



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Dee Freeman
Secretary

October 1, 2010

TO: The Honorable Pricey Harrison, co-chair
The Honorable Pryor Gibson, co-chair
The Honorable Bob Atwater, co-chair
The Honorable Dan Clodfelter, co-chair

FROM: Dee Freeman, Secretary

RE: Annual Report on Basinwide Water Quality Management Plans

G.S. 143-215.8B requires the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to report to the Environmental Review Commission each year on the progress in developing and implementing basinwide water quality management plans and on increasing public involvement and public education in connection with basinwide water quality management planning. If you have any questions please contact Alan Clark at (919) 807-6441.

Attachment

cc: Coleen Sullins, Director, DWQ

The Division of Water Quality Basinwide Planning Program's Annual Report to the ERC – October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010

The Division of Water Quality's (DWQ) Basinwide Planning Unit conducted substantial work along with stakeholders in the following river basins during this year: **Catawba, Lumber, Tar-Pamlico, French Broad, Cape Fear, and the Neuse** river basins. River Basin Planning in more initial stages in other basins such as the Roanoke, White Oak, Chowan, Pasquotank, Yadkin-Pee Dee, New, Hiawassee, Savannah, and Little Tennessee river basins has also involved various stakeholder groups. A brief summation of the Basinwide Planning Unit efforts in each of the following basins is provided below:

Catawba River Basin. Meetings were held with multiple stakeholder groups, including public interest groups, local governments, and the Catawba-Wataeree Bi-State Commission. Discussed current and emerging basin water quality issues, and implementation of current watershed management plans and action plans to address impaired waters. Collaboration resulted in two significant action plans for this cycle including the Lake Rhodhiss nutrient/pH reduction plan, currently being implemented, and the Lake Wylie nutrient reduction plan. The 2010 Catawba River Basinwide Water Quality Plan was approved by the EMC on September 9, 2010 and is available at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/bpu>.

Lumber River Basin. Worked with stakeholder groups including the Lumber River COG, Cape Fear Regional COG, Waccamaw Riverkeeper, NC Coastal Land Trust, NC Coastal Federation, Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration, Columbus County Soil and Water Conservation District, Sandhills Area Land Trust, Lumber River Conservancy, Lake Waccamaw State Park, The Nature Conservancy and the Cape Fear Resource Conservation and Development group. DWQ continues to work with groups to secure funding for implementation of a restoration plan for the fecal coliform bacteria pollution in the Lockwoods Folly River watershed. The 2010 Lumber River Basinwide Water Quality Plan was approved by the EMC in March 2010 and is available at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/bpu>.

Tar-Pamlico River Basin. Current and emerging basin water quality issues were discussed with stakeholders including the Upper Tar Collaborative, Tar-Pamlico Basin Association (Discharger Coalition), Division of Soil and Water Conservation and Agriculture Task Force Committee, Greenville Flow Study Technical Advisory Group (TAG), Tar-Pamlico River Basin Water Resources Plan TAG, and East Carolina University. Contacts were made with municipal governing bodies for their water quality initiatives and management recommendations to be included in the river basin plan. This river basin plan focuses on longer term water quality parameters and trends, and it identifies areas within the Nutrient Sensitive Waters (NSW) strategy to improve upon, as well as an action plan to address impaired waters and emerging water quality issues. The 2010 Tar-Pamlico River Basinwide Water Quality Plan is drafted and undergoing public review through Sep 30, 2010. It is scheduled for EMC approval in January 2011 and is available at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/bpu>.

