Total Maximum Daily Loads for Fecal Pathogens

in the Clear Creek Watershed

Contract No. 582-6-70860
Work Orders No. 582-6-70860-03 and 582-6-70860-06

Quarterly Report No. 4

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS ii

LIST OF TABLES iii

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 PROBLEM STATEMENT 1

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE REPORT 2

CHAPTER 2 – HISTORICAL DATA ANALYSIS 4

2.1 SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL DATA 4

2.2 TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL DATA 7

2.3 FLOW INFLUENCE OF HISTORICAL DATA 15

CHAPTER 3 – ANALYSIS OF TMDL STRATEGIES 18

3.1 TYPES OF WATER QUALITY STRATEGIES 18

3.2 TMDL STRATEGY FOR CLEAR CREEK WATERSHED 24

CHAPTER 4 – QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN AND DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES 30

CHAPTER 5 – STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION 32

CHAPTER 6 – SUMMARY AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES 33

6.1 SUMMARY 33

6.2 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE PROJECT TIME FRAME 33

APPENDIX A – APPROVED QAPP 34

APPENDIX B – PROJECT SUMMARY 35

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE #	TITLE	PAGE #
Table 2.1	Summary of EC Temporal Trends in Clear Creek	11
Table 2.2	Summary of Entercocci Temporal Trends in Clear Creek	12
Table 2.3	Summary of Fecal Coliform Temporal Trends in Clear Creek	13
Table 2.4	Low and High Flow Analysis	16
Table 2.5	*t*-test for Low and High Flow Data	17
Table 3.1	Existing TMDL Models and Strategies	19
Table 3.2	Existing Bacteria TMDLs and Methods Used	21
Table 3.3	Land Use Acreages Within the Clear Creek Watershed	27
Table 3.4	Clear Creek Septic Data by Watershed	28
Table 3.5	Livestock Populations in Clear Creek Segments	28
Table 3.6	TMDL Strategies by Segment for Clear Creek	29

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE #	TITLE	PAGE #
Figure 2.1	Enterococci and *E.coli* Profiles for Main Stem	5
Figure 2.2a	*E.coli* Profiles for Tributaries in the Clear Creek TMDL Study	8
Figure 2.2b	*E.coli* Profile for Chigger Creek	9
Figure 2.2c	Enterococci Profile for Robinson's Bayou	10

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is responsible for administering provisions of the constitution and laws of the State of Texas to promote judicious use of and the protection of the quality of waters in the State. A major aspect of this responsibility is the continuous monitoring and assessment of water quality to evaluate compliance with state water quality standards that are established within Texas Water Code, §26.023 and Title 30 Texas Administrative Code, §§307.1-307.10. Texas Surface Water Quality Standards 30 TAC 307.4 specifies the general criteria for surface waters in the state for all users. Pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act §303(d), states must establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for pollutants contributing to violations of water quality standards. The target water bodies for this project, segments 1101 (Clear Creek Tidal), 1101B (Chigger Creek), 1102 (Clear Creek Above Tidal) 1102A (Cowarts Creek), 1102B (Mary's Creek/North Fork Mary's Creek), and 2425C Robinson Bayou are located within the Clear Creek Watershed and these segments are on Texas' Clean Water Act §303(d) List because their waters do not meet the fecal coliform and *E. coli*-based water quality criteria for contact recreation.

The main objective of this phase of the TMDL is to develop the TMDL allocation equation for bacteria for the segments listed above. Two work orders (3 and 6) have been issued for this project under Contract 582-6-70860. There are three main tasks to be completed for WO# 582-6-70860-03:

1. Administer project,
2. Participate in stakeholder process, and
3. Data analysis for determining and supporting TMDL equation.

Additionally, there are four main tasks to be completed for WO# 582-6-70860-06:

1. Administer project,
2. Participate in stakeholder process,
3. QAPP/Sampling Plan/Data Management, and
4. Data Collection.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE REPORT

This document constitutes the final report for Work Order No. 582-6-70860-03 and the fourth quarterly report for Work Order 6 (Contract No. 582-6-70860) of the Clear Creek Bacteria TMDL Project and summarizes the activities undertaken by the University of Houston during the period June 1, 2006 through August 31, 2006.

This report reflects the progress made towards the following tasks and subtasks delineated in the Project Work Plans:

Task 2/WO3&6 – Participate in stakeholder process;

Subtask 3.1/WO3 - Utilize all available information and the selected analysis method to determine the TMDL allocation equation;

Subtask 3.2/WO3 - Determine what additional data are needed and if environmental samples need to be collected;

Subtask 3.2/WO6 – Prepare and submit for approval a draft and final QAPP prior to the first scheduled monitoring event; and

Task 4/WO6 – Data collection.

Statistical analyses to determine spatial/temporal trends and differences in datasets collected under different flow conditions are presented in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 presents a detailed analysis of methods and strategies that have been used for bacteria TMDL projects to date and their potential application for the Clear Creek watershed. Progress on the QAPP and sampling activities are detailed in Chapter 4. A summary of activities related to stakeholder participation is presented in Chapter 5. Finally, a summary of activities as well as a list of activities to be conducted in the next quarter of the project is presented in Chapter 6.

CHAPTER 2

HISTORICAL DATA ANALYSES

Historical data analyses were performed using the Clear Creek Watershed data to determine temporal/spatial trends and to analyze bacteria levels under different flow conditions. These are described below.

2.1 SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL DATA

Indicator bacteria concentration profiles along Clear Creek and its major tributaries covered under this TMDL study were prepared. These data provide an indication of spatial patterns. Enterococci and *E.coli* were considered for spatial analysis at the main stem. Specific indicators have been selected for the major tributaries. Data were compared to the respective Texas water quality standards. It is noted that Enterococci and *E.coli* have different limits and may not indicate equivalent levels of fecal contamination.

2.1.1 Main Stem

As shown in Figure 2.1, the Enterococci geometric mean concentration decreased from upstream to downstream. Station 16573 is the only station where the Enterococci geometric mean value is below the recreation contact limit of 35MPN/dL. This trend is significant at the confidence level of 95% or more.

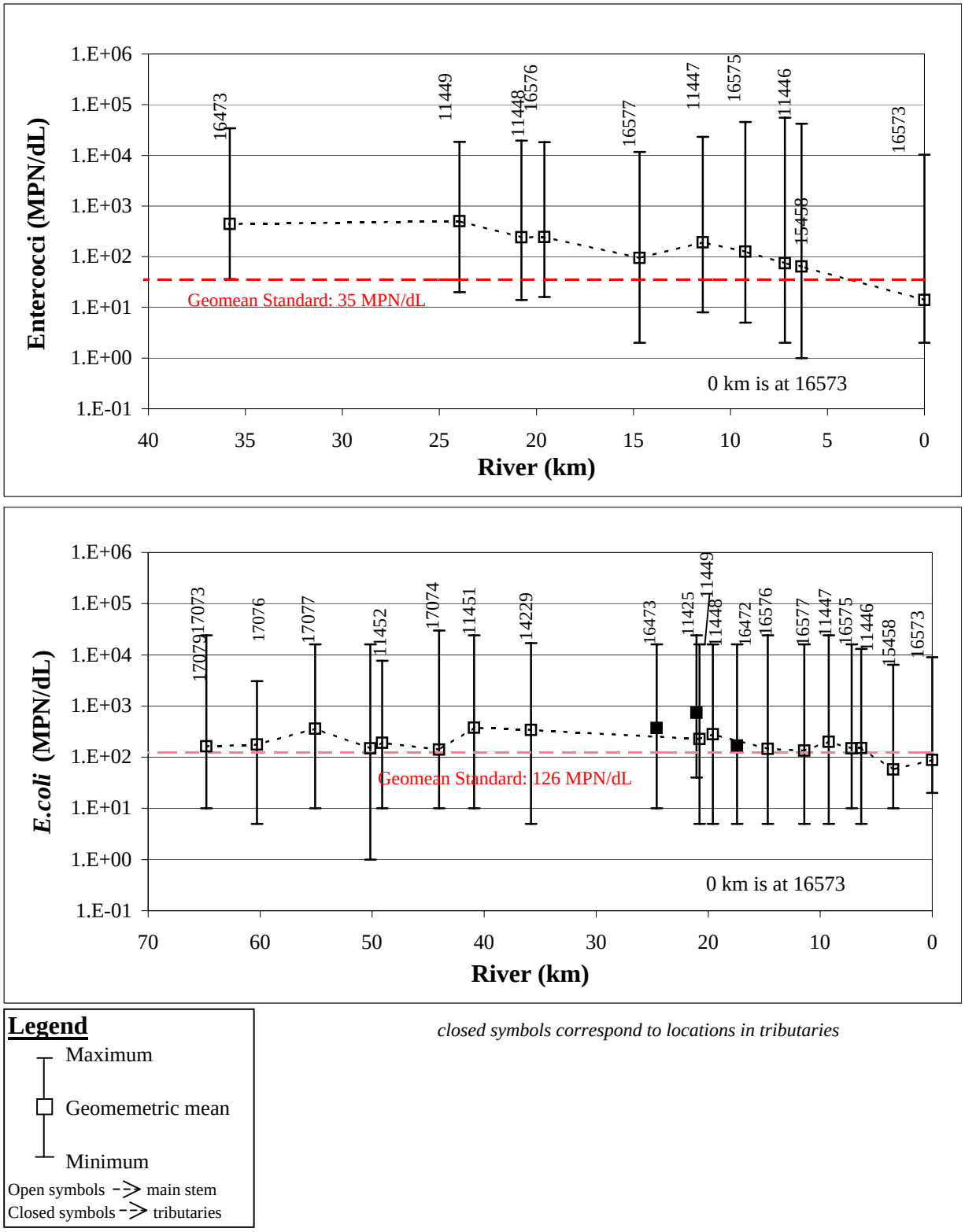


Figure 2.1 Enterococci and *E.coli* Profiles for Main Stem in the Clear Creek TMDL Study

E.coli geomean values also exhibited a slight decreasing trend from upstream to downstream. Two stations (15458 and 16573) had a geometric mean below the standard of 126 MPN/dL. However, the decreasing trend for *E. coli* was not statistically significant at a 95% confidence level.

