

Title 33
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Part IX. Water Quality
Subpart 1. Water Pollution Control

Chapter 11. Surface Water Quality Standards

§1109. Policy

Water quality standards policies concerned with the protection and enhancement of water quality in the state are discussed in this Section. Policy statements on antidegradation, water use, water body exception classification, compliance schedules, variances, short-term activity authorization, errors, severability, revisions to standards, and sample collection and analytical procedures are described.

A. — C.2.d. ...

3. Naturally Dystrophic Waters

a. Naturally dystrophic waters include waters that receive large amounts of natural organic material largely of terrestrial plant origin, are commonly stained by the decomposition of such organic material, and are low in dissolved oxygen because of natural conditions. Only those water bodies primarily affected by nonanthropogenic sources of oxygen-demanding substances or naturally occurring cycles of oxygen depletion will be considered for classification as naturally dystrophic waters. These water bodies typically include or are surrounded by wetlands (e.g., bottomland hardwood forests, freshwater swamps and marshes, or intermediate, brackish, or saline marshes) and have sluggish, low-gradient flows most of the year. Naturally dystrophic water bodies, though seasonally deficient in dissolved oxygen, may fully support fish and wildlife propagation and other water uses. Low dissolved oxygen

concentrations (less than 5 mg/L) may occur seasonally during the warmer months of the year in naturally dystrophic water bodies.

b. — K.4.d. ...

e. Additional or site-specific criteria may be necessary to protect other existing or beneficial uses identified by the administrative authority. The following site-specific criteria have been approved by the administrative authority for wastewater assimilation projects.

i. Luling Wetland, South Slough Wetland, Chinchuba Swamp Wetland, East Tchefuncte Marsh Wetland, Cypress Island Coulee Wetland, and Cote Gelee Wetland - Designated Naturally Dystrophic Waters Segment. The following criteria are applicable: no more than 20 percent reduction in the total above-ground wetland productivity, as measured by tree, shrub, and/or marsh grass productivity.

ii. Poydras-Verret Marsh Wetland - Designated Naturally Dystrophic Waters Segment. ~~One or more of t~~The following criteria are applicable:

(a). no more than 50 percent reduction in the wetlands faunal assemblage total abundance, total abundance of dominant species, or the species richness of fish and macroinvertebrates, minimum of five replicate samples per site; $p = 0.05$; and/or

(b). no more than 20 percent reduction in the total above-ground wetland productivity as measured by tree, shrub, and/or marsh grass productivity.

iii. Breaux Bridge Swamp and Thibodaux Swamp - Designated Naturally Dystrophic Waters Segment. ~~One or more of t~~The following criteria are applicable:

(a). no more than 20 percent decrease in naturally occurring litter fall or stem growth;

(b). no significant decrease in the dominance index or stem density of bald cypress; and/or

(c). no significant decrease in faunal species diversity and no more than a 20 percent decrease in biomass.

iv. Bayou Ramos Swamp Wetland - Designated Naturally Dystrophic Waters Segment. ~~One or more of t~~The following criteria are applicable:

(a). no more than 20 percent decrease in naturally occurring litter fall or stem growth;

(b). no significant decrease in the dominance index or stem density of bald cypress; and/or

(c). no significant decrease in faunal species diversity and no more than a 20 percent decrease in abundance.

5. — 6. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2074(B)(1).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, LR 10:745 (October 1984), amended LR 15:738 (September 1989), LR 17:264 (March 1991), LR 17:966 (October 1991), LR 20:883 (August 1994), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:2546 (November 2000), LR 29:557 (April 2003), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 33:457 (March 2007), LR 33:828 (May 2007), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs and Criminal Investigations Division, LR 46:1546 (November 2020), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 49:

