Fish Consumption Use Impairments on Clear Fork, West Fork and Upper Trinity River

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Texas TMDL Program

- Texas is required under the federal Clean Water Act to list impaired waters and to take action to restore them.
- Impaired waters are identified every two years on the *Texas Integrated Report for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d).*
- A surface water body is considered impaired if it does not meet the criteria for support of one or more of its beneficial uses, as defined in the *Texas Surface Water Quality Standards. (307.1-307.10 TAC)*

Texas TMDL Program

- **TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load**
  - Determines the maximum amount (load) of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still maintain uses; and
  - allocates this load to broad categories of sources in the watershed.
- **Implementation Plan**
  - A detailed description of the regulatory and voluntary management measures necessary to achieve the pollutant targets identified in a TMDL,
  - that includes a plan for sustaining the implementation effort over time.

Texas TMDL Program

- A TMDL can be seen three different ways
  - A study
    - determines the maximum amount (or load) of a particular pollutant that a water body can receive and attain and maintain its standards and
    - "allocates" this allowable load to permitted and non-permitted sources of pollution in the watershed.
  - A document
    - describing the analysis process and allocations that is adopted by the TCEQ Commissioners and submitted to the EPA for approval.
  - The document and the Implementation Plan
    - This is the way that the EPA sees it
    - This is what is referred to in a permit provision

TMDL Allocations

- TMDL = $WLA_{(WWTP)}$ + $WLA_{(PSW)}$ + LA + MOS
  - $WLA_{(WWTP)}$ – Waste Load Allocation for WWTP Discharges
  - $WLA_{(PSW)}$ – Waste Load Allocation for Permitted Storm Water Discharges
  - LA – Load Allocation for Non-permitted Storm Water, Upstream Sources, Internal Transport, and Contaminated Sediment
  - MOS – Explicit Margin of Safety; Implicit MOS may be used and is generally omitted from the equation
  - Expressed in units per day

TMDL Allocations

WLA(WWTP)

- Required by EPA
- Each permitted discharge
- Full permitted flow
- Based on a concentration limit

WLA(PSW)

- Single load limit; may be based on percent of watershed covered by MS4s
- For municipal, industrial, and storm water permits combined

Implementation Plans

- Water quality improvement plans that implement the TMDL allocations.
- Implementation plans are collaborative and involve a wide variety of stakeholders in the effected watershed.
  - Citizens, watershed interest groups
  - State, local, and federal agencies
  - Regulated organizations

Implementation Plans

- General Strategy
  - Develop a Coordination Committee
  - Identify and organize Work Groups
  - Develop a Water Quality Improvement Plan
  - Promote Plan to gain cooperation in the watershed

Implementation Plans

- Plans describe the activities that will be implemented by the stakeholders to improve water quality.
- Plans are phased to provide for adaptive management.
- Focus on monitoring is important.
- Strategy for continuing the effort is crucial.
- Water quality improvement may take an extended period of time.

For more information:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/77-trinity_pcbs.html

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