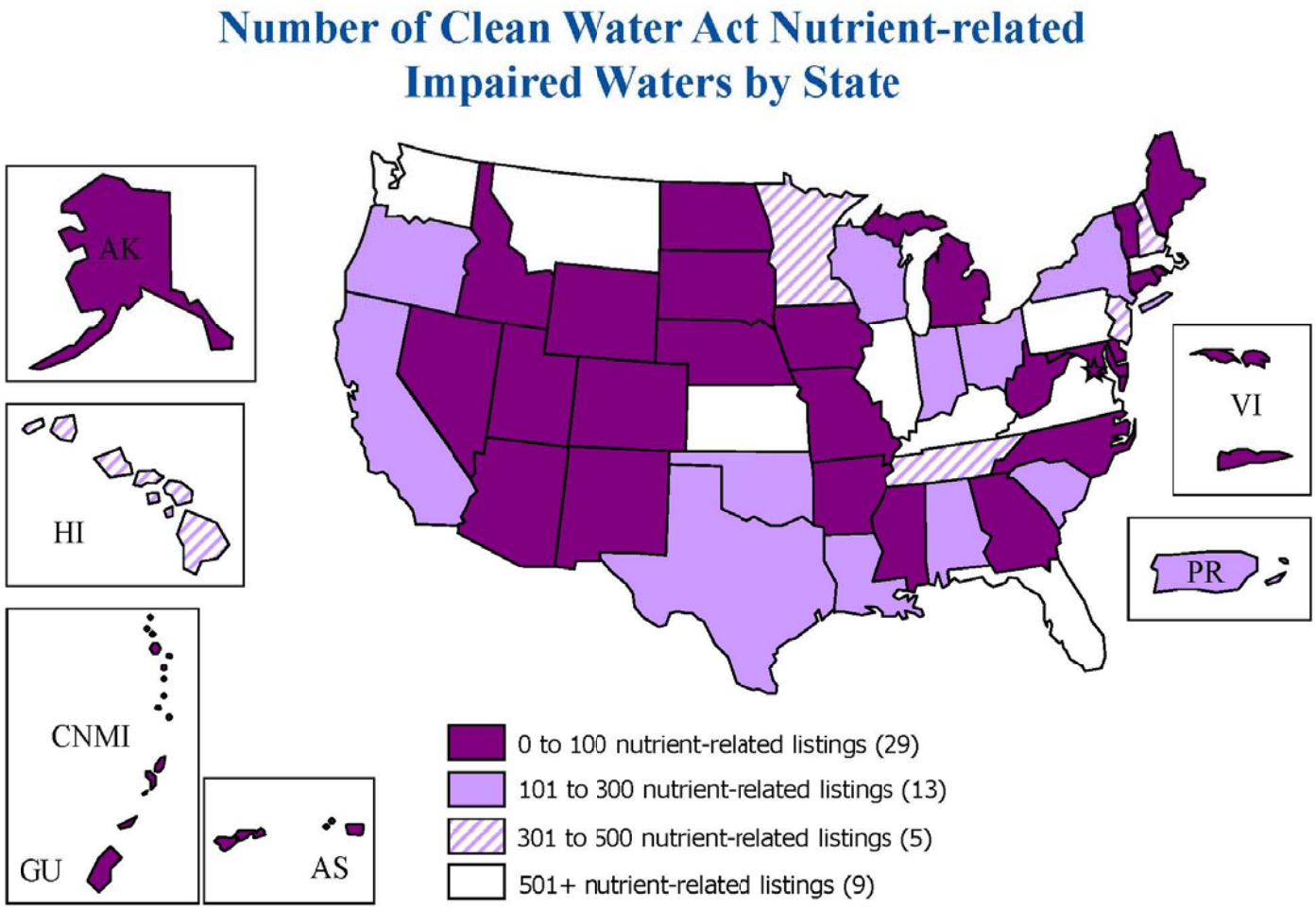
Nutrient-related CWA Section 303(d) List Impairments and Total Maximum Daily Loads

Nutrient-related CWA Section 303(d) Listed Impaired Waters

Under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), states, territories, and authorized tribes are required to establish water quality standards, monitor and assess waters, and develop lists of impaired waters which are waters not meeting water quality standards. These are waters for which technology-based regulations and other required controls are not stringent enough to meet the water quality standards set by states. The law requires that states establish priority rankings for waters on the lists and develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for these waters. As part of section 303(d) states lists are due to EPA in April of every even numbered year.

For purposes of identifying nutrient-related impairments, EPA uses the following parent impairment categories: algal growth, ammonia, noxious aquatic plants, nutrients, organic enrichment/oxygen depletion. To date, more than 15,000 nutrient-related causes of impairment have been identified and still need a TMDL to be developed. The map below provides a picture of the number of nutrient-related listings by state.



