U	0.0066 U	
0.057 U	0.0057 U	
1.2	0.0036 U	0.3%
1.8	0.012 J	0.7%
21.7	0.0040 U	
7.2	0.25	3.5%
11.0	0.015 J	0.1%
0.059 J	0.0046 U	
0.058 U	0.0058 U	
25.7	0.0033 U	
4.0	0.54	13.4%
0.052 U	0.0052 U	
0.032 U	0.0032 U	
0.037 U	0.0037 U	
93.6	2.4	2.6%

~43,520 gal Treated		
INF _{AVG}	GAC-EFF-1	% Leakage
17.7	3.9	22.0%
0.24	0.025	10.5%
0.053 U	0.0053 U	
0.049 U	0.0049 U	
0.040 U	0.0040 U	
0.061 U	0.0061 U	
1.1	0.45	42.4%
1.3	1.3	103.4%
0.043 U	0.0043 U	
0.066 U	0.0066 U	
0.057 U	0.0057 U	
1.2	0.18	15.6%
1.8	0.81	45.4%
21.9	5.0	22.9%
7.3	4.4	60.5%
10.6	3.3	31.0%
0.064 J	0.010 J	
0.058 U	0.0058 U	
27.0	3.1	11.5%
4.2	3.3	79.1%
0.052 U	0.0052 U	
0.032 U	0.0032 U	
0.037 U	0.0037 U	
94.2	25.8	27.4%

PFAS Precursors Breakdown into the most Toxic Congener.



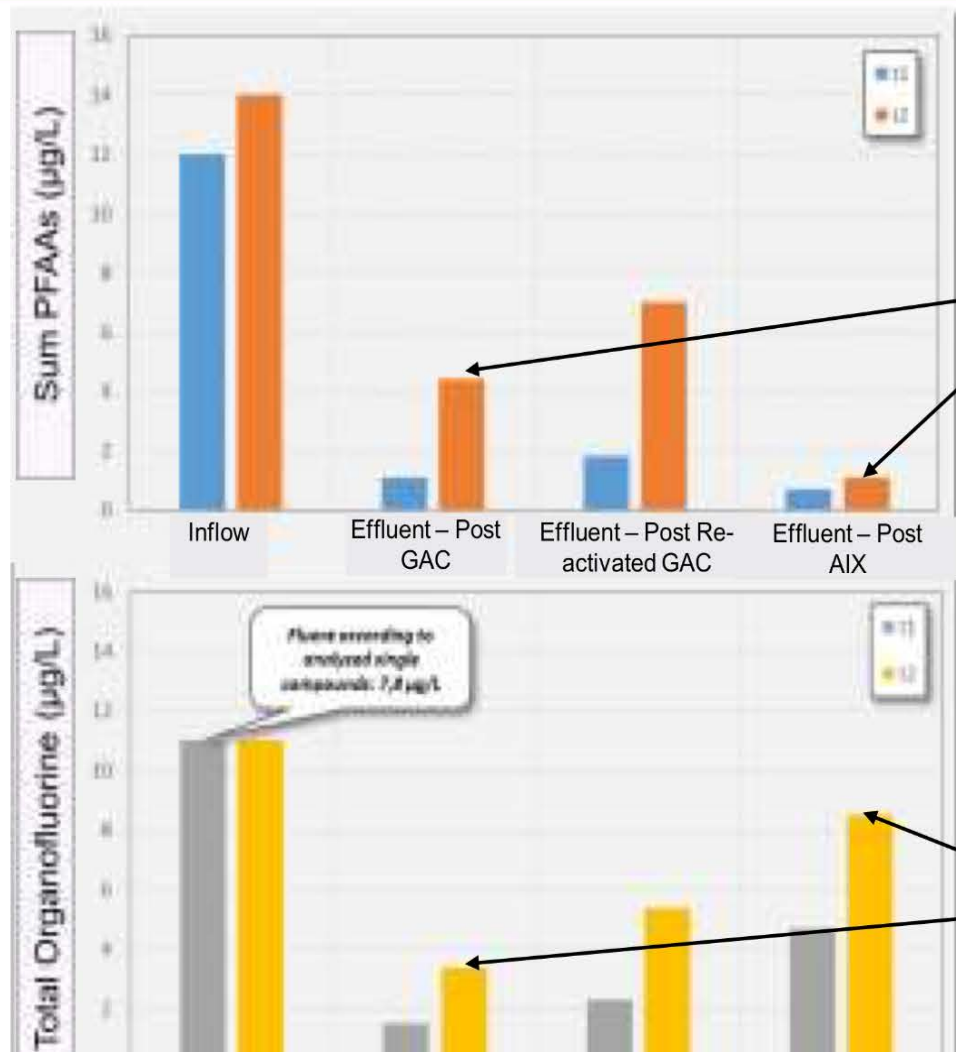
Complete PFAS Treatment technologies will be on the most expensive end of the scale.

