

Glossary of Terms used in the 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report

Term	Definition
303(d)	The 303(d) List is required by Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and by 40 CFR 130.7. The 303(d) list is composed of waters that are “ Not Supporting ” their uses (i.e. Impaired) and for which a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has not been developed and needs to be completed. It is due to EPA by April 1st of even numbered years.
305(b)	The 305(b) report is required by Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act and by 40 CFR 130.8. The report is to describe the quality of the waters in the State. It includes chapters on things like Regional Water Planning, Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment, Information on our Wetlands Program, Estuary & Coastal Water Programs, Public Health & Aquatic Life Issues, Watershed Protection Programs, Groundwater Protection and Water Withdrawal Permitting, and Major issues and challenges. The report also contains the 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters (defined below). It is to be submitted to EPA in even numbered years.
AU/Reach	" AU " stands for "Assessment Unit". " AU " is a term used by EPA and it is synonymous with " Reach " which is a term that EPD has used for many years. Both refer to the portion of a waterbody that is being assessed. For example, the Chattahoochee River (Headwaters to Jasus Creek) is an AU . GA EPD is transitioning to using the term " AU " instead of " Reach ".
Category	The term " Category " refers to the Integrated Report Category System that U.S. EPA implemented beginning with the 2008 Integrated Report . There are five main Categories numbered 1 - 5. Some of the Categories have subcategories (e.g. Category 4 includes 4a, 4b, and 4c). Waters in Category 1 have been assessed as "Supporting". Those in Category 4 or 5 are " Not Supporting ". Those in Category 2 or 3 are "Assessment Pending". Full details on the different categories and subcategories can be found in the Listing Assessment Methodology .
Cause	The terms " Cause " and " Parameter " are used somewhat interchangeably. Both refer to a constituent that has been monitored as part of the assessment of a waterbody. This can include things like dissolved oxygen, pH, metals, contaminants in fish tissue, etc.). The main difference between the terms " Cause " and " Parameter " is that "

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	<p>Cause " is typically only used if the constituent has been assessed as being an impairment (e.g Not Supporting.), while "Parameter " could refer to all constituents sampled, regardless of whether they are meeting water quality criteria.</p>
Delist	<p>The term "Delist" can mean two different things depending on the circumstances. In most cases, "Delist " is used to refer to when a Parameter/Cause that had been assessed as "Impaired" on one Integrated Report is assessed as "Meeting Criteria" or "Supporting" on a subsequent Integrated Report. This change in assessment is normally based on new data that have been collected. The term "Delisted" also has a different definition specifically in regards to the 303(d) list. EPA considers any removal of a Parameter/Cause from the 303(d) list as a Delisting. This would include completing a TMDL for a Parameter (since this would move the water from Category 5 (the 303(d) list) to Category 4a). In this case, the water would still be "Impaired " for the Parameter, but it would no longer be on the 303(d) list since the TMDL was completed.</p>
Designated Uses	<p>Designated Uses are part of the State's Water Quality Standards. Designated Uses establish the environmental use of the waterbody. There are six Designated Uses in Georgia including: Drinking Water Supply, Recreation, Fishing, Wild River, Scenic River, and Coastal Fishing.</p>
GIS	<p>GIS is the acronym for Geographic Information System. It is a computer program that allows the user to visualize geographic data.</p>
Impaired	<p>The terms "Impaired ", "Not Supporting" and "Listed" are synonymous with each other. All mean that a given Parameter is "Not Meeting/Not Supporting" its water quality criteria in accordance with assessments made using the Listing Assessment Methodology. Note: some people use the term "303(d) listed" synonymously with these other terms. Technically, 303(d) Listed waters are a subset of "Impaired /Not Supporting/Listed" waters. Waters on the 303(d) list are "I Impaired " and still need to have a TMDL developed.</p>
Integrated Report	<p>Georgia combines the requirements under sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act into one Report. The report is called the Integrated Report. It is</p>

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	also referred to as the "Water Quality in Georgia" report. The report is available as a pdf or as a Story Map.
List of Waters	The List of Waters is typically included as Appendix A of the 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report . It is a table of waters (Streams, Coastal Streams, Lakes, Sounds/Harbors, Freshwater Beaches and Coastal Beaches that have been assessed. The List of Waters includes information about each water that has been assessed including information about location of the water and assessment results.
Listed	The terms " Impaired ", " Not Supporting " and " Listed " are synonymous with each other. All mean that a given Parameter is " Not Meeting/Not Supporting " its water quality criteria in accordance with assessments made using the Listing Assessment Methodology. Note: some people use the term " 303(d) listed " synonymously with these other terms. Technically, 303(d) Listed waters are a subset of " Impaired/Not Supporting/Listed " waters. Waters on the 303(d) list are " Impaired " and still need to have a TMDL developed.
Listing Assessment Methodology	The Listing Assessment Methodology is a document developed by the State that explains how collected data are compared against the State's Water Quality Criteria when assessing waters. The methodology includes information on data acceptability requirements, the data assessment period, details on how each Parameter is assessed, and the preferred minimum data set for each Parameter .
NHD	NHD is the acronym for National Hydrography Dataset. It represents the water drainage network of the United States with features such as rivers, streams, canals, lakes, ponds, coastline, dams, and stream gages.
Not Supporting	The terms " Impaired ", " Not Supporting " and " Listed " are synonymous with each other. All mean that a given Parameter is " Not Meeting/Not Supporting " its water quality criteria in accordance with assessments made using the Listing Assessment Methodology . Note: some people use the term " 303(d) listed " synonymously with these other terms. Technically, 303(d) Listed waters are a subset of " Impaired/Not Supporting/Listed " waters. Waters on the 303(d) list are " Impaired " and still need to have a TMDL developed.

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Parameter	The terms " Parameter " and " Cause " are used somewhat interchangeably. Both refer to a constituent that has been monitored as part of the assessment of a waterbody. This can include things like dissolved oxygen, pH, metals, contaminants in fish tissue, etc.). The main difference between the terms " Cause " and " Parameter " is that " Cause " is typically only used if the constituent has been assessed as being an impairment (e.g. Not Supporting), while " Parameter " could refer to all constituents sampled, regardless of whether they are meeting water quality criteria .
Preferred Minimum Data Set	Preferred Minimum Data Sets are established for different Parameters in the Listing Assessment Methodology . It is the minimum amount of data that we would like to have before assessing a Parameter . For example, it would be hard to assess whether DO were meeting criteria if we only had one value taken during winter months. Assessments can sometimes be made even if the Preferred Minimum Data Set is not met. Other times the Parameter is assessed as "Assessment Pending" until more data are collected. This is discussed in more detail in the Listing Assessment Methodology .
Source	If a water is assessed as being " Impaired " for a given " Cause/Parameter " then EPD will also provide a " Source " for the impairment. The " Source " is where we think the pollutant or pollution comes from. GA EPD uses a broad group of sources including Nonpoint Source, Urban Runoff, Municipal Point Source Discharge, Industrial Site Runoff, Industrial Point Source Discharge, and Combined Sewer Overflow.
TMDL	" TMDL " stands for "Total Maximum Daily Load". A TMDL is the calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed to enter a waterbody so that the waterbody will meet and continue to meet water quality standards for that particular pollutant. A TMDL determines a pollutant reduction target and allocates load reductions necessary to the source(s) of the pollutant.
Water Quality Criteria	Water Quality Criteria are part of the State's Water Quality Standards . They include both Numeric and Narrative criteria. The criteria are in place to protect the designated uses . Water quality criteria can be found in Chapter 391-3-6-.03 of the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control.

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Water Quality Standards	Water Quality Standards consist of three core components. They include designated uses of a waterbody, water quality criteria to protect designated uses , and antidegradation requirements to protect existing uses and high quality/high value waters.