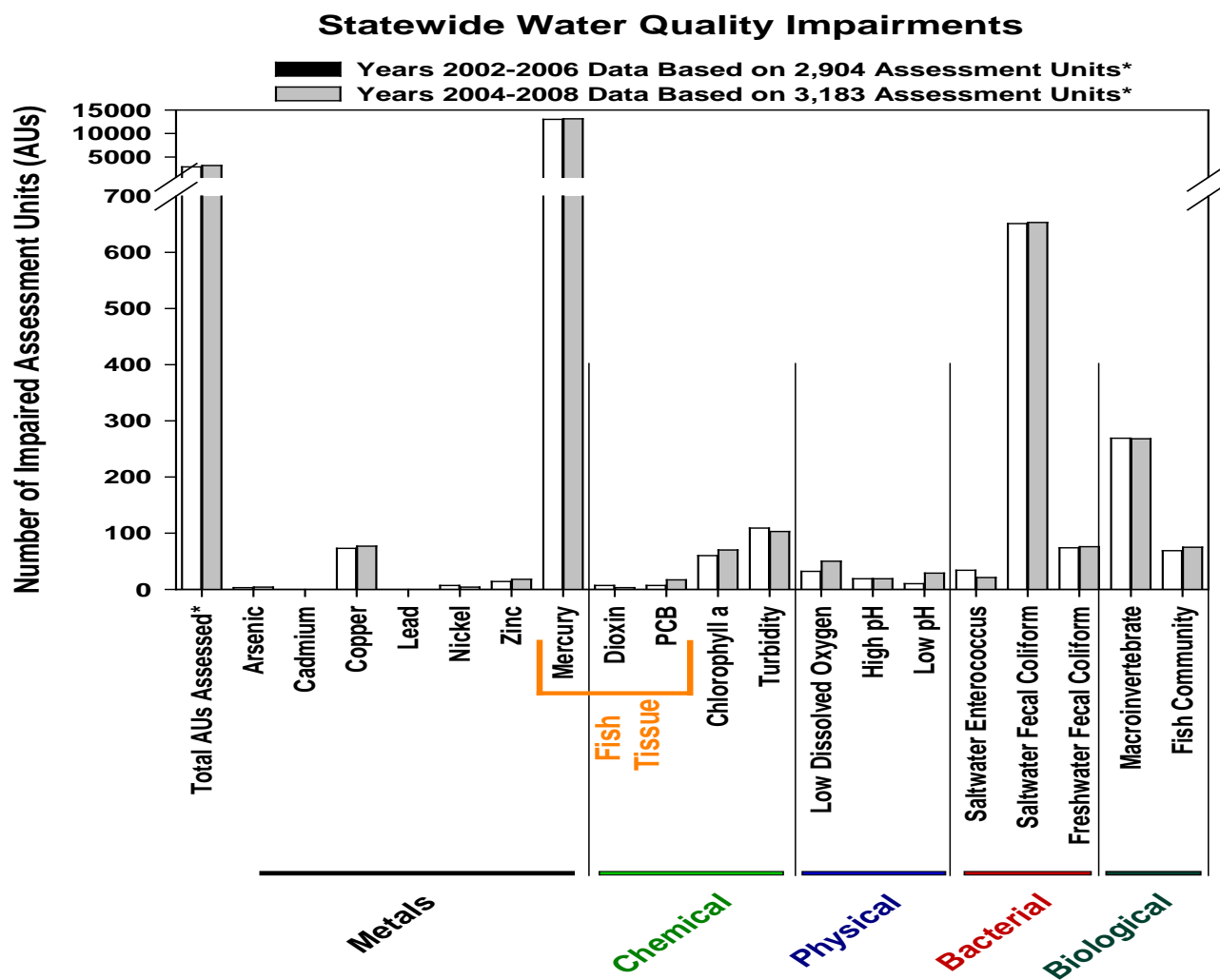
French Broad River Basin. The French Broad River Basinwide Water Quality Plan is currently being updated and is expected to be presented to the EMC for approval during the first half of 2011. Stakeholder involvement meetings have been taking place both internally with DENR staff, as well as with outside organizations and local governments. This river basin has many (20+) organized groups as stakeholders.

Cape Fear River Basin. Staff is in the process of developing the 2011 Cape Fear River basinwide water quality management plan. Staff is preparing to participate in an internal monitoring and modeling workgroup to review and revise the existing permitting strategy and address the potential need for additional modeling to support new and expanding wastewater discharge needs within the basin. Work will be done with DENR agencies, local governments and other stakeholders to evaluate the current water quality issues and identify watersheds in need of implementation and protection plans. Stakeholders will be asked to provide watershed information that is pertinent to protecting and enhancing water quality throughout the basin. Participation has been ongoing in technical advisory and watershed groups, including: Rocky River Management Team, Cape Fear monitoring and modeling workgroup, Tick Creek watershed planning, Great Coharie watershed planning, and Smith Creek watershed planning.

Neuse River Basin. Implementation of the Neuse River Basinwide Water Quality Action Plan continues (it was approved by the EMC in July 2009). Eight municipalities were designated for Phase II stormwater protection in 2010 as a result. Work on the Falls Lake NSW rules and the Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) rules, which includes extensive stakeholder involvement continued throughout this time period. Work with the scientific community to identify and fill additional research needs which will help direct future management decisions have also continued, as well as staff participation in several technical advisory and watershed groups.

Water Quality Impairments

Water Quality Impairments, commonly referred to as “use support” for waters, are assessed in NC waters every other year by the Division of Water Quality, and are subject to final approval by US EPA. The results of impairment are based on a 5-year compilation of water quality data that has been quality assured and quality controlled. The following graph illustrates the most recent water quality impairments for NC:



* An assessment unit (AU) is simply a waterbody identification number. It can vary in size (miles or acres) depending on the unique characteristics of a stream, lake or estuary. Note that not all assessment units are monitored for all of the parameters in the graph above.