Table 3. Summary of PFAS removals for various treatment processes.

Compound	M.W. (g/mol)	Removal:			AIX	GAC	NF	RO	MnO ₄ , O ₃ , ClO ₂ , Cl ₂ , CLM, UV, UV-AOP
		<10%	10-90%	> 90%					
		AER	COAG/DAF	COAG/FLOC/SED/G- or M-FIL					
PFBA	214	assumed	assumed						
PFPeA	264								
PFHxA	314								
PFHpA	364								
PFOA	414								
PFNA	464		unknown		assumed	assumed			
PFDA	514		unknown		assumed	assumed			
PFBS	300								
PFHxS	400								
PFOS	500								
FOSA	499	unknown	unknown		unknown	assumed	unknown	assumed	unknown
N-MeFOSAA	571	assumed	unknown		assumed	assumed	assumed		unknown
N-EtFOSAA	585		unknown		assumed	assumed	assumed		unknown ^a

Unfortunately,
Not all PFAS
are Treated
Effectively
with the Same
Treatment
Systems.

PFAAs sorbed better to anionic exchange resins (AIX) PFAA Precursors sorbed better to GAC



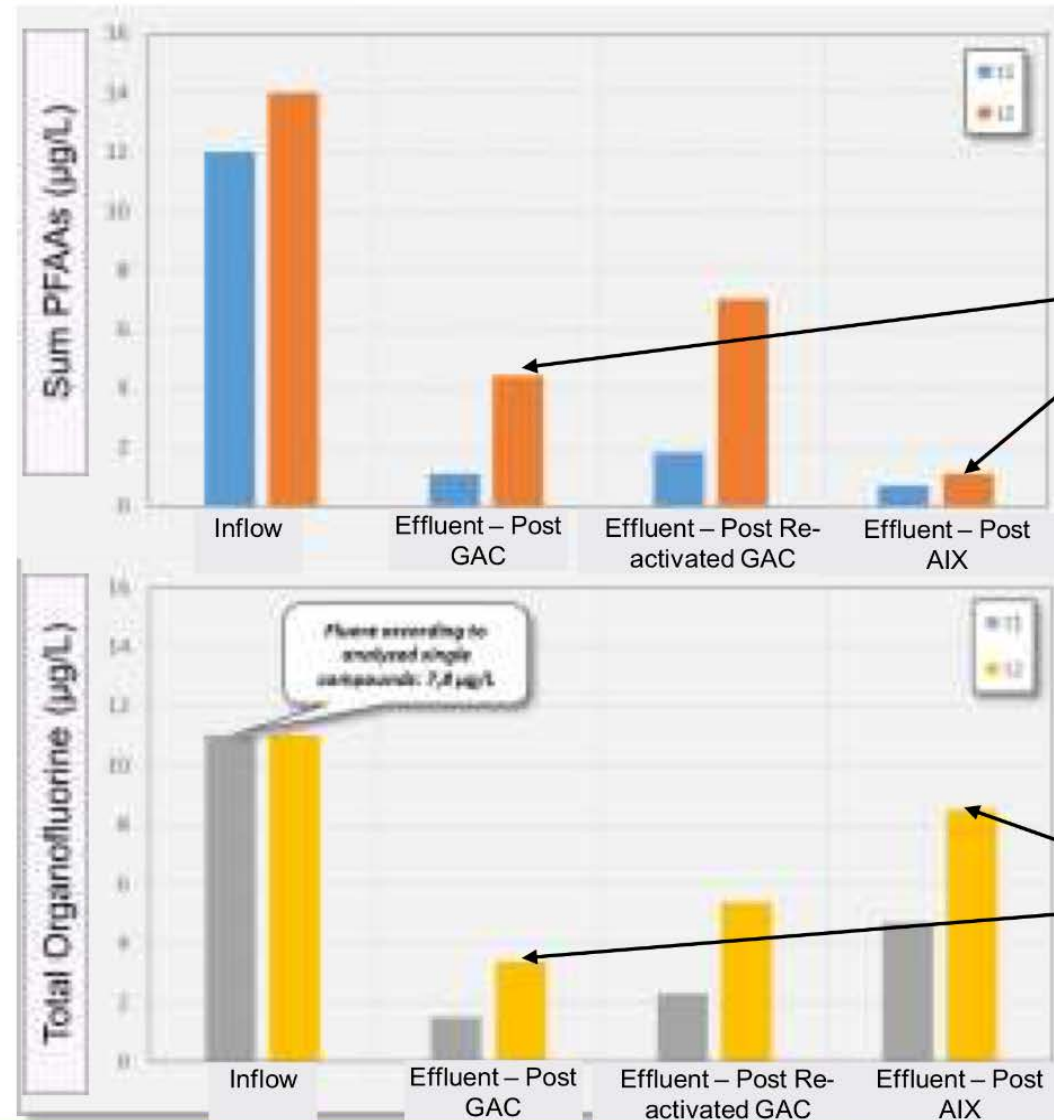
t1 ~ 2 weeks
t2 ~ 4 weeks

Faster breakthrough of PFAAs with GAC than AIX

Total organofluorine (i.e. PFAAs + PFAA precursors) show that total PFAS has faster breakthrough with AIX

PFAAs sorbed better to anionic exchange resins (AIX) PFAA Precursors sorbed better to GAC

PFAS
Precursors like
GAC.
PFAAs like
Anion
Exchange
Resins.



