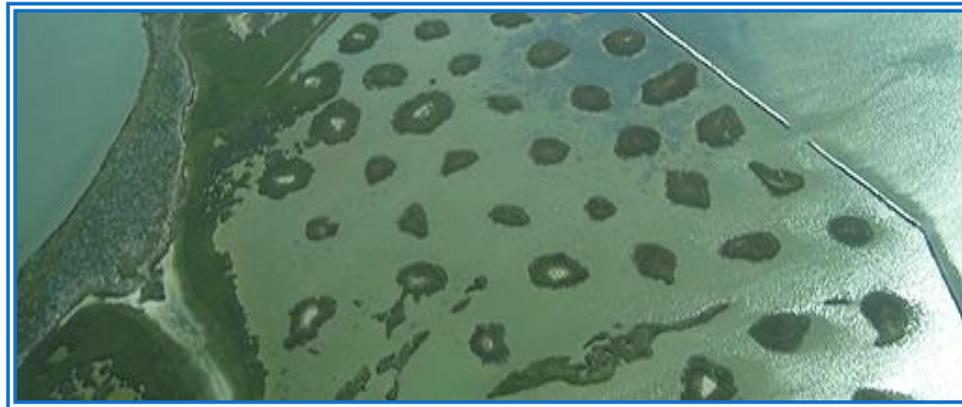


Water Quality Updates from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



Sarah Eagle
Texas Clean Rivers Program
March 20, 2014

Water Quality Updates

- Texas Surface Water Quality Standards
- Water Quality Assessment
- Watershed Action Planning

Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (TSWQS)

- Establish explicit goals for the quality of surface water in Texas
- Identify appropriate uses for the state's surface waters
 - Use examples: aquatic life, recreation, and public water supply
- Set criteria for evaluating support of those uses
 - Criteria examples: dissolved oxygen, pH, bacteria, etc.

http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/eq_swqs.html

2014 TSWQS Triennial Revision

- Standards revisions adopted on February 12, 2014
- March 6, 2014: Effective as a state rule
- Next step: Send to EPA for approval
- Provisions must be approved by EPA to be used in Clean Water Act activities like wastewater permitting, TMDL, and assessment



Frio River, Garner State Park

Image Credit: Texas Parks and Wildlife

2014 Revision - Topics

- Statewide toxic criteria
 - Mercury
 - Reconsider tissue-based human health criteria
- Temperature Criteria
 - Different mixing zone sizes for specific numeric criteria
 - Industrial cooling water areas
- Expand recreational use categories
 - Primary Contact Recreation 2 – freshwater only
 - Geomean criteria 206 *E. coli* / 100 mL
 - Would require a Recreational Use Attainability Analysis and a site-specific amendment to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.
 - Activities like swimming and wading by children that occur on a less frequent basis due to limited public access or physical characteristics of the water body

Proposed Standards changes for Guadalupe Basin

- PCR designation adopted as changed to PCR1
 - Numerical criteria do not change from PCR to PCR1
- New designations as sole source drinking water supplies:
 - Guadalupe River Below San Antonio River (1802)
 - Guadalupe River Below San Marcos River (1803)
 - *Lake Dunlap (1804)
 - *Lake Placid (1804)
 - *Lake Wood (1804)
 - Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake (1806)
 - Guadalupe River Below Canyon Dam (1812)
 - Upper Blanco River (1813)
- Removed from sole source list:
 - Terminal Reservoir (1802)

**part of Guadalupe River Below Comal River*

Current Work: Nutrients

- On July 2, 2013 EPA approved 39 out of 75 site-specific chlorophyll a criteria for reservoirs proposed in the 2010 TSWQS
 - Disapproved 36
- Additional nutrient criteria were not included in current revisions to the standards
- Continued progress developing criteria
 - Address reservoir criteria disapproved by EPA
 - Estuaries
 - Streams and Rivers
- **Stakeholder input is sought and always welcomed**



Texas Integrated Report

- Evaluation of surface waters within Texas
- Identifies water bodies not meeting the Texas Water Quality Standards set for their use
 - 303 (d) list
- Report is produced every two years
- Utilizes routine water quality monitoring data from a variety of data providers

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/assessment/305_303.html

2014 Integrated Report

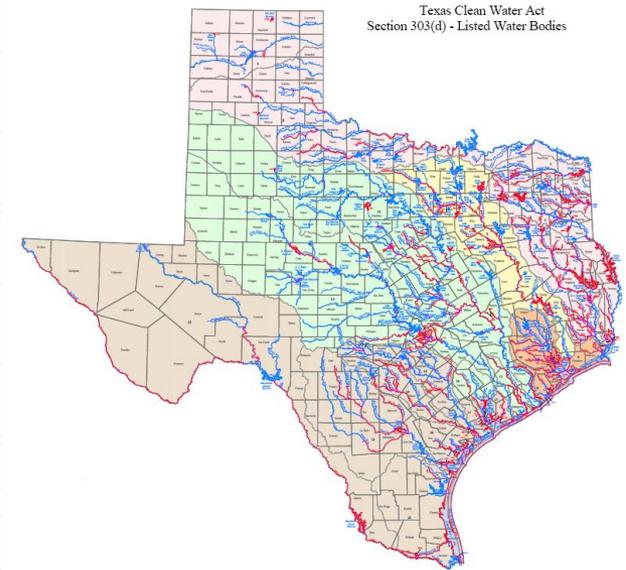
- Assesses surface water monitoring data collected during the seven-year period (December 1, 2005 to November 30, 2012)
- Currently under development
- Upcoming steps:
 - Version provided to data providers
 - Public comment period
 - SWQM response to public comments and make changes
 - Submit to TCEQ Commissioners for approval
 - Submit to EPA for final approval

2012 Integrated Report: Guadalupe Basin

Total Number of Segments Evaluated	32
Total Number of Assessment Units Evaluated	77
Total Number of Segments on 2012 303(d) List	10
Total Number of Assessment Units on 2012 303(d) List	10
Total Number of Segments with Concerns Identified	12
Total Number of Assessment Units with Concerns Identified	17
Number of delistings	3
Number of New listings	1

Watershed Action Planning (WAP)

- “Taking action on water quality issues”
- Select strategies to address water quality impairments
 - What is the best “next step”?
 - Meet with stakeholders
- Track input
- Take action
- Track progress



WAP: Strategies for taking action

- Evaluation
- Monitoring
- TMDL / Implementation Plan
- Watershed Protection Plan
- Standards Evaluation
- Other (e.g. drought, task force, permitting)

WAP Updates

- 2012 Integrated Report has been incorporated
- The WAP tool is complete!
 - Database for tracking WAP projects
 - Multiple users may edit projects
 - Currently going through Quality Assurance checks

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