

NORTH CAROLINA (REGION 4)

A Snapshot of North Carolina's TMDL Program (November 2008)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
<http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tmdl/>

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Housed in Division of Water Quality, Planning Section

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters	902
Number of Causes of Impairment	982
Top Five Causes of Impairment	1. Pathogens 2. Cause Unknown–Impaired Biota 3. Mercury 4. Turbidity 5. Organic Enrichment/Oxygen Depletion
Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually	15
Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA)	125
Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007	13/7/24
2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date)	4/1/2008
Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues	3.4 (dev't & impl'n)

TMDLs

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

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters? Y

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program FTE salaries
Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding federal 106 & 319 funds; fees/receipts (permits, etc.)

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required? N

Innovations

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed
--working on a TMDL to address impairment of biological integrity, using a variation of the impervious cover method; if EPA approves it, we hope to apply it elsewhere

--developing state regulations for nutrient TMDLs to ensure that the load allocations are achieved

--if others are working to improve water quality without a TMDL, we postpone TMDL development to see how their efforts work out

--developing a system to track TMDLs along with all other restoration and protection activities in the state, regardless of the lead organization

--emphasizing increased collaboration and looking at what we can stop doing to ensure that the program is successful and sustainable

TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

Links to NC TMDLs:

http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tmdl/TMDL_list.htm#Final_TMDLs

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. most of the impairments in NC are mercury in fish tissue, or biological; there are no well-established methods for TMDL development for these impairments
2. there are only six staff in the unit that develop TMDLs, and they have other duties as well
3. TMDL development is often not on the best (time-wise or cost-wise, *e.g.*) path toward attainment of WQSS; if we really had to develop TMDLs for every impaired waterbody to improve, it would take forever

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. lack of local interest in voluntary implementation of load allocations
2. lack of local resources (expertise, money, etc.) for voluntary implementation of load allocations
3. sometimes, it's just hard to figure out which NPSs are contributing, and which reductions would lead to attainment of standards