

**A Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program**

*The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program provides for effective integration of implementation efforts to restore and protect the nation's aquatic resources, where the nation's waters are assessed, restoration and protection objectives are systematically prioritized, and Total Maximum Daily Loads and alternative approaches are adaptively implemented to achieve water quality goals with the collaboration of States, Federal agencies, tribes, stakeholders, and the public*

**“Prioritization”** For the 2016 integrated reporting cycle and beyond, States review, systematically prioritize, and report priority watersheds or waters for restoration and protection in their biennial integrated reports to facilitate State strategic planning for achieving water quality goals

**“Assessment”** By 2020, States identify the extent of healthy and CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters in each State's priority watersheds or waters through site-specific assessments

**“Protection”** For the 2016 reporting cycle and beyond, in addition to the traditional TMDL development priorities and schedules for waters in need of restoration, States identify protection planning priorities and approaches along with schedules to help prevent impairments in healthy waters, in a manner consistent with each State's systematic prioritization

**“Alternatives”** By 2018, States use alternative approaches, in addition to TMDLs, that incorporate adaptive management and are tailored to specific circumstances where such approaches are better suited to implement priority watershed or water actions that achieve the water quality goals of each state, including identifying and reducing nonpoint sources of pollution

**“Engagement”** By 2014, EPA and the States actively engage the public and other stakeholders to improve and protect water quality, as demonstrated by documented, inclusive, transparent, and consistent communication; requesting and sharing feedback on proposed approaches; and enhanced understanding of program objectives

**“Integration”** By 2016, EPA and the States identify and coordinate implementation of key point source and nonpoint source control actions that foster effective integration across CWA programs, other statutory programs (e.g., CERCLA, RCRA, SDWA, CAA), and the water quality efforts of other Federal departments and agencies (e.g., Agriculture, Interior, Commerce) to achieve the water quality goals of each state

Timeline for Goal Statements

2014 – Engagement

2016 – Prioritization, Protection, Integration

2018 – Alternatives

2020 – Assessment (Site-specific)

2022 – Evaluate accomplishments of the Vision and Goals

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe a new, long-term Vision and associated Goals for the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program, as well as present implementation plans for achieving the Vision and Goals. Recognizing the significant input from individual states and the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA), EPA is pleased to present this Vision and these Goals to help guide the realization of our clean water goals in a manner that best reflects lessons learned from the past two decades of CWA 303(d) Program implementation and that anticipates new challenges that are likely to present themselves in the coming years.

## How Have We Gone About the Task?

EPA and State program managers launched the effort to develop a new long-term Vision and Goals for the program in August 2011. Following a number of discussions and meetings with program managers and staff, the States generated a comprehensive “wish list” of potential program improvements that was then distilled into key issue threads. Over the span of several months, State and EPA participants discussed these issue threads and formulated both a working draft Vision and six Goal statements that would significantly contribute to achieving that Vision.

Throughout the development of the Vision and Goals, EPA and the States were guided by the preeminent importance of successful implementation of our CWA assessment, restoration, and protection activities, in the context of ensuring the use of good scientific and technical information and methods, having appropriate and relevant water quality standards, engaging individuals and organizations that have a role in reducing nonpoint as well as point sources of pollution, facilitating the use of listing and TMDL information by stakeholders, and assessing results to guide adaptive management strategies. EPA and the States recognize that the CWA Section 303(d) Program is only one part of the CWA and one part of how we can drive water quality attainment, but it is a key part – translating the water quality standards and goals of States into analyses and pollution reduction targets that describe a path to clean water. In the summer of 2012, the States and EPA provided the draft Vision and Goals to external stakeholders for their review. As a result of that stakeholder review, additional modifications were made to this document, including clarifications of the Goal statements.

In a parallel effort, in the fall of 2012, the States and EPA also initiated a workgroup to discuss creation of measures that would help track the CWA 303(d) Program’s success in light of the new Vision and Goals. The workgroup was tasked with developing a new measure or a set of metrics that would balance (1) State diversity in implementing the Vision and its Goals, (2) the need for national aggregation of information to communicate overall program progress, and (3) guiding principles for measures compiled by the States and EPA over the previous year (for example, measures that reflect incremental progress, are outcome-oriented, and consider reporting burden).