2.1.2 Tributaries

For Marys Creek, Cowart Creek and Chigger Creek, *E.coli* was selected as the indicator bacteria. As shown in Figure 2.2, an increasing trend from upstream to downstream was found for Cowart Creek. Marys Creek showed no trend. The geomean data at almost all stations in Marys Creek were below the water quality standard, but Station 16473 near the mouth exceeded the geomean standard of 126MPN/dL[1]. In contrast, all three stations in Cowart Creek were above the standard. The first three stations along Chigger Creek exhibited increases while the geomean at the furthest downstream station 16472 decreased from the upstream geomean concentrations. In summary, *E.coli* concentrations basically increased from upstream to downstream for the three tributaries.

2.1.3 Segment 2425

The geomean concentrations in Robinson's Bayou decrease with distance from upstream to downstream as can be seen in Figure 2.2c. Two of the stations had geomeans above the standard while the remaining two had values below the standard.

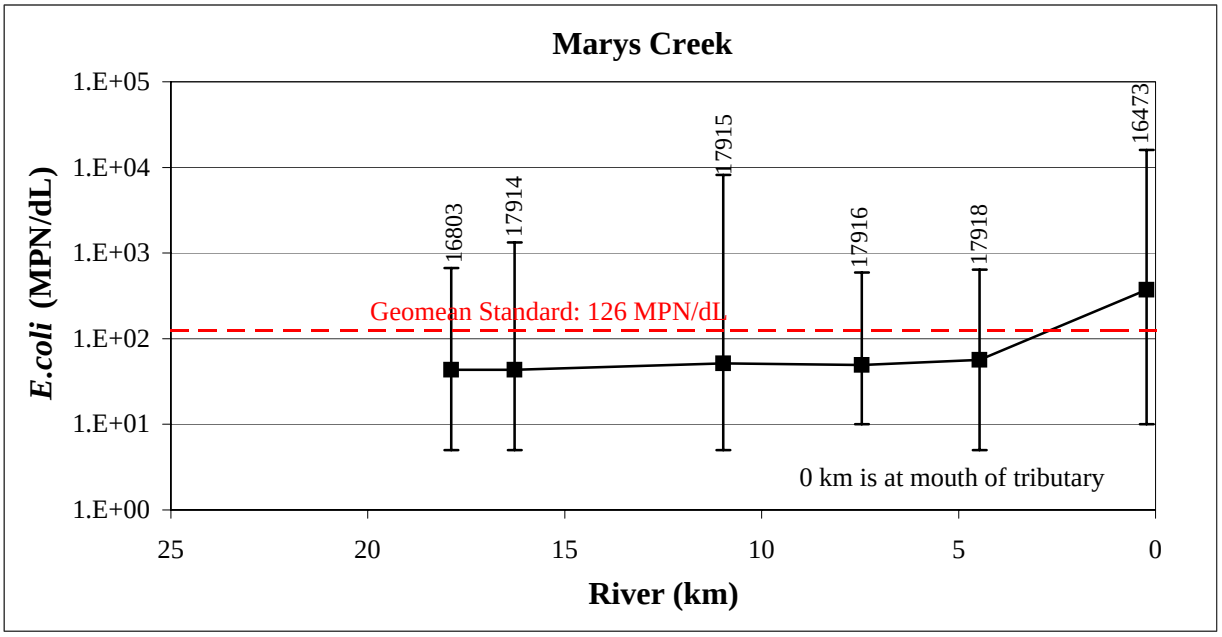
[1] MPN – most probable number, dL – deciliter.

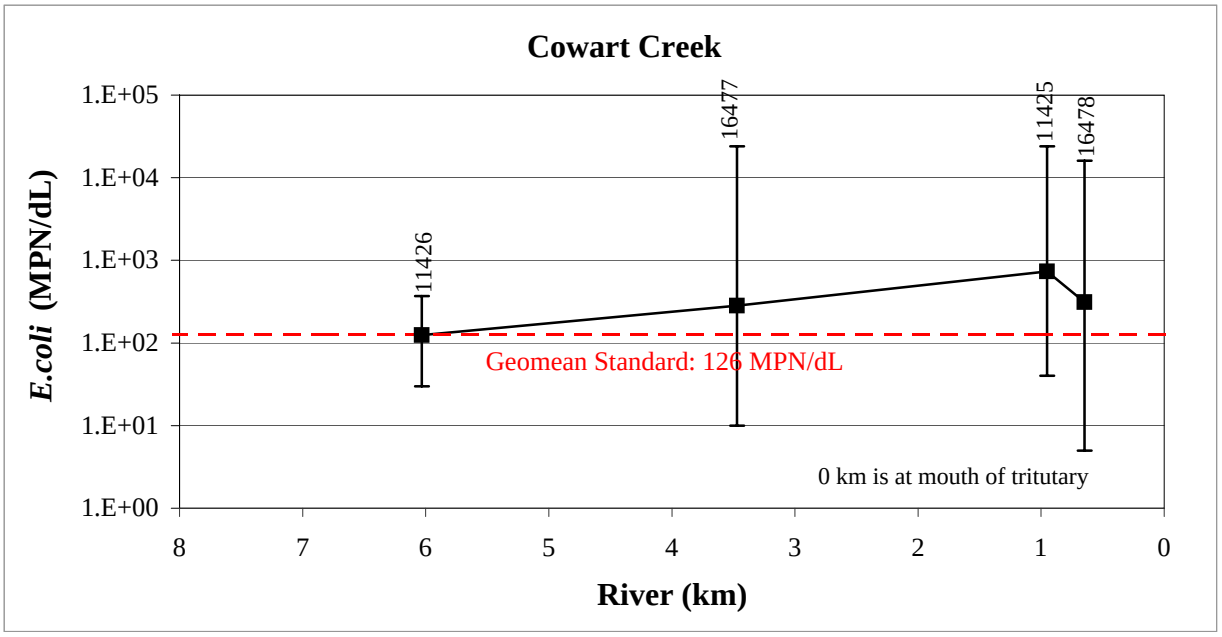
2.2 TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL DATA

The temporal trends for *E.coli*, Enterococci and fecal coliform are shown in Tables 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3, respectively. The trend was considered significant when the P-value was less than 0.05.

2.2.1 Segment 1101

Of the 11 stations with available Enterococci data, eight stations exhibited decreasing trends while the other three showed increasing trends. However, it should be noted that only one station (11448) was found to have a decreasing trend with 95% or





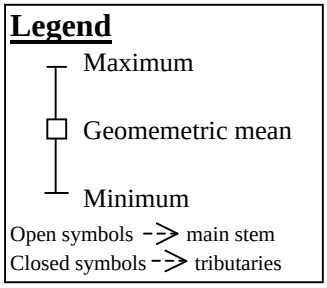
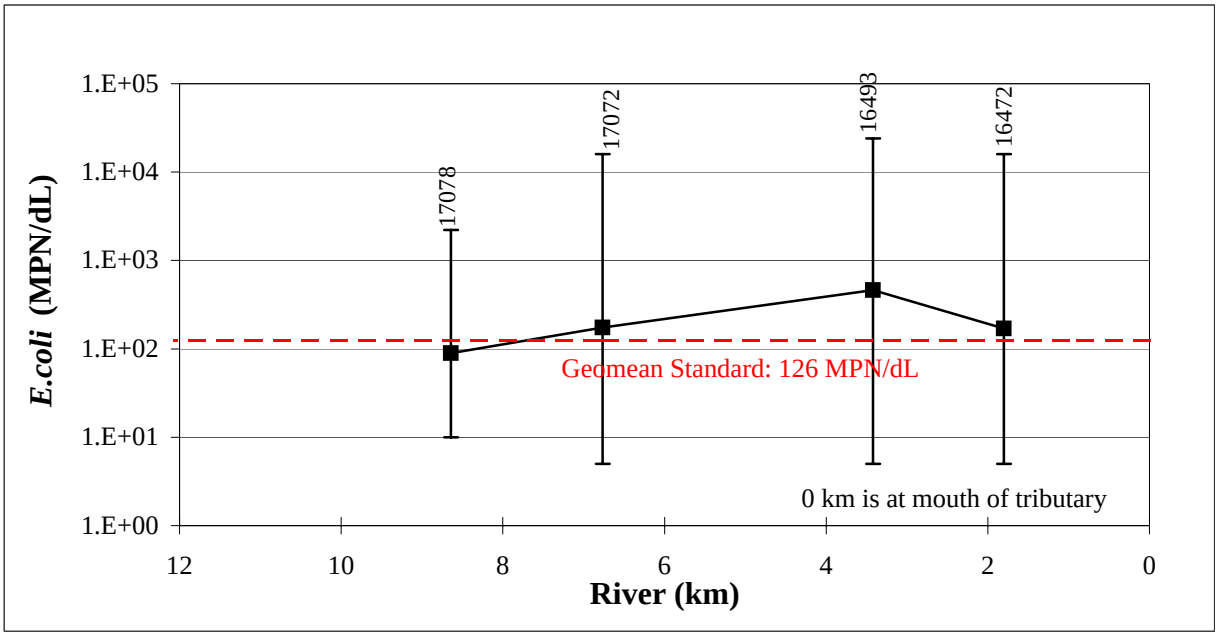


