

# **Guidelines for using old macroinvertebrate data with the new metrics**

Watershed Assessments (WSA) and Watershed Protection Plans (WPP) conducted using EPD SOPs from 2004 and earlier used metrics that were interim metrics and meant to be used only until better, more specific metrics were developed for the state of Georgia. Instead of a single suite of metrics for the whole state, it was found that each subcoregion had its own unique suite of metrics that best reflected the health of the streams in that specific subcoregion. Now that subcoregion specific metrics are available it is advisable that the original taxa list data be entered into the new metrics to get a “new” score for the sample. This would give a better reading of the health of the stream at the time of sampling and bring older data in line with newer/future data; thus allowing easier assessment of trends at each study site over the span of the Watershed Assessment and Watershed Protection Plan.

Please note that re-evaluation is recommended but not required. Re-entry of the raw data into the new metrics makes comparisons of past data with new/future data easier.

If older data is to be re-evaluated with the new metrics the requirements below must be met.

## **Requirements for re-evaluation of old site data with the new metrics**

The sampling method for the site must have followed the 20(+3) jab sampling procedures. If fewer than 20 jabs were collected re-evaluation feasibility must be determined on a case-by-case basis.

The subsampling procedures call for a selection of 200 organisms (+-20%) to be picked from the sample for identification and entering into the metrics. If more than the allowed number of specimens for a site (240) were identified, then use a random numbers method to either select up to, or deselect down to, 240 organisms, whichever is easiest. Ex: If the sample had less than 480 identified organisms it would be easier to randomly deselect individuals down to 240, if the sample has 480 or more identified organisms then it would be easier to randomly select 240 individuals from the taxa list.