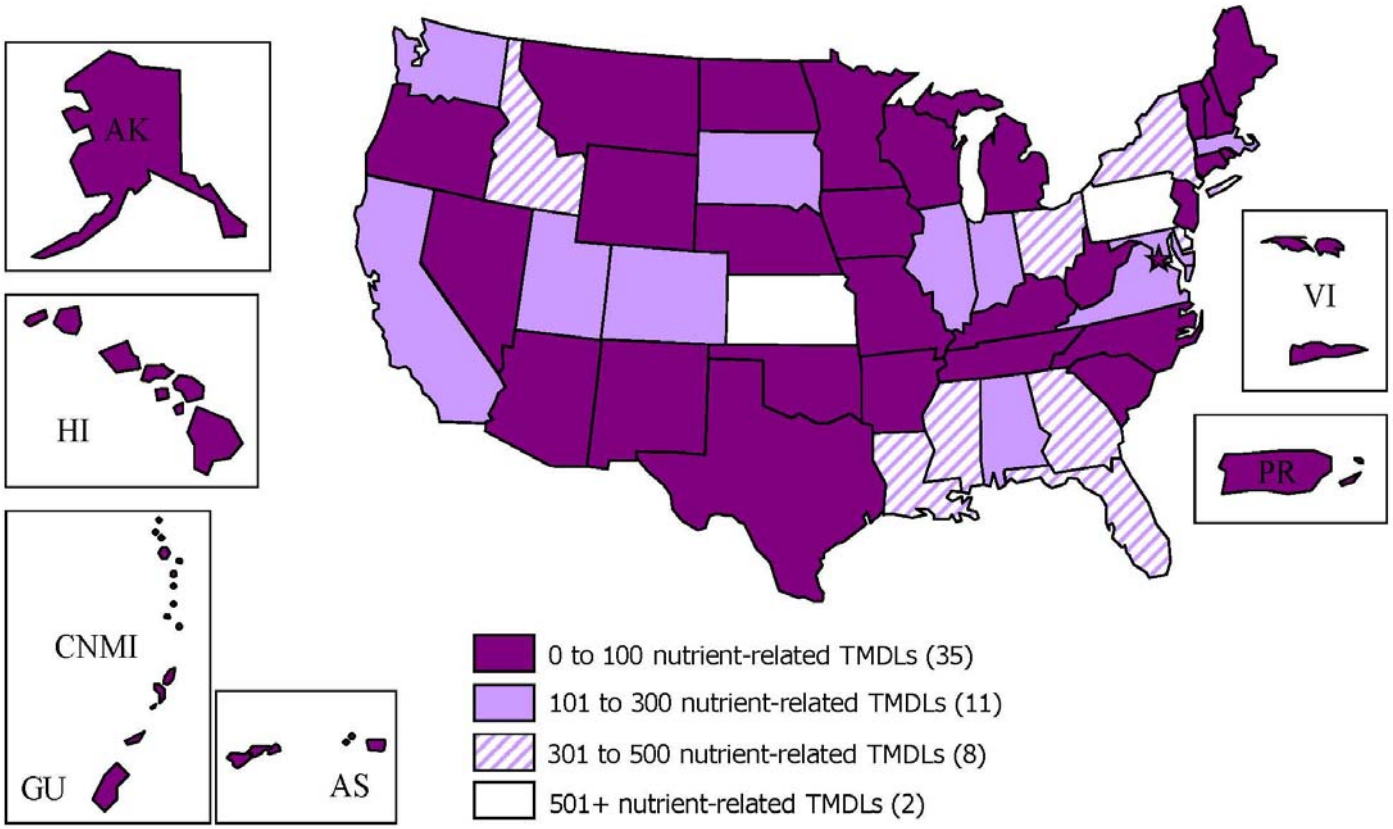
Nutrient-Related Impaired Waters with Total Maximum Daily Loads

The CWA requires that states develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for impaired waters identified in their Section 303(d) lists. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that load among the various sources of that pollutant. Pollutant sources are characterized as either point sources that receive a wasteload allocation (WLA), or nonpoint sources that receive a load allocation (LA). Point sources include all sources subject to regulation under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, e.g., wastewater treatment facilities, municipal stormwater discharges, and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Nonpoint sources include all remaining sources of the pollutant as well as anthropogenic and natural background sources. Load allocations (LAs) are implemented by nonpoint sources through a

wide variety of state, local, and federal programs (which may be regulatory, non-regulatory, or incentive-based, depending on the program), as well as voluntary action by citizens.

For purposes of identifying nutrient-related TMDLs, EPA uses the following parent impairment categories: algal growth, ammonia, noxious aquatic plants, nutrients, organic enrichment/oxygen depletion. To date, more than 7,000 nutrient-related TMDLs have been developed. The map below provides a picture of the number of nutrient-related listings by state.

Number of Clean Water Act Nutrient-related TMDLs by State



Additional Resources:

- ◊ **Information on the 303(d) and TMDL Program:** http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl
- ◊ **Overview of 303(d) Impaired Waters List:** http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/overview.html
- ◊ **The Assessment Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) Database:** Provides information reported by states to EPA from 303(d) and 305(b) reports on the condition of their surface waters http://www.epa.gov/waters/ir/index.html

Notice: This fact sheet contains general information about a program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It does not constitute Agency policy, regulations or guidance nor supersede or modify existing policy, regulations or guidance in any way.

The national maps used in this fact sheet reflect data as of 8/24/2010.