Figure 2.2a *E.coli* Profiles for Tributaries in the Clear Creek TMDL Study



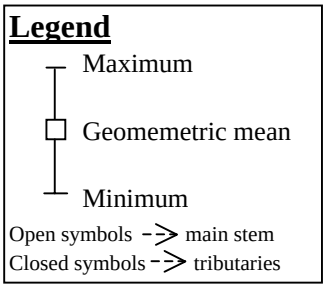


Figure 2.2b *E.coli* Profile for Chigger Creek

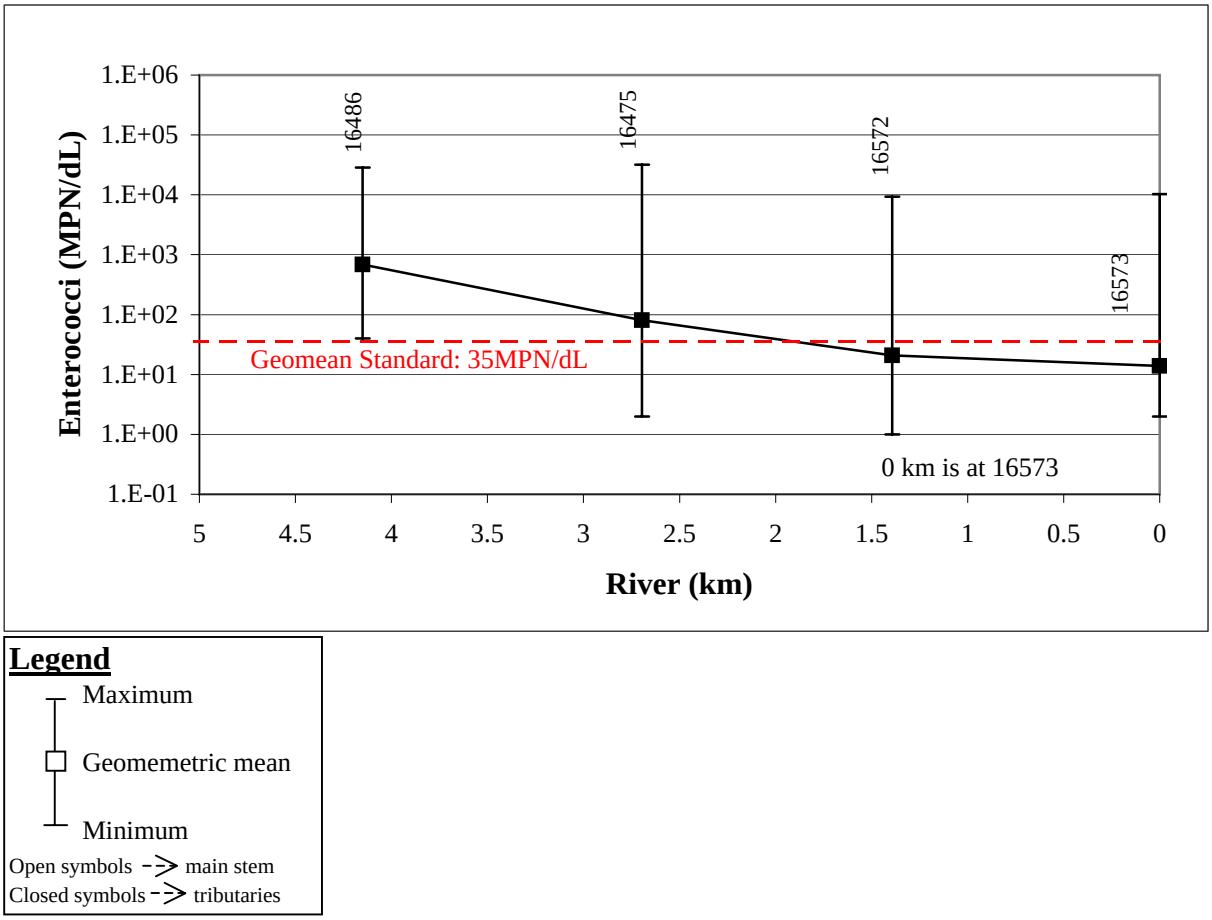


Figure 2.2c Enterococci Profile for Robinson's Bayou

Table 2.1 Summary of EC Temporal Trends in Clear Creek

Segment ID	Station ID	Slope	Trend	P-value	Indicator	No.Obs
1101	11446	-0.0005	Decreasing	0.7114	E.coli	32
	11447	-0.0117	Decreasing	0.3173	E.coli	43
	11448	-0.0062	Decreasing	0.4776	E.coli	48
	15458	0.3244	Increasing	0.0031	E.coli	10
	16472	-0.0068	Decreasing	0.5087	E.coli	49
	16493	-0.0371	Decreasing	0.1292	E.coli	51
	16572	0.0091	Increasing	0.8667	E.coli	29
	16573	0.0075	Increasing	0.6569	E.coli	28
	16575	-0.0180	Decreasing	0.7849	E.coli	43
	16576	-0.0013	Decreasing	0.1692	E.coli	49
	16577	-0.0002	Decreasing	0.3714	E.coli	50
	16611	-0.0075	Decreasing	0.7406	E.coli	4
	17072	0.0010	Increasing	0.7166	E.coli	27
	17078	0.0002	Increasing	0.7458	E.coli	17
1102	11425	0.0002	Increasing	0.4571	E.coli	19
	11426	-0.0028	Decreasing	0.2064	E.coli	5
	11449	-0.0009	Decreasing	0.0005	E.coli	48
	11450	-0.0002	Decreasing	0.1966	E.coli	63
	11451	-0.0006	Decreasing	0.0845	E.coli	31
	11452	-0.0001	Decreasing	0.8624	E.coli	26
	14229	-0.0003	Decreasing	0.0802	E.coli	53
	16473	-0.0003	Decreasing	0.0718	E.coli	53
	16477	-0.0007	Decreasing	0.0121	E.coli	49
	16478	-0.0016	Decreasing	0.0000	E.coli	34
	16803	0.0006	Increasing	0.2411	E.coli	14
	17068	-0.0004	Decreasing	0.2883	E.coli	28
	17069	-0.0025	Decreasing	0.0001	E.coli	23
	17070	-0.0020	Decreasing	0.0000	E.coli	31
	17071	-0.0020	Decreasing	0.0000	E.coli	23
	17073	-0.0006	Decreasing	0.0549	E.coli	31
	17074	-0.0007	Decreasing	0.0675	E.coli	29
	17076	-0.0002	Decreasing	0.3801	E.coli	29
	17077	-0.0003	Decreasing	0.3586	E.coli	30
	17079	0.0002	Increasing	0.6283	E.coli	21
	17914	-0.0021	Decreasing	0.1625	E.coli	9
	17915	-0.0004	Decreasing	0.6230	E.coli	15
	17916	-0.0001	Decreasing	0.8331	E.coli	14
	17917	-0.0005	Decreasing	0.2953	E.coli	15
	17918	-0.0005	Decreasing	0.3378	E.coli	16
2425	16475	-0.0007	Decreasing	0.0164	E.coli	43
	16476	-0.0002	Decreasing	0.6808	E.coli	39
	16485	-0.0007	Decreasing	0.0585	E.coli	30
	16486	-0.0013	Decreasing	0.0000	E.coli	39
	16571	0.0001	Increasing	0.8790	E.coli	28
	16671	0.0003	Increasing	0.3558	E.coli	30

Green shading indicates statistically significant trend

Table 2.2 Summary of Entercocci Temporal Trends in Clear Creek

Segment ID	Station ID	Slope	Trend	P-value	Indicator	No.Obs
1101	11446	-0.0010	Decreasing	0.6668	Entercocci	44
	11447	-0.0088	Decreasing	0.6923	Entercocci	27
	11448	-0.0457	Decreasing	0.0096	Entercocci	26
	15458	0.2457	Increasing	0.6667	Entercocci	3
	16472	0.0123	Increasing	0.7236	Entercocci	26
	16493	-0.1830	Decreasing	0.2350	Entercocci	24
	16572	-0.0110	Decreasing	0.8845	Entercocci	24
	16573	0.0763	Increasing	0.6896	Entercocci	23
	16575	-0.0206	Decreasing	0.3554	Entercocci	30
	16576	-0.0002	Decreasing	0.3097	Entercocci	30
	16577	-0.0012	Decreasing	0.1876	Entercocci	26
1102	11425	-0.0026	Decreasing	0.6160	Entercocci	15
	11449	0.0012	Increasing	0.2291	Entercocci	26
	11450	-0.0005	Decreasing	0.0235	Entercocci	38
	11451	0.0336	Increasing	0.1927	Entercocci	3
	14229	0.0017	Increasing	0.1043	Entercocci	23
	16473	0.0018	Increasing	0.0243	Entercocci	26
	16477	0.0014	Increasing	0.1667	Entercocci	26
	16478	0.0023	Increasing	0.2696	Entercocci	11
	17068	0.0305	Increasing	0.1685	Entercocci	3
	17069	0.0487	Increasing	0.2671	Entercocci	3
	17070	0.0033	Increasing	0.5958	Entercocci	6
	17073	0.0319	Increasing	0.4440	Entercocci	3
	17074	0.0393	Increasing	0.2513	Entercocci	3
	17076	0.0445	Increasing	0.2332	Entercocci	3
	17077	0.0481	Increasing	0.1363	Entercocci	3
2425	13335	-0.0006	Decreasing	0.0310	Entercocci	18
	16475	0.0001	Increasing	0.6698	Entercocci	33
	16476	0.0000	Decreasing	0.8733	Entercocci	39
	16485	-0.0001	Decreasing	0.7153	Entercocci	25
	16486	0.0002	Increasing	0.6905	Entercocci	19
	16571	0.0004	Increasing	0.1562	Entercocci	25
	16671	0.0004	Increasing	0.0805	Entercocci	26

