

## APPENDIX N. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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**303(d) List:** The list of Florida's waterbodies that do not meet or are not expected to meet applicable water quality standards with technology-based controls alone.

**Atmospheric deposition:** Pollutants, from a variety of sources, which settle out of air by gravity or are deposited onto land or into lakes, rivers and other bodies of water by wind and rain.

**Background:** The condition of waters in the absence of man-induced alterations.

**Baffle box:** An underground stormwater management device that uses barriers (or baffles) to slow the flow of untreated stormwater, allowing particulates to settle out in the box before the stormwater is released into the environment.

**Baseline period:** A period of time used as a basis for later comparison.

**Baseline loading:** The quantity of pollutants in a waterbody, used as a basis for later comparison.

**Basin management action plan (BMAP):** The document that describes how a specific TMDL will be implemented; the plan describes the specific load and wasteload allocations as well as the stakeholder efforts that will be undertaken to achieve an adopted TMDL.

**Best management practices (BMPs):** Methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution from nonpoint sources.

**Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD):** The amount of dissolved oxygen utilized by aquatic microorganisms.<sup>1</sup>

**Biomass:** The total living biological material in a given area.

**Continuous deflective separation Unit:** A patented stormwater management device which uses the available energy of the storm flow to create a vortex to cause a separation of solids from fluids. Pollutants are captured inside the separation chamber while the water passes out through the separation screen.

**Designated use:** Uses specified in water quality standards for each waterbody or segment (such as drinking water, swimmable, fishable).

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<sup>1</sup> Microorganisms such as bacteria are responsible for decomposing organic waste. When organic matter such as dead plants, leaves, grass clippings, manure, sewage, or even food waste is present in a water supply, the bacteria will begin the process of breaking down this waste. When this happens, much of the available DO is consumed by aerobic bacteria, robbing other aquatic organisms of the oxygen they need to live. BOD is a measure of the oxygen used by microorganisms to decompose this waste. If there is a large quantity of organic waste in the water supply, there will also be a lot of bacteria present working to decompose this waste. In this case, the demand for oxygen will be high (due to all the bacteria), consequently the BOD level will be high. As the waste is consumed or dispersed through the water, BOD levels will begin to decline.

Nitrates and phosphates in a body of water can contribute to high BOD levels. Nitrates and phosphates are plant nutrients and can cause plant life and algae to grow quickly. When plants grow quickly, they also die quickly. This contributes to the organic waste in the water, which is then decomposed by bacteria. This results in a high BOD level. When BOD levels are high, DO levels decrease, because the oxygen that is available in the water is being consumed by the bacteria. Since less DO is available in the water, fish and other aquatic organisms may not survive.

**Detention pond:** A stormwater system that delays the downstream progress of stormwater runoff in a controlled manner, typically by using temporary storage areas and a metered outlet device.

**Development of regional impact:** A large development (such as a regional transportation facility, shopping center, commercial building, large subdivision, etc.) which generates effects that cross political jurisdictional lines.

**Dissolved oxygen:** The amount of oxygen gas dissolved in a given volume of water at a particular temperature and pressure, often expressed as a concentration in parts of oxygen per million parts of water.

**Effluent:** Wastewater that flows into a receiving stream by way of a domestic or industrial discharge point.

**Event mean concentration:** The flow-weighted mean concentration of an urban runoff pollutant measured during a storm event.

**Exfiltration:** Loss of water from a drainage system as the result of percolation or absorption into the surrounding soil.

**External loading:** Pollutants originating from outside of a waterbody that contribute to the pollutant load of the waterbody.

**Flocculent:** A liquid which contains loosely aggregated, suspended particles.

**Impairment:** The condition of a waterbody that does not achieve water quality standards (designated use) due to pollutants or an unknown cause.

**Karst:** An area of irregular limestone in which erosion has produced fissures, sinkholes, underground streams, and caverns.

**Land development regulations:** Ordinances enacted by governing bodies for the regulation of any aspect of development and includes any local government zoning, rezoning, subdivision, land assembly or adjustment of platted or subdivided lands, building construction, or sign regulations or any other regulations controlling the development of land.

**Loading:** The total quantity of pollutants in stormwater runoff which contributes to the water quality.

**Load allocations:** The portions of a receiving water's loading capacity that are allocated to one of its existing or future nonpoint sources of pollution.

**Macrophyte:** Rooted and floating aquatic plants that are large enough to be perceived or examined by the unaided eye.

**Margin of safety (MOS):** An explicit or implicit assumption used in the calculation of a TMDL that takes into account any lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between effluent limitations and water quality. An explicit MOS is typically a percentage of the assimilative capacity or some other specific amount of pollutant loading (e.g., the loading from an out-of-state source). Most DEP-adopted TMDLs include an implicit MOS based on the fact that the predictive model runs incorporate a variety of conservative assumptions (they examine worst-case ambient flow conditions, worst-case temperature, and assume that all permitted point sources discharge at their maximum permissible amount).

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System:** The permitting process by which technology-based and water quality-based controls are implemented.

**Nonpoint source (NPS):** Diffuse runoff without a single point of origin that flows over the surface of the ground by stormwater and is then introduced to surface or ground water. NPSs include atmospheric deposition and runoff or leaching from agricultural lands, urban areas, unvegetated lands, on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems, and construction sites.

**Outfall:** The place where a sewer, drain, or stream discharges.

**Particulate:** A minute separate particle, as of a granular substance or powder.

**Pollutant Load Reduction Goals (PLRGs):** PLRGs are defined as estimated numeric reductions in pollutant loadings needed to preserve or restore designated uses of receiving bodies of water and maintain water quality consistent with applicable state water quality standards. PLRGs are developed by the water management districts.

