

# **RHODE ISLAND (REGION 1)**

*A Snapshot of Rhode Island's TMDL Program (August 2008)*

## ***The Basics***

Key Agency/Department & website

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
Bureau of Environmental Protection  
www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/rest/index.htm

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Housed in Office of Water Resources (Surface Water Protection)

## ***By the Numbers***

Number of Impaired Waters 166

Number of Causes of Impairment 348

Top Five Causes of Impairment

1. Metals (other than mercury)
2. Pathogens
3. Nutrients
4. Cause Unknown–Impaired Biota
5. Organic Enrichment/Oxygen Depletion

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually 18

Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA) 88

Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007 2/28/30

2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date) 4/1/2008

Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues 7

## ***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?

## ***Funding***

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program \$800,000

Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding federal funds (3/4) & state funds (1/4)

## ***TMDL Implementation***

TMDL Implementation Required? N

## ***Innovations***

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

because so many of RI's water quality impairments are caused by urban stormwater sources, the TMDL Program works very closely with the RI Pollution Discharge Elimination Program

Phase II Stormwater and NPS Programs to respectively establish TMDL related permitting requirements, and financial and technical assistance to MS4s to implement the requirements; with respect to the Phase II Program, the implementation sections of our TMDLs include detailed descriptions of stormwater BMPs needed (relating to both Phase II minimum measures and construction of BMPs) to ensure consistency with TMDL requirements and Phase II permit requirements; we also have prepared a model scope of work that municipalities can utilize to hire consultants to conduct catchment area feasibility analyses and BMP selection and design

Links to RI TMDLs:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/rest/reports.htm>

### ***Barriers***

#### Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. limited water quality database to characterize current conditions, establish TMDL targets, and identify pollution sources
2. lack of effective (from both technical and cost perspectives) analytical tools to determine nutrient thresholds in estuarine waters

#### Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. lack of state personnel to provide technical assistance to municipalities
2. lack of municipal “buy-in” to the TMDL process and findings
3. lack of municipal capacity (financial and staff resources) to implement