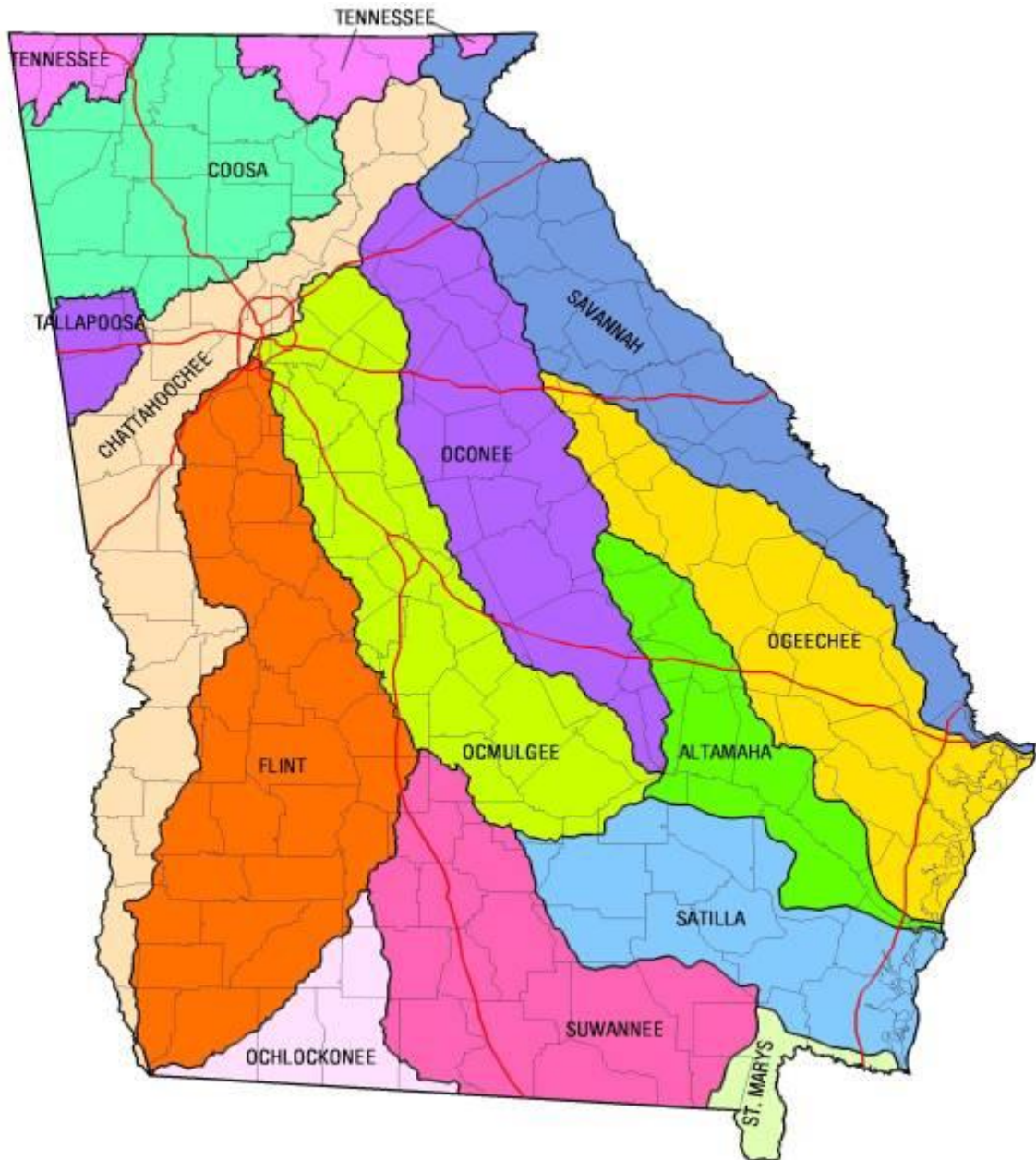


WATER QUALITY IN GEORGIA

2022-2023

(2024 Integrated 305b/303d Report)



**Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division**

**WATER QUALITY IN GEORGIA
2022-2023
(2024 Integrated 305b/303d Report)**

Preface

This report was prepared by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Department of Natural Resources, as required by Section 305(b) of Public Law 92-500 (the Clean Water Act) and as a public information document. It represents a synoptic extraction of the EPD files and, in certain cases, information has been presented in summary form from those files. The reader is therefore advised to use this condensed information with the knowledge that it is a summary document and more detailed information may be available in EPD files.

Comments or questions related to the content of this report are invited and should be addressed to:

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CHAPTER 1

Executive Summary

Purpose This report, *Water Quality in Georgia, 2022-2023*, was prepared by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with the assistance of the Georgia Coastal Resources Division (CRD), Georgia Wildlife Resources Division (WRD), the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC), the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA), and the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC). This report, often referred to as the Georgia 305(b) Report, describes water quality conditions of navigable waters across the State and provides an assessment of the water quality conditions of surface and groundwater in Georgia.

The report includes a description of the nature, extent, and causes of documented water quality problems and serves as the basis for the integrated 305(b)/303(d) list.

The report also includes a review and summary of ongoing statewide water planning efforts; wetland, estuary, and coastal public health/aquatic life issues; and water protection, groundwater, and drinking water program summaries.

The major objective of this report is to provide Georgians a broad summary of water quality information and the programs implemented by EPD and its partners to protect water resources across the State.

Watershed Protection in Georgia EPD is the state agency charged with protecting Georgia's air, land, and water resources. EPD is responsible for environmental protection, management, regulation, permitting, and enforcement in Georgia. EPD administers programs for planning, water pollution control, water supply and groundwater management, hazardous waste management, air quality control, solid waste management, strip mining, erosion control, radiation control, underground storage tanks, and safe dams. EPD issues and enforces all state permits in these areas and has full delegation for federal environmental programs, except Section 404 (wetland) permits

and Section 405, 40 CFR Part 503 *Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge*.

The Watershed Protection Branch of EPD, addresses most aspects of drinking water supply and water pollution control including: comprehensive statewide water planning; water quality standards; monitoring; water quality modeling to develop wasteload allocations and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs); TMDL implementation; the continuing planning process; local watershed assessment and watershed protection plans; nonpoint source management; erosion and sedimentation control; stormwater management; the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and enforcement program for wastewater and stormwater point sources; water withdrawal and drinking water permits; water conservation; source water protection; industrial pretreatment; land application of treated wastewater; regulation of concentrated animal feedlot operations (CAFOs); and public outreach including Georgia Project Wet and Adopt-A-Stream programs.

EPD has designated GSWCC as the lead agency for addressing water quality problems caused by agriculture and the GFC as the lead agency to address water quality problems due to commercial forestry operations.

Surface Water Quality Assessment Water quality data are assessed to determine if standards are met and if the water body supports its designated use using Georgia's 2024 305(b)/303(d) Listing Assessment Methodology. If monitoring data show that standards are not met, the water body is said to be "not supporting" the designated use. If the monitoring data show that standards are being met, then the water body is supporting its designated use. Occasionally, additional data is needed to make an assessment, and the water body is assessed as "assessment pending". The following 2024 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters can be found in Appendix A:

- 2024 River/Streams
- 2024 Lakes/Reservoirs
- 2024 Coastal Streams
- 2024 Sounds/Harbors
- 2024 Coastal Beaches
- 2024 Freshwater Beaches

Watershed Protection Programs The state of Georgia and EPD have and/or partner on several Watershed Protection Programs to improve Georgia's water quality that are described in Chapter 7. These include:

- Watershed Planning and Monitoring Program
 - Water Quality Standards and Numeric Nutrient Criteria
 - Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment
 - Water Quality Modeling and Wasteload Allocation Development
 - TMDL Development
- Wastewater Regulatory Program
 - NPDES Permitting
 - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)
 - Combined Sewer Systems (CSS)
- Nonpoint Source Program
 - Stormwater Permitting
 - Nonpoint Source Management Program
 - Agriculture
 - Silviculture
 - Urban Runoff
 - Erosion and Sedimentation Control
 - 319(h) Grants
 - Outreach
 - Water Education Today
 - Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program
 - Rivers Alive
- Compliance and Enforcement Program
 - Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro District)
 - Zero Tolerance
- Land Protection Programs
 - Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program
 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loans
 - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - Healthy Forests Reserve Program
- Georgia Emergency Response Network
- Environmental Radiation

Major Issues and Challenges Georgia is one of the fastest growing states in the nation. The increasing population places considerable demands on Georgia's water resources. The

major issues and challenges with regard to water quality are described in Chapter 9 and include:

- Comprehensive Water Plan
- Indirect Potable Reuse
- Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Nutrients
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
- PFAS

CHAPTER 2

Regional Water Planning in Georgia

Georgia is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, and Georgia's future relies on the protection and sustainable management of the State's water resources.

State Water Plan Development Water planning in Georgia began with a 2001 Act that created the Metro Water District, and the District adopted their first plans in 2003. In 2004, the Georgia General Assembly passed the "Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Planning Act", O.C.G.A. § 12-5-520 et seq., which called for the development of a statewide water management plan. The new water planning legislation replaced river basin planning and provided fundamental goals and guiding principles for the development of the Statewide Water Plan, which was completed in 2008. A copy of the plan is available at <https://waterplanning.georgia.gov/state-water-plan>. The State Water Plan called for a regional water planning approach.

Regional Water Planning Councils. At the beginning of 2009, the Regional Water Planning Councils were formed. The Councils were established roughly along watershed areas, but also along county boundaries. Each Council includes individuals appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House. The role of each Council is to prepare a plan to manage water resources within its region. The Regional Water Councils worked through 2011 to complete the first Regional Water Plans that were adopted by EPD in November 2011. Beginning in late 2015, the Councils began reviewing their plans based on updated water and wastewater demand forecasts for the Municipal, Agricultural and Energy sectors, as well as updated resource assessment information. Based on this review, the Councils updated their Regional Water Plans, which were adopted by EPD in July 2017. The plans were again revised in June 2023 based on new forecast and resource assessment information. All Regional Water Plans are subject to periodic review and revision on a 5-year cycle, and the Councils are currently scheduled to update their Plans again in 2027.

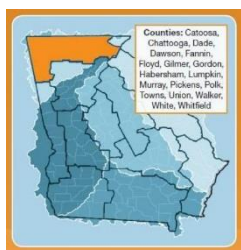
Water Planning Process The Councils primarily focus on developing plans using a consensus-based planning process. EPD provides forecasts of water and wastewater demand, based on long-range population projections and input from expert stakeholders, and assessments of the capacity of water resources to meet those demands. The water resource assessments include current and future surface water and groundwater demands and available water quality assimilative capacity. The Councils work with these technical products and identify the actions necessary to accomplish their goals and manage the region's water resources for the long-term (i.e., meet water resource needs for each region through 2060).

Metro District and Regional Water Plans The Councils and Metro District developed Regional Water Plans that provide a roadmap for sustainable use of Georgia's water resources. Because the regions share water resources, the planning process is designed to provide the Metro District and the Councils with the opportunity to discuss items of shared concern, either in Joint Council meetings or during review and comment through the planning process.

The Regional Water Plans present solutions identified by regional leaders drawing from regional knowledge and priorities. The regional water planning process and resultant plans provide specific tasks for implementation and a science-based foundation for future updates.

Regional Water Plan Implementation Local governments, utilities, industries, and other water users implement the plans, and State agencies use the plans to guide decisions on water permits and loans for water-related projects. The full plans can be reviewed at <https://waterplanning.georgia.gov/>. The highlights from each of the Regional Water Plans are as follows:

Coosa-North Georgia Region



2020 Population: 792,710

18 Counties

65% of water demands (2020) used for energy production

Key Water Resource Issues:

1. Groundwater resources in the Region are generally limited; majority of the water supply needs are met with surface water sources.
2. Regional topography makes it challenging to cost-effectively share water supply resources and infrastructure.
3. Water quality concerns in Lake Allatoona, Carters Lake, and Lake Lanier targeted with TMDL Standards.
4. Maintaining coordination with neighboring water councils supports effective water resources management by basin.
5. A new management practice provides focus on utility administration, including utility finance and asset management.
6. Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Management Practices include a focus on emerging contaminants, including PFAS/PFOA monitoring in the Region.

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Surface Water Availability: The Basin Environmental Assessment Model (BEAM), which enables river basin resource assessments at a finer scale than previously possible, models all facility water withdrawals and discharges. BEAM provides an assessment of water supply availability, against the context of an 80-year period of record (1939-2018), which is reflected in the number of challenge days and total water shortage for modeled facilities.

