

Recreational Uses and Use-Attainability Analyses Procedures

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TSWQS Revisions-Proposed Changes



- Broaden recreation categories
 - Primary contact recreation (PCR)
 - Secondary contact recreation (SCR) 1 & 2
 - Noncontact Recreation (NCR)



- Revise numerical criteria



Draft Criteria

Uses	Geometric Mean Criteria (colonies/100 ml)			
	<i>E. coli</i> (FW)	Enterococci (Salty inland FW)	Enterococci (SW)	Fecal coliform* (FW & SW)
<i>Existing Standards:</i>				
Contact recreation	126	--	35	200
Noncontact rec.	605	--	168	2000
<i>Draft Standards:</i>				
Primary contact	206	54	35	200
Secondary contact 1	630	165	175	1000
Secondary contact 2	1030	270	--	1000
Noncontact recreation	2060	540	350	2000

* Retained for transitional purposes.



Bacteria

- ▶ Fecal coliform
 - ▶ Phase to *E.coli* or Enterococcus in permitting
 - ▶ Retain in oyster waters
- ▶ Enterococci for high salinity freshwater
- ▶ Implementation
 - ▶ Recreational UAAs
- ▶ Assessment
 - ▶ Geometric mean only
- ▶ Single Sample
 - ▶ Swimmer notification
 - ▶ Wastewater permit compliance



Classified Segments (Appendix A)

- PCR for majority; 8 are NCR; Houston Ship Channel: no rec. use
- To change a designated use or criterion requires:
 - Comprehensive Recreational UAA
 - Intensive study & data collection effort
 - Report/supporting documentation
 - Requires TCEQ & EPA review & approval
 - Site-specific standards change
 - Standards rule revision
 - EPA review & approval

Assigning recreational uses to unclassified water bodies:

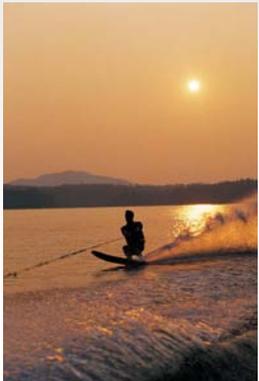
➤ Primary contact recreation

- Presumed for:
 - Lakes, reservoirs & tidal waters

and

- Intermittent streams, int. streams w/ perennial pools, nontidal wetlands, perennial freshwater streams and rivers; except where:

Site-specific information (e.g. Basic UAA Survey) indicates that recreational activities that involve a significant risk of ingestion are unlikely to occur.



Assigning recreational uses to unclassified water bodies:

➤ **Secondary contact recreation 1**

- Water bodies where water recreation can occur, but the nature of the recreation does not involve a significant risk of ingestion
- Applies to intermittent & perennial freshwaters with site-specific information (e.g. Basic UAA Survey) that demonstrates the following characteristics:
 - Average depth at thalweg is less than 0.5 m & no substantial pools with a depth of 1 m or greater at base flow conditions
 - No existing recreational activities that create a significant risk of ingestion or a use for primary contact recreation
- Assigning Presumed SCR1
 - Assign presumed use for regulatory purposes without individual designation in 307.10
 - Assigned uses less stringent than PCR- noted in public notices
 - Tracking – individually list in 307.10 when Standards are revised

Assigning recreational uses to unclassified water bodies:

➤ **Secondary contact recreation 2**

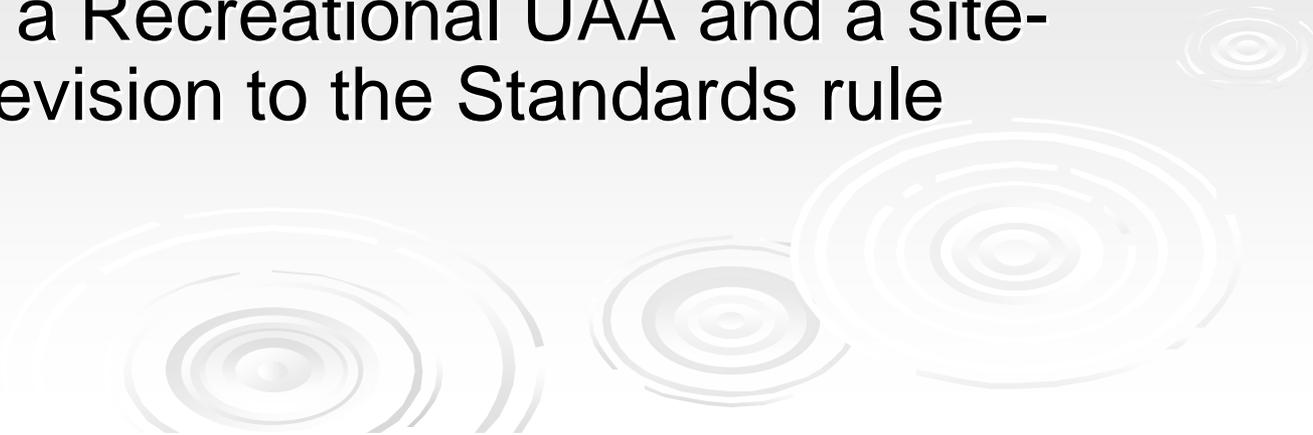
- No water bodies are presumed to have SCR 2
- Applies to water bodies where water recreation activities do not involve a significant risk of water ingestion, and where activities occur less frequently than for secondary contact recreation 1 due to:
 - Physical characteristics of the water body; and/or
 - Limited public access
- Requires a Recreational UAA and a site-specific revision to the Standards rule



