

Progress Update of Contaminants Analysis for White-nose Syndrome

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting a study to evaluate whether contaminants may play a role in White-nose Syndrome or other mortality and adverse effects in bats. This study is being jointly conducted by the New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana and New England Field Offices. We are evaluating pesticide use, particularly in New York, where data are more readily available, focusing on newer classes of pesticides that have been more recently used. We have submitted a number of New York bat samples for chemical analysis for pesticides such as neonicotinoides, pyrethroids and a variety of fungicides/herbicides. Additional samples from across the affected region will be submitted for chemical analysis once initial results are evaluated. We are also beginning an effort to collect insect samples from bat maternity and swarm sites. Samples will be analyzed for pesticides and other environmental contaminants.



Insect collection apparatus – Onondaga Lake, July 2009
Photo: Anne Secord - USFWS