§1113. Criteria

A. — B.12.a. ...

b. Wetlands Approved for Wastewater Assimilation Projects Pursuant to the Water Quality Management Plan, Volume 3, Section 10, Permitting Guidance Document

for Implementing Louisiana Surface Water Quality Standards. The biological integrity for wetlands approved for wastewater assimilation projects will be determined in accordance with procedures set forth in the Water Quality Management Plan, Volume 3 and in accordance with site-specific permit requirements. An LPDES permit identifies the requirements and conditions, including biological (or vegetative) criteria, that determine compliance with the permit. Upon permit issuance, the permittee will be required to conduct ongoing physical, chemical, and biological measurements to ensure the health of the wetland. Wetland biological integrity will be guided by above-ground wetland vegetative productivity with consideration given to floral diversity. Due to effluent addition, the discharge area of a wetland shall have no more than a 20 percent reduction in the rate of total above-ground wetland productivity as compared to a reference area, unless site-specific criteria are established through the permitting process, in accordance with the Water Quality Management Plan, Volume 3. Measurements may include, but are not limited to, sampling in the discharge and reference areas. The discharge area is the area of a wetland directly affected by effluent addition. For each location, the discharge area will be defined by the volume of discharge. The reference area is the wetland area that is nearby and similar to the discharge area but that is not affected by effluent addition. Above-ground productivity is a key measurement of overall ecosystem health in the wetlands of south Louisiana. Primary productivity is dependent on a number of factors, and the methods for measurement of above-ground productivity and floral diversity are found in the current Water Quality Management Plan, Volume 3, Section 10, Permitting Guidance Document for Implementing Louisiana Surface Water Quality Standards.

a. Numeric criteria for specific toxic substances are mostly derived from the following publications of the Environmental Protection Agency: Water Quality Criteria, 1972 (commonly referred to as the "Blue Book"; Quality Criteria for Water, 1976 (commonly referred to as the "Red Book"; Ambient Water Quality Criteria, 1980 (EPA 440/5-80); Ambient Water Quality Criteria, 1984 (EPA 440/5-84-85); and Quality Criteria for Water, 1986—with updates (commonly referred to as the "Gold Book"). Natural background conditions, however, are also considered. These toxic substances are selected for criteria development because of their known occurrence in Louisiana waters and potential threat to attainment of designated water uses.

b. — f. ...

Table 1 Numeric Criteria for Specific Toxic Substances [In micrograms per liter (µg/L)]								
Toxic Substance Chemical Abstracts (CAS) Registry Number	Aquatic Life Protection						Human Health Protection	
	Freshwater		Marine Water		Brackish Water		Drinking Water Supply ¹	Non- Drinking Water Supply ²
	Acute	Chronic	Acute	Chronic	Acute	Chronic		
* * *								
Endosulfan ⁷ 115-29-7	0.22	0.0560	0.034	0.0087	0.034	0.0087	0.47	0.64
Endrin 72-20-8	0.0864	0.03575	0.037	0.0023	0.037	0.0023	0.26	0.26
Ethylbenzene 100-41-4	3,200	1,600	8,760	4,380	3,200	1,600	247	834
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Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 25:2402 (December 1999), LR 26:2547 (November 2000), LR 27:289 (March 2001), LR 30:1474 (July 2004), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 33:457 (March 2007), LR 33:829 (May 2007), LR 35:446 (March 2009), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Division, LR 42:736 (May 2016), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs and Criminal Investigations Division, LR 45:1188 (September 2019), LR 46:1550 (November 2020), LR 48:1498 (June 2022), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division LR 49:

§1123. Numeric Criteria and Designated Uses

A. — E. ...

Table 3. Numeric Criteria and Designated Uses									
A-Primary Contact Recreation; B-Secondary Contact Recreation; C-Fish And Wildlife Propagation; L-Limited Aquatic Life and Wildlife Use; D-Drinking Water Supply; E-Oyster Propagation; F-Agriculture; G-Outstanding Natural Resource Waters									
Code	Stream Description	Designated Uses	Numerical Criteria						
			CL	SO ₄	DO	pH	BAC	°C	TDS
Atchafalaya River Basin (01)									

Barataria Basin (02)									

