In a two year feeding study of malathion to rats, female rats developed liver tumors at all tested doses ranging from 2.4 to 817 mg/k/g/day. In an 18 month feeding study of mice, an increased incidence of liver tumors was observed in the female mice fed the highest doses of malathion, 1707 and 3448 mg.kg/day (USEPA, 2000c). The conclusion drawn by USEPA to both studies is that liver tumors only occurred at excessive doses in these animals (National Pesticide Telecommunications Network, 2001). USEPA has dassified malathion as having suggestive evidence of carcinogenicity, but not sufficient to assess human carcinogenic potential (USEPA, 2000c). IARC has categorized malathion as unclassifiable as to carcinogenicity in humans (http://monographs.iarc.fr/monoeval/crthall.html). A more recent study found that subcutaneous or intraperitoneal injections of malathion resulted in the formation of mammary tumors in rats. The results of this study prompted the authors to propose that alterations at the nervous system level, as caused by exposure to malathion, may alter the molecular pathways that initiate cellular proliferation leading to mammary carcinogenesis (Cabello et al., 2001). Follow-up work by these researchers have shown that malathion, when tested in breast cancer cell studies, is capable of altering cell proliferation and transformation (Cabello et al., 2003)

Malaoxon is a cholinesterase inhibitor that is metabolite of malathion. In a feeding study of this chemical in rats, malaoxon was not found to be carcinogenic. USEPA has determined that there is no evidence of carcinogenicity in male or female rats (USEPA, 2000c).

## **Hormonal Activity**

Many breast cancer risk factors are hormone related. Epidemiologic and laboratory studies have implicated both exogenous (originating outside the body) and endogenous (produced within the body) sources of estrogen in the etiology of breast cancer. Thus, evidence of hormonal activity associated with any of the pesticides under consideration is included in this review.

The estrogenic potential (the ability to act like the hormone, estrogen) of certain pyrethroids has been evaluated in several ways. Using MCF-7 human breast carcinoma cell lines, sumithrin, fenvalerate, d-trans-allethrin, and permethrin were tested for hormone disruption. All demonstrated an ability to influence several cellular pathways, although not necessarily the same pathway (Go et al., 1999). Testing these same four pyrethroids in two other cell lines resulted in significant estrogenic activity identified for fenvalerate and sumithrin; however, none blocked the action of estrogen (that is, demonstrated estrogen antagonism) or acted as the steroid hormone, progesterone (Garey and Wolff, 1998). Similarly, several pyrethroids, including permethrin and deltamethrin, were found to induce MCF-7 cell proliferation and inhibit binding of estradiol to the estrogen receptor. Inhibition of estrogen receptor binding of estradiol by a compound indicates that the compound may interfere with normal hormonal activity (Chen et al, 2002). Deltamethrin was found to cause weak, but significant, MCF-7 cell proliferation, however, no estrogen receptor activation was observed (Andersen et al., 2002). A lack of estrogen receptor activation indicates that the compound may not work in the same way as naturally occurring estrogen. In contrast, the estrogenic or anti-estrogenic activity of several pyrethroids (d-transallethrin, cypermithrin, empenthrin, fenvalerate, imiprothrin, permethrin, dphenothrin, and prallethrin) could not be demonstrated in a suite of in vitro assays based on human estrogen receptor alpha-mediated mechanisms (Saito et al., 2000). Similarly, in an in vivo test system used for the evaluation of endocrine disruptor activity, esfenvalerate, fenvalerate, and permethrin were not found to exert estrogenic, anti-androgenic, or adrogenic influences (Kunimatsu et al., 2002). Animal studies provide some evidence that exposure to pyrethroids may influence endocrine function, in that plasma testosterone levels were reduced in a rat feeding study of 39.66 mg/day of cypermethrin (Elbetieha et al., 2001) and decreased ovarian weight was observed in a study of female rats fed a daily dose of 23.98 mg fenpropathrin per kg (ATSDR, 2001). Thus, evidence both for and against the hormonal potential for pyrethroids can be found in the literature.

Among the remaining mosquito control pesticides under consideration, malathion was the only pesticide with any studies conducted for hormonal activity. An estrogenic potential evaluation of malathion in an E-screen, MCF-7 cell proliferation, and estrogen receptor binding tests found no estrogenic activity for this insecticide (Chen et al., 2002).

# **Epidemiological Links Between Breast Cancer and Pesticides Exposure**

Epidemiologic studies of breast cancer with measures of exposure to the specific insecticides under consideration, whether through biomarkers, records of pesticide use/application, or selfreport, have not been reported in the literature. The vast majority of epidemiologic studies conducted to date on specific insecticide exposure and breast cancer risk have focused on the organochlorine pesticides such as DDT, dieldrin and chlordane, or metabolites of these pesticides, such as the DDT metabolite DDE (dichlorodiphenyl dichloroethylene). However, the association between exposure to this family of pesticides and breast cancer risk is not relevant to this review, as the pyrethroids and malathion are not chemically or structurally similar in the least to these traditional organochlorine pesticides.

A large array of literature exists that assesses cancer incidence and pesticide exposure through occupation in industries such as agriculture or pesticide application. The majority of these studies have focused on men, due to the small proportion of women employed in these industries. When possible, many have included women in their study populations, and have assessed breast cancer as an outcome. However, the relevance of these studies is limited, as the specific identification of exposure to the particular mosquito control insecticides of interest is difficult, if not impossible, to infer. Although a job title of farmer or agricultural worker may mean that the study participant was exposed to pesticides on the job and may even provide some indication of the class of pesticides, there is a high likelihood that the person was exposed to many different pesticides, not a single product. Thus, use of this type of exposure determination prevents the identification of an association between specific pesticides and breast cancer. They can indicate whether the potential for such an association exists.

Nonetheless, this occupation-based literature is the only epidemiologic literature currently available for use in evaluating whether insecticides used for mosquito control may increase breast cancer risk. In sum, none of the 19 investigations reviewed (Table 7-32) found any significant increased risk of breast cancer incidence or increased breast cancer mortality associated with:

- working on a farm or in an agricultural industry
- being the spouse of a farmer
- being a resident of a farm
- holding a job as a pesticide applicator.

Many of these investigations suffer from a lack of control for potential confounding factors as well as potential exposure misclassification. Additionally, given the time periods covered by many of these studies, there is reduced potential for the pesticide exposures experienced by the study participants to be among the mosquito control pesticides that are being evaluated here. Even with these limitations, it is unlikely that any large or even moderate increases in risk are being obscured.

Study design and	Exposure	Measure of association	Variables adjusted for
			comountuning
Wiklund 1983	Female agricultural	O/E <sup>6</sup> 99% CI <sup>c</sup>	
Retrospective cohort	workers	0.81 (0.71-0.91)	Age and sex
- Sweden, Cancer-			
Environment registry			
- 354,228 involved in			
females			
follow up 1061 1073			
- 1010w-up 1901-1975			
Disen 1987	Agriculture, nunting,	SPIR <sup>1</sup> 95% CI	Age and calendar year
Population-based linkage	forestry and fishing	101 (80-118)	
Donmark			
- Definitiants			
- 10,405 cases in an			
diagnosed 1970-1979			
- 152 cases in agriculture:			
112 cases in electrical			
manufacturing			
Ewertz 1988	Women's occupation	OR <sup>f</sup>	Age place of residence parity
Population-based case-	Home, farming	Farmers used as reference	and both factors in table
control	8	category - all other occupations	
- Denmark	Husband's occupation	OR>1.00	
- 1694 cases diagnosed	Farming		
3/1/83-2/29/84, <70 years		Farmers used as reference	
- 1705 controls, age stratified		category - all other husband's	
sample		occupations OR>1.00 except	
		shop sales (OR=0.98)	
Kato 1990	Female agricultural	O/E p	
Standardized Proportional	workers	0.73 <0.01	Age according to age distribution
Ratio			of cancer patients
- Aichi, Japan, Cancer			
Registry,			
- General population of			
Aichi prefecture estimated			
from 1980 and 1985			
102 ages diamond 1070			
- 105 cases, utagliosed 1979- 1987 >30 years			
1707, 250 years			
Franceschi 1993	E-male fam	$KK^{\circ} 95\%CI$	Age, smoking and alcohol
Case-control	remale farmer	0.8 (0.5-1.3)	
- INORTHEASTERN ITALY			
- 152 cases diagnosed 1985- 1991 <80 years			
- 968 controls			

Table 7-32. Summary of epidemiologic studies of pesticide exposure and breast cancer risk