The BEAM tool assessed 54 water supply withdrawals and 38 wastewater discharges in the 18-county Region. Of these, 26% of withdrawals and 34% of discharges are predicted to have at least one challenge day for 2060 conditions, indicating a lower probability overall of water supply/ assimilative capacity constraints.

Surface Water Quality: Most streams in the region have available assimilative capacity with some localized exceptions. GA EPD has established daily maximum limits (TMDLs) for Lake Allatoona, Carters Lake and Lake Lanier. Management of future nutrient loadings to the major lakes will require improvements to point and non-point source reductions.

Groundwater Availability: Due to underlying geology in the region, groundwater is not a primary water source. No new groundwater availability analyses was conducted as part of the Plan update. No sustainable yield issues were identified based on current or future demand conditions.

Summary of Management Practices

Administrative: Supports utility management, including utility finance best practices, asset management and local master planning.

Water Conservation: Support implementation of practices that are beneficial for all communities, such as education and public awareness programs.

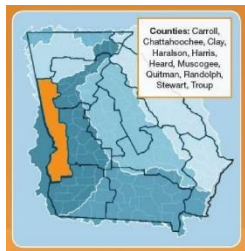
Water Supply Management: Practices include consideration of additional water supply sources, including maximizing existing reservoirs, investigating groundwater sources, encouraging beneficial reuse as well as considering expansion of addition of treatment facilities.

Wastewater Management: Practices include encouraging development of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) education programs, and local ordinances for minimum standards for decentralized treatment systems.

Water Quality: Practices include implementing of nutrient management programs, enhanced best management practices (BMPs), supporting TMDL implementation to delist 303(d) listed streams, encouraging comprehensive land use planning and flood plain management and considering water quality credit trading.

Recommendation to the State: Focus on funding opportunities for infrastructure needs, continue support of the Seed Grant program, fund innovative research strategies to address state-wide water resources challenges, such as emerging contaminants.

Middle Chattahoochee Region



2020 Population: 488,744

11 counties

47% of water demands (2020) are municipal

Key Water Resource Issues:

1. Water demand and supply management to maintain streamflows and lake levels at desired levels.
2. Evaluation of changes in the operation of Chattahoochee Basin reservoirs to support higher lake levels and improved instream flows.
3. Coordination with neighboring water councils.
4. Improved implementation of BMPs for water quality.
5. Targeted water quality concerns

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Groundwater Availability: A model-based assessment of groundwater availability in the region estimated that for the Claiborne and Crystalline Rock aquifers, sustainable yield is available in some locations in the region. Results for the Cretaceous Aquifer indicated potential drawdown impacts especially during the agricultural growing season.

Surface Water Availability: A model-based assessment of surface water availability in the region identified water and wastewater treatment facilities where water availability may not meet current or future needs for water supply or wastewater assimilation. These challenges will be addressed, as needed, through the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD). The results also evaluated surface water availability relative to Council-identified metrics for streamflows at Columbus and levels in West Point Lake. The Council considered these results relative to their preferred flows and lake levels in the Chattahoochee River Basin.

Surface Water Quality: Modeling of dissolved oxygen indicated moderate to limited assimilative capacity in the Chattahoochee River downstream of Walter F. George Reservoir. Watershed modeling identified that point sources contribute more to total phosphorus nutrient loading than nonpoint sources in the Chattahoochee River below Lake Lanier. Nutrient modeling indicated chlorophyll-a exceedances in Lake Walter F. George

Summary of Management Practices

Instream Use: Utilize and improve upon reservoir release quantity and timing in the Chattahoochee River to maintain and/or improve water quality in the Chattahoochee River below the Columbus Planning Node.

Promote cooperation among recreational interests, Georgia Power, and the USACE to consider improvements to timing of flow releases to address recreational uses in the Chattahoochee River.

Water Quality: Encourage increased/additional funding and attention on erosion and sediment control.

Upper Flint Region



2020 Population: 243,577

13 counties

82% of water demands (2020) are agriculture

Key Water Resource Issues:

1. Water demand and supply management to address potential challenges in water availability.
2. Water returns management and better data to support streamflows and water quality.
3. Targeted water quality concerns.
4. Coordination with neighboring water planning councils.

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Groundwater Availability: A model-based assessment of groundwater availability in the region estimated that groundwater use is below or within the sustainable yield range for the Claiborne and Cretaceous Aquifers and above

the sustainable yield range for the Floridan Aquifer in the Dougherty Plain. Aquifer use above the estimated sustainable yield range indicates that management practices may be needed to meet long-term demands.

Surface Water Availability: A model-based assessment of surface water availability in the region identified water and wastewater treatment facilities where water availability may not meet current or future needs for water supply or wastewater assimilation. These challenges will be addressed, as needed, through the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) permitting process. The model also evaluated surface water availability relative to Council-identified metrics for streamflow at Carsonville on the Flint River. The Council considered these results to inform their assessment of water availability and streamflow conditions, especially during drought periods.

Surface Water Quality: Water quality model results indicated increasing availability of assimilative capacity in streams in the Flint River Basin as treated wastewater discharge permit requirements become more stringent in the future. In other areas, model results indicate limited availability of assimilative capacity under future conditions. In these areas, more non-point source management practices may be needed to improve future assimilative capacity.

Summary of Management Practices

Demand Management: Maintain the agricultural water withdrawal metering program.

Supply Management and Flow Augmentation: Evaluate storage options in the Upper Flint that can provide for supply and flow augmentation in dry periods.

Water Quality: Improve water quality monitoring and assessment.

Lower Flint-Ochlockonee Region



2020 Population: 344,710

14 Counties

79% of water demands (2020) used for agriculture

Key Water Resource Issues:

1. Water demand and supply management practices to address potential challenges in water availability.
2. Regional economic activities that are dependent on water availability.
3. Habitat conservation planning to reduce uncertainties over agricultural water security and rare species conservation.
4. Coordination with neighboring water planning councils.
5. Targeted water quality issues.

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Groundwater Availability: A model-based assessment of groundwater availability in the region estimated that groundwater use is below the sustainable yield range for the Claiborne Aquifer and above the sustainable yield range for the Floridan Aquifer in the Dougherty Plain. Aquifer use above the estimated sustainable yield range does not necessarily mean the aquifer is likely to be exhausted by use; management practices may be needed to meet long-term demands. Also, because of the interconnected nature of the Floridan Aquifer and surface water sources in this area, drawdowns in the aquifer in areas that intersect a stream will generally result in streamflows replenishing the aquifer.

Surface Water Availability: A model-based assessment of surface water availability in the region identified water and wastewater treatment facilities where water availability may not meet current or future needs for water supply or wastewater assimilation. These challenges will be addressed, as needed, through the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) permitting process. The model also evaluated surface water availability relative to Council-identified flow metrics in Ichawaynochaway Creek, Spring Creek, and the Flint River

mainstem. The Council considered these results to inform its assessment of water availability and streamflow conditions, especially during drought periods.

Surface Water Quality: Water quality model results indicated increasing availability of assimilative capacity in some areas of the Flint River Basin as treated wastewater discharge permit requirements become more stringent in the future. In other areas, model results indicate limited or exceeded availability of assimilative capacity under future conditions. In these areas, more non-point source management practices may be needed to improve assimilative capacity in the future.

Summary of Management Practices

Demand Management: Continue to improve agricultural water use efficiency through innovation and technology.

Supply Management and Flow Augmentation: Develop groundwater source alternatives to replace surface water withdrawals during drought, where site specific evaluation indicates that this practice is practical and will not harm environmental resources.

Encourage the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to provide habitat protection for endangered and threatened freshwater mussels in the Flint River Basin while improving water security for irrigation water supply needs within the region.

Altamaha Region



2020 Population: 251,500

16 counties

49% of water demands (2020) used for agriculture

Key Water Resource Issues:

1. Current and future groundwater supplies for municipal/domestic, industrial and agricultural water use.

2. Sufficient surface water quantity and quality to accommodate current and future surface water demands.
3. Low dissolved oxygen and other water quality issues in streams during periods of low flow.
4. Collaboration with other regions that share water resources to ensure that activities do not adversely impact water resources of either region.
5. Climate and water supply variability and extremes.

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Groundwater: At the regional level, for modeled aquifers, no groundwater resource challenges are expected to occur in the Altamaha Region over the planning horizon.

Surface Water Quality: Assimilative capacity assessments indicate the need for improved wastewater treatment in some facilities within the Altamaha, Oconee, and Suwanee river basins. Addressing non-point sources of pollution and existing water quality impairments will be a part of addressing the region's future needs.

Surface Water Availability: Over the next 40 years, the modeling analysis indicates that forecasted surface water demand within the Altamaha Region may create potential challenges along the Altamaha River, Ochopee River, Ocmulgee River, and Little Ocmulgee River.

Summary of Management

Water Conservation: Implement practices in Water Stewardship Act; evaluate practices for agricultural water use in areas with shortfalls in streamflow; promote conservation education programs.

Water Supply: Provide incentives for dry-year releases from farm ponds, groundwater development, wetland restoration, and increases in wastewater returns.

Wastewater and Water Quality: Increase permitted wastewater capacity; monitor nutrient pollution; implement nutrient management practices.

Information Needs: Study human impacts on water quality; refine agricultural consumption data; research groundwater potential to address surface water shortfalls; irrigation efficiency education and research; study impacts of wetland restoration on streamflow; monitor and evaluate estuaries.

Recommendations to the State: Focus on education, incentives, collaboration, cooperation, and enabling and supporting plan implementers; institutionalize and fund water planning; focus funding and assistance on areas with shortfalls; continue monitoring to help conserve Georgia's natural, historic, and cultural resources.

Suwannee Satilla Region



2020 Population: 416,370

18 counties

78% of water demands (2020) used for agriculture

Key Water Resource Issues:

1. Periodic challenges in modeled surface water availability in the Suwannee and Satilla river basins.
2. Sufficient surface water quantity and quality to accommodate future municipal and industrial wastewater needs.
3. Low dissolved oxygen reaches in the Suwannee, Satilla and Saint Mary's river basins and other water quality issues.
4. Development of groundwater and surface water resources to meet future needs.
5. Protection of recreational and environmental resources in the region.

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Groundwater: At the regional level, for modeled aquifers, no groundwater resource shortfalls are expected to occur in the Suwannee-Satilla Region over the planning horizon.

Surface Water Quality: Assimilative capacity assessments indicate the potential need for improved wastewater treatment within the Suwannee, Satilla and St. Marys river basins. Addressing non-point sources of pollution and

existing water quality impairments will be a part of addressing the region's future needs.

Surface Water Availability: Over the next 40 years, the modeling analysis indicates that forecasted surface water demand within the Suwannee-Satilla Region is projected to result in potential challenges in several Counties throughout the Region including Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Charlton, Cook, Coffee, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, and Ware.

Summary of Management Practices

Water Conservation: The Suwannee-Satilla Council supports the 25 water conservation goals contained in the 2010 Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP), including adherence to Tier 1/Tier 2 measures. Other recommendations include irrigation audits and metering of irrigation systems.

Water Supply: Provide incentives for dry-year releases from farm ponds, groundwater development, wetland restoration, and increases in wastewater returns. Study feasibility of seasonal surface water permit conditions.

Wastewater and Water Quality: Increase permitted wastewater capacity; monitor nutrient pollution; upgrade or replace treatment facilities.

Information Needs: Acquire additional data/information on agricultural consumptive use to confirm or refine if it is less than 100% consumptive; data collection to confirm loading and/or receiving stream chemistry.

Recommendation to the State: Focus on education, incentives, collaboration, cooperation, and enabling and supporting plan implementers; institutionalize and fund water planning; focus funding and assistance on areas with shortfalls. Work with EPD's Agricultural Water Metering Program, as well as other partners to improve agricultural water use data collection and management.

Coastal Region



2020 Population: 714,839

9 counties

39% of water demands (2020) used for industrial uses, and 50% used for municipal uses

Key Water Resource Issues:

1. Long-term sustainable water supplies for municipal and industrial growth in the region while protecting the unique coastal environment.
2. Current and potential future groundwater withdrawals in and around Effingham, Chatham, Bryan and Liberty counties for future water supply.
3. Integration with ongoing efforts including salt water intrusion, Savannah River 5R Process, demands for water upstream of the region, and interstate activities with South Carolina and Florida.
4. Low dissolved oxygen in Savannah and Brunswick Harbors and other water quality issues.

