

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING NOAA NATIONAL STATUS AND TRENDS DATABASE**

- 1) In the upper left part of the screen, select which type of data you are interested in from the drop down menu (e.g. for contaminant data, select “Chemical”)
- 2) Next, select which type of chemical parameters you are interested in (e.g. PCBs). If you click on the grey arrow to the left of the chemical name, you’ll get an expanded list of parameters (e.g. PCB congeners). If you want to select all congeners, just click on the highest level box.
- 3) On the top middle of the screen, you can use a drop down menu to narrow your search by geographic area. For example, select “Regions” and then choose “Puerto Rico” from the subsequent drop down. If you don’t want to narrow your search (i.e. you want nationwide data), select “Entire Nation”.
- 4) Next, select the sample matrices for which you want data. If you click on the box to the left of “All Matrices”, then you can see for which matrices we have data and you can select the ones that you want.
- 5) If you click on the white box to the left of each individual matrix, you can select data from any specific program that you’re interested in.
- 6) Click on “Download File” to download your selected data as a .tsv file. The data is tab delimited and the column headers won’t look right when you open it in excel unless you open as tab delimited. The data is tab delimited as opposed to comma delimited because our parameter names include commas. It isn’t saved as an excel file in case the user doesn’t have excel or is using this data in an application that struggles to process excel files.
- 7) Clicking on the “Download Metadata” button will open a pop-up box providing supporting documentation. This includes the data dictionary for the download which will explain each of the columns in the outputted data file as well as links to metadata for any of the studies selected in the data file (provided we have the metadata).