Green shading indicates staitistically significant trend

Table 2.3 Summary of Fecal Coliform Temporal Trends in Clear Creek

Segment ID	Station ID	Slope	Trend	P-value	Indicator	No.Obs
1101	11446	0.0001	Increasing	0.6624	Fecal Coliform	190
	11447	0.0001	Increasing	0.9602	Fecal Coliform	104
	11448	0.0016	Increasing	0.1088	Fecal Coliform	180
	15458	-0.0048	Decreasing	0.5977	Fecal Coliform	47
	16472	0.0085	Increasing	0.4685	Fecal Coliform	41
	16493	0.0628	Increasing	0.2620	Fecal Coliform	38
	16572	0.0061	Increasing	0.6813	Fecal Coliform	29
	16573	0.0056	Increasing	0.8499	Fecal Coliform	29
	16575	0.0017	Increasing	0.8658	Fecal Coliform	40
	16576	0.0002	Increasing	0.4692	Fecal Coliform	40
	16577	0.0009	Increasing	0.4233	Fecal Coliform	40
	17072	0.0047	Increasing	0.1282	Fecal Coliform	14
	17078	0.0005	Increasing	0.5349	Fecal Coliform	8
1102	11425	-0.0035	Decreasing	0.2450	Fecal Coliform	17
	11426	-0.0002	Decreasing	0.9405	Fecal Coliform	5
	11449	0.0000	Decreasing	0.5046	Fecal Coliform	83
	11450	0.0000	Decreasing	0.7171	Fecal Coliform	193
	11451	0.0000	Decreasing	0.5598	Fecal Coliform	45
	11452	0.0000	Decreasing	0.0021	Fecal Coliform	203
	11453	0.0002	Increasing	0.2138	Fecal Coliform	42
	14229	-0.0003	Decreasing	0.0947	Fecal Coliform	46
	16473	-0.0002	Decreasing	0.5573	Fecal Coliform	40
	16477	-0.0006	Decreasing	0.1142	Fecal Coliform	40
	16478	0.0001	Increasing	0.0000	Fecal Coliform	23
	16803	0.0000	Decreasing	0.9939	Fecal Coliform	6
	17068	-0.0004	Decreasing	0.2453	Fecal Coliform	21
	17069	-0.0008	Decreasing	0.6691	Fecal Coliform	15
	17070	-0.0013	Decreasing	0.1027	Fecal Coliform	20
	17071	-0.0015	Decreasing	0.3830	Fecal Coliform	12
	17073	-0.0005	Decreasing	0.1525	Fecal Coliform	22
	17074	-0.0004	Decreasing	0.1809	Fecal Coliform	19
	17076	-0.0004	Decreasing	0.1631	Fecal Coliform	21
	17077	-0.0005	Decreasing	0.1262	Fecal Coliform	21
	17079	0.0000	Decreasing	0.9470	Fecal Coliform	13
	17915	0.0031	Increasing	0.4131	Fecal Coliform	6
	17916	-0.0008	Decreasing	0.6024	Fecal Coliform	6
	17917	-0.0014	Decreasing	0.5228	Fecal Coliform	6
	17918	0.0025	Increasing	0.1568	Fecal Coliform	6
2425	11401	-0.0001	Decreasing	0.1089	Fecal Coliform	65
	13332	-0.0001	Decreasing	0.0003	Fecal Coliform	119
	13333	0.0000	Decreasing	0.7546	Fecal Coliform	67
	13334	0.0000	Increasing	0.9347	Fecal Coliform	97
	13335	0.0000	Decreasing	0.0999	Fecal Coliform	135
	14239	-0.0013	Decreasing	0.4686	Fecal Coliform	8
	16475	0.0003	Increasing	0.5218	Fecal Coliform	40
	16476	-0.0003	Decreasing	0.5127	Fecal Coliform	40
	16485	-0.0010	Decreasing	0.0148	Fecal Coliform	31
	16486	-0.0004	Decreasing	0.3252	Fecal Coliform	32
	16571	-0.0003	Decreasing	0.3312	Fecal Coliform	29
	16671	0.0001	Increasing	0.8350	Fecal Coliform	30

Green shading indicates staitistically significant trend

higher confidence. Nine of fourteen stations showed a decreasing trend, while the remaining stations exhibited increasing trends for *E.coli*, but only one station (15458) was determined to have an increasing trend at the 95% or higher confidence. Only one of thirteen stations showed a decreasing trend while the remaining showed increasing trends for fecal coliform, however, these trends were not statistically significant.

2.2.2 Segment 1102

Three of twenty-five stations exhibited increasing trends for *E.coli*, but the remaining stations showed decreasing trends. It is noted that only six of the stations had significant trends (decreaing), at the 95% confidence level. Only two of fifteen stations with available Enterococci data showed decreasing trends, while others displayed an increasing trend. At the 95% confidence level, one station with a decreasing trend and the other with an increasing trend had significant trends. For fecal coliform data, only four of twenty-five stations exhibited increasing trends, while the others showed decreasing trends. The trend at station 11452 (decreasing) and that at station 16478 (increasing) were significant at the 95% or higher confidence level. Other data collected showed a large amount of variability, as a result, no significant trends were determined. Overall, most of the stations exhibited a decreasing trend.

2.2.3 Segment 2425

Three of seven stations exhibited decreasing trends for Enterococci, while the remaining stations had increasing trends, with only the trend at station 13335 being significant at the 95% confidence level. Nine stations had decreasing trends, while the other three had increasing trends for fecal coliform. The decreasing trends at 13332 and

16485 were statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. A total of six stations had available *E.coli* data, two of which had increasing trends, while the remaining four had decreasing trends. Only the decreasing trends at 16475 and 16486 were significant at the 95% confidence level.

2.3 FLOW INFLUENCE OF HISTORICAL DATA

There is only one active flow gage in the Clear Creek watershed, therefore flow data were not available in the analysis of low flow and high flow water quality. Rainfall data gathered for the study area were used instead. For a given station, if the amount of rain for the date of sample collection was less than 0.4 inches, the sample was classified as a low flow sample, otherwise the sample was considered as collected under high flow. Low flow and high flow data for the various stations are shown in Table 2.4. Student *t*-tests were undertaken for all stations with available low and high flow data (observation points > =5), but there was no significant difference found between low and high low values. This may suggest either that flow does not impact bacteria concentrations in the study area or that rainfall is not a good measure of the flow conditions. The *t*-test results are shown in Table 2.5.

Table 2.4 Low and High Flow Analysis

Analysis for Enteroccoci in Segment 1101

Rainfall Gage	Station ID	Low Flow Data			High Flow Data		
		Obs Nos	Geomean	Std Dev	Obs Nos	Geomean	Std Dev
110	11446	31	61	7721.7	13	71	1739.8
	11447	92	317	11629.3	12	158	2235.3
	16575	30	75	10060.2	High Flow not reported		
120	11448	163	560	17160.2	17	298	4472.0
	16493	33	901	6161.9	5	457	7022.8
130	16472	26	171	4667.3	High Flow not reported		
170	15458	3	15	12.1	High Flow not reported		
	16572	21	150	2156.3	8	89	3154.2
	16573	23	14	2139.1	High Flow not reported		

Analysis for *E.coli* in Segment 1102

Rainfall Gage	Station ID	Low Flow Data			High Flow Data		
		Obs Nos	Geomean	Std Dev	Obs Nos	Geomean	Std Dev
105	14229	47	350	4140.2	5	227	887.1
	16473	46	437	3374.7	6	120	409.2
	16477	43	279	5903.5	5	383	1171.3
120	11425	17	791	6739.5	2	378	685.9
	11449	41	227	3934.3	6	176	1170.6
	16478	29	318	4591.8	4	394	2391.3
125	11426	5	124	133.5	High Flow not reported		
135	11450	19	196	4139.1	2	27	45.3
140	17069	Low Flow not reported			High Flow not reported		
	17070	Low Flow not reported			High Flow not reported		
	17071	Low Flow not reported			High Flow not reported		
150	11451	27	253	759.9	3	18315	4618.8
	17074	25	87	649.5	3	9345	14150.3
	17915	15	51	2518.5	High Flow not reported		
	17916	14	49	150.8	High Flow not reported		
	17917	15	75	475.6	High Flow not reported		
	17918	16	57	172.9	High Flow not reported		
180	11452	54	340	4051.7	3	3590	15961.0
	17068	10	211	1525.1	2	12000	4949.7
	17076	10	556	3962.8	2	3600	10741.0
	17077	10	188	2464.7	2	8944	7778.2
190	17073	Low Flow not reported			High Flow not reported		
	17079	Low Flow not reported			High Flow not reported		
4220	11453	Low Flow not reported			High Flow not reported		
	16803	10	30	82.2	3	110	334.5
	17914	6	81	528.9	2	5	0

Analysis for Enteroccoci in Segment 2425

Rainfall Gage	Station ID	Low Flow Data			High Flow Data		
		Obs Nos	Geomean	Std Dev	Obs Nos	Geomean	Std Dev
170	16475	30	54	508.1	3	4318	16532.1
	16486	16	473	2497.6	3	4854	14501.7

Green Shading indicates that FC was used
ObsNos - number of observations
All Geomean data in MPN/DL
StdDev - Standard deviation

Table 2.5 *t* -test for Low and High Flow Data

Station ID	t Stat	t Critical two-tail
11446	0.6187857	2.100923666
11447	0.7811824	2.178812792
16575	No data available for analysis	
11448	0.9833122	2.109818524
16493	0.4211265	3.182449291
16472	No data available for analysis	
15458	No data available for analysis	
16572	0.6179034	2.262158887
16573	No data available for analysis	

Station ID	t Stat	t Critical two-tail
14229	0.2308554	3.182449291
16473	1.6863814	2.570577635
16477	-0.193654	3.182449291
11425	No data available for analysis	
11449	0.4223807	2.570577635
16478	No data available for analysis	
11426	No data available for analysis	
11450	No data available for analysis	
17069	No data available for analysis	
17070	No data available for analysis	
17071	No data available for analysis	
11451	No data available for analysis	
17074	No data available for analysis	
17915	No data available for analysis	
17916	No data available for analysis	
17917	No data available for analysis	
17918	No data available for analysis	
11452	No data available for analysis	
17068	No data available for analysis	
17076	No data available for analysis	
17077	No data available for analysis	
17073	No data available for analysis	
17079	No data available for analysis	
11453	No data available for analysis	
16803	No data available for analysis	
17914	No data available for analysis	

Station ID	t Stat	t Critical two-tail
16475	No data available for analysis	
16486	No data available for analysis	

No dataset are significantly different.

CHAPTER 3

ANALYSIS OF TMDL STRATEGIES

The subject of this chapter is the evaluation and discussion of modeling strategies that have been used for bacteria TMDLs around the country. The purpose is to develop and support the modeling strategy for the Clear Creek bacteria TMDL.

3.1 TYPES OF WATER QUALITY MODELING STRATEGIES

A number of various modeling strategies have been employed to simulate water quality in the environment and develop a TMDL. These strategies range from the use of simple mass balance "box" models, where the environment is depicted as one or more boxes with uniform properties, to deterministic, complex, data intensive, and multidimensional dynamic models. Table 3.1 presents a listing of available models and their applications; some of these are further described in more detail below. For an extensive review of the models in Table 3.1, the reader is referred to Ward and Benaman (1999a&b).

Analytical Tools

This type of modeling tool is usually a mass balance that considers neither variations over time nor space and that typically assumes all losses of a contaminant (degradation, loss to sedimentation, *etc*.), are relatively small compared to the overall mass of the contaminant in the system. This type of tool can be developed with a spreadsheet using the source data from the watershed. The following is a brief discussion of two simple analytical models; the Load Duration Curve and Mass Balance analyses.

