

Sutton, Kaitlyn

From: Laura Reynolds <lreynolds@conservationconceptsllc.org>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 10:57 AM
To: Sutton, Kaitlyn
Cc: Michael F. Chenoweth; Bob Skinner
Subject: Triennial Review of Florida's Water Quality Standards

Dear Kaitlyn Sutton,

These comments below are on behalf of the Issak Walton League of America a long time member of the Everglades Coalition on your recent Triennial Review Water Quality Standards public meetings.

It's important the State not succumb to 'paralysis by analysis' that keeps us from at least adopting the 2016 EPA draft recommended water quality criteria of 4 micrograms per liter for microcystin and 8 micrograms per liter for cylindrospermopsin. Even if the states current data shows we are not in violation of these levels now it may be that samples were not taken at the correct locations or times using the correct protocol to detect those high levels that impact human health.

There is no doubt the population experienced health concerns during blooms and we must do all we can to prevent this from happening again.

We also need to consider our population is growing and that will bring an even heavier load of nutrients into our already over burden system and these levels even if they are not protective enough should be put into place now so we never exceed them. Once wildlife targets are established which will require much more research and funding to achieve, the state can reevaluate the EPA levels and reduce them to be even more protective for fish and wildlife.

We must all band together to identify the sources of nutrients by using better data collection and analysis and enforcement and to do that we must set standards as 20 other states have to best protect recreational users, homeowners our tourism industry and restore Florida's imperiled waters for future generations.

Sincerely,

Laura Reynolds on behalf of
Issak Walton League of America