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Groundwater: At the regional level, for modeled aquifers, there is sufficient groundwater to meet forecasted needs over the planning horizon; however, meeting the increase in demands in areas where groundwater supplies may be limited due to salt water intrusion is a significant challenge. The outcomes from the Bi-state Stakeholder process regarding salt water intrusion will need to be considered in determining groundwater use in some portions of the region.

Surface Water Quality: Assimilative capacity assessments indicate the potential need for improved wastewater treatment within the Ogeechee, Altamaha, and St. Marys river basins. Addressing non-point sources of pollution and existing water quality impairments will be a part of addressing the region's future needs.

Surface Water Availability: Over the next 40 years, the modeling analysis shows no potential

surface water challenges (i.e., times when there is insufficient water to meet off-stream demands and also meet low flow thresholds to support instream uses) in the region.

Summary of Management Practices

Water Conservation: The Coastal Council supports the 25 water conservation goals contained in the 2010 Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP), including adherence to Tier 1/Tier 2 measures. Other recommendations include use of reclaimed water, water audits, irrigation metering, and water loss control.

Water Supply: Multi-jurisdictional groundwater development outside red/yellow zones, surface water storage, use of additional regional and local aquifers and other additional/alternate sources.

Wastewater and Water Quality: Increase permitted wastewater capacity; data collection on loadings; and construct new or expanded and/or replace/ upgrade existing treatment facilities.

Information Needs: Acquire additional data/information on agricultural consumptive use to confirm or refine if it is less than 100% consumptive; Refine surface water agricultural forecasts & Resource Assessments to improve data on source of supply and timing/operation of farm ponds. Research to determine the feasibility and potential benefits and limitations of aquifer storage and recovery.

Recommendation to the State: Focus on education, incentives, collaboration, cooperation, and enabling and supporting plan implementers; institutionalize and fund water planning; focus funding and assistance on areas with shortfalls.

Middle Ocmulgee Region



2020 Population: 607,242

12 counties

Roughly 1/3 of water demands (2020) are for each municipal and agriculture

Key Water Resource Issues:

1. The Region relies on both surface water and groundwater supplies.
2. Maintaining coordination with neighboring water councils supports effective water resources management by river basin.
3. The Middle Ocmulgee River basin receives water from the Upper Ocmulgee, located in Metro Atlanta. The impact of withdrawals and discharges from this area, as well as land use, on the water quality for Lake Jackson and its tributaries is an important aspect for the RWP.
4. A new management practice category provides focus on utility administration, including utility finance and asset management.
5. A wastewater management practice category was separated from water quality for clarity in the 2023 RWP.

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Surface Water Availability: The Basin Environmental Assessment Model (BEAM), which enables river basin resource assessments at a finer scale than previously possible, models all facility water withdrawals and discharges. BEAM provides an assessment of water supply availability, against the context of an 80-year period of record (1939-2018), which is reflected in the number of challenge days and total water shortage for modeled facilities.

The Beam tool assessed 24 water supply withdrawals and 29 wastewater discharges in the 12-county Region. Of these, 12% of withdrawals and 66% of discharges are predicted to have at least one challenge day over the simulation period for 2060 conditions, indicating a possibility of assimilative capacity constraints in the future.

Surface Water Quality: Most streams in the Region have available assimilative capacity with some localized exceptions. GA EPD will be establishing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Lake Jackson. Management of future nutrient loadings through non-point source management and wastewater treatment facilities will continue to be an important element to address the Region's future needs.

Groundwater Availability: The Crystalline Rock aquifer north of the Fall Line, and the Cretaceous aquifer both have sufficient yield to meet forecasted needs. Pulaski County and portions of Houston and Twiggs Counties have access to the Floridan aquifer; the combined 2060 demand for these areas is between the low and high sustainable yield, indicating a possible future challenge.

Summary of Management Practices

Administrative: Supports utility management, including utility full cost accounting practices, asset management and local planning (utility master plans, biosolids management and environmental planning).

Water Conservation (Demand Management): Supports implementation of practices such as conservation rate structures and billing systems to better communicate water usage to customers.

Water Supply Management: Practices include consideration of additional water supply sources, maximizing reservoirs and investigating new groundwater sources, evaluating interconnections, promoting beneficial reuse, considering expansion of treatment capacity and investigating impacts of Metro Atlanta's water withdrawals and discharges on water quantity and quality.

Wastewater Management: Practices include considering expansion of treatment facilities, mitigating impacts of septic systems management, and considering the benefits of constructed wetlands.

Water Quality Management: Practices include encouraging stormwater utilities, adopting ordinances to protect sensitive land, considering implementation of stormwater standards for rural areas, watershed protection, and water quality trading.

Recommendations to the State: Focus on funding options to support implementation of the Plan, continue support of the Seed Grant program, fund innovative research to address state-wide water resource challenges, such as detailed mapping and modeling of groundwater resources, as well as future policy considerations around in-stream flow.

Upper Oconee Region



2020 Population: 620,422

13 counties

24% of water demands (2020) used for industrial uses, 48% used for municipal

Key Water Resource Issues:

1. Efficient use of the water by all sectors, recognizing the diverse characteristics of the Upper Oconee.
2. Strategic wastewater management in fast growing counties (Barrow, Clarke, Greene, Jackson, Morgan, Oconee, and Walton Counties).
3. Potential limitations placed on future surface water supplies in existing impoundments.
4. Protecting the water quality of Lakes Oconee and Sinclair and the Oconee River by reducing both point and nonpoint source nutrient loads.
5. The natural capacity of the water bodies to process pollutants is exceeded in the middle (Morgan and Putnam Counties) and lower (Laurens and Wilkinson Counties) portion of the basin due to zones of low dissolved oxygen.

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Groundwater: At the regional level, there will be adequate supplies to meet the region's future groundwater supply needs over the planning horizon.

Surface Water Quality: Water quality problems are predicted to occur in Lakes Oconee and Sinclair due to excess nutrients resulting from a combination of point and nonpoint source pollutant loads from anticipated wastewater discharges and land use changes.

Surface Water Availability: Over the next 40 years, the modeling analysis indicates potential challenges in meeting demand for water supply at withdrawal facilities in three counties: Barrow, Walton, and Wilkinson. Potential challenges in meeting demand for assimilation of treated

wastewater are indicated at direct discharge facilities in ten counties.

Summary of Management Practices

Water Conservation: To address potential challenges in meeting future water needs, the Upper Oconee Plan encourages conservation pricing and development of water conservation goals.

Water Supply: Practices include expansion of existing reservoirs and development of new sources.

Wastewater and Water Quality: The Upper Oconee Plan calls for implementation of centralized sewer in developing areas where density warrants and development of local wastewater master plans to evaluate wastewater treatment and disposal options to meet future demands. Comprehensive land use planning and local government participation in construction erosion and sediment control are also encouraged.

Recommendations to the State: Focus on incentives, collaboration and cooperation with state and local planning agencies, support plan implementers; fund water planning; focus funding and assistance on areas with shortfalls; continue monitoring to help conserve Georgia's natural, historic, and cultural resources.

Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Region



2020 Population: 639,802

20 counties

32% of water demands (2020) used for agriculture. 27% of water demands used for energy.

Key Water Resource Issues:

1. Low dissolved oxygen levels in the Savannah River and Harbor and the sharing of substantial load reductions between Georgia and South Carolina dischargers.
2. Coordination with South Carolina on shared water resources in the Savannah Basin.

3. Potential gaps in surface water availability in the Ogeechee Basin.
4. Concerns about interbasin transfers of water out of the Savannah Basin.
5. Long-term operating procedures at the USACE reservoirs and the use of adaptive management to maintain conservation pools at the highest possible levels.
6. More efficient use of water in the region.

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Groundwater: At the regional level, there will be adequate supplies to meet the region’s future groundwater supply needs over the planning horizon.

Surface Water Quality: Assimilative capacity assessments predicted that some stream segments, including the Savannah Harbor, will have limited capacity to accept future wastewater discharges. Addressing non-point sources of pollution and existing water quality impairments will be a part of addressing the region’s future needs.

Surface Water Availability: Over the next 40 years, the modeling analysis indicates that the water supply and instream flow needs in the region are not met hydrologically at 7 withdrawal locations and 13 discharge locations. Potential surface water challenges exist at these locations.

Summary of Management Practices

Water Conservation: To prevent potential shortages in meeting instream flow needs, the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Plan calls for more aggressive water conservation practices and development of drought management practices for the agricultural users/permittees in the Upper Ogeechee River Basin. The plan also recommends instream flow studies and additional streamflow monitoring in the Ogeechee River Basin.

Wastewater and Water Quality: Priority practices include development of local water and wastewater plans to identify local infrastructure needs and address watershed-related issues. The Council further supports State implementation of the 5R plan for NPDES

permitting to restore water quality in the Savannah River Basin and Harbor.

Recommendations to the State: The Plan recommends that EPD continue to update and refine its water resources database and use this data in subsequent updates to the resource assessments. This information will help guide more localized planning and decision making, as well as strengthen the appropriate and scientifically sound application of management practices.

Interstate Water Planning: The ongoing discussion between the states of Georgia and South Carolina is a defining issue of the Savannah River Basin. Future updates of the USACE Comprehensive Study are recommended to emphasize the need for maintaining maximum storage in the reservoirs when possible, in light of the economic benefits the lakes bring to the region. The Comprehensive Study is a cost share with Georgia EPD, SCDHEC and The Nature Conservancy. With respect to water sharing, the Council has incorporated a preliminary assessment of South Carolina’s projected water use into its planning efforts.

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District



2020 Population: 5.59 million
 15 counties
 40% of water demands (2020) used for single family residential

The District planning process is driven by policy goals. The Metro District environmental policy goals to protect water quality and public water supplies, and support conservation and/or demand management, along with the economic policy goals to support economic growth and development and to equitably distribute benefits and costs, and the societal policy goals to promote public education and awareness and to facilitate implementation, all intersect at the policy goal of improving resiliency.

The following principles, along with the policy goals noted above, helped to guide the design and selection of the Action Items.

- Maximize the use of existing sources and facilities
- Increase water conservation and efficiency
- Utilize Best Practices for non-potable reuse
- Consider return flows
- Make appropriate use of reclaimed water
- Continue to protect water quality
- Support adoption of advanced treatment technologies
- Promote maintenance of decentralized wastewater systems
- Reduce wastewater treatment facility influent variability
- Enhance reliability of wastewater pumping stations
- Promote green infrastructure approaches
- Ensure consistency with existing regulatory programs
- Consolidate small private water supply and wastewater systems where there would likely be improved environmental and/or health protection opportunities

The Metro District's integrated Water Resources Management Action Items address the following topics:

- A Coordinated Actions action item to ensure a consistent and cooperative approach to engage multiple entities in the planning and implementation process.
- Infrastructure Planning action items to help communities support continued economic, environmental, and social well-being, ensure that local water and wastewater infrastructure development is consistent with this Plan and prepare for emergencies. Using an integrated approach across planning areas and jurisdictions may reduce redundancies, eliminate inconsistent base data used for local forecasting, and improve communication.
- Source Water Supply Protection action items that require careful coordination of

water supply planning and management with watershed management activities and development regulations.

- Septic and Private Decentralized Treatment Systems action items that require coordination across multiple entities and consideration of many factors, including water use, water conservation, wastewater infrastructure planning, wastewater treatment capacity, and drinking water source protection, as well as watershed and public health.
- An action item addressing Corps Reservoirs – Storage, Withdrawals and Returns that emphasizes an integrated, regional approach for the efficient and sustainable use of Allatoona Lake and Lake Lanier.
- An action item encouraging the Return of Highly Treated Wastewater to the Chattahoochee and Flint River Basins that outlines the requirements for amendments to this plan by local wastewater providers relating to the treatment of water sourced from the Chattahoochee River Basin below Buford Dam or Upper Flint River Basin.

As part of this plan update, the Metro District has developed [River Basin Profiles StoryMaps](#), which are interactive tools for exploring the watersheds within the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

CHAPTER 3

Water Quality Standards, Monitoring And Assessment

Background

Water Resources Atlas The State of Georgia has approximately 44,056 miles of perennial streams, 23,906 miles of intermittent streams, and 603 miles of ditches and canals for a total of 70,150 geological stream miles. based on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 1:100,000 Digital Line Graph (DLG). The estimate for the number of lakes in Georgia is 11,813 with a total acreage of 425,382. This information is summarized in Table 3-1.

