

Abstract to be presented at the 2nd International Conference of the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence (*From Knowledge to Environmental Action: Synthesising Evidence to Inform Decisions*)

1. Oral presentation

2. Title: Using conceptual models to integrate and communicate evidence

3. Presenting author: Kate Schofield, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, schofield.kate@epa.gov, 202-564-2640

4. Abstract: We use an interactive conceptual model diagram, based on multiple systematic reviews of nutrient stressor and stream biotic response relationships, to illustrate the use of these diagrams to integrate and communicate environmental evidence for both decision-makers and other stakeholders. By linking the evidence mined from one or more systematic reviews to an explicit visualization of relevant cause-effect relationships, these diagrams allow users to see evidence pertinent to both the specific, typically limited number of relationships upon which an individual systematic review must focus, and how those relationships fit into the broader picture (e.g., in terms of interacting stressors and endpoints). Ideally, these interactive diagrams will create—and “bank” for future use—evidence networks, or scaffolds on which to display the individual pieces of evidence uncovered during systematic reviews and build the overall body of evidence. Disclaimer: Views expressed are the authors’ and not views or policies of the U.S. EPA.

5. Theme: Special session: Approaches to diverse policy needs and evidence streams: systematic review and evidence integration for national environmental decision-making

6. Required support for French/English translation: Presentation will be given in English.

Link to CEE work and guidelines: This work is based in part on a published CEE SR protocol and presents preliminary results from that SR as well as other SRs undertaken as part of the same, larger project.