Study design and population	Exposure	Measure of association	Variables adjusted for confounding
<ul> <li>Rubin 1993</li> <li>Nested case-control and</li> <li>Proportionate mortality study</li> <li>USA</li> <li>Mortality database maintained at NIOSH (covers 23 states), represents 2.9 million death certificates</li> <li>59,196 breast cancer deaths in all occupational groups</li> <li>197 cases in farming occupational group, 124 white and 73 black diagnosed 1979-1987</li> <li>59,196 controls randomly selected from all white women who did not die from breast cancer or malignancies of the female reproductive system freq-age matched by 5-yrs</li> </ul>	Farming, forestry and fishing occupational group White Black	OR 95% CI 0.84 (0.66-1.07) PMR <sup>h</sup> p 75 <0.01 61 <0.01	None reported
Costantini 1994 Cross-sectional - Italy - 579 cases, 21 in agriculture industry, died 1981-1982, 18 to 64 years - 2,038 deceased and economically active in all occupational groups	Employed in agriculture industry	MOR <sup>i</sup> p 57 0.02	
<ul> <li>Wiklund 1994</li> <li>Prospective cohort</li> <li>Sweden, 1970 Swedish Population and housing census</li> <li>50,682 women worked ≥20 hrs/week in agriculture</li> <li>Expected number of cases calculated on basis of annual cancer incidence among women in 5-yr age groups</li> <li>Follow-up 1/1/71 to 12/31/87 or death</li> <li>1,159 cases</li> </ul>	Female agricultural worker	SIR <sup>j</sup> 95% CI 0.83 (0.78-0.88)	

Study design and population	Exposure	Measure of association	Variables adjusted for confounding
Cantor 1995 Nested case-control - USA - Mortality database maintained at NIOSH (covers 24 states) - 33,509 cases, 29,397 white and 4,112 black, died between 1984-1989 - 117,794 controls (non- cancer deaths), 102,955 white and 14,839 black, frequency matched for age (5-yr), gender and race	Exposure to insecticides scale (0 to 3) 0 1 2 3	Whites         Blacks           OR(1)         OR(2)         OR(1)         OR(2)           1.0         1.0         1.0         1.0 f           1.19         1.42         0.58 <sup>k</sup> 0.57 <sup>k</sup> 1.07         1.07	Age and SES <sup>I</sup> (1) all probability levels of exposure (2) excluding women with low probability of exposure
<ul> <li>Kristensen 1996</li> <li>Retrospective Cohort <ul> <li>Norway</li> <li>Farm holders or their spouses (253,624 total; 113,949 women) born after 1924</li> <li>Follow-up 1969 to 1991 or death or emigration</li> <li>598 cases engaged in agriculture; 148 cases working ≥500 hrs/yr on a farm</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Women engaged in agriculture Women working ≥500hrs/yr on a farm	SIR 95% CI 105 (96-113) 84 (72-99)	None reported
Folsom 1996 Population-based prospective cohort - Iowa, USA - 36,295 randomly selected women in 1986 - follow-up through 1992 - 934 cases	Lived on a farm	RR 95% CI Age-adj 0.96 (0.82-1.13) Multi-adj 1.03 (0.87-1.23)	Age, smoking, body mass index, waist-to-hip ratio, education, physical activity, marital status, alcohol use, family history of breast cancer, reproductive characteristics
<ul> <li>Pukkala 1997</li> <li>Retrospective cohort</li> <li>Finland</li> <li>85,151 women farmers on 12/31/78</li> <li>follow-up 1/1/79 to 12/31/93 or death or emigration</li> <li>1,474 cases</li> </ul>	Finnish female farmer	SIR 95% CI 0.77 (0.73-0.80)	None reported
Avnon 1998 Case-control study - Israel - 734 women members of 3 kibbutzim 1989 - 7 cases of breast cancer	Female member of agricultural settlement	Kibbutz         O/E         p           A         3/3.25         >0.05           B         2/1.69         >0.05           S         2/0.93         >0.05	None

Study design and	Exposure	Measure of association	Variables adjusted for
population			confounding
Fleming 1999 Retrospective cohort study - Florida - 3,503 female licensed pesticide applicators (1975- 1993) - 26 breast cancer cases	Female pesticide applicator	SIR 95% CI 0.61 (0.40, 0.90)	Age and calendar year
Simpson 1999 Proportional incidence study - England and Wales - 381,915 women diagnosed with cancer through UK cancer registry (1971-1990) - 93,951 breast cancer cases	Agricultural occupation	Only reported occupations with significantly increased cancer rates - No pesticide-related occupations and no agricultural occupations were found to have elevated breast cancer rates	Age and social class
<ul> <li>Settimi 1999</li> <li>Hospital-based case-control study</li> <li>5 areas in Italy</li> <li>incident cancer cases among residents of catchment area admitted to 8 collaborating hospitals (1990-1992)</li> <li>reference group drawn from other cancer sites excluding lung cancer, cancers of the female reproductive systems and women with previous oophorectomy</li> <li>67 premenopausal and 192 postmenopausal breast cancer cases</li> <li>72 premenopausal and 424 postmenopausal controls</li> </ul>	Job title of farmer or farm laborer	OR         95% CI           Premenopausal1.4         (0.5, 3.4)           Ever employed           1-9 yrs         1.2           10-19 yrs         0.4           20+ yrs         2.9           Postmenopausal         0.4           1-9 yrs         0.9           1-9 yrs         0.9           1-9 yrs         0.9           1-9 yrs         0.9           1-9 yrs         0.8           10-19 yrs         0.8           0.4         (0.2, 0.8)	Premenopause Use of oral contraceptives alcohol consumption, family history of breast cancer, parity Postmenopause Age at menarche, age at last menstruation, hormone replacement therapy, alcohol consumption, age at first birth, BMI

Study design and population	Exposure	Measure of association	Variables adjusted for confounding
<ul> <li>Duell 2000</li> <li>Sub-study from a population- based case control study (eligibility was reported farming)</li> <li>Eastern and Central North Carolina</li> <li>Invasive breast cancer cases diagnosed 1993- 1996</li> <li>Controls selected from motor vehicle roster (&lt;65) and Health Care &amp; Finance roster (65+)</li> <li>Randomized recruitment to achieve 50% African- American and 50% under age 50</li> <li>- 327 cases and 381 controls who reported farming participated</li> <li>-451 cases and 409 controls reported that they never lived or worked on a farm</li> </ul>	Reported having lived or worked on a farm	OR         95%CI           Ever farmed         1.0         0.8-1.2           Duration (yrs)         1         1           1-10         1.2         0.8-1.7           11-17         0.8         0.5-1.2           18-23         0.7         0.8-1.1           >23         0.6         0.4-0.9	Age, race, age at menarche, parity/age at first birth, lactation, current body size, education, duration of smoking, alcohol consumption, family history of breast cancer, oral contraceptive use, duration of laundry for pesticide user
Wang 2002 Retrospective cohort study - New York State - 6,310 female farm residents (1980-1993) - 141 breast cancer cases -622,268 comparison female residents of non-urbanized areas	Female farm resident (farmer or adult relative sharing same last name of farmer who had been a Farm Bureau member)	SIR         95% CI           All         0.89         (0.75, 1.05)           30-49 yr         1.17         (0.85, 1.58)           50-69 yr         0.80         (0.64, 0.99)           30-49 yr         0.82         (0.43, 1.47)	None
Fleming 2003 Retrospective cohort study of mortality - United States National Health Interview Survey - 208,855 women (1986- 1994) - 7 female pesticide applicators and 1,718 female farmers	Female pesticide exposed worker	RR 95% CI 0.4 (0.1, 1.5)	Age

<sup>b</sup> observed/expected

<sup>c</sup> confidence interval <sup>d</sup> standardized mortality ration

<sup>e</sup> standardized proportionate incidence ration

f odds ratio

<sup>g</sup> relative risk

<sup>h</sup> proportionate mortality ratio

<sup>a</sup> proportionate mortality ratio <sup>i</sup> mortality odds ratio <sup>j</sup> standardized incidence ratio <sup>k</sup> 95 percent CI excludes 1.0 <sup>1</sup> soicioeconomic status

Cashin Associates, PC

## 7.9.2.4. Special Considerations Regarding Potential Toxicity to Children

There is some limited information available concerning direct linkages between the identified mosquito control chemicals and childhood illnesses.

Pyrethrins and pyrethroids can interfere with normal neurological function. In adults, short-term, high level exposure to these insecticides may cause:

- dizziness
- headache
- nausea
- muscle twitching
- reduced energy
- changes in awareness
- convulsions
- loss of consciousness

It is likely that the same effects would be experienced by children exposed to high levels of pyrethrum (ATSDR, 2001). Overall, pyrethrins and pyrethroids reportedly pose low chronic toxicity to humans, the most common problems resulting from the allergenic properties of pyrethrum (EXTOXNET 1994). In rats, developmental exposure to pyrethroids has been shown to have long-lasting effects causing neurobehavioral and neurochemical deficits in adulthood. Inhalation of pyrethroid-containing mosquito repellants early in a rat's life has been shown to cause damage to the blood brain barrier, which may indicate that early life exposure to these chemicals could lead to adverse neurological effects (Sinha and Shukla, 2003).