TABLE 3-1. WATER RESOURCES ATLAS

State Population (2020 Census)	10,711,908
State Surface Area	57,906 sq. mi.
Number of Major River Basins	14
Number of Perennial River Miles	44,056 miles
Number of Intermittent River Miles	23,906 miles
Number of Ditches and Canals	603 miles
Total River Miles	70,150 miles
Number of Lakes Over 500 Acres	48
Acres of Lakes Over 500 Acres	265,365 acres
Number of Lakes Under 500 Acres	11,765
Acres of Lakes Under 500 Acres	160,017 acres
Total Number of Lakes & Reservoirs, Ponds	11,813
Total Acreage of Lakes, Reservoirs, Ponds	425,382 acres
Square Miles of Estuaries	854 sq. mi.
Miles of Coastline	100
Acres of Freshwater Wetlands	4,500,000 acres
Acres of Tidal Wetlands	384,000 acres

Georgia has 14 major river basins that include the Altamaha, Chattahoochee, Coosa, Flint, Ochlockonee, Ocmulgee, Oconee, Ogeechee, St. Marys, Satilla, Savannah, Suwannee, Tallapoosa, and the Tennessee. The rivers in Georgia provide the water needed by aquatic

life, animals, and humans to sustain life. Water also provides recreational opportunities, is used for industrial purposes, drives turbines to provide electricity, and assimilates waste.

Designated Uses The Board of Natural Resources is authorized through the Georgia Water Quality Control Act to establish water use classifications and water quality standards for the waters of the State.

All of Georgia’s waters are classified as one or more of the following designated uses: Fishing, Recreation, Drinking Water, Wild River, Scenic River, or Coastal Fishing.

Water Quality Criteria

General Water Quality Criteria for All Waters Georgia has five narrative criteria that apply to all waters. The narrative criteria can be found in GA Rule 391-3-6-.03 Paragraph (5)(a)-(e)

Georgia has also adopted 31 numeric standards for protection of aquatic life and 92 numeric standards for the protection of human health. The general criteria apply to all waters in Georgia and can be found in GA Rule 391-3-6-.03 Paragraph (5)(i)-(iv).

Specific Water Quality Criteria for the Various Designated Uses Georgia has specific water quality criteria for each water use classification as shown in Table 3-2. These criteria establish the framework used by EPD to make water use regulatory decisions.

Georgia also has eight large publicly owned lakes that have specific water quality standards. These lakes are West Point, Jackson, Walter F. George, Lanier, Allatoona, Carters, Oconee, and Sinclair. Criteria have been adopted for chlorophyll *a*, total nitrogen, phosphorus, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature. Standards for major tributary phosphorus loading were also established. Specific Lake Criteria can be found in GA Rule 391-3-6-.03 Paragraph (17).

Criteria do not apply until approved by USEPA. The most recent approved version of Georgia’s water quality standards can be found on the [EPD water quality standards webpage](#).

**TABLE 3-2.
DESIGNATED USES AND INSTREAM WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

Parameter	Specific Water Quality Criteria Defined in Rules and Regulations of Georgia 391-3-6-.03(6)		Designated Uses							
			Drinking Water	Recreation	Fishing	Wild River	Scenic River	Coastal Fishing	Specified Lakes ¹	Shellfish Growing Areas
DO	No Change from Natural					X	X			
	Trout Streams - Daily Avg of 6.0 mg/L, Not < 5.0 mg/L		X	X	X					
	Warm Water Species - Daily Avg of 5.0 mg/L, Not < 4.0 mg/L		X	X	X				X	
	Daily Avg of 5.0 mg/L, Not < 4.0 mg/L. If natural DO is less than these values, then 0.1 mg/L deficit from natural condition is allowable.							X		
pH	No change from Natural					X	X			
	6.0-8.5		X	X	X			X		
	6.0-9.0 or 6.0-9.5								X	
Temperature	No change from Natural					X	X			
	Not to exceed 90°F		X	X	X			X	X	
	Primary Trout Streams - No increase >0°F		X	X	X					
	Secondary Trout Streams - No increase >2°F		X	X	X					
	Warm Water Streams, Freshwater - No increase >5°F above intake temp		X	X	X				X	
	Warm Water Streams, Estuarine - No increase >1.5°F above intake temp			X	X			X		
Bacteria	No change from Natural					X	X			
	Freshwater	126 counts/100 mL of <i>E. coli</i> as 30-day geometric mean 410 counts/100 mL of <i>E. coli</i> as 30-day STV		X					X	
		Estuarine	35 counts/100 mL of enterococci as 30-day geometric mean 130 counts/100 mL of enterococci as 30-day STV		X					
	Freshwater	May - Oct. 126 counts/100 mL of <i>E. coli</i> as 30-day geometric mean 410 counts/100 mL of <i>E. coli</i> as 30-day STV	X		X					
		Nov. - April 265 counts/100 mL of <i>E. coli</i> as 30-day geometric mean 861 counts/100 mL of <i>E. coli</i> as 30-day STV								
	Estuarine	May - Oct. 35 counts/100 mL of enterococci as 30-day geometric mean 130 counts/100 mL of enterococci as 30-day STV	X	X						
		Nov. - April 74 counts/100 mL of enterococci as 30-day geometric mean 273 counts/100 mL of enterococci as 30-day STV								
	Using a minimum of the thirty (30) most recent randomly collected samples, the median or geometric mean shall not exceed 14 counts/100 mL of fecal coliform and the estimated 90 th percentile shall not exceed 43 counts/100 mL of fecal coliform for a five-tube decimal dilution test									X

¹ Specific Lake Criteria can be found in GA Rule [391-3-6-.03](#), paragraph 17.

Water Quality Monitoring

Watershed Protection Branch's goal is to effectively manage, regulate, and allocate the water resources of Georgia. To achieve this goal, the State's resources are monitored to establish baseline and trend data, document existing conditions, study impacts of specific discharges, determine improvements resulting from upgraded water pollution control plants and other restoration activities, support enforcement actions, establish wasteload allocations for new and existing facilities, develop TMDLs, verify water pollution control plant compliance, collect data for criteria development, and document water use impairments and reasons for problems causing less than full support of designated water uses.

Data collected at all sites includes dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, and specific conductance; and chemical analyses for turbidity, 5-day BOD, alkalinity, hardness, suspended solids, ammonia, nitrate-nitrite, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, total phosphorus, and total organic carbon. At some river sites additional parameters analyzed include bacteria (*E. coli* or enterococci depending on the salinity level), metals, anions (Total Dissolved Solids), and ortho phosphate. In Georgia's lakes and estuaries, bacteria (*E. coli* or enterococci depending on the salinity level), chlorophyll *a*, secchi disk transparency, and photic zone depth are also collected.

Figure 3-1 shows the monitoring network stations for 2022-2023. This figure includes the State-wide trend monitoring network stations, the targeted monitoring stations, probabilistic stations and stations sampled by CRD. A list of these stations and the parameters sampled is presented in Table 3-3.

Some of the monitoring tools used by EPD outlined in our [Monitoring Strategy](#) include:

Trend Monitoring Since the late 1960s, Georgia has conducted long term water quality monitoring of approximately 70 streams at strategic locations throughout Georgia. This monitoring is conducted by EPD associates and through cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local agencies at specific, fixed locations throughout the year.

EPD funds two continuous water quality monitors operated by the USGS. These monitors are located in the Coosa River at the Georgia/Alabama Stateline and in the Chattahoochee River at Hwy 92.

In 2010, EPD added 41 flow gages to its monitoring network as part of the State Water Plan. In 2023, seventy-eight (78) USGS stream gages were funded by EPD.

Targeted Monitoring EPD associates collect monthly samples from approximately 125 locations per year across the state in a targeted monitoring effort. In targeted monitoring, sites are monitored at least once a month for a year. A different set of targeted sites are then selected for monitoring the next year.

Probabilistic Monitoring To determine the quality of all the waters in the State, EPD monitors a subset of randomly selected monitoring sites. These sites provide a sufficiently large sample size (approximately 25 per year) to make a statistically valid inference about Georgia's water quality.

Between 2019 and 2023 approximately 120 streams were sampled as part of the probabilistic monitoring study. The results of this monitoring predict that approximately 18% of Georgia's streams are supporting their designated uses. Approximately 70% of streams are impaired for bacteria (fecal coliform, *E. coli* or enterococci), 9% for metals, 2% for dissolved oxygen, 2% for pH and somewhere from 0 to 2% for ammonia toxicity and temperature. EPD was unable to assess about 20% of our probability sites for compliance with dissolved oxygen criteria and about 13% with the pH criteria. This is because there are areas in the State, primarily located in the Southeastern Plain and Coastal Plain, where dissolved oxygen can be naturally below the State's criteria of 5.0 mg/L (daily average) and 4.0 mg/L (minimum). EPD has been working to develop new dissolved oxygen criteria for the Southeastern and Coastal Plains. The percentage of waters impaired for dissolved oxygen could change once new criteria are established and dissolved oxygen can be assessed for these waters. Regarding pH, EPD's pH probes may have been providing falsely low pH levels during a portion of the probabilistic