Table 3.1. Existing TMDL Models and Strategies

Strategy	Tool/Model	Full Name	Source of Model	Watercourse Application	Remarks
Analytical	Load Duration Curve				Easy to develop. Not data intensive
	Mass Balance				Easy to develop. Not data intensive
Steady State	QUAL2E	Enhanced Stream Quality Model	CEAM	rivers, 1-D estuaries, main-stem reservoirs	limited to steady-state conditions
	QUALTX	Enhanced Stream Quality Model	TCEQ	rivers, 1-D estuaries, main-stem reservoirs	limited to steady-state conditions, specific to Texas watercourses
	GWLF	Generalized Watershed Loading Functions	Unknown	watersheds	inadequate documentation, limited history
	PRMS	Precipitation-Runoff Modeling System	USGS	watersheds & vadose zone	input demands less than HSPF, limited water-quality capability, GUI input management system under development
Dynamic	CE-QUAL-ICM	3D Eutrophication Model	WES	streams, lakes, estuaries	insufficient application
	CE-QUAL-RIV1	N/A	WES	streams & rivers	insufficient application
	DYNHYD	Dynamic Hydrodynamics Program	CEAM	surface waterbodies	link-node 1-D, dated code
	HSPF	Hydrological Simulation Program – FORTRAN	USGS/CEAM	watersheds, streams & rivers, small reservoirs	process models, data intensive
	SWAT	Soil and Water Assessment Tool	ARS	watersheds, lakes, vadose zone	lumped formulation, statistical process models
	SWMM	Storm Water Management Model	CEAM	watersheds	emphasis on urban catchments
	WASP	Water-quality Analysis Simulation Program	CEAM	surface waterbodies	must be coupled with suitable hydro-dynamic/transport model

ARS Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
CEAM Center for Exposure Assessment Modeling, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
TCEQ Texas Commission for Environmental Quality
USGS U.S. Geological Survey
WES Waterways Experiment Station, U.S. Corps of Engineers

Load Duration Curve Analysis

Load Duration Curve analysis (LDC) is one of the simplest, most widely used, and most cost effective tools for TMDL development. Virtually every state has used this tool in one application or another for TMDL development. In a recent review of twenty-two bacteria TMDLs, this method was used over 23% of the time (Table 3.2). As part of an emerging statistical methodology, LDC is gaining many followers, especially as applied to pathogen load modeling. The advantage of this method is its simplicity, and the need for minimal data requirements. LDCs, additionally, can be used to identify broad sources of bacteria, assess water quality throughout the full range of flows in the stream, and can be used to establish confidence intervals for uncertainty in the estimation of TMDLs.

The approach uses traditional flow frequency distributions for streams as a basis to analyze type and magnitude of pathogen loading. Flow duration curves identify intervals that can be used as a general indicator of hydrologic condition (i.e., wet versus dry). This indicator can help focus problem solution discussions towards relevant watershed processes, important contributing areas, and key delivery mechanisms.

The LDC approach recognizes that the assimilative capacity of a water body depends on the flow, and that maximum allowable loading varies with the flow condition. Existing loading, and load reductions required to meet the TMDL water quality target, can also be calculated under different flow conditions. The difference between existing loading and the water quality target is used to calculate the load reductions required.

Table 3.2 Existing Bacteria TMDLs and Methods Used

STATE	TMDL (YEAR)	WATERBODY NAME	INDICATOR	MODEL DESCRIPTION	TIDAL
ALASKA	2004	FISH CREEK WATERSHED/FISH CREEK	FECAL COLIFORM	SIMPLE METHOD (L = CF • P • PJ • RV • C • A)	
ARKANSAS	2001	L'ANGUILLE RIVER	FECAL COLIFORM	SPREADSHEET	
CALIFORNIA	2004	TOMALES BAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA	FECAL COLIFORM	DENSITY-BASED LOAD ALLOCATION FOR ALL NPS LOAD	TIDAL
FLORIDA	2004	LOWER SWEETWATER CREEK	FECAL AND TOTAL COLIFORM	PERCENT REDUCTION METHOD	TIDAL
INDIANA	2004	TRAIL CREEK	E. COLI	GWLF AND WASP6	
KANSAS	2002	ALLEN CREEK, NEOSHO HEADWATERS SUBBASIN	FECAL COLIFORM	LOAD DURATION CURVE	
KENTUCKY	2001	FLEMING CREEK WATERSHED	FECAL COLIFORM	SIMPLE LOAD CALCULATIONS	
LOUISIANA	2004	"BAYOU SEGNETTE	FECAL COLIFORM	EPA BACTERIAL INDICATOR TOOL SPREADSHEET	TIDAL
MASSACHUSETTS	2002	SHAWNSHEEN RIVER BASIN	FECAL COLIFORM	SIMPLISTIC	
MINNESOTA	2002	LOWER MISSISSIPPI BASIN	FECAL COLIFORM	SPREADSHEET MODEL	
MISSISSIPPI	2004	YAZOO RIVER BASIN, LITTLE TALLAHATCHIE RIVER	FECAL COLIFORM	MASS BALANCE APPROACH	
MISSOURI	2004	JACKS FORK RIVER	FECAL COLIFORM	LOAD DURATION CURVE ANALYSIS AND EXCEL SPREADSHEET MODEL	
NEBRASKA	2003	MIDDLE PLATTE RIVER	FECAL COLIFORM	FLOW DURATION CURVE	
NEW JERSEY	2000	WHIPPANY RIVER	FECAL COLIFORM	WHIPPANY RIVER WATERSHED MODEL	
NEW MEXICO	2002	RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN/MIDDLE RIO GRANDE	FECAL COLIFORM	SPREADSHEET MODEL	
NORTH CAROLINA	2004	CHICOD CREEK IN TAR RIVER WATERSHED	FECAL COLIFORM	LOAD DURATION CURVE	
OREGON	2003	NORTH COAST BASIN	FECAL COLIFORM	SWAT	TIDAL
SOUTH CAROLINA	2003	ALLISON CREEK STATION CW-171	FECAL COLIFORM	LOAD DURATION CURVE	
SOUTH CAROLINA	2004	PEE DEE BASIN	FECAL COLIFORM	MASS BALANCE APPROACH	TIDAL
UTAH	2002	SPRING CREEK	FECAL COLIFORM	QUAL2E	
WASHINGTON	2004	UPPER CHEHALIS RIVER	FECAL COLIFORM	LOG-NORMAL DISTRIBUTION STOICAL METHOD TO ESTABLISH FC REDUCTION TARGETS	
WEST VIRGINIA	2004	GUYANDOTTE RIVER WATERSHED	FECAL COLIFORM	HSPF	

Mass-Balance Analysis

Mass Balance (MB) analysis is another simple and cost effective tool to use for TMDL development. It is usually used when water quality data during the modeling time frame are limited or not readily available. The mass balance concept is based on the fundamental physical principle that matter can neither be created nor destroyed. Therefore, the mass of inputs to a process balances the mass of outputs plus any change in storage. MB calculations can be readily developed as a spreadsheet model for impaired water segments. The main step to estimating bacteria loading, if MB method is used, is to construct a flow balance of the system. Loads can be calculated by multiplying fecal coliform or E. coli concentrations by stream flow rates. The principle of the conservation of mass allows for the addition and subtraction of those loads to determine the appropriate values necessary for the TMDL. This approach could be used for both fresh and saltwater bodies including tidal and non-tidal systems.

Steady State Analytical Models

In a steady state strategy all flows, loadings, and other inputs are assumed to be constant over time. In addition, kinetics are assumed to be constant over time. Most steady state models do allow spatial variations in flow, loads, other inputs, and kinetics, and calculate variation of concentration with distance. Most steady state models are one-dimensional with respect to space. In other words, they predict variations in concentrations in only one dimension, usually upstream to downstream, and assume complete mixing across the cross section. QUALTX and QUAL2E are examples of two steady state models that work well in both fresh and salt waters. Their main disadvantage

is that they are both data intensive when compared with the LDC and mass balance analytical tools discussed previously.

Dynamic Analytical Tools

A dynamic strategy allows variations over space and time for flows, loadings, and other inputs, and sometimes kinetics. Results from dynamic modeling also vary in both space and time. There are a number of different types of dynamic models, each with associated advantages and disadvantages. Often dynamic models are utilized to simulate episodic events such as high flow storm water events. Generally, dynamic models are very resource intensive from the standpoint of data requirements, effort to develop, and required computer resources. Dynamic models are often two or three dimensional with respect to space, allowing variation in simulated results longitudinally, laterally, and with depth. HSPF and WASP are two examples of dynamic models. WASP has tidal capabilities while HSPF does not.

Watershed Models vs. Instream Strategies

Another way to differentiate water quality strategies for TMDL development is according to watercourse type: watershed and in-stream. Watershed strategies focus primarily on processes occurring outside the water body, and usually address processes such as sediment and contaminant loadings due to infiltration, runoff, and erosion. In-stream water quality strategies primarily address processes occurring within the water body: channel hydraulics; in-stream sediment load and transport; and water quality parameters and response.

According to Ward and Benaman (1999a), since the specific technical aspects of a TMDL strategy differ according to the watercourse addressed, a distinction is made between the criteria appropriate for the watershed vs. those for receiving streams. By definition, a TMDL addresses the quality of a surface-water resource (since, in Texas, the target water quality is defined in terms of a surface-water standard or related criteria), so the strategies under consideration specifically address surface watercourses. On the other hand, typically, the ultimate source of water is precipitation, and the inter-medium through which precipitation is transformed to stream flow is the watershed. In the physical system, therefore, the watershed occupies a central role in the quantity and quality of water in the watercourses in that it acts as a processor of precipitation to create stream flow. The importance of the watershed as a processor is indicated by the fact that only a fraction of the quantity of precipitation falling on a watershed actually reaches the drainage system. Since a TMDL must address both point and non-point sources, it is often necessary to simulate both the watershed and the receiving water. As a result, the final strategy for a TMDL may include both a watershed model and a receiving stream model linked in some fashion.

3.2 TMDL STRATEGY FOR CLEAR CREEK WATERSHED

The selection of an appropriate TMDL strategy for a given situation is a function of site characteristics, available data and resources and, perhaps most importantly, the objective that the TMDL is intended to achieve. A clear definition of the question the strategy is expected to resolve then dictates the physical processes and kinetics requiring simulation and, ultimately, the selection of the strategy to be employed.

