

## Highlights of the Draft 2018 305(b)/303(d) List

### Summary of Waters

2,616 waters are included in the 2018 List of Waters

- 1,142 Supporting
  - 6,065 miles streams and coastal streams
  - 231,640 acres lakes
  - 31 miles coastal beaches
  - 2 miles of freshwater beaches
  - 68 square miles sounds/harbors
- 1,301 Not Supporting
  - 8,771 miles streams and coastal streams
  - 103,300 acres lakes
  - 4 miles of coastal beaches
  - 0.1 miles freshwater beaches
  - 11 square miles sounds/harbors
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- 173 Assessment Pending
  - 917 miles streams and coastal streams
  - 56,705 acres lakes
  - 10 square miles sounds/harbors

New data was received and assessed for 681 waters (including waters that have been assessed in the past and waters assessed and added to the list for the first time in 2018)

210 new waters were added to the 2018 List of Waters

- 103 Supporting
- 69 Not Supporting
- 38 Assessment Pending

26 waters assessed as “Assessment Pending” or “Not Supporting” on the 2016 305(b)/303(d) list were moved to the “Supporting” list in 2018.

19 waters that were assessed as “Supporting” or “Assessment Pending” on the 2016 305(b)/303(d) list were moved to the “Not Supporting” list in 2018.

### Addition of New Waterbody Type – Freshwater Beaches

- Bacteria data has been collected for a number of years at lake beaches at Georgia State Parks.
- In the past this data was wrapped into the assessment of the whole lake (or portion of a lake if the lake was very large).
- In 2018 EPD decided to create reaches/assessment units for the freshwater beaches themselves. This mirrors how coastal beaches are assessed.
- 28 freshwater beaches were added to the draft 2018 list.
  - 27 Supporting
  - 1 Not Supporting

Renamed Pollutant Cause CFB to FCG(PCBs)

EPD is changing the pollutant cause “CFB” (Commercial Fishing Ban) to “FCG(PCBs)” which stands for PCBs in fish tissue. In 2018, U.S. EPA consolidated the list of pollutants that States could report as causes of impairments on their lists of impaired waters when submitting data to the EPA National Database (ATTAINS). This database contains the assessment data for all the States and the participating Tribes. CFB (Commercial Fishing Ban) is not a cause on the new consolidated list of pollutants. Georgia’s 2016 305(b)/303(d) list of waters had 26 waters listed as impaired for CFB. These listings were based on a list of waters that are not open to commercial fishing found in Chapter 391-4-3-.04 of Georgia’s Fishing Regulations. The commercial fishing ban is in place due to historical PCB contamination in the area which has led to elevated levels of PCBs in fish tissue. The TMDLs completed for waters impaired for CFB have been done for PCBs in fish tissue. The EPA National Database contains a pollutant cause of “PCBs in Fish Tissue”. EPD is therefore changing the pollutant cause “CFB” to “FCG(PCBs)” in order to clarify the cause of impairment and to match allowable values in the EPA National Database (ATTAINS).

Pollutants Removed

FC removed from 13 waters  
 DO removed from 9 waters  
 pH removed from 4 waters  
 Bio F removed from 1 waters  
 Metals removed from 3 waters  
 Temperature was removed from 1 water  
 FCG(As) was removed from Category 3 for 6 waters  
 FCG(PCBs) removed from 2 waters

Pollutants Added

FC added to 43 waters  
 Bio F added to 31 waters  
 DO added to 13 waters  
 pH added to 19 waters  
 Metals added to 1 waters

Organics added to 4 waters  
Enterococci added to 2 waters  
E. coli added to 7 waters  
FCG(PCBs) added to 2 waters

#### Fish Consumption

- Arsenic in fish tissue (FCG(As)) was removed from Category 3 (assessment pending) for 6 coastal waters (see document Summary of 2018 Listing Decisions for more details).
- FCG(PCBs) were removed from 2 sections of the Ocmulgee River.
- FCG(PCBs) was added to 2 sections of the Turtle River
- 4 waters were placed in Category 3 for TWR (mercury in fish tissue) because the trophic weighted residue value was equal to criteria of 0.3 mg/kg.

#### Lakes (Chlorophyll *a*)

- 1 section of Lake Walter F George (Midlake) was changed from Category 1 to 3 for chlorophyll *a*.
- 1 section of Lake Lanier (Dam Pool) was moved from Category 3 to Category 4a for chlorophyll *a*
- 1 section of Lake Lanier (Browns Bridge) was moved from Category 1 to Category 3 for chlorophyll *a*
- 3 sections of Lake Allatoona (Allatoona Creek Arm, Mid lake and Etowah River Arm) moved from Category 1 to Category 3 for chlorophyll *a*
- 1 section of Carters Lake (US Woodring Branch/Midlake) moved from Category 5 to Category 3 for chlorophyll *a*.
- 1 section of Carters Lake (Coosawattee River Embayment) moved from Category 3 to Category 1 for chlorophyll *a*.

#### Other Changes

- A new beach (Driftwood beach) was assessed on Jekyll Island. This beach was carved out of two beaches (North Beach at Dexter Lane and Clam Creek) that have been assessed in the past. The location descriptions and size of North beach and Clam Creek beach were revised as needed to accommodate the new Driftwood beach.
- Added a Designated Use of “Recreation” to 17 waters to reflect changes made to Designated Uses during the Triennial Review approved by EPA in 2016.
- The bacteria criteria used to assess waters changed from Fecal Coliform to E. coli for waters with a designated use of Recreation based on changes made during the Triennial Review approved by U.S. EPA in 2016. E. coli was added as an impairment to 7 waters.
- In the past, three waters (Wassaw Sound, Sapelo Sound, and the Savannah River (Lake Hartwell to Cedar Creek)) were shown to have a Designated Use of Recreation on the 305b/303d list. However, according to the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality

Control, the designated use for these waters is “Fishing”. The 305b/303d list was updated to reflect the actual designated use of these waters.

- Temperature was removed from Lake Sinclair. Historical temperature violations were caused by the cooling water discharge from Georgia Power Plant Branch. This plant has shut down and no longer releases cooling water.