The revised Vision and Goal statements were presented (along with several suggested approaches for program measures, and preliminary implementation plans for Prioritization and Assessment Goal statements), and well-received, at the February 2013 ACWA mid-year meeting.

To provide more detail on the path for achieving the long-term Vision and Goals of the CWA 303(d) Program, the States and EPA developed implementation plans for each Goal statement that contain action milestones and timelines to help States build their individual strategies to achieve the CWA

303(d) Program Vision. These Vision Goal Statements and their implementation plans and milestones, reflect discussions among almost every State, three Tribes, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, an interstate organization and EPA at an April 2013 State/EPA Workshop. While no Tribe currently administers the CWA 303(d) Program, Tribal, State and EPA representatives recognize the importance of Tribal perspectives and concerns in implementing the CWA 303(d) Vision.

The revised Vision and Goals , along with the near-final draft implementation plan, were presented at the ACWA meeting in August 2013. Additionally, external stakeholder input was sought on that draft. The product of these extensive efforts is today's version of the Vision and what the States and EPA are now implementing.

### Important Considerations

The Vision and Goals presented here are designed to help coordinate and focus EPA and State efforts to advance the effectiveness of the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program direction in the coming decade. Prior to this effort, CWA 303(d) Program direction largely had been described through broader CWA program management goals and specific performance measures, such as the EPA's annual National Water Program Guidance and the States' water quality commitments. It is expected that such program goals and performance measures will evolve to reflect this new long-term Vision and Goals, with such changes being proposed and reflected as a part of those processes.

This new, long-term Vision and associated Goals are not regulation, policy, or new mandates. They do, however, provide focus for EPA and State efforts to better manage the CWA 303(d) Program activities to achieve water quality goals for the Nation's aquatic resources such as streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries and wetlands. States and EPA retain their flexibility in how they implement their CWA 303(d) Program responsibilities (including, specifically, identification of impaired waters and development of TMDLs) consistent with existing statutory and regulatory authorities and their individual priorities.

The Goal statements are presented in an order beginning with the cornerstone Goals of Prioritization and Assessment – with the Prioritization Goal as the foundation to guide planning and implementation of the other Goals, and the Assessment Goal to develop a full understanding of the condition of priority areas identified. The next two Goals of Protection and Alternatives pertain to actions that a State may consider to advance its water quality objectives, in addition to TMDL development. Finally, under the Integration and Engagement Goals, coordination of the CWA 303(d) and other CWA program objectives and involvement of stakeholders around mutually identified priorities are key themes to deal with the technical challenges of water quality restoration and protection, limited funding and other resources, and the specific objectives of individual States and their public. The Engagement Goal is a key means to implement the Vision and as a result, is expected to be initiated immediately.

States and EPA encourage their CWA 303(d) Program managers to adopt the Vision concept. We anticipate this Vision will be implemented at two levels. At one level, State and Federal program managers work together and measure their collective progress. At another level, States individually employ their specific strategies to achieve the overall Program Vision and their own specific goals; in concert with the public, States may develop a Vision strategy that outlines a comprehensive, integrated, and iterative approach to addressing the challenge of achieving and communicating water

quality improvements. We believe such State-level Vision strategies can be generated through evaluating the Goals of the long-term Vision at the individual State level. The intent is to generate, through thoughtful discussion and debate, ideas and information on workable approaches for developing and implementing State efforts to achieve the Goals of the Vision and, ultimately, each State's water quality standards. Thus, there will likely be variability in State strategies to achieve the Vision.

#### Relationship to EPA Strategic Plan Measures for the CWA 303(d) Program

There are also implications for reshaping relevant EPA Strategic Plan measures that reflect the new Vision and Goals. Previous performance measures for the Program have served to draw attention and effort to areas important during those times, such as tracking the number of TMDLs approved. Although it is expected that TMDLs will continue to be the primary feature of the Program, the Program will become better positioned as States and EPA work with stakeholders to carry out this Vision and Goals, to meaningfully capture implementation success through a new measure. States will have flexibility in developing strategies to achieve their Vision Goals, producing information that national tracking will report through a new national measure, and additional metrics, to communicate overall progress and provide accountability.