Piperonyl butoxide is reported to have low to very low toxicity when ingested, inhaled or absorbed through the skin by mammals (National Pesticide Telecommunications Network, 2000).

Malathion is an organophosphate pesticide that inhibits cholinesterase activity. Cholinesterase is an enzyme that removes the chemical neurotransmitter acetylcholine from the junctions between nerve cells. Cholinesterase serves as the nervous system's "off switch" and is essential to the normal function of the nervous system. USEPA requires neurotoxicity testing, both acute and sub-chronic, in animal studies for all pesticides submitted for registration by USEPA. All studies reviewed by USEPA were found to be acceptable and to have met the agency's guidelines (USEPA, 2000c). ATSDR reported that children who have accidentally swallowed or had skin contact with high amounts of malathion experienced symptoms such as:

- difficulty breathing
- chest tightness
- vomiting
- cramps
- diarrhea
- watery eyes
- salivation
- sweating
- headaches
- dizziness
- loss of consciousness
- death

## (ATSDR, 2003)

Note that "high amounts of malathion" was not defined in the ATSDR toxicological profile summary of health effects of malathion exposure in children. Very young animals have been identified as more susceptible to the effects of malathion than older animals. Rapid medical treatment of high level exposure to malathion prevents long-term effects, and low level exposure appears to pose few or no health problems (ATSDR, 2003).

Malaoxon (metabolite of malathion) is a cholinesterase inhibitor that is metabolite of malathion. USEPA did not identify any acute toxicity testing of the malaoxon but calculated that this malathion metabolite appears to have approximately 10 to 30 times greater toxicity (USEPA, 2000c).

Based on epidemiological studies discussed in Section 3, there is evidence to support a positive relationship between pesticide exposure and childhood leukemia, lymphomas, and brain cancer. However, due to the lack of focus in research on individual pesticides, and the imperfect measures of exposure assessment, it is difficult to identify which substances are safe for future use. No conclusions can be drawn with respect to the specific mosquito control pesticides that are under consideration

There is biologic plausibility for an association between organophosphate pesticides, such as malathion, and asthma or other respiratory symptoms. Organophosphate pesticides may contribute to respiratory problems through cholinesterase inhibition. Cholinesterase is an enzyme that removes the chemical neurotransmitter acetylcholine from the junctions between never cells. Cholinesterase serves as the nervous system's "off switch" and is essential to the normal function of the nervous system. Decreased cholinesterase can cause impairment of a physiological regulatory mechanism of the autonomic (or involuntary) control of airways (Eskenazi et al., 1999), which may promote constriction of the bronchial air passages (Hoppin et al., 2002). Small increases in wheezing were found for malathion use in Ethiopian homes (Yemaneberhan et al., 1997).

Pyrethroids act on the sodium ion channels, which are involved in the control of the sensory nervous system. Stimulation of these channels causes their prolonged opening resulting in sensory neurons to be stimulated. This action is suspected to be related to the paresthesia symptoms associated with pyrethroid intoxication (Narahashi, 1992). Paresthesia symptoms are those that cause a sensation of pricking, tingling, or creeping on the skin having no objective cause, and usually are associated with injury or irritation of a sensory nerve or rerve root. A biological explanation for the development of respiratory symptoms due to pyrethroid exposure has not been proposed.

Nonetheless, one case report of long-term occupation exposure to tetramethrin (a pyrethroid insecticide) may have led to asthmatic symptoms (Vandenplas et al., 2000) and an accidental exposure to aerosol pyrethroid insecticide resulted in respiratory problems and an asthma attack (Muller-Mohnssen, 1999).

A case-series of Japanese children and adults with long-term exposure to malathion through helicopter spraying linked reported neuro-opthalmological symptoms to the reported exposure (Ishikawa et al., 1993). However, no rigorous epidemiologic investigation was conducted so that no association between malathion exposure and this neurological problem can be drawn.

There are clear links between pesticide exposure and childhood cancers. Some studies trace other childhood illnesses to malathion or pyrethroids that are not included in the Long-Term Plan. However, there is no link between the selected pyrethroids or malathion to childhood cancers, especially at the exposures associated with mosquito control. The linkages between malathion and asthma or neurological impacts in children are not compelling, and neither is the tenuous link between pyrethroid exposure and asthma.

## 7.9.2.5. Long-Term Plan Field Work Results

The Caged Fish study looked at three aspects of resmethrin behavior in the environment. These results, and pertinent results of parallel of earlier efforts, will also be discussed. In addition, County efforts to detect this chemical in dry deposition studies will be briefly discussed.

In short, resmethrin proved to be difficult to find in the environment, even immediately after applications. It apparently degrades extremely swiftly. Its synergist, PBO, could be detected for some time after applications, and at higher concentrations. Resmethrin appeared to have no impacts on shrimp or fish, either in the natural environment or laboratory simulations. The following details some of the results.

## Caged Fish Experimental Results (Adulticide)

The original plan for this study called for all field work to be conducted prior to the beginning of August to avoid anticipated low DO events that are more prevalent during the hottest period of the summer. Unfortunately, due to many delays in obtaining permission to conduct the study, this was not possible. Preliminary data on caged fish and shrimp survival at all sites showed good survival during July. However, by the time the fully replicated study was performed, this was not the case.

The static renewal studies conducted in the laboratory, which used water collected 30 minutes post application from each site, had excellent survival in exposed shrimp.

Taken all together, these data do not present consistent evidence of toxicity due to resmethrin to the exposed organisms. It is not clear, however, whether the pesticide applications in conjunction with other stressors, such as low DO conditions, might not result in greater mortality than would have occurred without pesticide applications. This experiment was not able to separate impacts from low DO and the pesticide applications. The notion that pesticides can have synergistic impacts in conjunction with other stressors is a current research topic that is attracting much interest, but without many published results (see Arnold and McLachlan, 1996; on the contrary, see Hayes et al., 2006).

The absence of acute mortality due to resmethrin exposure is not terribly surprising given its short presence in aquatic settings. The pesticide appears to degrade extremely rapidly, as it was not detectable in any sediment samples. Because it so quickly degrades, the exposure of organisms to this toxic compound is too short (and, data suggests, at too low a concentration) for any negative impacts to occur.

## **Resmethrin Fate and Transport**

As discussed in Section 6, the sampling efforts associated with the Caged Fish experiment appear to show that resmethrin has a relatively short lifespan in the environment. Sampling showed that the resmethrin to PBO ratio rapidly increased following release of the pesticide. Since it is assumed there is no PBO source, it seems that the resmethrin is degrading. Efficacy studies (see below) show that it is effective at eliminating mosquitoes, but the sampling shows an apparent loss of the compound by the time it is deposited on, for instance, a water surface. There the ratios of resmethrin to PBO can be hundreds of times lower than was the case in the original formulation released from the helicopter. It rapidly becomes undetectable at the low part per trillion/high part per quadrillion range. This is well below concentrations shown to have impacts to organisms. For example, the McElroy laboratory calculated  $LC_{50}$ s for grass shrimp at approximately 600 parts per trillion for a 96-hour exposure to scourge (resmethrin and PBO combined), and 1.2 parts per billion for resmethrin without the synergist. The concentrations measured only two hours after application were either not detectable (less than five parts per trillion, or 500 parts per quadrillion), or, when detected, in the five to 20 part per trillion range. Resmethrin does not appear to be transported to sediments in any measurable quantity, either.

All of this suggests it is not possible to expose organisms to concentrations of this pesticide at the amounts that have been shown to cause impacts.

### Caged Fish Benthic Sampling

Johns Neck received larvicides and adulticide applications in 2004, but Timber Point received no adulticide applications in 2004. Therefore, the combined statistical analysis of treatment sites against control sites does not determine the impact of adulticide treatments alone.

The pairwise comparisons often found significant differences between one control site, Havens Point, and Johns Neck for at least one analysis approach. Several others were very close to being determined to be significant. However, this may be explained by substrate differences, which apparently did exist between the sites. It is clear that differences in sediment types leads to differences in benthic invertebrate populations (Cerrato et al., 1989).

That significant differences were also found between the two control sites under some of the statistical tests suggests the pesticide applications were not the cause of differences in populations and abundances. Therefore, this experiment does not find any impacts to the tested benthic invertebrate populations associated with adulticide use, although the finding is certainly not as compelling as was the case with the larvicides.