Assigning recreational uses to unclassified water bodies:

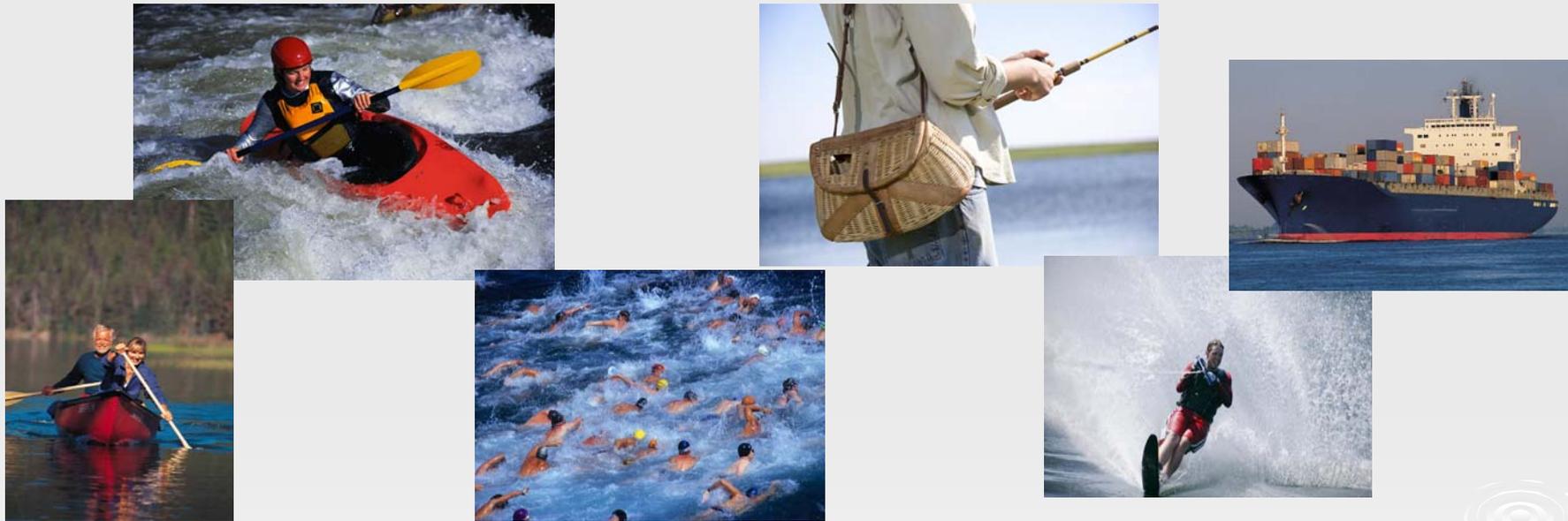
➤ **Noncontact Recreation**

- No water bodies are presumed to have a NCR use
- Applies to water bodies where recreation activities do not involve a significant risk of water ingestion, and where primary and secondary contact recreation uses should not occur because of unsafe conditions
- Requires a Recreational UAA and a site-specific revision to the Standards rule



Use-Attainability Analysis (UAA)

- Assessment of the physical, chemical, biological, and economic factors affecting attainment of a water body use



- Evaluate & determine the attainable use of a water body
- Support adding or removing a use



When is a UAA appropriate?

- Preliminary assessment of data indicates that the attainable use for a water body might be lower than the presumed or designated use
- To support the addition of a use to a water body
- To evaluate a water body that is 303(d) listed
 - Category 5b: A review of the water quality standards for a water body will be conducted
 - Verification purposes





Revised Recreational UAA Procedures

- Coordinate with TCEQ
- Contact Information Form
 - Contact local entities (river authorities, TCEQ region staff, etc.)
- Quality Assurance Project Plan
- Site Selection & Data Collection Timeframes
- Maps
- Field Data Sheets
- Photographic Record
- Weather Conditions
- Summary Sheet





Revised Recreational UAA Procedures

- Basic RUAA Survey and Comprehensive RUAA
 - Unclassified streams & rivers
 - Basic UAA Survey
 - Can often be accomplished on a single sample date
 - Assessment of water recreation activities, stream physical characteristics, stream depth, public access, etc.
 - Summary packet
 - Comprehensive RUAA
 - Basic UAA Survey indicates that the existing and/or attainable recreational use for a particular water body might be lower than the presumed or designated use
 - May require two or more separate trips
 - Basic UAA Survey part of Comprehensive Recreational UAA
 - Interviews
 - Historical information review
 - UAA report
 - Classified – Comprehensive RUAA
 - Requires two or more separate trips
 - More intensive study & data collection effort
 - Interviews
 - Historical information review
 - UAA report

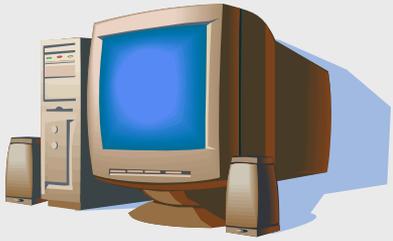




Photos Courtesy of:

- O'Henrys Hideaway
- River Sports Tube
- Texas Water Safari





Web Pages

Primary standards web page address:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/eq_swqs.html

Standards Advisory Work Group Address:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg.html