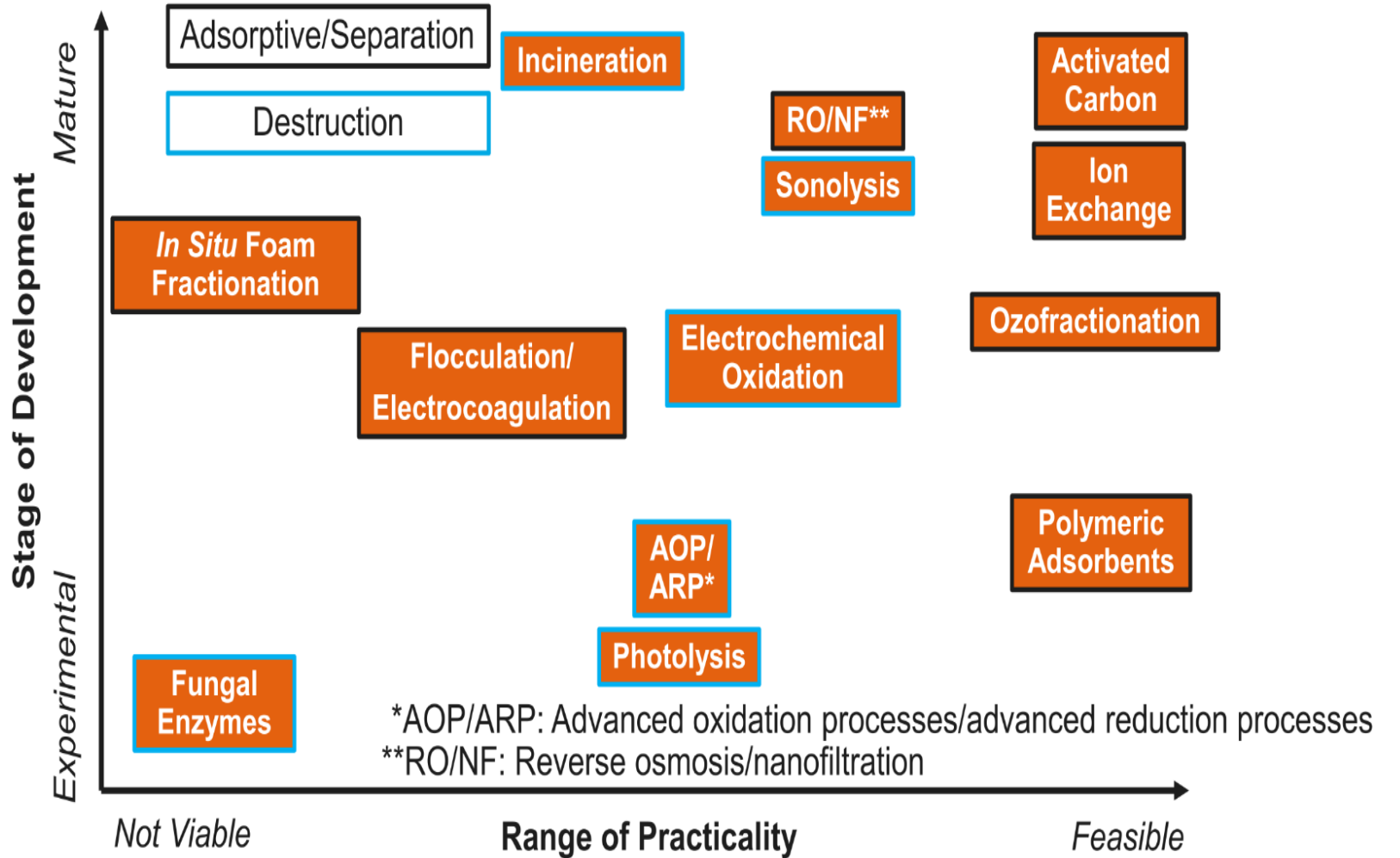
t1 ~ 2 weeks
t2 ~ 4 weeks

Faster breakthrough
PFAAs with GAC than
AIX

Total organofluorine
(i.e. PFAAs + PFAA
precursors) show that
total PFAS has faster
breakthrough with AIX

Range of Practicality for PFAS Treatment Technologies

PFAS Treatment Technologies for Water



FAS treatment technologies for water

Sweden is
Regulating
a Sum of 11
PFAS
Chemicals in
Water At
90 ng/L.

Today, there exists an action limit for the sum of 11 PFAS compounds in drinking water of 90 ng/L in Sweden, provided by the National Food Agency (Livsmedelsverket [2016](#)), including: perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS), perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS), PFOS, 6:2 fluorotelomer sulfonic acid (6:2 FTSA), perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA), perfluoro-n-pentanoic acid (PFPeA), perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), PFOA, perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). This action limit is based on a potential risk for human health coming from PFASs in drinking water, for details see Livsmedelsverket ([2014a](#)). If concentrations of these 11 compounds are higher than the action limit, measures need to be taken in order to reduce them. Until