**FIGURE 3-1.
GEORGIA MONITORING NETWORK
STATION LOCATIONS 2022-2023**

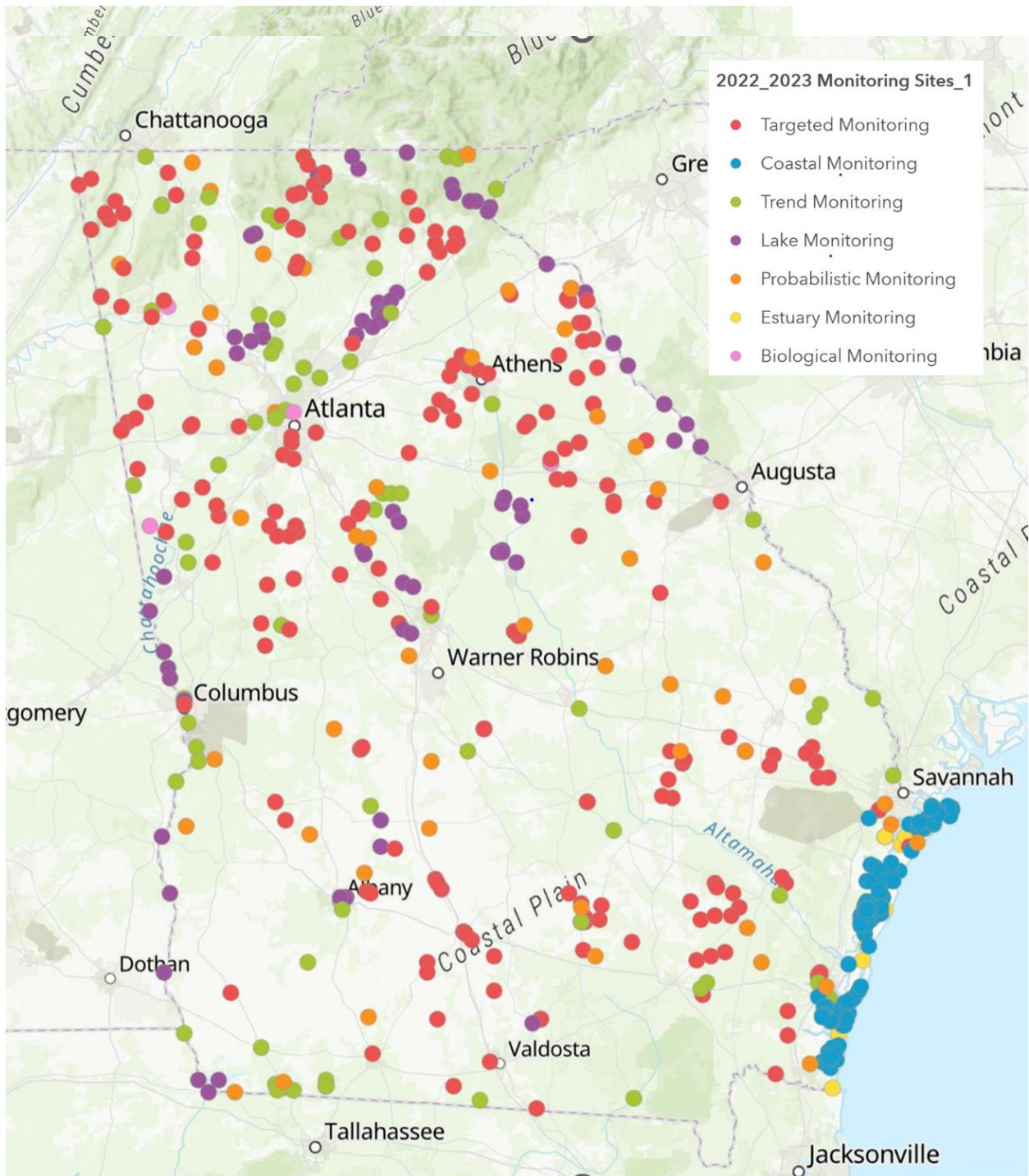


TABLE 3-3. STATEWIDE MONITORING NETWORK for 2022-2023

Georgia Station Number	Sampling Site	River Basin	Sampling Organization ¹	Waterbody Type/Project	Latitude	Longitude	Routine ²	Fecal coliform	E. coli	enterococci	Ortho Phosphorus	Metals	Macroinvertebrates	Diatoms ³	Chlorophyll a	Discharge	Year
LK_12_4079	Lake Oliver - Chattahoochee River at Columbus Water Intake near Columbus, GA	Chattahoochee	CWW	Trend Monitoring	32.5214	-84.9983	X	X									
RV_01_109	Savannah River at Seaboard Coast Line Railway, north of Cloy, GA	Savannah	USGS	Trend Monitoring	32.525	-81.264	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_01_120	Savannah River at US Hwy. 17 (Houlihan Bridge)	Savannah	USGS	Trend Monitoring	32.1658	-81.1539	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_01_66	Chattooga River at US Hwy. 76 near Clayton, GA	Savannah	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.814	-83.3064	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_01_87	Savannah River at 0.5 mile downstream from Spirit Creek	Savannah	USGS	Trend Monitoring	33.3306	-81.9153	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_01_244	Charlies Creek at Charlies Creek Rd East of Hiawassee, GA	Savannah	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	34.95895	-83.57158	X				X	X				X	2022-2023
RV_01_248	Coleman River at Coleman River Rd near Clayton, GA	Savannah	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	34.95203324	-83.5165988	X				X	X				X	2022-2023
RV_02_298	Ogeechee River at Georgia Hwy. 24 near Oliver, GA	Ogeechee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	32.4948	-81.5558	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_02_462	Mill Creek at Bulloch County Road 386 Old River Road near Brooklet, GA	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Trend Monitoring	32.440012	-81.579074	X	2022	X		X	X				X	2022-2023
RV_03_502	Oconee River at Barnett Shoals Road near Athens, GA	Oconee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	33.8562	-83.3265	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_03_640	Oconee River at Interstate Hwy. 16 near Dublin, GA	Oconee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	32.4804	-82.8582	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_04_853	South River at Island Shoals Road near Snapping Shoals, GA	Ocmulgee	USGS/Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	33.4527	-83.9271	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_04_876	Yellow River at Georgia Hwy. 212 near Stewart, GA	Ocmulgee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	33.4543	-83.8813	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_04_888	Alcovy River at Newton Factory Bridge Road near Stewart, GA	Ocmulgee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	33.4494	-83.8283	X	X			X					X	2022-2023

Georgia Station Number	Sampling Site	River Basin	Sampling Organization ¹	Waterbody Type/Project	Latitude	Longitude	Routine ²	Fecal coliform	E. coli	enterococci	Ortho Phosphorus	Metals	Macroinvertebrates	Diatoms ³	Chlorophyll a	Discharge	Year
RV_04_892	Tussahaw Creek at Fincherville Road near Jackson, GA	Ocmulgee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	33.3789	-83.9634	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_05_2165	Ocmulgee River at New Macon Water Intake	Ocmulgee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	32.8992	-83.6641	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_05_2203	Ocmulgee River at Hawkinsville, GA	Ocmulgee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	32.2818	-83.4628	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_05_2223	Ocmulgee River at US Hwy. 341 at Lumber City, GA	Ocmulgee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	31.9199	-82.6743	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_06_2846	Altamaha River 6.0 miles downstream from Doctortown, GA	Altamaha	USGS	Trend Monitoring	31.6233	-81.7653	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_07_16397	Trib to Trib to Seventeen Mile River at 10th Street near Douglas, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Trend Monitoring	31.501813	-82.841701	X				X						2022-2023
RV_07_16398	Trib to Trib to Seventeen Mile River at Gaskin Avenue near Douglas, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Trend Monitoring	31.502071	-82.845428	X				X						2022-2023
RV_07_17554	Trib to Trib to Seventeen Mile River 100 m downstream of McDonald Rd near Douglas, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Trend Monitoring	31.501623	-82.842639	X				X						2022-2023
RV_07_2986	Satilla River at Georgia Hwy.15 and Hwy.121	Satilla	USGS	Trend Monitoring	31.2167	-82.1625	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_07_3099	Mill Creek at High Bluff Rock Rd nr Waycross, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Trend Monitoring	31.189994	-82.202803	X	2022	X		X	X				X	2022-2023
RV_09_3181	Suwannee River at US Hwy. 441 near Fargo, GA	Suwannee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	30.6806	-82.5606	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_09_3236	Withlacoochee River at Clyattsville-Nankin Road near Clyattsville, GA	Suwannee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	30.6747	-83.3947	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_10_3384	Tired Creek at County Road 151 near Reno, GA	Ochlockonee	Tifton WP	Trend Monitoring	30.763611	-84.229444	X		X		X						2022-2023
RV_10_3386	Ochlockonee River at Hadley Ferry Road near Calvary, GA	Ochlockonee	USGS/Tifton WP	Trend Monitoring	30.7317	-84.2355	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_10_3389	Attapulgus Creek at U.S. Hwy 27 near Attapulgus, GA	Ochlockonee	Tifton WP	Trend Monitoring	30.732778	-84.453611	X				X						2022-2023

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RV_10_3390	Swamp Creek at US Hwy 27 near Attapulgus, GA	Ochlockonee	Tifton WP	Trend Monitoring	30.719444	-84.411389	X				X						2022-2023
RV_10_3422	Little Attapulgus Creek at Faceville-Attapulgus Rd. near Attapulgus, GA	Ochlockonee	Tifton WP	Trend Monitoring	30.750046	-84.501333	X				X						2022-2023
RV_10_3423	Little Attapulgus Creek at State Rd 241 near Attapulgus, GA	Ochlockonee	Tifton WP	Trend Monitoring	30.718056	-84.49	X				X						2022-2023
RV_11_3511	Flint River at SR 26 near Montezuma	Flint	Tifton WP	Trend Monitoring	32.29295	-84.044067	X	X	X		X					X	2022-2023
RV_11_3553	Flint River at SR 234 near Albany, GA	Flint	USGS	Trend Monitoring	31.5524	-84.1463	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_11_3558	Flint River at SR 37 at Newton, GA	Flint	USGS	Trend Monitoring	31.3094	-84.335	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_11_3563	Flint River at US Hwy. 27-B near Bainbridge, GA	Flint	USGS	Trend Monitoring	30.9109	-84.5805	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_11_3789	Flint River at Sprewell Bluff Sprewell Bluff State Park	Flint	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	32.855988	-84.476812	X	X			X	X					2022-2023
Rv_11_3804	Lime Creek at Springhill Church Rd east of Americus, Ga	Flint	Tifton WP	Trend Monitoring	32.035	-83.9925	X	X			X	X					2022-2023
RV_12_17578	Sweetwater Creek at Blairs Bridge Rd near Lithia Springs, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	33.77454	-84.61455	X	X	X		X	X					2022-2023
RV_12_3841	Chattahoochee River at McGinnis Ferry Road	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	34.050556	-84.097701	X	X	X			X					2022-2023
RV_12_3859	Chattahoochee River - DeKalb County Water Intake	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	33.9731	-84.2631	X	X	X								2022-2023
RV_12_3870	Chattahoochee River at Cobb County Water Intake near Roswell, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	33.9443	-84.405	X	X	X								2022-2023
RV_12_3891	Chattahoochee River - Atlanta Water Intake	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	33.8278	-84.455	X	X	X			X					2022-2023
RV_12_3902	Chattahoochee River at Belton Bridge Road near Lula, GA	Chattahoochee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.4451	-83.6842	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_12_3925	Chestatee River at SR 400 near Dahlonega, GA	Chattahoochee	USGS/ Cartersville WP	Trend Monitoring	34.4667	-83.9689	X	X			X					X	2022-2023

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RV_12_3934	Chattahoochee River at Bankhead Highway	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	33.795278	-84.507778	X	X	X			X					2022-2023
RV_12_3960	Chattahoochee River at Capps Ferry Road near Rico, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	33.5778	-84.808611	X	X	X			X					2022-2023
RV_12_4003	Flat Creek at McEver Road near Gainesville, GA	Chattahoochee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.2658	-83.885	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_12_4039	New River at SR 100 near Corinth, GA	Chattahoochee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	33.2353	-84.9878	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_12_4041	Chattahoochee River at US Hwy. 27 near Franklin, GA	Chattahoochee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	33.2792	-85.1	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_12_4049	Yellow Jacket Creek at Hammet Road near Hogansville, GA	Chattahoochee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	33.1392	-84.9753	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_12_4084	Chattahoochee River downstream from Columbus Water Treatment Facility	Chattahoochee	CWW	Trend Monitoring	32.4089	-84.9803	X	X									2022-2023
RV_12_4091	Chattahoochee River downstream Oswichee Creek	Chattahoochee	CWW	Trend Monitoring	32.3	-84.9369	X	X									2022-2023
RV_12_4093	Chattahoochee River at Hichitee Creek (River Mile 127.6)	Chattahoochee	CWW	Trend Monitoring	32.2308	-84.9232	X	X									2022-2023
RV_12_4094	Chattahoochee River at Spur 39 near Omaha, GA (Seaboard Railroad)	Chattahoochee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	32.1436	-85.0453	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_12_4110	Chattahoochee River at SR 91 near Steam Mill, GA	Chattahoochee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	30.9775	-85.0053	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_12_4280	Big Creek at Roswell Water Intake near Roswell, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	34.017851	-84.352492	X		X		X	X					2022-2023
RV_12_4292	Dicks Creek at Forest Service Road 144-1 near Neels Gap, GA	Chattahoochee	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.6797	-83.9372	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_13_4353	Tallapoosa River at Georgia Hwy. 8 near Tallapoosa, GA	Tallapoosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	33.7408	-85.3364	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_13_4355	Little Tallapoosa River at US 27 at Carrollton, GA	Tallapoosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	33.4928	-85.2792	X	X			X					X	2022-2023

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RV_14_4438	Conasauga River at US Hwy. 76 near Dalton, GA	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.783	-84.873	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_14_4460	Conasauga River at Tilton Bridge near Tilton, GA	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.6667	-84.9283	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_14_4518	Mountaintown Creek at SR 282 (US Hwy. 76) near Ellijay, GA	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.7034	-84.5398	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_14_4520	Coosawattee River at Georgia Hwy. 5 near Ellijay, GA	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.6717	-84.5002	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_14_4534	Oostanaula River at Rome Water Intake near Rome, GA	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.2703	-85.1733	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_14_4549	Etowah River at SR 5 spur near Canton, GA	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.2397	-84.4944	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_14_4550	Shoal Creek at SR 108 (Fincher Road) near Waleska, GA	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.2608	-84.5956	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_14_4555	Little River at Georgia Hwy. 5 near Woodstock, GA	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.1222	-84.5043	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_14_4586	Etowah River at Hardin Bridge (FAS 829) near Euharlee, GA	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.18886	-84.9251	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_14_4622	Coosa River - GA/Alabama State Line Monitor near Cave Springs	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.1983	-85.4439	X	X									2022-2023
RV_14_4640	Chattooga River at Holland-Chattoogaville Road (FAS1363) near Lyerly, GA	Coosa	USGS/ Cartersville WP	Trend Monitoring	34.3356	-85.4453	X	X									2022-2023
RV_14_4837	Jones Creek near Jones Creek Rd, Dahlonega, GA	Coosa	Atlanta WP	Trend Monitoring	34.602401	-84.150559	X				X	X				X	2022-2023
RV_14_4851	Noonday Creek at Georgia Hwy. 92 near Woodstock, GA	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.0861	-84.5306	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
RV_15_4918	West Chickamauga Creek - Georgia Highway 146 near Ringgold, GA	Coosa	USGS	Trend Monitoring	34.9572	-85.2056	X	X			X					X	2022-2023
SH_07_3029	Turtle River off Hermitage Island	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Trend Monitoring	31.220278	-81.564167	X										2022-2023

