



Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
31 March – 4 April, 2003

# THE STRESSOR IDENTIFICATION (SI) PROCESS

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## Course Presenters and Contributors

Susan Cormier, Susan Norton, Glenn Suter II, Jeff Varricchione,  
Charlie Holderman, Trish MacPherson, Darren Brandt, Chris Bellucci



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# *Introduction & Expectations for the Day*

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*Presented by*  
Susan Cormier, USEPA,  
Office of Research & Development

# Stressor Identification 101

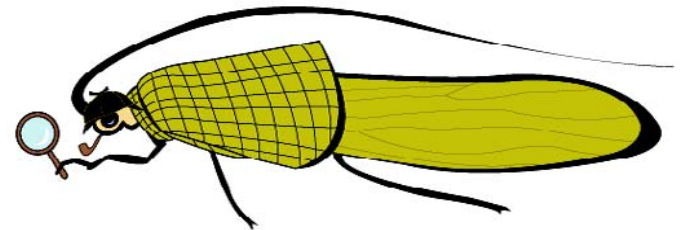
## What it says in the Workshop Agenda:

- This course will cover the principles of the stressor identification process, which is used when unknown causes of biological impairment are encountered and when it is necessary to convince a skeptical audience.

# Stressor Identification 101

## What we really want to do

- Turn you into *SI Super Sleuths* who
  - Develop credible lists of suspects
  - Collect irrefutable evidence
  - Bowl over skeptics with
    - Iron clad cases
    - Transparent presentations
    - Sound science



# So, how we gonna do that?

- Remind you about the philosophy of scientific inquiry
- Show you a formal method with an example
- Challenge you with mystery cases
- Show you that others have already succeeded

# Who are your trusted guides?

## USEPA ORD

Susan Cormier, Glenn Suter II, Susan Norton

## State Agencies

Jeff Varricchione, Maine

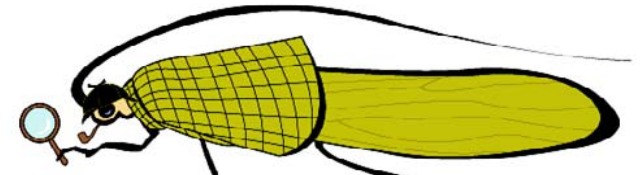
Charlie Holderman, Kootenai Tribe

Trish MacPherson, North Carolina

Darren Brandt, Idaho

Chris Bellucci, Connecticut

# Outline for Stressor Identification 101



8:00 Expectations for the Day

8:15 Why a Formal Method for Causal Evaluation?

8:45 Step by Step through Causal Evaluation

10:00 Break with Challenge

1. Identify Causal Considerations: Arkansas River

10:15 Classic Ecological Causal Analyses

2. Discussion and Scoring: Arkansas River
3. Convincing Stakeholders: Lake Washington
4. Value of Specific Impairment: DDT

*Small  
Groups*

10:45 Classic in the Making

5. Listing Candidate Causes: Kootenai River

11:00 Examples from States Maine, Idaho, Connecticut

11:30 Discussion

**Hands on Exercises**