As stated above, available data and resources are crucial considerations in the selection of an appropriate TMDL strategy. The historical and current water quality data for Clear Creek were presented in FY05 reports. These reports concluded that at fifteen of the twenty monitoring stations (75%) with data analyzed, the geometric mean of the indicator concentrations exceeded the standards (fecal coliform - 200 per 100 ml, Enterococci - 35 per 100 ml, and *E.coli* - 126 per 100 ml) that have been adopted by the TCEQ. In addition, at sixteen of the twenty stations (80%) over twenty five percent of the samples analyzed exceeded the standards (fecal coliform - 400 per 100 ml, Enterococci - 89 per 100 ml, *E. coli* - 394 per 100 ml) placed on single sample concentrations. The stations located along segment 1101 (Clear Creek Tidal) showed a decreasing concentration trend as one moves downstream. However, there were no statistically significant trends in the data collected at either of the two stations within segment 2425. Similarly, for stations along segment 1102 (Clear Creek Above Tidal), the indicator concentrations exhibited no clear trends.

The Clear Creek watershed covers more than 200 square miles, and stretches through Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria and Galveston Counties. Approximately 24 to 26 percent of the land in the watershed is developed land, but a significant portion (approximately 34 to 39%) is used for agricultural purposes. Table 3.3 shows the land use distribution within the Clear Creek watershed. The watershed is thus a mix of rural and urban land uses. As a result, it is expected that un-sewered areas may be a consideration for water quality (see Table 3.4 for sewered and non-sewered data sorted by segment). Additionally, and due to its rural nature, contributions from livestock may also be significant (see Table 3.5 for livestock population counts by segment). Another

consideration for Clear Creek is the tidal and non-tidal nature of the segments under study. Considering these factors and the nature of exceedances in the watershed, the LDC and MB approaches will be used as shown in Table 3.6.

Table 3.3 Land Use Acreages within the Clear Creek Watershed

LAND USE	1101	1101B	1102	1102A	1102B	2425C
Bare Rock/Sand/Clay	78.35	53.47	94.46	35.98	30.33	6.06
Deciduous Forest	3,123.86	1,146.43	9,508.01	633.52	1,178.91	521.29
Deciduous Shrubland	186.64	113.14	832.29	195.77	100.88	26.50
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	877.61	338.01	1,101.67	538.94	236.08	322.63
Evergreen Forest	3,248.35	1,377.50	2,482.87	701.12	1,493.67	661.21
Grassland/Herbaceous	1,047.70	565.82	1,902.57	341.99	557.91	228.52
High Intensity Commercial/Industrial/Transportation	1,655.23	260.13	3,269.38	368.67	985.28	276.63
High Intensity Residential	1,991.65	392.20	3,819.10	185.52	801.95	306.64
Low Intensity Residential	1,515.12	1,827.32	4,004.83	2,534.09	1,825.62	277.27
Mixed Forest			25.39			
Open Water	701.34	64.47	265.90	15.23	81.26	56.70
Other Grasses (Urban/recreational)	182.99	230.68	1,902.26	52.35	141.80	57.02
Pasture/Hay	3,622.96	3,571.92	19,234.80	2,886.09	5,362.02	580.59
Quarries/Strip Mines/Gravel Pits			26.13		20.15	
Row Crops	139.99	1,133.43	1,929.01	647.24	1,492.29	32.79
Small Grains	27.77	14.83	437.31	7.82	22.80	
Woody Wetlands	497.63	45.57	539.10	5.72	130.78	114.75
TOTAL	**18,897.19**	**11,134.92**	**51,375.08**	**9,150.05**	**14,461.73**	**3,468.6**

Table 3.4. Clear Creek Watershed Septic Data by Segment*

Segment	Connected to Public Sewer	Connected to Septic Tank	Other
1101	20,147	1,756	82
1102	31,479	2,744	127
2425	12,592	1,098	51

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990

Notes: * Estimates for the Clear Creek watershed segments is calculated by multiplying the total connections for the Census Tracts in/around the Clear Creek watershed by the percentage of the total watershed area in square miles.

Table 3.5. Livestock Population in Clear Creek Segments*

	Estimated Watershed Population per Segment		
Livestock	**1101**	**1102**	**2425**
Cattle & Calves-All	2,792	4,362	1,745
Beef cows	1,781	2,783	1,113
Milk cows	0	0	0
Horses	210	328	131
Mules, burros, & donkeys	6	9	4
Hogs & Pigs	73	115	46
Goats-all	172	269	108
Sheep & Lambs	31	49	19
Rabbits	10	16	6
Llamas	9	14	5
Bison	1	1	1
Domestic Deer	11	17	7
Chickens	2,680	4,188	1,675
Ducks-Domestic	24	37	15
Geese-Domestic	16	25	10
Ostriches-Domestic	2	3	1
Turkeys-Domestic	11	17	7
Pheasants-Domestic	1	2	1
Pigeons & Squabs- Domestic	2	3	1
Quail-Domestic	18	28	11
Emus	5	8	3
Other poultry**	41	65	26

Notes: As of January 1, 2005, Texas Agricultural Statistics Service and 2002 Agricultural Census, USDA

* Estimates for the Clear Creek watershed segments is calculated by multiplying the total population from the census in/around the Clear Creek watershed by percentage of the total watershed area in square miles.

** Other poultry that did not have a bar on the Census Form

Table 3.6 TMDL Strategies by Segment for Clear Creek

Segment No.	Waterbody Type	Bacteria Data Available	Storm Data Available	Predominant Land Use	Strategy
1101	Tidal	limited	limited	non-urban	MB
1101B	Tidal	limited	limited	non-urban	MB
1102	Non-Tidal	limited	limited	non-urban	MB/LDC
1102A	Non-Tidal	limited	limited	non-urban	MB/LDC
1102B	Non-Tidal	limited	limited	non-urban	MB/LDC
2425C	Tidal	limited	limited	non-urban	MB

CHAPTER 4

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN AND DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

A sampling plan was developed to fill the data gaps identified from the historical data analyses presented in Chapter 2 and from sampling that was undertaken between January 2005 and August of 2005 that was reported in the Final Report for WO 9 (Work Order No. 582-0-80121-09). The sampling plan consisted of five main components:

1. Intensive survey to obtain flow/EC data to build the LDCs for the non-tidal segments and to obtain data for the MB for the tidal segments (flow, EN and salinity). Twenty locations were identified for this component, and data for three events at each location were planned to cover different flow conditions;
2. Stormwater sampling to quantify runoff loads from the major tributaries. A total of nine stations with 2 events per station were planned;
3. WWTP sampling to quantify loads from overflows (if any) from major treatment plants after significant rain events. A total of six plants were targeted for sampling;
4. In-stream sampling to confirm low levels of bacteria indicators at locations with low geometric means; and
5. Stormwater outfall survey to complete the reconnaissance of all the pipes discharging to Clear Creek and its tributaries.

Development of an updated QAPP to incorporate the sampling plan components described above was initiated in the second quarter of 2006. Revision 0 of the Annual Report of the QAPP was submitted to the TCEQ on February 1, 2006 and comments were received on March 6, 2006. Revision 1 of the annual update (included in Appendix A) that addressed all the comments from the TCEQ was submitted for review on March 9, 2006. The QAPP update was approved by TCEQ on April 17, 2006.

During the period from May 06 to August 06, sampling was undertaken for all three intensive surveys, five events for in-stream data gathering, the two runoff events as well as all the treatment plant sampling. The samples from these events have been analyzed in the laboratory and the results are currently being studied to ensure conformance to QA/QC requirements prior to data analysis.

CHAPTER 5

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

A stakeholder meeting was held on April 5, 2006. The project team developed a project summary to support the meeting as requested by TCEQ. A member of the team, additionally, attended the meeting and responded to stakeholder queries and provided input as needed. The project summary is attached in Appendix B.

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

6.1 SUMMARY

During FY06, historical data analyses were undertaken to identify spatial and temporal trends in the Clear Creek watershed. No clear trends were discerned in the data. A sampling plan was developed to fill the data gaps and provide the needed information for load duration curve development and mass balance analyses for tidal segments. The sampling plan includes intensive surveys, wet weather sampling, treatment plan sampling, in-stream sampling, and pipe reconnaissance activities. An update to the QAPP for the project was developed, revised and approved by TCEQ and EPA. In addition, an analysis of existing TMDL strategies and models was undertaken. Most of the sampling planned for the fiscal year was completed with the exception of 4 in-stream sampling events that are weather dependent.

6.2 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE PROJECT TIME FRAME

During the period September 1, 2006 to November 31, 2006, the project team will focus on the following activities:

- Complete the remaining in-stream sampling activities; and
- Complete LDC and mass balance data analyses for TMDL allocations.

APPENDIX A

APPROVED QAPP

(electronic format)

APPENDIX B

PROJECT SUMMARY

Total Maximum Daily Load for Fecal Pathogens in the Clear Creek Watershed
Technical Summary
March 30, 2006

Study Area

The Clear Creek Watershed encompasses 200 square miles of land located just southeast of the city of Houston, Texas. The watershed includes all of the area that contributes surface water to segments 1101, 1102, and 2425C and drains into Clear Lake which in turn feeds to Galveston Bay. The Clear Creek watershed contains upland and palustrine forest wetlands, wet and dry prairie-land, and supratidal, subtidal, intertidal and submerged aquatic vegetation marshes. The region has high levels of humidity and receives an annual precipitation ranging between 46 and 52 inches per year. The eastern and central portions of the watershed are primarily urban and residential, with some commercial and industrial uses. The western and southern parts of the watershed are basically rural and agricultural.

The segments included in the project are Clear Creek Tidal (Segment 1101), Clear Creek Above Tidal (Segment 1102), Chigger Creek (Segment 1101B), Cowert Creek (Segment 1102A), Mary's Creek / North Fork Mary's Creek (Segment 1102B), and Robinson Bayou (Segment 2425). Figure 1 shows the location of the studied segments. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) designated the Clear Creek Tidal (Segment 1101) portion of the Clear Creek and Robinson's Bayou (Segment 2425C) as tidally influenced streams. The other segments included in this TMDL study are designated by the TCEQ as freshwater streams, including Chigger Creek (1101B), Clear Creek Above Tidal (Segment 1102), Cowart Creek (1102A), and Mary's Creek/North Fork Mary's Creek (Segment 1102B). The tidal influence within Clear Creek creates a median high tide level of 2.0 feet; this level reaches an average of 3.3 feet above sea level on an annual basis during peak tide.