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SH_07_3032	Turtle River - Georgia Highway 303	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Trend Monitoring	31.186944	-81.531389	X										2022-2023
SH_07_3035	Brunswick Harbor (off East River) - 0.83 miles SW of Brunswick	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Trend Monitoring	31.143611	-81.4975	X										2022-2023
SH_07_3036	Brunswick River - U.S. Highway 17	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Trend Monitoring	31.1164	-81.4858	X				X						2022-2023
RV_01_139	Stephens Creek at Hubbard Rd near Carnesville, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.34598	-83.22951	X	X									2022
RV_01_17293	Wahatchee Creek at Dr. George Ward Rd near Elberton	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.02278	-82.75957	X	X									2023
RV_01_17294	trib to Van Creek at John Rucker Rd near Elberton	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.14688	-82.78017	X										2023
RV_01_17781	Hart Creek at Cadley Rd near Norwood, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.48651	-82.70873	X	X									2022
RV_01_17893	White Creek at Hwy 44 near Union Point, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.65906	-82.937458	X										2022
RV_01_17898	Lloyd Creek at Hephzibah Church Rd near Lincolnton, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.69463	-82.49975	X										2022
RV_01_17899	Trib to Tanyard Branch U/S Tignall WPCP near Tignall, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.85257	-82.78032	X				X						2022
RV_01_17900	Trib to Tanyard Branch D/S Jane Hill Rd near Tignall, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.85303	-82.78144	X				X						2022
RV_01_17901	Buffalo Creek at Young Rd near Lexington, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.81676	-83.03432	X										2022
RV_01_17902	Raiden Creek at McWhorter Rd near Maxeys	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.76933	-83.13047	X	X				X					2023
RV_01_17902	Raiden Creek at McWhorter Rd near Maxeys	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.76933	-83.13047	X	X	*								2023
RV_01_17903	North Fork Little River at McWhorter Rd near Maxeys, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.75555	-83.15247	X										2022

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RV_01_17904	Gum Branch at Ridgewood Drive near Hartwell	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.37738	-82.90196	X											2023
RV_01_17905	Goosepond Creek at Saxon Mattox Rd near Elberton, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.97219	-82.86491	X											2022
RV_01_17906	Dove Creek at Edna Dr near Elberton, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.07136	-82.96581	X											2022
RV_01_17907	Gum Log Branch at Plantation Rd near Elberton, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.2232	-82.86341	X											2022
RV_01_18000	Sherrills Creek at Brown Chappel Rd near Union Point	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.61274	-83.00974	X	X			X							2023
RV_01_190	Cedar Creek at Bryson Rd	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.3164	-82.9152	X				X							2022
RV_01_269	Sweetwater Creek at Wire Rd near Dearing	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.415	-82.45331	X	X			X							2023
RV_01_31	Cedar Creek at Hodges Mill Rd (CR 53)	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.33	-82.928	X				X							2022
RV_01_32	Cedar Creek @ Rd S1724 (State Rd. 77 Spur) nr Montevideo, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.3179	-82.80904	X	X										2022
RV_01_33	Coldwater Creek at County Road 193 near Ruckersville	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.22324	-82.83076	X	X										2023
RV_01_34	Beaverdam Creek at Ruckersville Rd near Elberton	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.14211	-82.83935	X	X										2023
RV_01_88	Butler Creek at State Rd 4 near Augusta	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.41415	-82.08791	X											2023
RV_02_15769	Ogeechee River at RM 2.5	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.84269	-81.071577	X			X								2022-2023
RV_02_16832	Goldens Creek off N. Norwood St nr North Pond	Ogeechee	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.41416	-82.66983	X				X							2023
RV_02_16833	Goldens Creek at SR 16/Macon Hwy	Ogeechee	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.39976	-82.67295	X				X							2023
RV_02_17894	South Fork Ogeechee River at St Mary's Rd SW nr Crawfordville, GA	Ogeechee	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.51934	-82.9841	X											2022

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RV_02_275	North Fork Ogeechee River at State Road 22 near Crawfordville, GA	Ogeechee	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.52087	-82.91067	X		X									2022
RV_02_280	Little Ogeechee River at Shoals Rd near Culverton	Ogeechee	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.25719	-82.85788	X					X						2023
RV_02_284	Rocky Comfort Creek downstream of County Road 255/Scootch Davis Rd near Louisville, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.00472	-82.42093	X		X									2022
RV_02_302	Ash Branch at CR 2021 (Kangeter Loop)	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.23254	-81.57017	X		X									2022
RV_02_303	Iric Branch at CR 588 (Mud Rd.) near Arcola, GA	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.30478	-81.59441	X		X									2022
RV_02_304	Upper Black Creek at CR 582 (Arcola Rd.)	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.27574	-81.62826	X		X									2022
RV_02_306	Mill Creek at SR30 near Ellabelle, Ga	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.15693	-81.50631	X		X									2022
RV_02_313	Ogeechee River at Fort McAllister State Park	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.890611	-81.200778	X			X								2022-2023
RV_02_340	Fifteenmile Creek at Dutch Ford Rd near Metter	Ogeechee	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.34791	-82.04283	X		X									2023
RV_02_350	Lotts Creek at State Road 250 (Nevils-Daisy Rd)near Nevils, GA	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.264417	-81.80835	X		X								X	2023
RV_02_351	Thick Creek at CR197 (Daisy Nevils Hwy.) near Daisy, Ga	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.2167	-81.82518	X		X								X	2023
RV_02_359	Little Ogeechee River at U.S. Highway 17 near Burroughs, GA	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.00732	-81.236825	X		X								X	2023
RV_02_485	Trib to Mill Creek at C C Road near Ellabell, GA	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.16063	-81.56036	X		X									2022
RV_03_16787	Indian Creek at CR 301 (Preston Rd) near Goodhope, GA	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.7816	-83.54353	X											2022
RV_03_16788	Turkey Creek at CR 311 (Mount Caramel Church Rd) near	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.84343	-83.57677	X											2022

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RV_03_16790	Cane Creek at CR 111 (Cane Creek Rd) near Arcade, GA	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.02878	-83.46421	X										2022
RV_03_17303	Shoal Creek at Bradley Gin Rd near Bethlehem, GA	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.87249	-83.61928	X										2022
RV_03_18005	Town Creek at US Hwy 441 near Irwinton	Oconee	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.812271	-83.184532	X				X						2023
RV_03_18006	Town Creek D/S WPCP off Lavender Rd near Irwinton	Oconee	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.81075	-83.18813	X				X						2023
RV_03_18007	Unnamed trib to Helton Branch D/S WPCP near Irwinton	Oconee	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.82432	-83.20865	X				X						2023
RV_03_18008	Unnamed trib to Helton Branch U/S WPCP near Irwinton	Oconee	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.824091	-83.208966	X				X						2023
RV_03_18010	North Oconee River at New Kings Bridge Rd near Athens, GA	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.06731	-83.46294	X	X			X						2023
RV_03_491	North Oconee River at Newton Bridge Road near Athens, GA	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.010936	-83.407076	X	X			X						2023
RV_03_514	Jacks Creek at Snows Mill Road (County Road 45) near Monroe, GA	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.806667	-83.663611	X	X			X						2023
RV_03_690	Bear Creek at Arnold Rd near Statham, GA	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.982303	-83.565742	X	X			X						2023
RV_03_706	Curry Creek at Jefferson River Rd	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.076666	-83.499176	X										2022
RV_03_707	Redstone Creek at Lebanon Church Rd	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.026189	-83.533723	X										2022
RV_03_720	West Fork Trail Creek at Hull Rd	Oconee	Augusta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.98952	-83.35103	X				X						2022
RV_03_782	Barber Creek at Daniels Bridge Road near Athens, GA	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.89935	-83.443383	X										2022
RV_04_17504	South River at Blount Street near East Point, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.678433	-84.423414	X	X			X	X					2022
RV_04_17867	Perkerson Creek at Perkerson Park near Atlanta, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.713351	-84.414163	X										2022

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RV_04_18017	Tributary to Doolittle Creek at Fontaine Circle in Atlanta, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.72412	-84.2857	X											2023
RV_04_18019	Tussahaw Creek at Leguin Mill Road near Locust Grove, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.385007	-84.034674	X											2023
RV_04_887	Alcovy River at Alcovy Tressle Road near Social Circle, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.639541	-83.77895	X		X			X						2023
RV_04_964	Brown Branch at South Ola Rd near Locust Grove, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.357822	-84.05853	X		X			X						2023
RV_05_17699	Indian Crk at LG Griffen Rd near McDonough, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.316961	-84.115682	X		X			X						2023
RV_05_17991	Trib to Jordan Creek U/S WPCP near W. Railroad St. near Cochran, Ga	Ocmulgee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.383158	-83.373371	X				X							2023
RV_05_17992	Trib to Jordan Creek D/S WPCP near W. Railroad St. near Cochran, Ga	Ocmulgee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.380894	-83.374156	X				X							2023
RV_05_17993	Little Ocmulgee River U/S WPCP at Whirlhole Rd. near Scotland, Ga	Ocmulgee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.050825	-82.811711	X				X							2023
RV_05_17994	Little Ocmulgee River D/S WPCP near Whirlhole Rd. near Scotland, Ga	Ocmulgee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.050081	-82.809628	X				X							2023
RV_05_18021	Big Towaliga Creek at Barnesville-Jackson Rd near Barnesville, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.084	-84.1545	X		X			X						2023
RV_05_18022	Town Creek at River North Blvd near Macon, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.9424	-83.6603	X		X			X						2023
RV_05_2090	Tobesofkee Creek at SR 74 near Macon, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.866	-83.839	X		X									2023
RV_05_2828	Rocky Creek at Johnstonville Rd nr Forsyth, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.112364	-83.94788	X		X			X						2023
RV_05_2831	Tobesofkee Creek at Mountpelier Springs Road near Forsyth, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.975772	-83.930588	X		X			X						2023
RV_06_17873	Unnamed Trib to Cobb Creek at Lawson Rd near Alston, GA	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.070596	-82.355375	X											2022
RV_06_17874	Jones Creek between Chapman Rd and Logging Rd near Ludowici, Ga	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.67462	-81.73237	X				X							2022

Georgia Station Number	Sampling Site	River Basin	Sampling Organization ¹	Waterbody Type/Project	Latitude	Longitude	Routine ²	Fecal coliform	E. coli	enterococci	Ortho Phosphorus	Metals	Macroinvertebrates	Diatoms ³	Chlorophyll a	Discharge	Year	
RV_06_2836	Oconee Creek at Vidalia Road (County Road 78) near Vidalia, GA	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.081417	-82.403567	X		X									2022
RV_06_2848	Jones Creek at US Highway 25	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.707	-81.757	X				X							2022
RV_06_2892	Swift Creek at State Road 152 near Lyons, GA	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.222222	-82.298889	X	X										2022
RV_06_2894	Tiger Creek at Old Normantown Rd. near Normantown, GA	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.280556	-82.358889	X	X										2022
RV_06_2896	Pendleton Creek - SR 152 near Lyons, GA	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.24749	-82.28259	X	X										2022
RV_06_2900	Rocky Creek at Lyons Center Road near Lyons, GA	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.14765	-82.375583	X	X										2022
RV_07_15791	Unnamed Tributary to 17 Mile River at Victor Beam Rd near Douglas, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.499095	-82.82084	X	X										2022
RV_07_16339	Waverly Creek at State Road 110 near Waverly, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.081823	-81.726531	X	X									X	2023
RV_07_17322	Otter Creek at New Forest Hwy nr West Green, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.57005	-82.73644	X	X										2022
RV_07_17978	Boggy Creek at Shed Rd near Screven, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.67742	-82.121405	X				X							2023
RV_07_17979	Boggy Creek at Ingram Rd near Screven, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.660697	-82.109608	X				X							2023
RV_07_17980	Unnamed Trib to Cowpen Creek at Fernwood Drive near Brunswick, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.252055	-81.559054	X				X							2023
RV_07_17981	Unnamed Trib to Cowpen Creek at Oak Grove Island Road near Brunswick, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.245467	-81.559006	X				X							2023
RV_07_17982	Unnamed Trib to Cowpen Creek at Clinton Drive near Brunswick, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.263945	-81.55477	X				X							2023
RV_07_17983	Unnamed Trib to Cowpen Creek at Old Jesup Road near Brunswick, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.255836	-81.55569	X				X							2023