020304	Lake Salvador	A B C	600	100	3.3 April-Sept.; 5.0 Oct.-Mar.	6.0-8.5	1	32	1,320
020401	Bayou Lafourche—From Donaldsonville to ICWW at Larose	A B C D	70	55	2.3 Mar.-Nov.; 5.0 Dec.-Feb.	6.0-8.5	1	32	500

Calcasieu River Basin (03)									

Lake Pontchartrain Basin (04)									

040606	Selsers Creek—From Sisters Road to South Slough	A B C	30	20	2.3 Mar.-Nov.; 5.0 Dec.-Feb.	6.0-8.5	1	30	150
040701	Tangipahoa River—From Mississippi state line to Interstate Highway 12 (Scenic)	A B C G	30	10	5.0	6.0-8.5	1	30	140

040804	Bogue Falaya River—From headwaters to Tchefuncte River (Scenic) [12]	A B C G [12]	20	10	5.0	6.0-8.5	1	30	110
040807	Ponchitolawa Creek—From headwaters to US Highway 190	A B C	850	135	5.0	6.0-8.5	1	30	1,850

041808	New Canal (Estuarine)	A B C	N/A	N/A	4.0	6.5-9.0	1 [25]	35	N/A
041901	Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO)—From ICWW to Breton Sound at MRGO mile 30	A B C E	N/A	N/A	5.0	6.5-9.0	4 [25]	35	N/A

Mermentau River Basin (05)									

050603	Bayou Chene—From headwaters to Lacassine Bayou; includes Bayou Grand Marais	A B C F	90	10	[16]	6.5-9.0	1	32	400

Vermilion-Teche River Basin (06)									

Table 3. Numeric Criteria and Designated Uses									
A-Primary Contact Recreation; B-Secondary Contact Recreation; C-Fish And Wildlife Propagation; L-Limited Aquatic Life and Wildlife Use; D-Drinking Water Supply; E-Oyster Propagation; F-Agriculture; G-Outstanding Natural Resource Waters									
Code	Stream Description	Designated Uses	Numerical Criteria						
			CL	SO₄	DO	pH	BAC	°C	TDS
060804	Intracoastal Waterway—From Vermilion Lock to 1/2 mile west of Gum Island Canal (Estuarine)	A B C	N/A	N/A	4.0	6.5-9.0	1 [25]	35	N/A
060901	Bayou Petite Anse—From headwaters to Bayou Carlin (Estuarine)	A B C	N/A	N/A	4.0	6.5-9.0	1 [25]	35	N/A

061105	Marsh Island (Estuarine)	A B C E	N/A	N/A	4.0	6.5-9.0	4 [25]	35	N/A

Mississippi River Basin (07)									

Ouachita River Basin (08)									

081612	Georgetown Reservoir	A B C D	250	500	5.0	6.0-8.5	1	33	1,000
Pearl River Basin (09)									

Red River Basin (10)									

Sabine River Basin (11)									

Terrebonne Basin (12)									

120206	Grand Bayou and Little Grand Bayou—From headwaters to Lake Verret	A B C	60	40	2.3 Mar.-Nov.; 5.0 Dec.-Feb.	6.0-8.5	1	32	300
120301	Bayou Terrebonne—From Thibodaux to ICWW in Houma	A B C	540	90	2.3 Mar.-Nov.; 5.0 Dec.-Feb.	6.0-8.5	1	32	1,350

ENDNOTES:

- [1]. — [4]. ...
- [5] Reserved
- [6]. — [16]. ...
- [17] Reserved
- [18] Reserved
- [19]. — [22]. ...
- [23] Reserved
- [24]. — [25]. ...

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repromulgated LR 35:655 (April 2009), amended LR 36:2276 (October 2010), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Division, LR 41:2603 (December 2015), LR 42:737 (May 2016), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs and Criminal Investigations Division, LR 45:1178 (September 2019), LR 46:1087 (August 2020), LR 46:1555 (November 2020), LR 47:876 (July 2021), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 49: