

EPA TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) REVIEW DOCUMENT
Amendment to Florida Statewide Mercury TMDL
All Counties, Florida
TMDL ID FL53320AMD_2022

A. TMDL Background:

On November 23, 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency approved a statewide TMDL prepared by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to address mercury impairments in Florida waters. On September 16, 2014; November 29, 2017; and March 9, 2022, the EPA amended its decision to include additional waterbodies submitted by FDEP that were accidentally omitted or were found impaired using new or updated information.

The TMDL target in the original TMDL report was based on fish consumption since that is the primary basis of human exposure to mercury. The statewide TMDL is ultimately represented as percent reductions and was derived under the assumptions that there is a linear relationship between mercury emitted, concentration of mercury in water the column, and mercury concentrations in fish tissue (the precise relationship can vary between species).

The statewide mercury TMDL allocations approved by the EPA are as follows:

Parameter	TMDL (% reduction)	WLA for Wastewater (Kg/year)	WLA for NPDES Stormwater	LA (% reduction)	MOS
Mercury	86	23 kg*	**	86	Implicit

* Based on all readily available data, the Department estimated the current permitted mercury load being discharged to waters of the state. This value represents less than 0.5 % of the total mercury load from point and nonpoint sources in Florida. Mercury minimization is expected for major facilities.

** NPDES MS4 Permits may require reductions to meet the TMDL goal if sources of mercury under the direct control of a MS4 permittee or co-permittee are found to exist.

B. Purpose of Proposed Revision:

FDEP assesses waterbodies within discrete geographical areas they assign a WaterBody Identification number (WBID). The current amendment, submitted to EPA on June 23, 2023, includes 35 additional WBIDs to be added to the mercury TMDL. This amendment will add WBIDs that were not identified as impaired prior to the development of the statewide TMDL, but now are verified as impaired. Each of the 35 WBIDs are now being added for one of the following reasons:

- Waterbody Type Change - new information or water quality data were used to assess the waterbody more accurately.
- WBID Regimentation - new information or water quality data were used to more accurately redraw the WBID boundaries, which resulted in new WBIDs being created.
- Meets Data Sufficiency - new information or water quality data were available to assess the waterbody.

•Omission - waterbodies that were omitted at the time of the previous assessment are now identified.

Formally including the followings WBIDs in the TMDL allows them to be listed in Category 4a:

Table 1. Additional Waterbody IDs (WBIDs) listed as impaired for Mercury

WBID	Waterbody Name	Waterbody Type	Water Class
1034	New River	Stream	3F
1034B	New River	Stream	3F
1236B	Whiskey George Creek (Shellfish	Estuary	2
1275B	East River (Shellfish Portion)	Estuary	2
1280	Dog Island	Estuary	2
1285	Direct Runoff to Bay	Estuary	2
1287	Direct Runoff to Bay	Estuary	2
1295	Direct Runoff to Bay	Estuary	2
749	Juniper Creek	Stream	3F
120	Unnamed Branch	Stream	3F
792	Bear Branch	Stream	1
1111	Sandy Creek	Stream	3F
1056B	Bayou George Creek	Stream	1
1131A	Posten Bayou	Estuary	2
1131B	Direct Runoff to Bay	Estuary	3M
1131C	Johnson Bayou	Estuary	2

WBID	Waterbody Name	Waterbody Type	Water Class
3001B	Little Econlockhatchee	Stream	3F
2153	Alligator Creek	Stream	3F
2124B	Escambia Slough	Estuary	3M
18	Big Coldwater Creek	Stream	3F
19	Big Juniper Creek	Stream	3F
229	Alligator Creek	Stream	3F
380	Burnt Grocery Creek	Stream	3F
160A	Shoal River	Stream	3F
160B	Shoal River	Stream	3F
701C	East Bay River (Marine Portion)	Estuary	2
697A	Crescent Lake	Lake	3F
1613B	Lake Gordon	Lake	3F
1622	Lake Garfield	Lake	3F
1391	Hunters Lake	Lake	3F
1701B	Bear Creek (Tidal Portion)	Estuary	3M
2664	Reed Canal	Estuary	3M
1329W	Bystre Lake	Lake	3F
1340A	Davis Lake	Lake	3F
1381	Little Withlacoochee	Stream	3F

C. Justification for Revision:

The main assumptions used in the development of the original TMDL remain applicable for these WBIDs. The submittal states there are no new discrete point sources (not accounted for in original model) that discharge to or would cause local deposition in these waters, and existing sources have had no effective increase in mercury discharge rates. Therefore, the existing Statewide TMDL also applies to these WBIDs, and they may be listed in category 4a.

D. Revised TMDL Allocations:

This amendment does not change the TMDL allocations approved in the original TMDL.

E. Public Participation:

This amendment presents no new information and gives no changes in the TMDL, WLA, or LA. Therefore, further public notice is not necessary. Nevertheless, all WBIDs referenced in this submittal were public noticed as removals from the Clean Water Act 303(d) List through the impaired waters listing process.

F. Conclusion:

After a full and complete review, the EPA is approving the amendment to Florida's Statewide Mercury TMDL.