## **County Dry Deposition Sampling**

SCDHS has worked since 2001 to develop a reliable method of collecting deposition data associated with adulticide events. It has been difficult to find a good method. The best method developed using chilled glass trays (standard pyrex baking trays). Resmethrin was found to be extremely sensitive to light, and to be very volatile. Volatility varied with temperature, and so current County procedure involves setting out experimental apparati (where the pans are set in coolers over ice) immediately prior to an application, and collecting them again within two hours of the end of the application (to minimize loss of the chemical. The trays are kept cold until they are analyzed. Despite these precautions, field spike recoveries tend to be in the 50 percent range, suggesting there is still major loss of any deposited compounds. In addition, work by RTP in conjunction with the risk assessment deposition modeling suggested that the chilled trays may create a microlayer of cold, denser air within the tray area that may deflect the very fine pesticide

droplets and inhibit deposition (the droplets tend to be small enough to be controlled by atmospheric forces and diffusion, rather than gravity).

The difficulties involved in this effort spotlight the ephemeral nature of the resmethrin applications. Because it degrades so quickly, and is so volatile, it is difficult for it to impact any part of the environment other than the immediate atmospheric area that the spray plume traverses. This necessarily limits any potential impacts to terrestrial or aquatic organisms.

## 7.9.2.6. Efficacy of the Current Program

### **General Studies**

New insecticides are tested in wind tunnels, where they are applied at different rates to caged mosquitoes. The volume that is effective is compared to some known insecticide, such as malathion. This is how the manufacturer determines optimal applications rates. Resmethrin, for example was found to be seven times (for *Psorophora spp.*) to 50 times (for *Anopheles spp.*) more toxic than malathion in such tests. Field testing found that, based on 36 studies involving species from *Aedes*, *Psorophora*, *Culex*, and *Anopheles* species (this was prior to the creation of *Ochelerotatus*), that malathion itself killed 95 percent of caged mosquitoes when applied at rates ranging from 0.01 to 0.326 pounds of active ingredient per acre (lbs AI/ac). Resmethrin also achieved 95 percent kill rates against members of the same four genuses at rates ranging from 0.001 to 0.078 lbs AI/ac., based on 11 studies. Sumithrin had two tests in this data set where 95 percent kill rates were measured, for *Anopheles* and *Psorophora* mosquitoes, both at a 0.0012 lbs AI/ac application rate (Mount, 1998).

However, it should be understood that it is actually the droplet size that determines the effectiveness of the pesticide against mosquitoes. Particular sizes of droplets carry appropriate amounts of pesticide to kill a single mosquito. The amount of pesticide applied over an area is intended to provide a cloud of droplets that ensures that all flying mosquitoes encounter a droplet. If the size of the droplets is appropriate, this ensures that the mosquitoes will be killed. If the droplets are too small, then the amount of pesticide may not be enough to kill mosquitoes. If the droplets are too large, then not only is the dose inefficient, but the presumably, if the application amount has been optimized, there will be fewer droplets and therefore the possibility exists that some mosquitoes will not encounter any pesticide. Generally, optimal droplet sizes range from seven to 25 um volume median diameter (Mount, 1998). However, there are usually

many more droplets made than there are mosquitoes in the target zone. One estimate is that as little as 0.0001 percent of the pesticide applied actually impinges on mosquitoes (Pimental, 1995), although this conclusion was reported without any accompanying documentation.

The effectiveness of an adulticide application therefore depends on the droplet sizes generated by the applicator, meteorological conditions (as winds and other atmospheric forces can disperse the pesticide cloud), and the physical setting where the mosquitoes are - as the presence of buildings, trees, and other obstacles can reduce the chances that the pesticide will hit a mosquito before it contacts something else (Mount, 1998; Mount, 1996).

A review of aerial applications of malathion reported reductions in caged mosquitoes ranging from 0 percent to 100 percent, depending on the location of the cage in relation to the targeted area, in the 18 hours following applications. Most caged mosquitoes in the area directly targeted by the spray experienced 95 percent or more mortalities. The paper concluded that ULV applications are "highly efficacious," given vagaries of environmental factors (Mount, 1996). However, applications can fail to achieve mosquito control because of dose, meteorology, or environmental problems associated with the application. Tests with ess than 95 percent kill rates are rather common, but most are explicable in terms of these factors. It should also be noted that adulticide use can fail to meet its goal of mosquito control not only because of application problems, but also due to rapid reinfestation of the area (Mount, 1998).

Recent general evaluations of these products have been made in various jurisdictions. In Ontario, Canada, malathion was found to have acceptable efficacy for use as an adulticide (pyrethroids are not licensed for use in Canada) (Shapiro and Miccucci, 2003). Delaware determined that resmethrin was more effective than sumithrin for ground-based applications (Lesser, undated[2]). New York City has found sumithrin to be effective for its purposes (NYCDHMH, 2004). New Jersey, in its annual advisory of allowable mosquito control pesticides, found resmethrin, sumithrin, and malathion acceptable for ground applications, and malathion and resmethrin acceptable for aerial applications, based upon evaluations of "safety, economy, and efficiency" (Brattsten and Sutherland, 2005).

It should be understood that, although it is likely to have a high correlation, reduction of mosquito numbers alone is not sufficient to ensure reductions in disease risks (Hopkins et al., 1975). However, use of adulticides is recommended as part of a comprehensive program to

reduce disease risks, albeit as the last resort due to the potential for adverse human or ecological impacts (Rose, 2001; CDC, 2003).

### Suffolk County Efficacy Tests

Suffolk County's New Jersey light trap network is sited and primarily used to detect failures of larval controls, such as water management and larvicide applications. The traps are not placed or serviced so as to produce good data for adulticide effects. Therefore, special efforts must be made to determine impacts from adulticide applications.

Malathion was no longer used for aerial applications in Suffolk County after 1999. Sumithrin was used in 2000, and resmethrin after 2001 (no aerial applications were made in 2001). A special sampling effort was made using CDC light traps to test the efficacy of a sumithrin application in 2000 in Babylon. Three traps were placed in the control area; each was sampled twice pre-application, including the night before the insectic ide was applied, and then the night following the application. The post-application counts data were compared to the mean pre-application counts. They also were compared to a reference site. At the reference site, the trap counts increased after the application date. Therefore, the post-application counts at the treatment sites were compared to the "expected" counts that might have been encountered if no treatment had occurred, and the populations at all four sites had varied consistently (Table 7-33).

Table 7-33. Babylon Sumithrin Efficacy Test, July 31-August 5, 2000 (Treatment Date, August4)

			"Expected"		
	Mean Count,	Post-	Post-		Adjusted
	Pre-application	Application	Application	Raw Percent	Percent
Тгар		Count	Count	Control	Control
Horse Ranch					
Cule x pre.	18	8	31	56	74
Total females	55.5	24	187	57	87
Lower Belmont					
Culex pre.	17	4	29	77	86
Total females	26.5	5	89	81	94
Upper Belmont					
Culex pre.	9.5	3	16	68	82
Total females	41.5	8	140	81	94
Bergen Point (ref.)					
Culex pre.	453.5	781			
Total females	511	1718			

Culex pre = Cx. pipiens + Cx. restuans

CDC light trap data for aerial applications in 2003 were accessed. These data, for resmethrin applications, are presented in Table 7-34.

Trap	Trap	Date of	Mosquito	Mosquito	Percent
	Location	Application	Count	Count After	Reduction
			Before	Application	
			Application		
BHL	Mastic-	8/28	447	201	55
Goldengate	Shirley				
BHL	Mastic -	8/28	611	78	87
WF181PK	Shirley				
SDL	Southold	8/27	195	27	86
Bayview					
SML	Hauppauge	8/26	129	116	10
Blydenburg					

Table 7-34. 2003 Selected CDC Light Trap Data

The 2000 Babylon data show control efficacies (using the adjusted percentages) of 75 to 94 percent. These are similar to other data sets reported for sumithrin nationwide, and show that adulticide use in the field can achieve large reductions in mosquito populations. The 2003 aerial applications of resmethrin had more variable data, with reductions ranging from 10 percent (ineffective control) and 55 percent (moderate control) to nearly an order of magnitude reduction in two instances. Together, these two local data sets show that large reductions of mosquitoes can be achieved in practice – but not always, even when demonstrably effective insecticides are applied.

#### 7.9.2.7. Relative Effects on Mosquito-borne Disease

Controlling mosquito-borne disease is not simply the product of adulticides usage. Disease risk management is the result of all the actions associated with the Long-Term Plan, and will be discussed in detail in Section 7.11.

However, the proposed adulticide program should be similar in impacts under Health Emergency conditions as the current approach is. There are some elements that may lead to improved management of disease. These include:

• For WNV, *Cx. pipiens* may be better controlled through better targeted applications of adulticides for viral control, in terms of timing and application means, in fresh water environments where trapping indicates that *Cx. pipiens* is the dominant mosquito present.

• For EEE, when the risk profile warrants (if there are large numbers of bridge vectors in the vicinity of an amplification center), adulticides will be applied to reduce the risk of human or equine cases, and, although the reduction of EEE risks may be an unintentional by-product, if warranted salt marsh mosquitoes will be controlled using adulticides; this appears to reduce the chances that this very efficient potential vector of EEE is not allowed to infect people.