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RV_07_2962	pudding Creek at State Road 31 near Pearson, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.364722	-82.838889	X		X								X	2023
RV_07_2967	Broxton Creek at County Road 358 (Broxton Road) near Douglas, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.581944	-82.843056	X		X									2022
RV_07_2969	Roses Creek at State Road 268 near Broxton, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.624444	-82.911944	X		X									2022
RV_07_2970	Seventeen Mile River at SR135 / U.S. Hwy 221 NE of Douglas, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.519577	-82.823891	X		X									2022
RV_07_2976	Seventeen Mile River - Georgia Highway 64 near Pearson, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.509444	-82.751667	X		X								X	2023
RV_07_2979	Hog Creek at County Road 467 at Bickley, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.404722	-82.573056	X		X								X	2023
RV_07_2998	Alabaha River at US Hwy 84 near Blackshear, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.31625	-82.22567	X		X									2022
RV_07_3004	Satilla River at Highway 17 in Woodbine, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	30.974444	-81.725833	X		X								X	2023
RV_07_3014	Sweetwater Creek at GA 203 near Baxley, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.589444	-82.251667	X											2022
RV_07_3016	Big Satilla Creek @ SR 121 near Blackshear, Ga..	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.506483	-82.1997	X		X									2022
RV_07_3017	Colemans Creek at County Road 185 (Stanfield Road) near Screven, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.523283	-82.126267	X		X									2022
RV_07_3019	Little Satilla Creek at Tillman Anderson Rd. near Odom	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.630317	-82.0194	X		X									2022
RV_07_3020	Little Satilla Creek at SR203 near Jesup, Ga	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.56376	-81.98625	X		X									2022
RV_07_3022	Dry Creek at SR203 near Screven, Ga	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.52585	-82.03625	X		X									2022
RV_07_3027	Sixty-foot Branch at SR32 near Patterson, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.361	-82.0717	X		X									2022
RV_07_3060	Big Creek at High Bluff Rd WSW of Hoboken, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.163172	-82.189464	X		X									2022

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RV_07_3100	Otter Crk at Otter Creek Rd nr Blackshear, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.339228	-82.138511	X		X									2022
RV_08_3147	Horsepen Creek at County Road 55 near Kingsland, GA	St Marys	Brunswick WP	Targeted Monitoring	30.795	-81.794722	X		X								X	2023
RV_09_16153	New River at Highway 319 near Tifton	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.448687	-83.482736	X		X		X							2023
RV_09_16154	Trib to New River at Hwy 319	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.45023	-83.48077			X									2023
RV_09_17774	Cypress Creek at Vickers Church Rd near Enigma, GA	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.339004	-83.314021	X		X									2022
RV_09_17998	New River at Lower Brookfield Road near Tifton	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.414	-83.443	X				X							2023
RV_09_3203	Alapahoochee River at State Road 135 near Statenville, GA	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	30.628333	-83.087778	X		X									2022
RV_09_3209	New River - U.S. Highway 82 near Tifton	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.4425	-83.475833	X		X		X							2023
RV_09_3212	New River at State Road 76 near Nashville	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.176944	-83.322222	X				X							2023
RV_09_3221	Withlacoochee River - SR133 nr Valdosta, Ga. (formerly called Ga. Hwy 94)	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	30.85	-83.339722	X		X									2022
RV_09_3225	Okapilco Creek at Wesley Chapel Road near Berlin, GA	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.047222	-83.630278	X		X									2022
RV_09_3233	Piscola Creek at State Road 333 below Quitman, GA	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	30.7401	-83.536383	X		X									2022
RV_09_3254	Warrior Creek at State Road 256 near Norman Park, GA	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.311111	-83.685278	X		X									2022
RV_09_3278	Hat Creek at CR 35 / Robert Davis Rd	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.64548	-83.60221	X				X							2023
RV_09_5070	Reedy Creek at East Broad Street near Norman Park, GA	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.268065	-83.680011	X		X									2022

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RV_09_5075	Big Creek at State Road 135 near Lakeland	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.049374	-83.069618	X				X							2023
RV_09_5076	Big Creek at State Road 11 near Lakeland	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.043035	-83.062651	X				X							2023
RV_09_5079	Hat Creek at Airport Road near Ashburn	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.691447	-83.632938	X				X							2023
RV_09_5081	Hat Creek at Bussey Road near Sycamore	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.680026	-83.625171	X				X							2023
RV_10_3386	Ochlockonee River @ Hadley Ferry Rd. nr Calvary, GA	Ochlockonee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	30.731717	-84.235533	X	X		X								2022
RV_10_3415	Oquina Creek at Cassidy Rd	Ochlockonee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	30.884588	-83.981797	X	X										2022
RV_11_15909	Keg Creek at Georgia Highway 85 near Senoia, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.305327	-84.534233	X	X				X						2023
RV_11_16365	Pigeon Creek at Shirley Rd near Manchester, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.86578	-84.57839	X	X										2022
RV_11_17458	Kinchafoonee Creek at Ga Hwy. 45	Flint	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.967905	-84.445837	X	X										2022
RV_11_17789	Whitewater Creek at Bernhard Rd near Peachtree City, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.36694	-84.5045	X	X				X						2023
RV_11_17996	Trib to Flint River D/S of Worthy Manor at Cordele Rd. near Albany, Ga	Flint	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.638209	-84.012802	X				X							2023
RV_11_17997	Trib to Flint River U/S of Worthy Manor at Story Rd. near Albany, Ga	Flint	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.626395	-83.988522	X				X							2023
RV_11_18014	Heads Creek at Vaughn Rd near Griffin, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.2777	-84.3823	X	X				X						2023
RV_11_18015	Elkins Creek at Roberts Quarters Rd near Concord, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.068	-84.40657	X	X				X						2023
RV_11_18016	Lazer Creek at GA Hwy 36 near Woodland, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.7597	-84.5648	X	X				X						2023
RV_11_18018	Sullivan Creek at Edison Dr in Atlanta, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.62976	-84.46552	X											2023

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RV_11_3485	Flint River at State Road 92 near Griffin, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.3089	-84.393056	X		X									2022
RV_11_3486	Wildcat Creek at Moon Road near Griffin, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.259279	-84.428149	X		X									2022
RV_11_3491	Line Creek at State Road 16 near Digbey, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.2564	-84.497222	X		X									2022
RV_11_3498	Red Oak Creek at Harman Hall Road near Imlac, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.038333	-84.552222	X		X									2022
RV_11_3501	Flint River at State Road 36 near Thomaston, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.838889	-84.424167	X		X									2022
RV_11_3507	Flint River at SR 26 near Montezuma	Flint	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.2929	-84.044	X		X									2022
RV_11_3584	Spring Creek at State Road 91 near Colquitt, GA	Flint	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.170556	-84.742778	X		X									2022
RV_11_3777	Beaver Creek at State Road 49 near Montezuma, GA	Flint	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.297047	-84.03165	X		X									2022
RV_11_3788	Flint River @ Hwy85 Georgia Highway 85	Flint	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.605278	-84.404444	X		X									2022
RV_11_3798	Lanahassee Creek at State Road 153 near Preston, GA	Flint	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.048351	-84.506708	X		X									2022
RV_11_3823	Swift Creek at Jamestown Road near Warwick, Ga	Flint	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	31.83889	-83.85472	X		X									2023
RV_12_16565	Sandy Creek near Water Works Road near Newnan, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.353866	-84.81485	X		X			X						2023
RV_12_17490	Little Anneewakee Creek at Vansant Rd near Douglasville, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.754889	-84.708833	X				X							2022
RV_12_17524	Hazel Creek at Double Bridge Rd. near Clarkesville, GA	Chattahoochee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.585	-83.518	X		X									2023
RV_12_17688	Trib to Snake Creek near Newnan, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.393887	-84.81949	X											2023
RV_12_17820	Chattahoochee River at Hamby St near Helen, GA	Chattahoochee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.70163	-83.736173												2022

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RV_12_17883	Soquee River at N GA 197 (Pitts Park) near Clarksville, GA	Chattahoochee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.618841	-83.528972			X								2022
RV_12_17988	Chattahoochee River at Riverwalk Trail near Columbus, Ga	Chattahoochee	Tifton WP	Targeted Monitoring	32.495486	-84.995034	X		X								2023
RV_12_18012	Flat Creek @ Hwy 100, near Hogansville, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.1432	-84.8421	X		X			X					2023
RV_12_18013	Chattahoochee River at Chattahoochee Bend State Park boat ramp	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.42973	-85.012035	X		X								2023
RV_12_18023	Camp Creek at College Dr near Demorest, GA	Chattahoochee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.5624	-83.5391	X		X								2023
RV_12_18028	Yahoola Creek at Duffy Grizzle Rd near Dahlonega, GA	Chattahoochee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.5758	-83.9839	X		X								2023
RV_12_3899	Chattahoochee River at Duncan Bridge Road near Cornelia	Chattahoochee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.5408	-83.620556	X		X								2023
RV_12_3902	Chattahoochee River at Belton Bridge Rd near Lula, GA	Chattahoochee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.445508	-83.685032			X								2022
RV_12_3962	Chattahoochee River at State Road 16 near Whitesburg, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.4769	-84.901111	X		X								2022
RV_12_3980	Chattahoochee River at State Road 20 near Buford, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.126111	-84.093611	X		X								2022
RV_12_3988	Chattahoochee River - Georgia Hwy 225 near Clarkesville, GA	Chattahoochee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.6275	-83.642222	X		X								2023
RV_12_3989	Chattahoochee River at State Road 115 near Leaf, GA	Chattahoochee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.576944	-83.635833	X		X								2023
RV_12_4041	Chattahoochee River at U.S. Highway 27 near Franklin, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.2792	-85.1	X		X								2022
RV_12_5154	Chattahoochee River at Upper Chatt. C.G.	Chattahoochee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.78465	-83.7822											2022
RV_12_5156	Turner Creek at US 129 near Cleveland, GA	Chattahoochee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.61417	-83.79025	X		X								2023
RV_13_17716	Tallapoosa River at Steadman Rd near Tallapoosa, GA	Tallapoosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.77744	-85.30984	X		X								2022

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RV_13_17868	Astin Creek at Cown Road near Villa Rica, GA	Tallapoosa	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.754	-84.970	X				X						2022
RV_13_17869	Unnamed Trib to Little Tallapoosa River at Pine Needle Trail nr Villa Rica, GA	Tallapoosa	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.762	-84.955	X				X						2022
RV_13_4350	Turkey Creek at Hwy 100 (Rome St.) near Carrollton, GA	Tallapoosa	Atlanta WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.565378	-85.251319	X		X			X					2023
RV_13_4352	Tallapoosa River at Jacksonville Road near Tallapoosa, GA	Tallapoosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.795348	-85.268338	X		X								2022
RV_13_4353	Tallapoosa River - Georgia Highway 8 below Tallapoosa, GA	Tallapoosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.740833	-85.336389	X	X									2022
RV_13_4408	Tallapoosa River at U.S. Highway 27 near Felton, GA	Tallapoosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	33.863483	-85.213388	X										2022
RV_14_16687	Etowah River at S. Broad Street in Rome, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.251496	-85.176337	X										2022
RV_14_17875	Cabin Creek at Huffaker Rd NW near Rome, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.291315	-85.343343	X				X						2022
RV_14_17878	Duck Creek at Chamberlain Rd near LaFayette, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.704765	-85.330896	X										2022
RV_14_17880	East Fork West Fork Little River at Griff Johnson Rd near LaFayette, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.637755	-85.506836	X										2022
RV_14_17886	Cherry Log Creek at Lucius Rd near Blue Ridge, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.801204	-84.378883											2023
RV_14_18024	Etowah River at Forest Service Rd. 141 near Dahlonega, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.6274	-84.1058	X		X								2023
RV_14_18025	Long Swamp Creek at Cove Rd near Jasper, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.4667	-84.4	X		X								2023
RV_14_18026	Long Swamp Creek at Grandview Rd near Jasper, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.4896	-84.38092	X		X								2023
RV_14_18029	Tributary to Lick Log Creek at Aaron Road near Ellijay, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.634	-84.39	X										2023