**Point Source:** An identifiable and confined discharge point for one or more water pollutants, such as a pipe, channel, vessel, or ditch.

**Pollutant:** Generally any substance, such as a chemical or waste product, introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource.

**Pollution:** An undesirable change in the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of air, water, soil, or food that can adversely affect the health, survival, or activities of humans or other living organisms.

**Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons:** Hydrocarbon compounds with multiple benzene rings. PAHs are typical components of asphalts, fuels, oils, and greases.

**Removal efficiency:** A description of how much of a given substance (metals, sediment, etc.) has been extracted from another substance.

**Retention pond:** A stormwater management structure whose primary purpose is to permanently store a given volume of Storm Water runoff, releasing it by infiltration and /or evaporation.

**Reuse:** The deliberate application of reclaimed water for a beneficial purpose. Criteria used to classify projects as “reuse” or “effluent disposal” are contained in Section 62-610.810, F.A.C.

**Rough fish:** A fish that is neither a sport fish nor an important food fish.

**Runoff curve:** A calculated number representing the percentage of rainfall which becomes runoff for a given area.

**Quality assurance:** An integrated system of management activities involving planning, implementation, documentation, assessment, reporting, and quality improvement to ensure that a process, product, or service meets defined standards of quality.

**Quality control:** The overall system of technical activities that measures the attributes and performance of a process, product, or service against defined standards to verify that they meet the established data quality objectives.

**Septic tank:** A watertight receptacle constructed to promote separation of solid and liquid components of wastewater, to provide limited digestion of organic matter, to store solids, and to allow clarified liquid to discharge for further treatment and disposal in a soil absorption system.

**Silviculture:** The science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of [forests](#) to meet diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a [sustainable](#) basis.

**Springs protection zones:** A geographical area around a spring, in which land use and activities are limited, in order to reduce the pollutant load to the spring.

**STORET:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency STORage and RETrieval database, used nationally for water quality data storage.

**Stormwater:** Water that results from a rainfall event.

**Stormwater runoff:** The portion of rainfall which hits the ground and is not evaporated, percolated or transpired into vegetation, but rather flows over the ground surface seeking a receiving water body.

**Submersed:** Growing or remaining under water.

**Sub-basin:** Hydrologic units within a watershed that function as a mini-watershed, the boundaries of which are defined by topography and drainage patterns.

**Surface Water Improvement and Management Waterbody:** A waterbody designated by statute or by a water management district for priority management to restore and maintain water quality, habitat, and other natural features of the waterbody.

**Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs):** The sum of the individual wasteload allocations for point sources and the load allocations for nonpoint sources and natural background. Prior to determining individual wasteload allocations and load allocations, the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody or waterbody segment can assimilate from all sources while still maintaining its designated use must first be calculated. TMDLs are based on the relationship between pollutants and in-stream water quality conditions.

**Total nitrogen (TN):** TN is the combined measurement of nitrogen in nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3$ ), nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2$ ), ammonia, and organic compounds found in water. Nitrogen compounds function as important nutrients to many aquatic organisms and are essential to the chemical processes that occur between land, air, and water. The most readily bio-available forms of nitrogen are ammonia and nitrate. These compounds, in conjunction with other nutrients, serve as an important base for primary productivity.

**Total phosphorus (TP):** TP is the combined measurement of phosphorus in phosphate ( $\text{PO}_4$ ) and organic compounds found in water. TP is one of the primary nutrients that regulates algal and macrophyte growth in natural waters, particularly in fresh water. Phosphate, the form in which almost all inorganic TP is found in the water column, can enter the aquatic environment in a number of ways. Natural processes transport phosphate to water through atmospheric deposition, ground water percolation, and terrestrial runoff. Municipal treatment plants, industries, agriculture, and domestic activities also contribute to phosphate loading through direct discharge and natural transport mechanisms. The very high levels of TP in some of Florida's streams and estuaries are usually caused by phosphate-mining and fertilizer-processing activities.

**Total suspended solids (TSS):** The measurement of TSS consists of determining the dry weight of particulates in the water column. Both organic and inorganic materials contribute to TSS in water.

**Trophic State Index (TSI):** The TSI measures the potential for algal or aquatic weed growth, and is used to indicate the water quality of lakes and estuaries. Its components include Total Nitrogen, TP, and chlorophyll.

**Turbidity:** The presence of suspended material such as clay, silt, finely divided organic material, plankton, and other inorganic material in the water.

**Wasteload allocations:** Pollutant loads allotted to existing and future point sources, such as discharges from industry and sewage facilities.

**Wastewater:** The combination of liquid and pollutants from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants, and institutions, together with any ground water, surface runoff, or leachate that may be present.

**Waterbody identification (WBID) numbers:** WBIDs are numbers assigned to hydrologically based drainage areas within a river basin.

**Water column:** The water within a waterbody between the surface and sediments.

**Water quality standards:** (1) Standards comprised of designated most beneficial uses (classification of water), the numeric and narrative criteria applied to the specific water use or classification, the Florida Anti-degradation Policy, and the moderating provisions contained in Chapters 62-302 and 62-4, F.A.C. (2) State-adopted and EPA-approved ambient standards for waterbodies. The standards prescribe the use of the waterbody (such as drinking, fishing and swimming, and shellfish harvesting) and establish the water quality criteria that must be met to protect designated uses.

**Watershed:** Topographic area that contributes or may contribute runoff to specific surface waters or an area of recharge.

**Watershed management approach:** The process of addressing water quality concerns within their natural boundaries, rather than political or regulatory boundaries. The process draws together all the participants and stakeholders in each basin to decide what problems affect the water quality in the basin, which are most important, and how they will be addressed.