The two steps outlined above should also assist in reducing risks associated with novel diseases.

## 7.9.2.8. Resistance Management

Resmethrin appears to be the best choice as an adulticide for the Long-Term Plan. It is effective, and does not appear to have as many potential environmental impacts, even if they are of short duration and limited scope, as permethrin and malathion appear to have. Sumithrin and natural pyrethrum have not been demonstrated to degrade as quickly as resmethrin (at least, in local settings). This means that the Long-Term Plan has preferentially identified resmethrin as the adulticide of choice; sumithrin will be used on Fire Island, since the resmethrin label does not offer the opportunity for hand-held applications.

Reliance on one insecticide always presents the specter of pest resistance development. Resistance develops when individuals with a certain heritage find that these traits make them less susceptible to the insecticide. If these individuals can create a breeding population, they can begin to reinforce the traits and ensure that they are inherited by future generations. Further applications of the pesticide to this population merely serve to remove individuals without the genetic advantage against the pesticide, and so results in further cross fertilization among the resistant individuals. Soon, a substantial portion of the pest population may become resistant, even if the traits that provide resistance are less advantageous in other ways.

However, there appear to be reasons that the chances of resistance developing to resmethrin are minimal in Suffolk County. With the exceptions of certain areas on Fire Island, most areas of the County that receive adulticide applications are only sprayed once or twice in a season; some areas, such as certain parts of Mastic-Shirley, may receive four or more applications in a year; and some parts of Fire Island have received up to a dozen applications in a year. The small area of the County that receives adulticide applications in any year (on the order of five percent of the County), and the even smaller portion of the County that receives multiple applications, means

that only a small portion of the County's adult mosquito population is ever exposed to adulticides. In addition, the applications of adulticides are not made in the marshes where the larvae are, but rather in the human habitations where the biting mosquitoes are. This, along with the large areas where no control occurs, means there are large pools of untreated mosquitoes to dilute any resistant populations that develop. Therefore, just as it is impossible that the Long-Term Plan would eliminate mosquitoes from the County, it is also extremely unlikely that resistance to resmethrin will develop.

Resistance to sumithrin in the higher application areas of Fire Island might seem more plausible. However, some research and a great deal of personal observations on Fire Island indicate that the National Seashore areas (where control is not undertaken) are the sources of the mosquito infestations in the communities. This means, similarly, that source areas are not being sprayed, and will probably continue to be a source of untreated mosquitoes that overwhelms any resistant populations that may develop.

Nonetheless, prudence dictates that these observations be verified by actual science. Resistance testing is called for in the Long-Term Plan, using resources either at Rutgers or one of the larger mosquito control companies, to ensure that using a single pesticide for adult control does not lead to ineffective pesticide use.

# 7.10. Impacts of the Long-Term Plan: Part 8, Management Structure

The Long-Term Plan calls for a management structure composed of two elements. One would be administered by SCDPW, and other would be part of SCDHS operations.

SCVC would remain as part of SCDPW. SCVC would be responsible:

- Education and outreach: website maintenance, operational spray efficacy reporting, Wetlands Strategy Plan, convening annual seminar between educators and field crews
- Surveillance: population surveillance, including associated laboratory work
- Source reduction: response to citizens' complaints, storm water structure treatments, fish management
- Water management: planning and execution of work in accordance with the Wetlands Management Plan, generate annual Wetlands Strategy Plan

- Larval control: surveillance data interpretation, notifications, operational control; efficacy testing
- Adult control: surveillance data (population) interpretation, decisions regarding non-Health Emergency actions, operational control; efficacy testing
- SCVC would prepare the Annual Plan of Work.

SCDHS would be responsible for the following:

- Education and outreach: public education efforts, some website maintenance, no-spray list maintenance and outreach (Public Health Division); triennial report preparation (Office of Ecology)
- Surveillance: disease surveillance, including associated laboratory work (ABDL)
- Source reduction: no major responsibilities
- Water management: review of any ditch maintenance proposal, review and monitoring responsibilities for major projects (Office of Ecology)
- Larval control: no major responsibilities
- Adult control: surveillance data (disease) interpretation, review of decisions regarding non-Health Emergency (ABDL); decisions regarding Health Emergency actions (Public Health Division)

The Office of Ecology would review and assist on the Annual Plan of Work.

This management structure allows for decisions to be made by appropriate personnel:

- operational decisions remain the responsibility of operational managers
- mosquito population determination and decisions relating strictly to population issues are the province of SCVC
- health-related issues require input (and in many cases) decisions by managers in the Department of Health Services.
- the Office of Ecology provides a degree of environmental input into SCVC operations.

This structure maximizes departmental strengths (SCDPW is a department that implements physical projects for the County, and maintains those kinds of responsibilities here, and SCDHS has a strong public outreach capability and background), and provides a clear delineation of responsibilities across the various aspects of the Management Plan.

The analysis of regional programs, discussed In Section 2 above, found that the best management structures for vector control agencies were those where separate funding was possible, by being a separate authority. In terms of maximizing funding potential, this is not doubt true. However, by being part of the general County government, greater cost controls and oversight are possible. It is believed that the degree of public visibility of the program, especially as augmented through better public outreach efforts under the Long-term Plan, will ensure that the fiscal controls are not so efficient as to impede the functioning of the program.

The selected management structure should serve to enhance all aspects of the Long-Term Plan as it strives to reduce public health impacts from mosquito-borne disease, reduce pesticide impacts, and ensure that water management actions improve mosquito control efforts and result in wetlands restorations.

## 7.11. Impacts of the Long-Term Plan: Part 9, Risks from Mosquito-borne Disease

## 7.11.1. Relative Effects on Mosquito-borne Disease

Researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health have created an analytical model of mosquito transmission. This model can forecast impacts from mosquito-borne disease under specified conditions. It is derived from principles of mosquito ecology and disease transmission. However, in order for the model to be properly run, a great many variables need to be specified. Under almost all conditions, many (or even most) of the values for the variables are not known.

This was the case for Suffolk County, despite its robust surveillance program and the wealth of data generated by the program over the past several decades. The kind of data generated by SCVC and the ABDL are intended to inform mosquito control efforts, and did not meet the Harvard model data needs. The researchers believed that the process of matching model output to known disease conditions in the County would invariably require making judgments on issues such as whether the local mosquito ecology or mosquito control efforts were responsible for the apparent reductions in disease risk experienced by the County. They had hoped that the data sets

would resolve these issues adequately, but that was not possible. Because many of the assumptions that would be necessary for the model to run invariably determined the questions of interest under the modeling approach, it was determined to be pointless to make the effort to create a Suffolk County specific model. Therefore, independent assessment of disease risk under various control approaches proved impossible to determine quantitatively.

It does seem possible to discuss the impacts of control programs in a qualitative sense. In order to accomplish this, the apparent effects of control on mosquito-borne disease will be discussed for the current program. A comparison of the expected impacts under the Long-Term Plan to the current program will then be undertaken.

### 7.11.2. Mosquito-borne Disease Impacts under the Current Program

For Suffolk County, it seems likely that the impacts of WNV are less than might have occurred if there was no control program. Potential disease impacts with no control will be discussed in Section 9, and a complete comparison of the potential impacts under the Long-Term Plan as compared to alternatives will be discussed in Section 13. For now, it is just to be understood that the disease impacts from WNV were much greater in other areas of the country than they have been in Suffolk County.

This strongly suggests that there is something different between the conditions in the County and areas that experienced greater impacts from WNV. It seems likely that the differences could be attributable to differences in mosquito ecology, or differences in mosquito control, or a combination of the two.

It is possible that differences in mosquito ecology could be important. Although most of the areas that were used for the comparison do not have important West Nile virus vectors such as *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (present in western parts of the country) and *Cx. tarsalis*, as is the case in parts of the country to the south and west, it is quite probable that *Cx. salinarius* is more prevalent in these comparison areas than it is in Suffolk County. *Cx. salinarius* prefers to breed in brackish water, and these habitats are not common in Suffolk County<sup>1</sup>, partly because the permeable soils here do not lead to as much runoff as is the cases in places such as Connecticut,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 2005 season surveillance in Suffolk County found more Cx. salinarius than in other years. Distinguishing between various *Culex* species is always difficult, and it is not clear if the 2005 data represents a shift in local populations or changes in identification proficiency in the Suffolk laboratories.

where *Cx. salinarius* is much more prevalent. In fact, *Cx. salinarius* has been identified as the most probable bridge vector for most cases of WNV in Connecticut (Andreadis et al., 2004). On the other hand, Connecticut does not have the numbers of *Oc. sollicitans* that are found in Suffolk County, and that mosquito can, at the high numbers found in the County, have a relatively high risk factor for disease transmission.