A workgroup of States and EPA is developing a metric to replace, by FY 2015, the simple tally of TMDLs completed with one that measures the extent of State priority waters addressed by TMDLs or alternative approaches in impaired waters or by protection approaches in waters of existing good quality. The metric will have a defined universe, baseline, and annual targets. Recognizing that TMDLs and alternative approaches may take several years to be developed, and that States engage in actions outside of priority areas, a complementary measure also is envisioned to track incremental progress toward development of TMDLs or alternative approaches in priority areas, as well as such activities outside of priority areas. This complementary metric approach will provide the opportunity for States not only to report on their focused progress within their priority waters, but also to communicate overall progress.

## **Prioritization Goal**

*For the 2016 integrated reporting cycle and beyond, States review, systematically prioritize, and report priority watersheds or waters for restoration and protection in their biennial integrated reports to facilitate State strategic planning for achieving water quality goals*

The intent of the Prioritization Goal is for States to express CWA 303(d) Program priorities in the context of the State's broader, overall water quality goals. The CWA 303(d) Program provides an integrating function because it translates state water quality standards into pollution reduction targets for the point source permitting and nonpoint sources management programs as well as other programs outside the CWA. Linking the CWA 303(d) Program priorities with those of other programs can aid in strategically focusing limited State resources to address priority waters through water quality assessments, TMDL or alternative approaches, water quality protection strategies, implementation actions and follow-up monitoring. Establishing CWA 303(d) Program priorities will lead to more efficient and effective program management, yielding faster progress toward water quality improvement and protection.

While existing CWA 303(d) statutory and regulatory obligations remain in force (including requirements to identify impaired and threatened waters and develop TMDLs for such waters according to a priority ranking and schedule), we believe these requirements can be implemented through the lens of a State's prioritization framework. Prioritization provides a framework for focusing the location and timing of TMDL development efforts and/or alternative actions that are best suited to the water quality goals of each state. In addition to identifying high priority waters, it is also important to identify those waters that will be a lower priority for TMDL development.

The State's CWA 303(d) priority framework should be transparent to the public and clearly address how the States will implement the CWA 303(d) Program Vision and work toward the associated Goals over the next decade. The priorities provide the foundation to guide the planning and implementation of the other CWA 303(d) Vision Goals, and States and EPA will work collaboratively in defining them. Important venues for such State/EPA collaboration include the Performance Partnership Agreement/Performance Partnership Grant (PPA/PPG) discussions and development of CWA State Water Quality Management Plans and CWA Integrated Reports (IRs). The IR process, with its existing provisions for public notice and comment as well as prioritization for TMDL development, is a logical repository for such State prioritization efforts, even if such efforts are developed in other venues such as PPA/PPGs.

States and EPA envision using existing and emerging tools to help develop the priority frameworks. For example, state-wide probability-based water quality surveys can assist States in identifying, based on the State WQS, particular pollutants/stressors and/or geographic areas of the State that may warrant particular attention. Tools like Recovery Potential Screening are emerging as beneficial to States to consider where to invest their efforts for the greater likelihood of success, based on the traits of their geographic area's environment and communities. Some States may have an existing

prioritization process that addresses many of these issues (e.g., use of the rotating basin approach) and thus, States may include their existing efforts as appropriate.

#### Milestones and Proposed Timeline

- 1) ACWA surveys States on their current approaches and rationales to prioritizing water quality restoration and protection (e.g., PPA/PPG discussions, biennial impaired waters list, State Water Plans) to establish a baseline of prioritization philosophy. (2013)
- 2) States provide to EPA, through ACWA, good examples of systematic prioritization processes/products of States, including emerging TMDL Vision Strategies. (2013)
- 3) EPA and States collaborate on a workshop to present tools to aid priority-setting, such as the Recovery Potential Tool, Healthy Watersheds Initiative, and wetland restoration priority setting tools, as well as to address data availability issues and develop a template to account for State reporting on priorities for TMDL or alternative approaches. (2014)
- 4) EPA provides training on tools to assist States in the use of State-scale statistically representative survey results for prioritization. (2014)
- 5) EPA includes in IR guidance for 2016 examples of how IR reporting process can house/reference State prioritization reports, including the appropriate definition and metric for such reporting. (2015)
- 6) States house/reference State prioritization reports in 2016 IRs, including: priority lists of waters slated for near term (~2 year) TMDL development or alternative approaches; priority waters scheduled for likely TMDL development or alternative approaches over 2016 - 2022; priority waters awaiting management to protect their current condition from degradation; and/or the strategic rationale of the State in setting these priorities, which may include customized Vision Strategies. (2016)

## **Assessment Goal**

*By 2020, States identify the extent of healthy and CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters in each State's priority watersheds or waters through site-specific assessment*

The purpose of this Goal is to encourage a comprehensive understanding of the water quality status of at least each State's priority areas. These assessments are a key step in ensuring that appropriate management actions can be taken to protect and restore these waters. Detailed assessments of the nation's waters have been a challenge given the number and extent of waters, the variety of pollutants that could affect them, and the limited resources available to undertake the task. States and EPA recognize that given these challenges it is important to be strategic about how limited monitoring and assessment resources are deployed.

Most states employ a combination of cost-effective monitoring and assessment approaches to address CWA data needs. The most widely used approaches include: targeted data collection to characterize site-specific water quality conditions; statistically representative survey designs to describe water quality conditions across a basin or State; and, modeling, literature values, and reference watersheds to predict water quality conditions or impacts from individual dischargers or sources of pollutants. Advances in technology and data transmission offer potential for improvements in the amount of data available and the efficiency of data interpretation. States and EPA will continue to apply existing tools and explore new ones as appropriate to assess and track changes in the extent of impaired and healthy waters in priority areas, at the State-scale and nationally in order to assess progress toward CWA goals.

A comprehensive understanding of the water quality status of at least the State priority areas is essential to effectively address the water quality challenges in the priority areas and to effectively measure the progress on the CWA 303(d) Program performance. As a general matter, targeted monitoring is expected to be the primary approach for accomplishing the comprehensive assessment of States' priority areas. However, some States may also use the results of state-wide or sub-state representative surveys when the results of such approaches may be compelling enough (i.e., have a high degree of confidence) to support site-specific water quality attainment decisions.

### **Milestones and Proposed Timeline**

- 1) States and EPA develop and distribute tools to support consistency in cycle-to-cycle tracking of water quality status. (2016)
- 2) States and EPA develop and publish approaches to ensure linkage between priority waters and assessment units, and how to roll up different State approaches into a National total. (2018)
- 3) States develop plans to complete "baseline" monitoring to gather needed data to assess pre-implementation conditions in priority areas. (2018)
- 4) States develop plans to complete "effectiveness" monitoring to gather needed data to assess post-implementation conditions in priority areas. (2018)

## **Protection Goal**

*For the 2016 reporting cycle and beyond, in addition to the traditional TMDL development priorities and schedules for waters in need of restoration, States identify protection planning priorities and approaches along with schedules to help prevent impairments in healthy waters, in a manner consistent with each State's systematic prioritization*

The intent of the Protection Goal is to encourage a more systematic consideration of management actions to prevent impairments in healthy waters (i.e., unimpaired waters) in order to maintain water quality or protect existing uses or high quality waters. Although protection of healthy waters is envisioned specifically as an objective of the CWA – “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters” – substantial resources to date have been focused on restoring impaired waters; protection efforts have lagged. Protection and restoration are interdependent goals regarding the “integrity of the nation’s waters.” Protection of healthy headwaters and wetlands, for instance, helps reduce downstream restoration challenges and costs, while restoration reduces risks to adjacent protected, healthy waters. Successful restoration of impaired waters can lay the foundation for committed and continued protection of those same waters.

Although not all States may ultimately choose to use protection approaches, opportunities for protection within the context of state-wide water quality goals can be an important component to achieving water quality objectives. For example, setting CWA 303(d) Program priorities could involve consideration of the restoration potential of impaired waters adjacent or upstream to healthy watersheds. Such coordinated efforts could lead to realizing more effective results than isolated, individual protection or restoration actions. Also, under the protection Goal, healthy waters at risk of becoming impaired, could be identified as part of the CWA 303(d) Program prioritization process.

Some States have used their CWA 401 certification or antidegradation programs to protect healthy waters and habitats. Some Tribes have also promoted the concept of protection in their water programs. Protection provisions are included in the CWA 303(d) regulations, including the opportunity to establish TMDLs for information purposes (“informational TMDLs”) or the need to list threatened waters. EPA is also promoting a voluntary Healthy Watershed Initiative whereby it will work with State and other partners to identify healthy watersheds and to develop and implement healthy watershed protection plans to maintain the integrity of those waters. Likewise, States could consider leveraging their existing work to identify high quality waters and Outstanding National Resource waters for antidegradation purposes.