The population of the Clear Creek watershed in 2000 was estimated to be 182,261 with an overall average population density of 907 persons per square mile (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). Based on census projections, the July 1, 2005 population of the watershed may be estimated at 200,635 with an overall average population density of 998 persons per square mile (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). Approximately 50,000 cats and 44,000 dogs are also estimated to reside in households within the watershed, based on the 2005 census data projection along with national averages of pets per household from the American Veterinary Medical Association (2002). Census data indicate that in 1990 approximately 8 percent of households in the watershed utilized septic tanks for sanitary waste disposal, while approximately 92 percent were connected to a sanitary sewer system. Approximately 260 housing units in the watershed were reportedly not connected to a sanitary sewer system (U.S. Census Bureau 1990).

A 2005 assessment of permitted wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) discharging within the project watershed showed that there are 36 plants discharging to Clear Creek and its tributaries with a total permitted flow of 576 MGD. Twelve out of the 36 plants have flows greater than 1 MGD (major plants) representing 98% of the total permitted flow discharged to the study segments.

Regulatory Background

The TCEQ adopted the limit of 394 per 100 mL for single samples of *E. coli* and a geometric mean limit of 126 per 100 mL for bodies of water that have been designated for contact recreation uses. Within tidal streams and salt-water bodies, however, the EPA determined that Enterococci concentrations provide the greatest correlation to those of fecal pathogens. The TCEQ adopted a limit of 89 per 100 mL for Enterococci in any single sample and a limit of 35 per 100 mL for the geomean of all samples at any location for Enterococci concentrations within any tidal stream that has been designated for contact recreation uses (TCEQ - Texas Water Quality Standards - adopted July 26, 2000). During the process of switching over to the new standards, the EPA has recommended that the fecal coliform concentrations (400 per 100 mL in any single sample and 200 per 100 mL for the geomean of all samples) be used until at least ten data points have been collected for either of the two new standards that will be used for each segment.

Levels of Indicator Bacteria

Historical Data

Much of the fecal pathogen indicator data from Clear Creek and its tributaries were collected by the Galveston County Health District and the TCEQ Region 12. Additional data collection has been performed by the Houston Health and Human Services, the City of Houston Department of Public Works and Engineering, the City of Pearland, and the Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH).

Figure 2 shows the locations of historical bacteria data and the geometric means of the concentrations for the various indicators. Geometric means ranged from 46 to 628 for fecal coliform, between 40 and 430 for E. coli, and between 17 and 684 for Enterococci. Overall, the geomean water quality standards were excedeed in 31 of the 43 monitoring stations (72%).

Concentrations Measured in 2005

As part of this TMDL study, *E.coli*/Enterococci concentrations in water and sediment were measured at 25 stations located along the main stem and the tributaries of Clear Creek. The observed bacteria concentrations are presented in Figure 3. For water samples, *E. coli* concentrations ranged from 38 to 4,790 MPN/dL, while Enterococci concentrations varied from 39 to 5,460 MPN/dL. The single sample standards were exceeded in 7 of the 16 fresh water stations (43%) and in 7 of the 9 tidal stations (78%). Results from a linear regression analysis of the collected data showed that water concentrations are directly correlated to sediment concentrations (r^2=0.50, α=0.01).

Trends in Bacteria Data

Indicator bacteria concentration profiles along Clear creek and its major tributaries are shown in Figure 4. For the main stem, both Enterococci and *E. coli* geomeans exhibited a decreasing trend from upstream to downstream, however, only the Enterococci trend is statistically significant

(α=0.05). Marys Creek and Cowart Creek showed increasing trends. It is noted that the geomean data at almost all stations in Marys Creek were below the water quality standard, but Station 16473 near the mouth exceeded the geomean standard of 126 MPN/dL. In contrast, all three stations in Cowart Creek were above the standard. Finally, the first three stations along Chigger Creek exhibited increases while the geomean at the furthest downstream station 16472 decreased from the upstream geomean concentrations.

An analysis of temporal EC trends for 45 stations showed that concentrations at 78% of the stations (35) seem to be decreasing over time, but only 8 of them showed a significant trend at the 95% confidence level. Similarly, 13 out of 39 locations (40%) showed decreasing Enterococci concentrations over time, with only 3 of them showing a statistically significant trend.

On-going Activities

The project team is currently preparing for a significant sampling effort to be completed by August 31, 2006. The goal of this sampling effort is to provide sufficient data for the development of Load Duration Curves (LDC) and Mass Balances (MB) to support development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for Indicator Bacteria. Sampling is also aimed at quantifying major contributors of indicator bacteria to the study segments to aid in load allocations. In addition, the project team is preparing a database of all the watershed parameters that will be needed for the development of LDCs and MB.