Relative risks for mosquito species as vectors of WNV can be computed using a model developed by the New York State Department of Health (Kilpatrick et al., 2005). Using the model shows that indeed *Cx. salinarius* appears to present the greatest degree of relative risk for Connecticut. It carries approximately three times the relative risk of *Cx. pipiens* for transmitting WNV (see Table 7-35); although *Cx. pipiens* is usually considered to be the dominant vector of WNV in the northeast US (Anderson et al., 2004).

Table 7-35. Model of the relative risk for WNV transmission, based on Connecticut mosquito distributions

Species	Relative	MIR <sup>1</sup>	Vector	Percent Mammal	Relative	Percent of
-	Abundance		Competence	Meals	Risk	Total Risk
	(percent)		_			
Ae. vexans	15.9	0.05	0.17	86	0.12	4.4
Cq. perturbans	22.0	0.01	0.11	83	0.02	0.8
Cx. pipiens/	7.1	0.95	0.38	19	0.48	18.6
restuans						
Cx. salinarius	7.3	0.85	0.36	67	1.50	57.4
Cs. melanura	7.4	0.17	0.28	11	0.04	1.5
Oc. canadensis	22.3	0	0.55	100	0	0
Oc. japonicus	0.5	0.33	0.93	95	0.16	6.1
Oc. sollicitans	2.4	0.07	0.16	100	0.03	1.0
Oc. trivittatus	15.2	0.05	0.55	64	0.27	10.2

1. MIR = minimum infection rate, which relates the minimum number of infected mosquitoes that would produce the positive mosquito pools results. Mosquitoes are tested in pools of individuals, so a positive pool of 10 mosquitoes would correspond to a MIR of 0.10; a positive pool of seven mosquitoes would have a MIR of 0.14; a negative pool of eight mosquitoes would have a MIR of 0; and a positive pool of 10 mosquitoes, a positive pool of seven mosquitoes, and a negative pool of eight mosquitoes would lead to a MIR of 0.08.

Using recent trap data for Suffolk County, where use of methoprene as a larvicide resulted in great reductions of *Oc. sollicitans*, the same model finds that *Cx. pipiens* is the mosquito species with the greatest degree of relative risk for Suffolk County (Table 7-36). The recently introduced species, *Ochlerotatus japonicus*, due to its competence as a vector despite its relatively low numbers, also is a major risk for disease transmission. *Oc. sollicitans* also has a low but not negligible portion of the risk distribution.

Species	Relative	MIR	Vector	Percent Mammal	Relative	Percent of
	Abundance		Competence	Meals	Risk	Total Risk
	(percent)					
Ae. vexans	27.5	0.05	0.17	86	0.20	7.3
Cq. perturbans	13.0	0.01	0.11	83	0.01	0.4
Cx. pipiens/	17.2	0.95	0.38	19	1.18	42.8
restuans						
Cx. salinarius	0	0.85	0.36	67	0	0
Cs. melanura	2.5	0.17	0.28	11	0.01	0.5
Oc. canadensis	1.3	0	0.55	100	0.00	0.0
Oc. japonicus	3.3	0.33	0.93	95	0.95	34.5
Oc. sollicitans	34.6	0.07	0.16	100	0.39	14.1
Oc. triviattus	0.6	0.05	0.55	64	0.01	0.4

 Table 7-36. Model of the relative risk for WNV transmission, based on Suffolk County 2004 mosquito distributions (effective larval control of salt marsh mosquitoes)

However, at least some of the risk reduction might relate to effective mosquito control. It was related that the introduction of methoprene to Suffolk County had a large impact of *Oc. sollicitans* numbers (Campbell et al., 2005). A reconstruction of pre-1995 WNV relative risks is shown in Table 7-37.

Table 7-37. Model of the relative risk for WNV transmission, based on Suffolk County 1994 mosquito distributions (before very effective larval control of salt marsh mosquitoes)

Species	Relative	MIR	Vector	Percent Mammal	Relative	Percent of
	Abundance		Competence	Meals	Risk	Total Risk
	(percent)					
Ae. vexans	7.9	0.05	0.17	86	0.06	2.2
Cq. perturbans	7.1	0.01	0.11	83	0.01	0.2
Cx. pipiens/	29.1	0.95	0.38	19	2.00	75.2
restuans						
Cx. salinarius	0	0.85	0.36	67	0	0
Cs. melanura	1.2	0.17	0.28	11	0.01	0.2
Oc. canadensis	2.1	0	0.55	100	0	0
Oc. japonicus	0	0.33	0.93	95	0	0
Oc. sollicitans	52.5	0.07	0.16	100	0.59	22.1
Oc. triviattus	0.1	0.05	0.55	64	0	0.0

The salt marsh mosquito does have more potential as a vector in that population distribution. In addition, some criticisms of this model point out that the percent mammal meals listed for Cx. *pipiens* is much larger than others have suggested (Apperson et al., 2002); however, it has also been suggested that Cx. *pipiens* changes its feeding habits later in the season (Spielman, 2001), or that hybridization between subsets of the mosquito that specialize in either human- or bird-

feeding has led to the severity of West Nile virus in the US (Fonseca et al., 2004). If the percentage were lower, the relative risk associated with *Cx. pipiens* would decrease proportionately, and its share of overall risk would decrease (with other species' shares increasing). In addition, trap counts may not accurately reflect the distribution of human-biting mosquitoes (Anderson et al., 2004), although they are designed to mimic attributes of warmblooded animals that attract mosquitoes for meals. This means that the data the model depends on may not be entirely reliable.

It is not responsible to directly compare the different data sets for Connecticut and Suffolk County, however. They merely represent degrees of relative risks. Actual risks associated with these data would depend on whether or not virus is actually present to create the opportunity for illness, and the numbers of mosquitoes present. For example, if overall mosquito numbers in Connecticut are actually much less than on Long Island, the actual degree of risk presented by *Cx. pipiens* here might be equivalent to the risk posed by *Cx. salinarius* there. In addition, if mosquito control efforts in the 1990s actually decreased the numbers of all mosquito species, not just salt marsh mosquitoes, then the risk of disease represented by "natural" distributions of mosquitoes, especially *Oc. sollicitans*, might have been much greater than current distributions and numbers show.

The data are suggestive, however, that there is a difference in the mosquito ecology between Connecticut and Suffolk County. If the difference in speciation is not accompanied by vastly different numbers of mosquitoes, the different ecology would alter risks for disease transmission significantly. In Connecticut, the comparative risks computed for *Cx. salinarius* were three times those of *Cx. pipiens*, for example. Since the mosquito that has the greatest degree of risk in Suffolk County (*Cx. pipiens*) only has one-third of the relative risk of *Cx. salinarius* (albeit in Connecticut conditions), overall disease risk in Suffolk County might be considered to be much lower due to differences in mosquito ecology.

However, unpublished sampling results from 2005, focusing on distinguishing among the various *Culex* species, found a much higher incidence of *Cx. salinarius* than had been anticipated (S. Campbell, SCDHS, personal communication, 2006). This suggests its abundance might in fact be much greater than has been hitherto calculated, and the differences in mosquito ecology between Suffolk County and Connecticut might be much less than initially described.

Another way of examining the issue is to compare actual patterns of disease across the two different areas. West Nile virus has followed a similar course in Connecticut as in Suffolk County. There have been relatively few cases, and most occurred in 2002 and 2003. Connecticut in composed of eight counties; four are on the coast and four are inland. It might be argued that coastal Connecticut is more similar to Long Island than the state as a whole is, although neither comparison is especially apt. USGS maps of WNV incidence by County led to the following description of WNV in Connecticut. WNV incidence was defined as a bird testing positive for WNV, a mosquito pool testing positive for WNV, or a human or equine case of WNV. Table 7-38 shows the results of the analysis (see Figure 7-11 for a map of Connecticut). For Suffolk County, the zip codes where these conditions were recorded were mapped for 2000 to 2004 (Figures 7-12 to 7-16). To simplify the work, it was assumed that no one in Suffolk County was exposed to the disease in 1999, and only Fairfield County was exposed in Connecticut (Mostashari et al., 2001b). All members of a zip code were assumed to have been exposed if it met the criteria, and the degree of exposure for all "positive" zip codes was assumed to be the same. Population for Suffolk County as a whole for 2000 to 2004 was assumed to be constant, using the 2004 population generated by ESRI with the GIS zip code coverage. Connecticut populations were set at 2000 Census levels. Table 7-39 shows the results of this analysis.













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Cashin Associates, PC

#### Table 7-38. Connecticut WNV Exposure

County	Population	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Fairfield	882,567	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Hartford	857,183		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Litchfield	182,193		Х		Х	Х	Х
Middlesex	155,071		Х	Х	Х		
New Haven	824,008		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
New London	259,088		Х	Х	Х	Х	
Tolland	136,364		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Windham	109,091		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х

Table 7-39. WNV cases and exposures in Connecticut and Suffolk County, 1999-2004

	Population	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Connecticut	3,405,565	0	1	6	17	17	1
Four Coastal	2,120,734	0	1	3	11	12	1
Counties of							
Connecticut							
Four County		882,567	2,120,734	2,120,734	2,120,734	2,120,734	1,706,575
Exposed							
Populations							
Suffolk County	1,482,824	0	0	1	8	10	0
Suffolk County		na	1,135,878	1,195,260	1,168,088	1,227,931	191,328
Exposed							
Population							

Comparisons can then be made between the rates of cases occurring in the two areas (Table 7-40).