### **Milestones and Proposed Timeline**

- 1) ACWA surveys States on their current approaches and rationales to prioritizing protection of healthy waters (e.g., PPA/PPG discussions, State Water Plans, high quality water designations, protection-based TMDLs, etc.) to establish a baseline of priority philosophy. (2013)
- 2) States provide to EPA, through ACWA, good examples of systematic prioritization processes/products of States, including emerging TMDL Vision Strategies that include aspects of protection. (2013)
- 3) EPA and States collaborate on a workshop to present tools to aid in protecting healthy waters, as well as to develop a template to account for State reporting on protection priorities and schedules. (2014)



## **Alternatives Goal**

*By 2018, States use alternative approaches, in addition to TMDLs, that incorporate adaptive management and are tailored to specific circumstances where such approaches are better suited to implement priority watershed or water actions that achieve the water quality goals of each state, including identifying and reducing nonpoint sources of pollution*

The purpose of this Goal is to encourage the use of the most effective tool(s) to address water quality protection and restoration efforts. For the past two decades, many TMDLs have been developed in response to litigation. As a result, States and EPA have not always had the opportunity to objectively evaluate whether a TMDL would be the most effective tool to promote and expedite attainment of State water quality standards. With most of their consent decree and settlement agreement TMDLs completed, States and EPA are using their program experience to make more informed decisions about selecting and using the tools that have the best opportunity to restore and protect water quality.

While TMDLs will remain the most dominant program analytic and informational tool for addressing impaired waters, a major focus of this Goal is to identify, evaluate, and promote (as appropriate) other tools (or “alternatives”) that may be more immediately beneficial or practicable to achieving applicable water quality standards under certain circumstances. For example, additional opportunities with long-standing program tools (e.g., Category 4b) will likely be considered along with emerging tools, wherein impaired waters remain on the State’s CWA 303(d) list until water quality standards are attained, but are assigned lower priority for TMDL development as alternatives designed to achieve water quality standards are pursued in the near term. If water quality standards are not fully attained through these alternative approaches, development of the TMDL would be necessary.

Recognizing the importance of effective implementation to achieve water quality standards, another major focus of this Goal is to further explore and identify how principles of adaptive management can most effectively be applied to improve water quality whichever restoration tool is chosen. Adaptive management will help the program incorporate new data and information, identify opportunities and actions to pursue under the Integration Goal of the Vision, and iteratively adjust and integrate subsequent implementation actions to meet water quality standards.

### **Milestones and Proposed Timeline**

- 1) States compile an inventory of current and potential types of State approaches and rationales for pursuing near-term, alternative approaches to the traditional TMDL process (e.g., subcategories of Category 5 for on-going restoration efforts, Category 4b; Category 4c) to address impaired waters. (2014)
- 2) EPA and States collaborate to identify factors or tools to aid States in deciding to pursue a TMDL or a non-TMDL alternative approach. Such factors or tools will address multiple considerations, including opportunities for a weight-of-evidence approach for selecting a TMDL or non-TMDL alternative approach, as well as identify circumstances where a TMDL or non-TMDL alternative are likely to be more successful. (2014)
- 3) EPA and States compile a catalogue of good examples for each type of TMDL alternative approach based on the inventory results and guiding principles. (2014)
- 4) EPA and States collaborate on a workshop and create a blueprint communicating how adaptive management can be applied during the implementation of TMDL and non-TMDL approaches to achieve water quality standards. (2016)
- 5) EPA and States develop a reporting method for tracking non-TMDL approaches employed and their environmental results. (2017)

## **Engagement Goal**

*By 2014, EPA and the States actively engage the public and other stakeholders to improve and protect water quality, as demonstrated by documented, inclusive, transparent, and consistent communication; requesting and sharing feedback on proposed approaches; and enhanced understanding of program objectives*