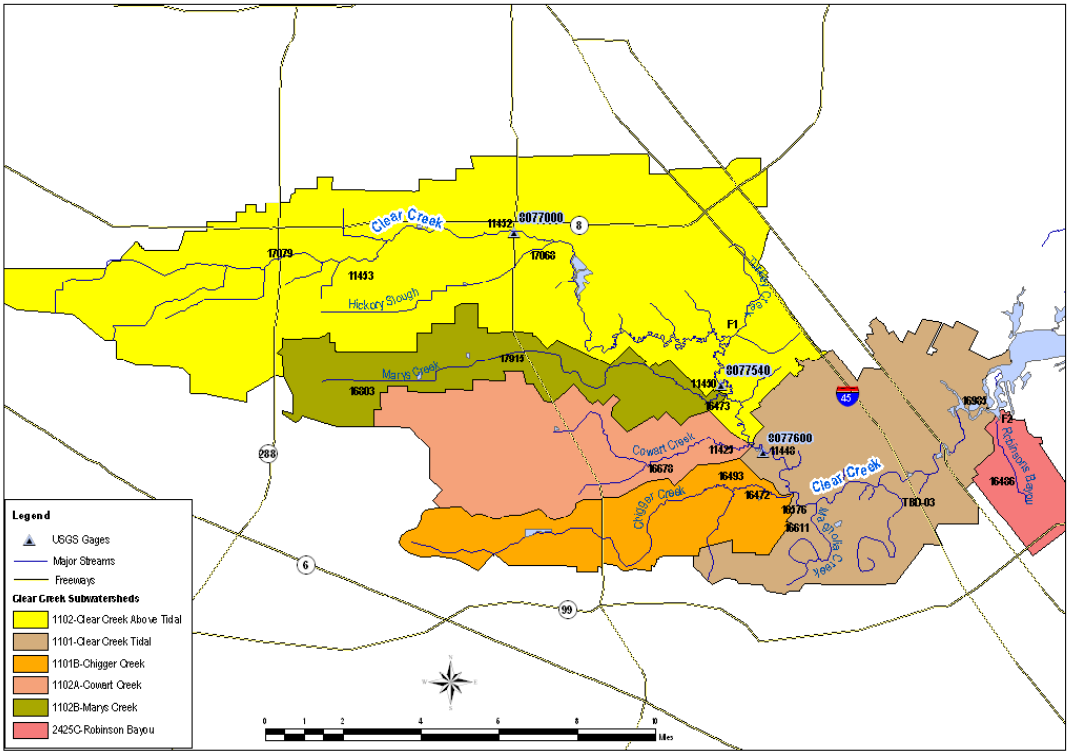


Figure 1. Project Watershed

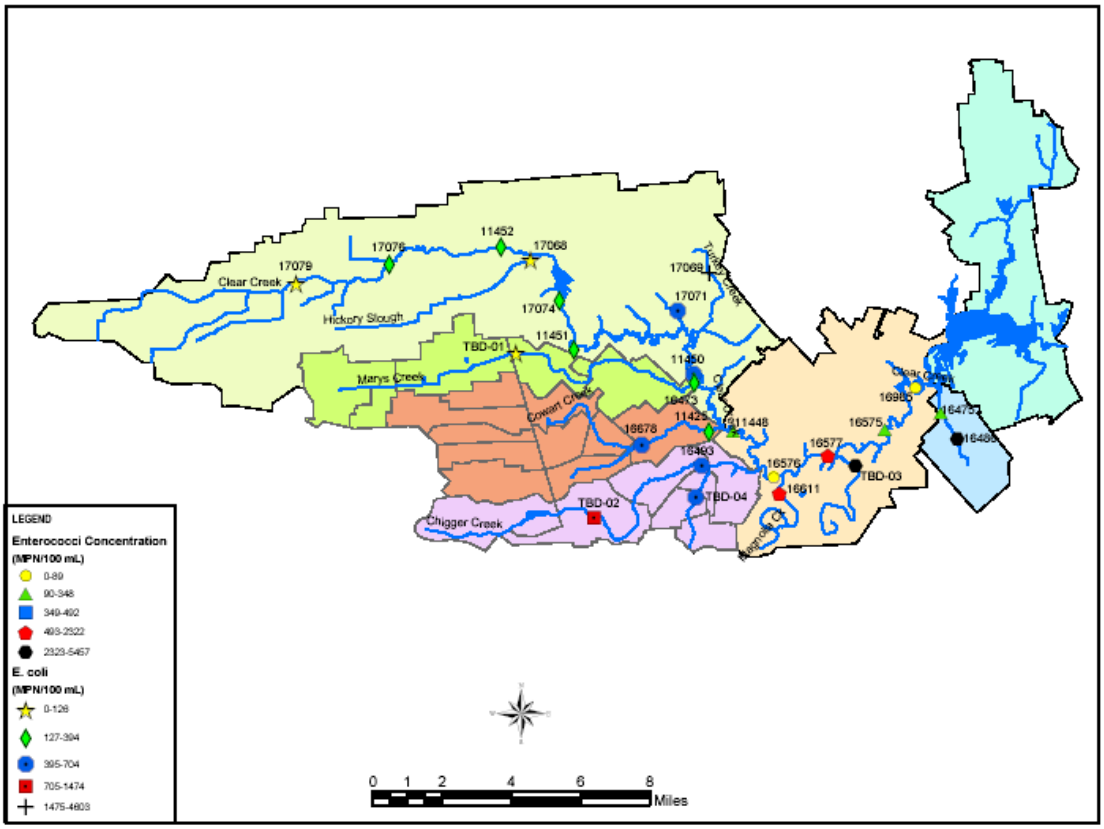


Figure 2. Historical Fecal Indicator Concentrations in the Project Watershed

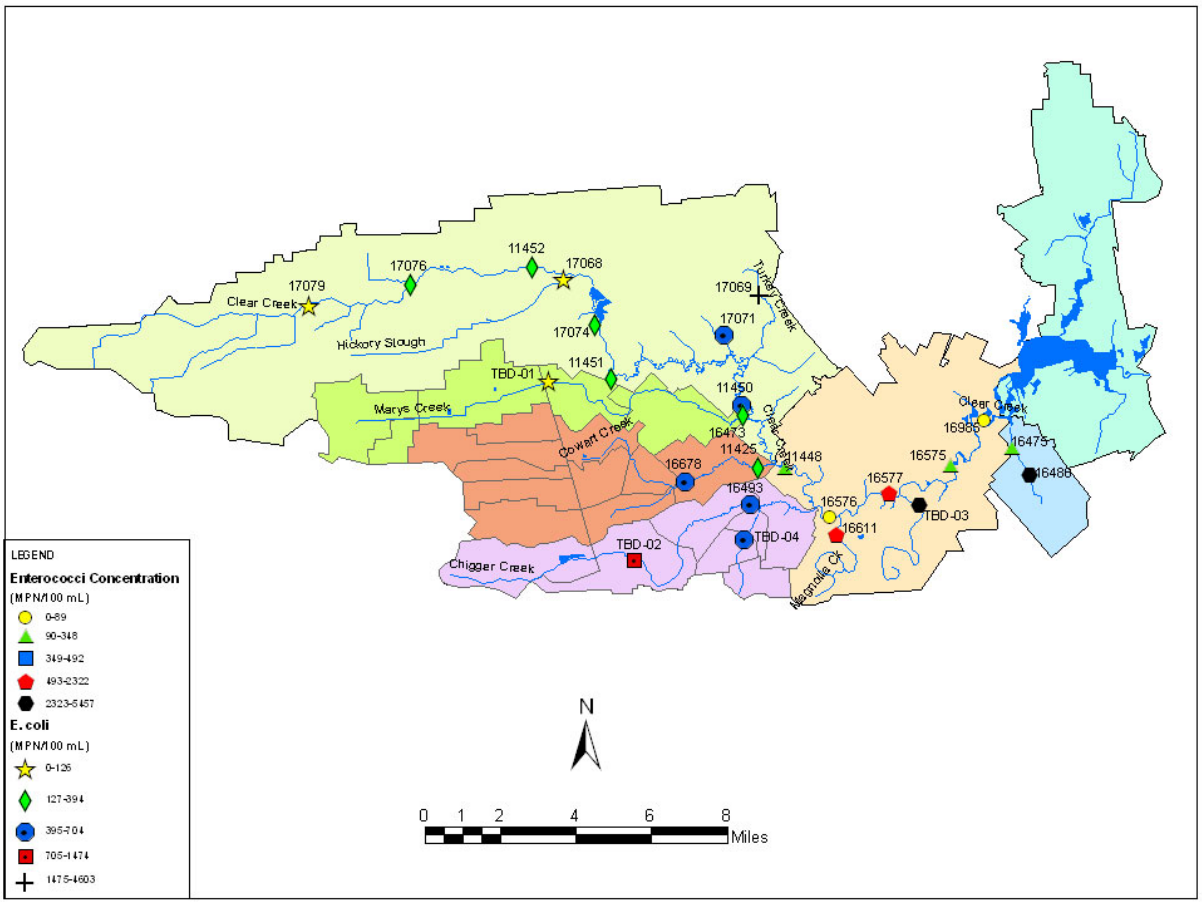
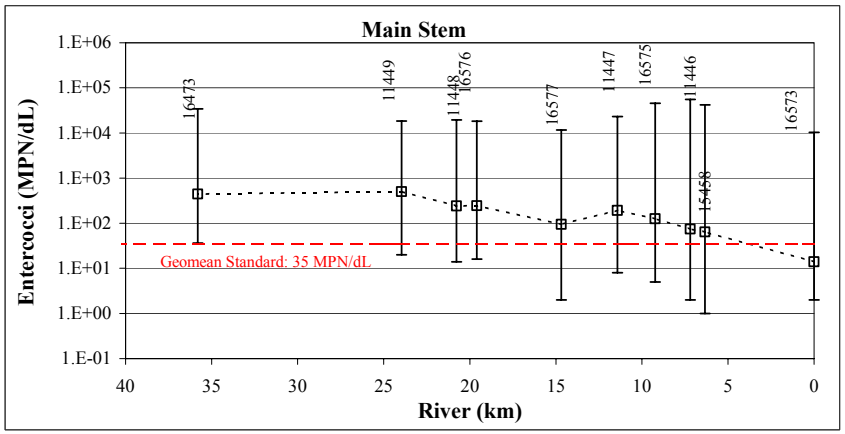
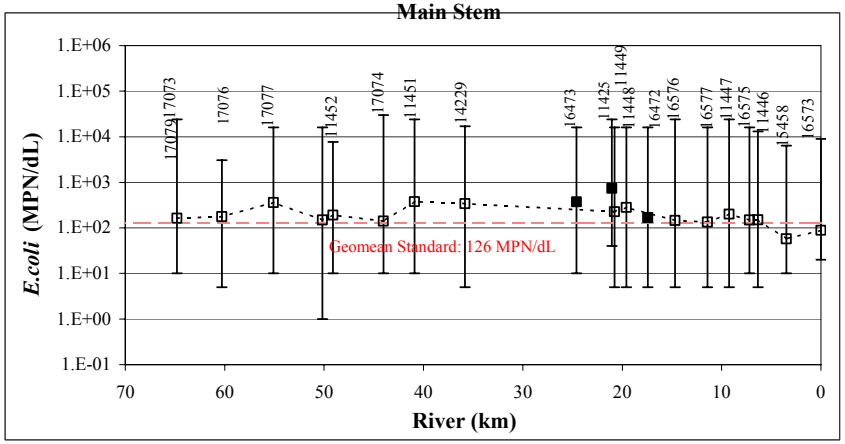
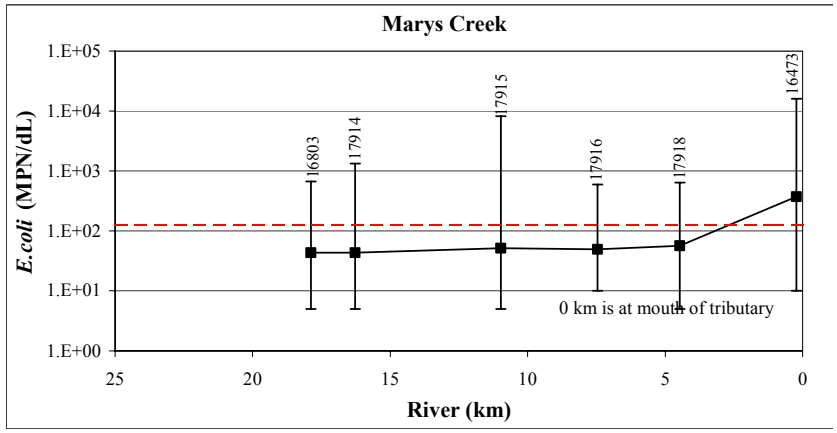
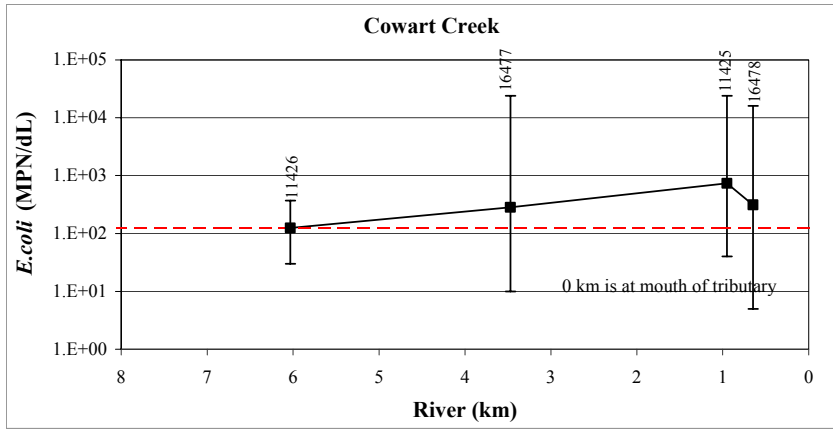


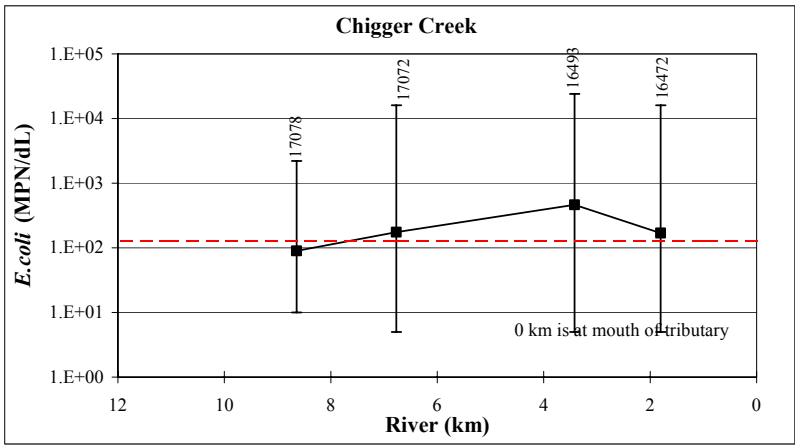
Figure 3. Indicator Bacteria Concentrations in Ambient Water (Summer 2005)











Legend

- Maximum
- Geomemetric mean
- Minimum

Open symbols -> main stem
Closed symbols -> tributaries

Figure 4. Longitudinal Profiles