PFAS Levels in Human Plasma, Serum, and Breast Milk

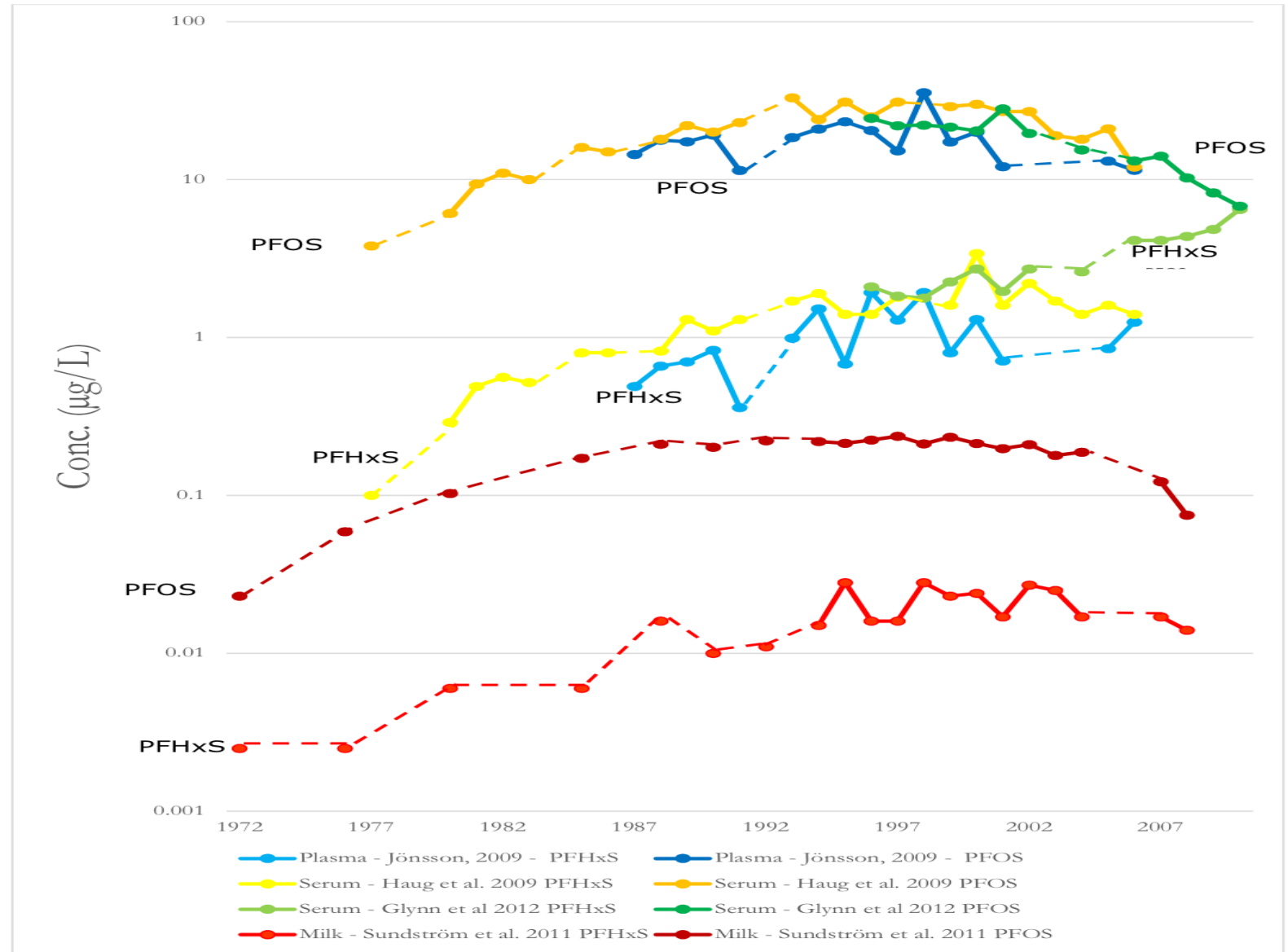


Figure 8. Concentrations of PFHxS and PFOS in human plasma, serum and milk. Data from Haug *et al.* 2009, Jönsson 2009, Sundström *et al.* 2011, and Glynn *et al.* 2012.

How are other States Setting Drinking Water Standards?

States With Numerical PFAS Limits

Washington

- Banned in firefighting foam and food packaging
- Proposed drinking water standard



Vermont

- 20 PPT (PFAS)
- Drinking water health advisory for 5 PFAS

Massachusetts

- 70 PPT (PFAS)
- State guidance for concentrations of 5 PFAS in drinking water

New Jersey

- Set PFNA standard at 13 ppt
- Weighing proposed standards for:
PFOA at 14 ppt
PFOS at 13 ppt

California

- 14 PPT (PFOA)
- 13 PPT (PFOS)
- Drinking water notification guidance

Colorado

- PFOA/PFAS listed as hazardous waste
- 70 PPT (Combined PFOA/PFOS)
- Groundwater quality standard for El Paso County only