The purpose of the Engagement Goal is to ensure the CWA 303(d) Program encourages working with stakeholders to educate and facilitate actions that work toward achieving water quality goals. Facilitating meaningful engagement with the public and stakeholders on watershed goals, the prioritization processes, watershed restoration plans, and necessary watershed actions related to CWA 303(d) is vital. Levels of engagement range from public outreach and communication efforts to more strategic civic and technical engagement for long-term capacity building in the watershed. EPA and States will further explore the various types of engagement and delineate some of the barriers to, and opportunities for, each level of engagement. In addition, an effort to develop a national message for the program (i.e., “branding”) may be beneficial for consistently communicating the Vision and associated Goals to general audiences. Branding of the Program provides a communications umbrella under which States can utilize a common set of talking points for engaging broad audiences, yet have the ability to tailor them when communicating with more specific audiences. It is generally recognized by EPA and States that strategic engagement efforts could be aided by improved communication to develop a CWA 303(d) Program brand that would enable the public to more readily identify and support water quality restoration and protection goals and actions. An engagement strategy for this Goal will consider effective methods currently employed by States, and identify ways engagement efforts and strategies support other Vision Goals such as Prioritization, Alternatives, and Integration.

### **Milestones and Proposed Timeline**

- 1) States develop (or enhance an existing) framework or strategy to engage the public and other stakeholders. A public engagement strategy will identify key opportunities and actions to: communicate the Vision Goals to the public and other stakeholders and encourage their participation in achieving them; provide information about the purpose and critical importance of the program; and, encourage their participation in the process of listing and developing TMDLs or alternatives. (2014)
- 2) States develop a framework to ensure they have data to measure each Goal, with the aim of communicating the most relevant outputs and/or outcomes to key stakeholders in their state, and informing the public about their progress and accomplishments. (2015)
- 3) EPA develops a strategy for communicating results of Federal and State progress in implementing the Program-wide Vision. (2015)
- 4) States share success stories and/or lessons learned regarding engagement and report to EPA and ACWA. (2017)

## **Integration Goal**

*By 2016, EPA and the States identify and coordinate implementation of key point source and nonpoint source control actions that foster effective integration across CWA programs, other statutory programs (e.g., CERCLA, RCRA, SDWA, CAA), and the water quality efforts of other Federal departments and agencies (e.g., Agriculture, Interior, Commerce) to achieve the water quality goals of each state*

The intent of this Goal is to integrate the CWA Section 303(d) Program with other relevant programs that play a role in influencing water quality, in order to collectively and more effectively achieve the water quality goals of States, Tribes, and Territories. Because TMDLs are not self-implementing, effective integration of key programs – especially key CWA programs (listing and TMDLs, water quality standards, monitoring and assessment, CWA 319, CWA 404, and NPDES) that encompass assessment and point source and nonpoint source control actions – is important to realize the pollutant reduction goals identified in TMDLs or alternative approaches. It also is important that integration occur among the different offices in charge of CWA programs within a department or agency as well as between and among local, State, Federal and tribal jurisdictions. Interaction between agencies and non-governmental interests also may promote effective implementation. Integration is particularly important for addressing impairments caused by non point sources of pollution, especially in watersheds crossing multiple jurisdictions and those involving different CWA programs. A consequence of not integrating effectively is less successful implementation, especially for TMDLs or alternative approaches that include sources of nonpoint pollution that typically lie outside the regulatory reach of the CWA.

This Integration Goal aims to overcome barriers in coordination by aligning diverse program goals for mutual benefit. To achieve this, cross-program education will be important, in addition to active leadership and engagement among groups managing these key programs. Sharing of institutional knowledge and the history of established networks will enable the next generation of State and EPA employees and managers to sustain integrated successes.

### **Milestones and Proposed Timeline**

- 1) The following milestones are expected to occur within the States and EPA in parallel efforts.
  - a) States and EPA (HQ and Regions) individually bring their CWA programs together to identify areas for improved coordination and partnership and develop a plan for fostering better communication and coordination moving forward. (2014)
  - b) States and EPA individually bring other applicable statutory program representatives and partner agencies together to identify areas for improved coordination and partnership and develop a plan for fostering better communication moving forward. (2014)
- 2) States and EPA communicate the results of these discussions, at the regional level with the pertinent States and EPA Region, or at national level with all States and all EPA Regions and HQ. (2015)
- 3) ACWA surveys States for good example case-studies of such key collaboration efforts among CWA programs, other EPA statutory programs, or external partner agencies or authorities (as available). (2015)
- 4) EPA and States collaborate on a workshop to discuss and identify the most important actions, partnerships, and authorities for the States and EPA to pursue in the near-, mid-, and long-term, with each program partner. (2016)
- 5) States and EPA initiate implementation of near-, mid-, and long-term actions. (2016)