ALASKA (REGION 10)
A Snapshot of Alaska's TMDL Program (August 2008)

The Basics
Key Agency/Department & website

> Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
> Division of Water
> www.dec.state.ak.us/water/tmdl/tmdl_index.htm

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

> Housed in Water Quality Standards, Assessment & Restoration
> Program (NPS Water Pollution Control Section)

By the Numbers
Number of Impaired Waters	33
Number of Causes of Impairment	40

Top Five Causes of Impairment
1. Other cause
2. Oil and Grease
3. Turbidity
4. Sediment
5. Total Toxicity

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually	2 (minimum)
Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA)	34
Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007	4/2/3
2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date)	3/26/2008
Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues	5 (w/ other duties)

TMDLs
EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs?	Y
Broad-Scale? (*e.g.*, watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.)	

Non-TMDL Options
Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters?	Y
Example(s) 4b (see below)	

Funding
Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program	$930,000 to $1.1 million
Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding	federal 319 funds; R10 contractor assistance

TMDL Implementation
TMDL Implementation Required?	N

Innovations

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed

--use of 4bs to address impairments through other regulatory programs: *e.g.*, recovery plans and Records of Decision (ROD) for hazardous substance/contaminated site cleanup

--starting to tackle more complicated TMDLs dealing with toxic metals from historic and recent mining practices

TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

Ward Cove—dealt with impairment from wood residue from log transfer facility

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. lack of staff time and resources, including budget
2. having sufficient scientifically valid data in order to determine natural conditions, set loading capacity, and make realistic allocations
3. most TMDL models are not applicable in AK, so either we go with very simplistic models not requiring much data, create our own methodology, and/or complete the TMDL using assumptions that in many instances are significant

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. TMDL implementation is mostly voluntary; most TMDLs do not have competing waste load allocations
2. lack of water quality in many instances; it is difficult to determine natural conditions and natural contributions that make it challenging to determine and distinguish from human actions
3. lack of departmental staff and budget resources