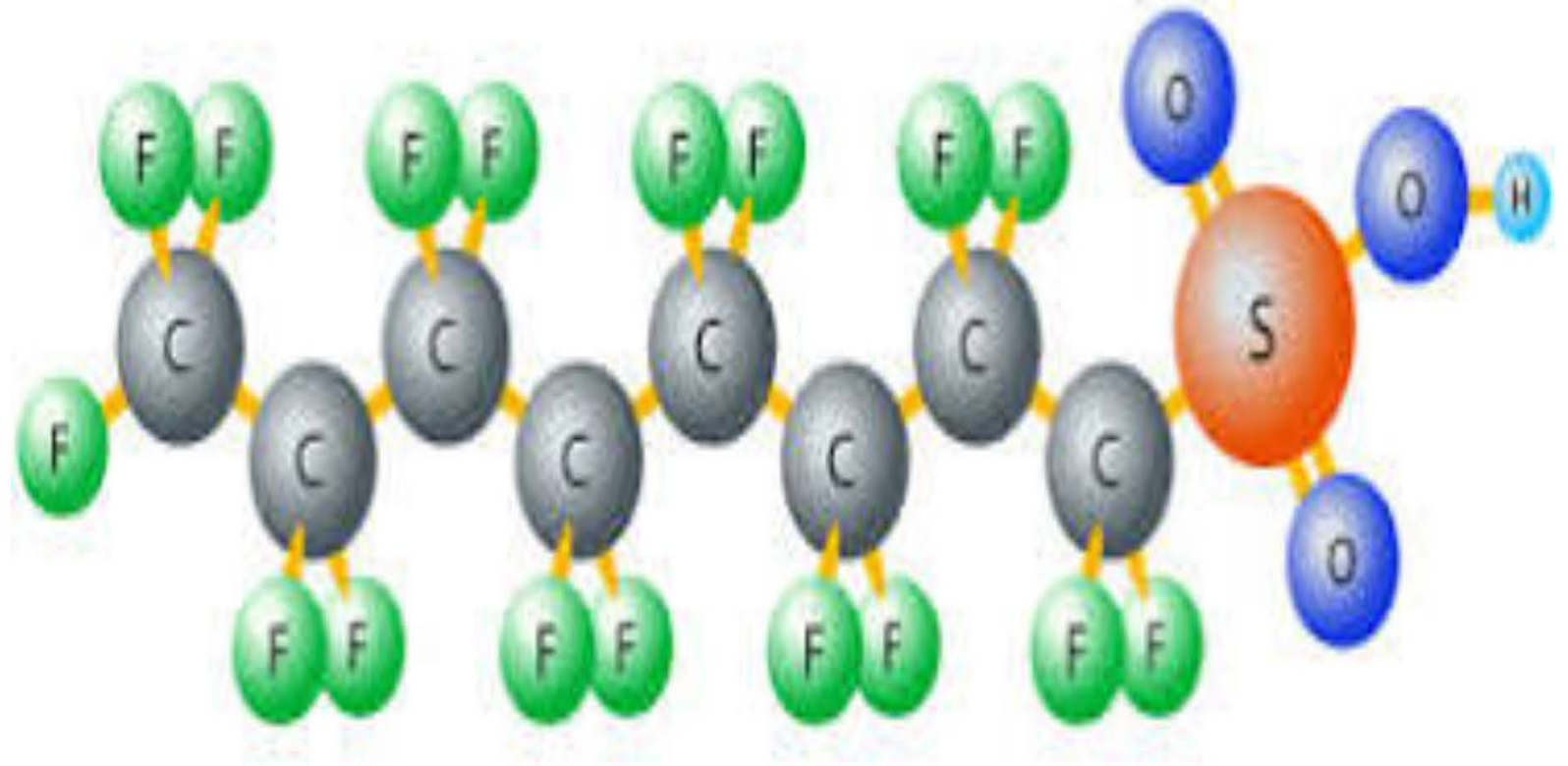
Minnesota

- 35 PPT (PFOA)
- 27 PPT (PFOS)
- Health-based guidance values

Michigan

- 70 PPT (Combined PFOA/PFOS)
- State standard for concentrations in drinking water

EPA has approved over 600 NEW PFAS Chemicals for Use since 2006.



The elements
of a
Rational,
Comprehensive
Action
Plan for
Chemicals
Used in
Commerce

- **Cradle to Grave Regulation would include:**
- **Pre-Market Review of Chemicals PRIOR to Manufacture for Toxicity, Transport, and Fate**
- **Protections for Society's Most Vulnerable**
- **A Comprehensive Monitoring Plan for Each Chemical Used to Insure No Release Occurs**
- **A Technological Plan for Destruction**

Pandora's Box is Already Opened: What Now?

- The Plan Now Would:
- Seek to reduce exposure immediately, especially to the most vulnerable.
- Seek to prevent further releases from future actions
- Seek to prevent media transfer from the regulated media to the unregulated media.
- Seek better analytics in the near term, and seek to know the “whole problem” at some definite point in the future.
- Seek an ultimate destruction (not disposal) technology that will break the chemicals apart.

So what do We do?

- We need to use the best analytics we have now and generate occurrence data for drinking water....NOW.
- We need to push the analytics for a total PFAS Assay for all media using our unique state authorities in AB 289.
- We need an exposure reduction strategy that focuses on dramatic exposure reduction measures in the near term: food sources, drinking water, and home and personal care products.

What we do
now....
Continued.

- We need to use our relationship with the National Academy of Sciences to help identify destruction technologies.
- We need to identify remediation technologies for drinking water, and destruction technologies for their residuals.
- We need to stop the flow of these highly toxic chemicals which are also very soluble into our state.

California
Needs a
Comprehensive
Plan on PFAS to
Protect it's
Residents and
Resources.

