

Taxonomic Consistency - Algae

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Reasons for Taxonomic Consistency

- High taxonomic resolution – accurate ecological assessments
- Comparability of datasets
 - Within and among geographical regions
 - Temporal trends
 - Application of metrics developed in one to another
- Combine datasets – calculate ecological data
- Minimize data management / analysis costs

Components of Taxonomic Consistency Efforts

- Common set of taxa names and ID codes
- Identification resources – books, websites
- Taxonomic guidelines – resolution, categories, undescribed taxa, lumping
- Standard data formats - counts, biovolumes
- QA/QC – counts, assessment, resolution, metrics

Components cont'd

- Image documentation – storage and display
- Means to update taxonomy / data over time
- Slide and sample archive – to resolve issues
- Taxonomic workshops / communications

- Taxa name website

Diatom.ansp.org

Recommendations

- Agencies need to support development of national-scale taxa name and identification resources. Think long-term.
- Coordination of agency efforts important; continue recent USGS / EPA planning
- Need standard sets of taxonomic guidelines and formats; vary by type / scale of project
- Useful if grants and contracts specify taxa names, ID codes, and data formats

Websites

- Taxa names
 - Diatom.ansp.org
- Diatoms of the United States