Table 7-40. Rates of WNV cases (per million population) in Connecticut and Suffolk County, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Mean Rate	Maximum Rate
Connecticut	0	0.29	1.76	4.99	4.99	0.29	2.06	4.99
Four Coastal Counties of Connecticut	0	0.47	1.41	5.19	5.66	0.47	2.20	5.66
Four County Exposed Populations	0	0.47	1.41	5.19	5.66	0.59	2.22	5.66
Suffolk County	0	0	0.56	4.62	5.49	0	1.78	5.49
Suffolk County Exposed Population	na	0	0.84	6.85	8.14	0	3.17	8.14

The similarities of disease variation across time in both areas are striking. It should be noted that the differences in the mean rates are not statistically significant. In addition, it should be understood that the zip code definition is too fine a scale to compare the Suffolk County data to the Connecticut data, as it may be that certain zip codes in the Connecticut counties also did not report positive birds of mosquito pools. If Connecticut data had been tested on a zip code scale, infection rates would probably have been higher, because county-wide data sets minimize infection rates by including people who do not fit the definition used for exposure in the Suffolk County zip code analysis.

Comparing county-wide Suffolk County data to the Connecticut data finds that infection rates in Suffolk County were less than or equal to Connecticut rates, however computed, each year. In fact, the mean infection rates for Connecticut were 10 to 20 percent higher than the county-wide Suffolk County mean rate. The difference could be attributable to differences in mosquito ecology, discussed above. Or the differences could be due to different mosquito control programs.

Connecticut's water management program emphasizes more progressive means of water management than does the current Suffolk County program. Officials there claim that larvicide use is eliminated in marshes that have undergone progressive marsh restoration. Connecticut has an aggressive larvicide program in both fresh water and salt water marshes. The State does not adulticide, although specific towns may choose to use adulticides.

Suffolk County has focused much of its control program on salt marsh mosquitoes, through ditch maintenance, larviciding, and some adulticiding. With WNV has come increased efforts to control *Cx. pipiens*, but the focus of Suffolk County's arbovirus program has mostly been reductions of potential bridge vectors.

It is difficult to clearly partition the responsibility for Suffolk County's decreased rate of WNV illnesses between mosquito control and mosquito ecology, especially since mosquito control is responsible for parts of the mosquito ecology. This was another sticking point in the Harvard effort to model the County's conditions. Nonetheless, the similarity between the Suffolk County data and those for to Connecticut are striking. It is also notable that these rates are very different from those where no or ineffective mosquito control occurred during West Nile virus outbreaks (Douglaston, Cuyahoga County, and Ontario, see Section 9, where the per million risk of hospitalization from disease was found to be more on the order of 100, compared to the results between two and five for Connecticut and Suffolk County). These comparisons suggest that adoption of some form of IPM can have significant impacts on the effects of WNV to area residents. The lesser rates of infection for Suffolk County compared to Connecticut also may

suggest that the use of adulticides does have the effect of reducing risk of disease even more; this argument is not as well supported by the available data.

It is extremely difficult to determine, analytically, risks associated with EEE. It has not occurred as often as WNV, or as predictably. Nonetheless, EEE is inextricably linked to particular habitat types. Of particular concern are white cedar swamps found near salt marshes, as this represents the key situation described for EEE transmission in New Jersey.

Edinger et al. (2002) report that Atlantic white cedar swamps are restricted to the coastal lowland zone in New York State, which includes Long Island. The reference site for Atlantic white cedar swamps is given as the Cranberry Bog County Park. This abandoned cranberry bog is adjacent to Sweezy and Cheney Ponds, in the 460-acre park, and is the largest of Long Island's surviving Atlantic white cedar swamps. This a somewhat anomalous white cedar swamp, in that it is not associated with salt marshes. Atlantic white cedars can be found in coastal plain poor fens, but they are not the dominant vegetation.

Cashin Associates (2004) reported that this community type can be found within Cranberry Bog County Park and Cedar Swamp (along the perimeter of Cheney Pond and Cedar Pond, on the north side of County Road 51 southwest of downtown Riverhead behind the County Complex). The coastal plain Atlantic white cedar swamp is a predominantly evergreen or mixed evergreen/deciduous swamp that occurs on organic soils along streams and in poorly drained depressions and kettle holes of the Long Island coastal plain. The peat deposits that are prevalent typically overlie a substrate of sand. Atlantic white cedar (*Charmaecyparis thyoides*) comprises over 50 percent of the canopy cover in these communities. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) trees are often co-dominant in impure Atlantic white cedar stands, although lesser black gum and pitch pine may be present as well. Atlantic white cedars require full sunlight and moist soils to thrive. However, long-term soil saturation associated with damming, or, conversely, desiccation associated with the draining of surface water bodies can result in tree loss. Changes in long-term precipitation patterns will have a similar impact. Moreover, degraded water quality (from stormwater discharges and/or polluted groundwater) can adversely affect the health of Atlantic white cedar trees. Ironically, a major threat to Atlantic white cedar regeneration and sustainability is the inhibition of light penetration caused by the screening effect of the trees' own foliage on potential seedlings. As individual trees are lost or become stressed, opportunities arise for competing species to gain dominance. Forest fires, chronic flooding, and windthrow, however, occasionally open these stands to larger expanses of sunlight, thereby allowing the stand to regenerate.

Atlantic white cedar forests were once prevalent on Long Island (Spring-Rushia and Stewart, 1996), but are now considered to be rare with only a few significant occurrences on Long Island. This community type has a global ranking of G3G4 and a State ranking of S1 making it "especially vulnerable" in the State of New York (Edinger et al., 2002).

Contacts were made with local natural resources experts to determine if other Atlantic white cedar swamps are identifiable in Suffolk County (Table 7-41).

Town	Location
Babylon	Belmont State Park <sup>1</sup>
Brookhaven	None <sup>2</sup>
East Hampton	None <sup>3</sup>
Huntington	None <sup>4</sup> ; perhaps on the east side of Crab Meadow <sup>5</sup>
Islip	None identified
Riverhead	None <sup>6</sup>
Shelter Island	None known <sup>7</sup>
Smithtown	Blydenburgh Park <sup>8</sup>
Southampton	Cranberry Bog County Park <sup>9</sup>
	Cedar Swamp <sup>10</sup>
	Along Route 24, at and around Hubbard Creek <sup>11</sup>
	Owl Pond, Birds Creek County Park <sup>7</sup>
	Sears Bellows County Park <sup>12</sup>
	Hubbard County Park <sup>12</sup>
Southold	None identified

Table 7-41. Atlantic White Cedar Swamps in Suffolk County

<sup>1</sup> J. Guarino, Senior Environmental Analyst, Town of Babylon, Department of Environmental Control, personal communication, 2005

<sup>2,8</sup> J. Turner, Director of Environmental Protection, Town of Brookhaven, personal communication, 2005

<sup>3</sup> B. Frank, Chief Environmental Analyst, Town of East Hampton, personal communication, 2005

<sup>4</sup> J. Dieterich, Department of Maritime Services, Town of Huntington, personal communication, 2005

<sup>5</sup> M. Myles, Department of Planning, Town of Huntington, personal communication, 2005

<sup>6</sup> J. Hall, Town of Riverhead Planning Department, personal communication, 2005

<sup>7</sup> L. Bavaro, Peconic Estuary Program, SCDHS Office of Ecology, personal communication, 2005

<sup>9</sup> Edinger et al., 2002

<sup>10</sup> Cashin Associates, 2004

<sup>11</sup> M. Brusseau, Cashin Associates, personal observations

<sup>12</sup>W. Sickles, Suffolk County Department of Parks, personal communication, 2006

Although there are not many Atlantic white cedar swamps in the County, there are also some red maple swamps in close proximity to salt marshes. A prime example of this is the Mastic-Shirley area, where Cashin Associates found stands of red maple swamps in the fresh water wetlands

immediately north and east of the salt marshes along the shoreline (see Section 5). There are also red maple swamps in Amityville near the shoreline, as well, according to Town officials. It is clear that similar guilds of birds inhabit each swamp, and that *Cs. melanura* can thrive in both. Therefore, coastal red maple swamps may very well serve the same function in areas of Suffolk County that coastal stands of Atlantic white cedar swamps appear to serve in New Jersey – that is, to create opportunities for salt marsh mosquitoes to come into contact with EEE-infected birds and so become vectors. Suffolk County therefore appears to have been fortunate not to have experienced human cases of EEE spread by this mechanism, given the competence of *Oc. sollicitans* as a vector of EEE.

Red maple swamps are otherwise fairly ubiquitous inland in the County. Notable examples are found in Manorville on and near the Peconic River and in the vicinity of Southaven County Park on the Carmans River. The text book example of this ecological community occurs primarily in the lower stretch of the Peconic River although it is fairly common throughout the Count y. This community can be described as a maritime, coastal, or inland hardwood swamp which commonly forms either a narrow transitional zone between a river (such as the Peconic River) and an adjacent pine barrens uplands or may occupy a poorly-drained topographic depression. Long Island's red maple-black gum coastal plain swamps usually have a thin surface layer of acidic, substantially decomposed peat over saturated sandy loam or loamy sand grading into sand at higher elevations within the pine barrens. Red maple-black gum swamps often occur in saturated and or damp soils that are subject to periodic riverine flooding and/or seasonally-high groundwater levels which rise to or near the ground surface. Inland examples usually occur on an acidic silty loam soil; however, this vegetative community can develop on soils of various textures. The ground surface often exhibits hummocky micro-topography and the roots of the red maple trees are at least partially exposed (Edinger et al., 2002).

Red maple swamps provide valuable habitat and breeding areas for a variety of resident birds. Swamps dominated by red maple are known to attract a plethora of insects, particularly in the early spring. The insects attract a variety of insectivorous birds such as vireos, warblers, and thrushes. Most migrate south at the start of cold weather. As winter arrives, kinglets (*Sylviidae*), nuthatches (*Sittidae*), woodpeckers (*Picidae*), titmice (*Paridae*), and brown creepers (*Certhia familiaris*) begin to infiltrate to feed on insect larvae from the dying, dead, and decaying trees (CPBJPPC, 1995).

Red maple black-gum swamps have a global rarity ranking of G3 and a State ranking of S2 and are therefore considered to be "very vulnerable" within the State (NYSDEC New York Natural Heritage Program, 2002).

The primary bridge vectors for settings such as red maple swamps are usually cited as Cq. *perturbans* and *Ae. vexans*. The relatively low percent transmission rate reported by Chamberlain (1956) (discussed in Section 3) may explain why the inland cycling of EEE appears to be less efficient at infecting people.

That these two fresh water mosquitoes are not as good at infecting people and that Suffolk County has not experienced human cases of EEE historically should not be reason to assume risks are small. EEE amplification in the bird population peaks in mid-summer. This is just when young-of-the-year birds migrate from natal areas to find territories of their own. As discussed above, these young birds that are more likely to have high levels of virus in their systems. Common sense dictates that the focus of concern when EEE amplifies in Cs. melanura populations setting should be the immediate vicinity of that swamp, bounded by some flight radius of the mosquito species of concern. Additional concerns should be raised anywhere that the fledglings fly from that particular swamp. Commonly, these birds will seek similar environments, meaning that when EEE is amplifying, attention should be paid to outbreaks in similar red maple or Atlantic white cedar swamps. However, there is no certainty that the migrating birds will in fact seek habitat similar to where they fledged. They may seek entirely different areas altogether. For that reason, in southern New Jersey, where EEE and Atlantic white cedar-red maple environments are more common, control efforts focus on all large populations of human biting mosquitoes whenever EEE has amplified to minimize risks of human disease. In New Jersey, it has been determined that it is not possible to safely predict where a human-biting mosquito may host off an infected bird and become an EEE vector. The theory is that reducing the numbers of any human biting mosquito will reduce disease risk.

Control measures used in Suffolk County and elsewhere are inherently somewhat inefficient. This is because it is difficult to control the amplification vector, *Cs. melanura*, reliably due to its life cycle and preferred habitats. In addition, *Cs melanura* habitats often intersect habitats of importance for rare-threatened-endangered species (which tend to be found in ephemeral fresh water wetlands, for one). This makes the potential for impacts to non-target organisms of more concern, and so both program managers and regulators tend to be less comfortable instituting controls, be they water management or pesticide applications. When monitoring reveals cycling of EEE in *Cs. melanura*, which means amplification of the virus in birds, control measures have targeted the obvious, local bridge vectors. In Suffolk County, that has generally meant special efforts to look for *Ae. vexans* and *Cq. perturbans* populations, and to adulticide those mosquitoes to reduce risk (while also conducting larviciding efforts in breeding habitats earlier in the season as prophylaxis).

Given the stunning efficiency of *Oc. sollicitans* as an EEE vector, it may be that the focus of Suffolk County on controlling salt marsh mosquito problems may have had an additional effect of reducing risk from EEE. Because vector control efforts here have always tried to keep salt marsh mosquito populations low to reduce human discomfort, the effect may have been to create many fewer chances for opportunistic feeding by *Oc. sollicitans* on migrating infected birds. Similarly, the geographic absence of large Atlantic white cedar swamps near salt marshes, and relatively low number of red maple swamps similarly located, also has reduced relative risks in the County.

This suggests that the current control program has reduced risks for EEE over a no mosquito control option, by aggressively reducing bridge vectors. This is likely to be a benefit for any of the novel disease risks:

- Jamestown Canyon virus
- La Crosse virus
- Sindbis virus
- Rift Valley fever virus
- Japanese encephalitis virus
- Usutu virus

It is clear that controlling major infestations of human-biting mosquitoes necessarily reduces the instances of non-clinical impacts from mosquitoes. These aggravating, and almost never fatal side effects of mosquito feeding on human blood occur less often when there is less mosquito feeding on people.

Ecological impacts of mosquito-borne disease under IPM are very difficult to ascertain. It is far from clear that risks to crows from WNV, for example, were reduced by mosquito control efforts

across the County. Control efforts are certainly not targeted at alleviating ecological impacts. There is some interest in reducing WNV impacts to horses, or EEE impacts to horses, pheasants, or, if they were raised here, emus. Incidence of disease in birds tends to focus control interest in particular areas, and past incidents lead to greater surveillance efforts, which may lead to benefits for the birds over time. However, the interest does not extend as far as having control measures enacted to reduce the impacts.

All-in-all, it seems likely that the current program has had a demonstrable impact on disease risk in the County, although it is difficult to partition potential benefits from control efforts, the natural differences in mosquito ecology between Suffolk County and other locations, and the induced mosquito ecology resulting from decades of mosquito control efforts.

## 7.11.3. Mosquito-borne Disease Risks Under the Long-Term Plan

It seems clear that the Long-Term Plan will not increase risks of WNV illness compared to the current program. Implementation of progressive water management should, at worst, maintain, and actually is intended to decrease, salt marsh mosquito numbers. Other potential bridge vectors, such as *Ae. vexans*, will continue to be aggressively controlled. *Cx. pipiens* may be better controlled through wider use of larvicides in storm water systems, and more targeted applications of adulticides for viral control, in terms of timing and application means, in fresh water environments where trapping indicates that *Cx. pipiens* is the dominant mosquito present. Continuing public education should also pay dividends in reductions of mosquito environments in the near vicinity of residences and businesses. Therefore, it seems likely that WNV risks for people will be reduced through adoption of the proposed Plan.

Implementation of the Long-Term Plan may reduce risks somewhat from the current mosquito control situation for EEE, as well. This follows from the following elements:

- A strong EEE surveillance program in red maple swamps will be continued, allowing for early detection of the amplification cycle.
- If amplification is detected, surveillance will be extended to similar habitats following logical, local migration paths (mostly south and west), to determine if young-of-the-year birds are spreading the virus.

- Prophylactic control of obvious bridge vectors in the vicinity of historical amplification areas will be continued, using larvicides.
- When the risk profile warrants (if there are large numbers of bridge vectors in the vicinity of an amplification center), adulticides will be applied to reduce the risk of human or equine cases.
- Although the reduction of EEE risks may be an unintentional by-product, salt marsh mosquitoes will be controlled using larvicides, and, if warranted, adulticides; this appears to reduce the chances that this very efficient potential vector of EEE is not allowed to infect people.

Similarly, risks from endemic and novel diseases may be less under the proposed plan, for similar reasons. Good surveillance will determine the presence of the pathogens, and control of most bridge vectors means that opportunities for human infection are less than they might otherwise be.

Progressive water management, as it is implemented, holds the promise (according to experiences in neighboring jurisdictions), of reducing salt marsh mosquito populations as well as larvicides and current water management techniques do, except with greater consistency. This should lead to fewer "out-of-control" broods, and so fewer people experiencing reductions in the quality of life because of these mosquitoes.

Thus, the overall result of implementation of the Long-Term Plan should be a reduction in overall disease risk from mosquito-borne pathogens, when compared to those risks under the current program. The current program, it should be emphasized, appears to reduce disease risks quite significantly. This issue will be discussed more fully following the analysis of "no mosquito control," in Section 9.

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