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RV_14_18032	Lick Log Creek at Lick Logging Road/Lick Log Lane near Ellijay, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.642593	-84.402124	X										2023
RV_14_4420	Oostanaula River US Hwy 41 near Resaca, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.578333	-84.941389	X				X	X					2022
RV_14_4423	Oostanaula River at State Route 136C at Calhoun, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.510278	-84.957778	X				X						2022
RV_14_4473	Ellijay River - Georgia Highway 5	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.700843	-84.477694	X					X					2023
RV_14_4475	Elijay River at Goose Island Road near Cherry Log, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.787717	-84.410153	X					X					2023
RV_14_4575	Etowah River at Hardin Bridge near Euharlee, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.188859	-84.925104	X		X								2023
RV_14_4637	Chattooga River at Us Hwy 27 near Summerville, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.46717	-85.3352	X	X			X						2022
RV_14_4640	Chattooga River at Holland-Chattoogaville Road (FAS1363) near Lyerly, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.3356	-85.4453	X										2022
RV_14_4825	Dozier Creek at Bells Ferry Road near Rome, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.320833	-85.110278	X		X								2023
RV_15_17876	Hogjowl Creek at Hog Jowl Rd near LaFayette, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.682662	-85.408114	X	X			X	X				X	2022
RV_15_17877	West Chickamauga Creek at Hwy 193 near LaFayette, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.75882	-85.373662	X	X			X	X				X	2022
RV_15_17879	Mill Creek at W Cove Rd near LaFayette, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.712194	-85.428779	X										2022
RV_15_17882	East Chickamauga Creek at Greenwood Rd near Ringgold, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.888714	-85.083392	X	X			X	X					2022
RV_15_17885	Charlie Creek at Campbell Camp Rd near Blue Ridge, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.835	-84.297191	X										2022
RV_15_17909	Wolf Creek at River Rd near McCaysville, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.965575	-84.353832	X	X			X	X					2022

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RV_15_18030	Unnamed tributary to Hemptown Creek at Old US Hwy 76 near Morganton, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.876	-84.24	X										2023
RV_15_18031	Unnamed tributary to Hemptown Creek at Forge Mill Road near Morganton, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.893	-84.245	X										2023
RV_15_18033	Bullard Branch at Michaels Road / Highway 5 near Trenton, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.839	-85.567	X										2023
RV_15_18034	Lookout Creek at Hwy 136 near Trenton, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.86285	-85.50062	X					X					2023
RV_15_18035	Mount Vernon Creek at Lafayette Road near Rocky Face, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.7875	-85.047409	X										2023
RV_15_4906	Toccoa River at Shallowford Bridge Rd near Dial, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.78408	-84.259502	X										2022
RV_15_4910	Toccoa River at Curtis Switch Rd near Mineral Bluff, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Targeted Monitoring	34.925709	-84.333174	X										2022
RV_01_17904	Gum Branch at Ridgewood Dr near Hartwell, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.37738	-82.90196	X	X	X	X	X						2022
RV_01_18001	Dry Branch at Carver St NE near Thomson	Savannah	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	33.46959	-82.42545	X	X	X	X	X						2023
RV_01_18003	Newberry Creek at Claxton-Lively Rd near Shell Bluff	Savannah	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	33.14331	-81.85404	X	X	X	X	X					X	2023
RV_01_18009	Little Beaverdam Creek at Saddler Rd near Dewy Rose	Savannah	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.19377	-82.9379	X	X	X	X	X						2023
RV_01_184	Stephens Creek at Highway 59 / Commerce Rd	Savannah	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.36843	-83.23849	X	X	X	X	X						2022
RV_01_257	Kemp Creek at Holiday Park Rd	Savannah	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	33.6631	-82.55211	X	X	X	X	X						2022
RV_02_17897	Henderson Mill Branch at Hwy 17 near CoXerville, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.5799	-81.67297	X	X	X	X	X						2022
RV_02_17911	Ogeechee River at Hwy 102 near Mitchell, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	33.796558	-82.760407	X	X	X	X	X						2022

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RV_02_17986	Little Ogeechee River near Pine Island, GA	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.86713317	-81.0199007	X		X	X	X					X	2022-2023
RV_02_17987	Tidal Creek off Hoover Creek near Savannah, GA	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.94807	-81.160653	X		X	X	X					X	2022-2023
RV_02_18002	Fifteenmile Creek at Patty Ford Bridge Rd near Twin City	Ogeechee	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.53046	-82.07632	X	X		X	X						2023
RV_02_283	Rocky Comfort Creek at Fred Williams Road near Edgehill, GA	Savannah	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	33.16013	-82.58247	X	X		X	X						2022
RV_02_343	Tenmile Creek at Excelsior Church Rd near Excelsior	Ogeechee	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.2801	-81.96153	X	X		X	X						2023
RV_02_358	Salt Creek at US Hwy 17 near Savannah, GA	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.039899	-81.203721	X	X		X	X					X	2023
RV_03_17892	Shankles Creek at New Kings Bridge Rd near Athens, GA	Oconee	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.06123	-83.44254	X	X		X	X						2022
RV_03_18004	Commissioner Creek at Wriley Rd near McIntyre	Oconee	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.85239	-83.15453	X	X		X	X						2023
RV_03_18011	Trib to Sugar Creek at Saffold Road near Buckhead, GA	Oconee	Atlanta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	33.55158	-83.34161	X	X		X	X						2023
RV_04_848	South River - Georgia Highway 81 at Snapping Shoals	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	33.4844	-83.958	X	X									2022
RV_05_17887	Trib to South Prong Creek at Alligator Road near Unadilla, GA	Ocmulgee	Tifton WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.231582	-83.663923	X	X		X	X						2022
RV_05_17888	Echeconnee Creek at Boy Scout Rd near Byron, GA	Ocmulgee	Tifton WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.71882	-83.776855	X	X		X	X						2022
RV_05_18020	Big Sandy Creek at Nathan Thaxton Road near Jackson, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	33.254195	-83.999655	X	X		X	X						2023
RV_05_2264	Towaliga River at Highway 16 near Jackson, GA	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	33.264327	-84.071264	X	X		X	X						2023
RV_06_17872	Little Reedy Creek at Racket Town Rd near Lyons, GA	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.278411	-82.310683	X	X		X	X						2022
RV_06_17896	Ohoopee River at Hwy 15 near Wrightsville, GA	Altamaha	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.67472	-82.71275	X	X		X	X						2022

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RV_06_17977	Little Penholoway Creek at Broadhurst Rd W near Screven, GA	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.472916	-81.941683	X		X		X	X				X	2023
RV_06_2920	Trib of Yam Grandy Creek at US Hwy 80 W	Altamaha	Augusta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.58637	-82.36831	X		X		X	X					2022
RV_07_17871	Seventeen Mile River at US 441 near Broxton, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.565292	-82.850536	X	X	X		X	X					2022
RV_07_17976	Church House Branch at GA Hwy 110 near Horetense, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.306364	-81.870396	X		X		X	X				X	2023
RV_07_17984	Crooked River near Drizzle Bluff Rd near St. Marys, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	30.839241	-81.607641	X		X	X	X	X				X	2023
RV_07_17985	Tidal Creek off Purvis Creek near Brunswick, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.19768201	-81.5164288	X			X	X	X				X	2023
RV_07_2963	Satilla River at State Road 64 near Pearson, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.336389	-82.768611	X		X		X	X				X	2023
RV_09_17995	RedOak Creek at McKenzie Road near Penia, Ga	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.92852	-83.66596	X		X		X	X					2023
RV_10_17890	Attapulgus Creek at Wautauga Rd near Attapulgus, GA	Ochlockonee	Tifton WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	30.757476	-84.46215	X		X		X	X					2022
RV_10_17891	Little Ochlockonee River at Willingham Rd near Meigs, GA	Ochlockonee	Tifton WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.052147	-83.997655	X		X		X	X					2022
RV_11_17870	Trib to White Oak Creek at Poplar Rd near Newnan, GA	Flint	Atlanta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	33.347985	-84.695271	X		X		X						2022
RV_11_17889	Chokeelatee Creek at Airport Rd near Smithville, GA	Flint	Tifton WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.899574	-84.316219	X		X		X	X					2022
RV_11_3440	Whitewater Creek at Railroad Street near Ideal, GA	Flint	Tifton WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.379167	-84.184444	X		X		X	X					2022
RV_11_3531	Flint River at State Road 32 near Albany, GA	Flint	Tifton WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.725254	-84.018237	X		X		X	X					2022
RV_12_15957	Nickajack Creek at Nickajack Park near Bolton, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	33.817363	-84.507666	X		X		X						2022
RV_12_17989	Trib to Hitchitee Creek at Riverbend Road near Cusseta, Ga	Chattahoochee	Tifton WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	32.24058	-84.839607	X		X		X	X					2023

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RV_12_17990	Trib to Hodchodkee Creek at CR 14 near Georgetown, Ga	Chattahoochee	Tifton WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	31.939816	-84.994444	X		X		X	X					2023
RV_12_17999	North Mosquito Creek at Smithtown Road near Faceville, Ga	Chattahoochee	Tiftons WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	30.709263	-84.724123	X		X		X	X					2023
RV_14_16660	Conasauga River at Witherow Bridge Rd near Dalton, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.8119513	-84.8616466	X		X		X	X					2023
RV_14_17881	Pitner Branch at Wheeler Dam Dr near Cohutta, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.933503	-84.961297	X	X			X						2022
RV_14_17884	West Fork Pumpkinvine Creek at Mt. Moriah Rd near Dallas, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.019864	-84.829477	X	X			X	X					2022
RV_14_18027	Darnell Creek at Long Swamp Church Rd near Marble Hill, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.4619	-84.3534	X		X		X	X					2023
RV_14_18036	Town Branch at Dowdy Park near Summerville, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.47909189	-85.346842	X		X		X	X					2023
RV_14_18037	Two Run Creek at Highway 41 near Cassville, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.2611	-84.8604	X		X		X	X					2023
RV_14_4526	Talking Rock Creek at Highway 136 near Blaine, GA	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.5261	84.5710576	X		X		X	X					2023
RV_14_4584	Euharlee Creek at CR 32 (Old Alabama Rd.)	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.108083	-84.950361	X		X								2022
RV_15_17822	Hopper Branch at Patterson Gap Rd near Dillard, GA	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Probabilistic Monitoring	34.971718	-83.458867			X								2022
LK_01_10	Lake Rabun - Dampool (aka Tallulah River - Upstream from Mathis Dam)	Savannah	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.764722	-83.417778	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_01_11	Lake Hartwell @ Interstate 85	Savannah	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.484167	-83.029833	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_01_22	Lake Hartwell - Dam Forebay	Savannah	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.358733	-82.824417	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_01_27	Lake Russell Between Markers 42 and 44 (Mid Lake)	Savannah	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.127778	-82.673611	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_01_29	Lake Richard B. Russell - Dam Forebay	Savannah	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.026333	-82.594167	X		X						X		2022-2023

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LK_01_38	Clarks Hill Lake- Savannah River at U.S. Highway 378	Savannah	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.857861	-82.399583	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_01_39	Clarks Hill Lake- Savannah River at Dordon Creek.	Savannah	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.765861	-82.271778	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_01_40	Clarks Hill Lake - Dam Forebay	Savannah	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.662694	-82.198528	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_01_67	Lake Tugalo - u/s Tugalo Lake Rd (aka Bull Sluice Rd.)	Savannah	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.737805	-83.340555	X		X						X		2022
LK_01_68	Lake Tugalo - Upstream from Tugaloo Dam	Savannah	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.715	-83.351694	X		X						X		2022
LK_01_7	Lake Burton - 1/4 mile South of Burton Island (aka Tallulah River)	Savannah	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.835233	-83.553817	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_01_71	Clarks Hill Lake - Little River at Highway 47	Savannah	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.692722	-82.338805	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_01_8	Lake Burton - Dampool (aka Tallulah River u/s Lake Burton Dam)	Savannah	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.795317	-83.5401	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_01_9	Lake Rabun - Approx. 4.5 mi u/s Dam (Mid Lake)	Savannah	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.763533	-83.455817	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_03_17700	Lake Oconee - Lick Creek Cove near Old Phoenix Rd.	Oconee	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.403819	-83.272422	X		X								2022-2023
LK_03_520	Lake Oconee At Highway 44, Oconee River Arm	Oconee	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.431394	-83.265734	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_03_525	Lake Sinclair - Little River & Murder Creek Arm, U/S U.S. Hwy 441	Oconee	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.189	-83.2953	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_03_526	Lake Sinclair - 300 Meters Upstream Dam (Dam Forebay)	Oconee	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.142817	-83.202617	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_03_530	Lake Sinclair - Midlake, Oconee River Arm	Oconee	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.1968	-83.2742	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_03_538	Lake Oconee 300 Meters Upstream Wallace Dam (Dam Forebay)	Oconee	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.351667	-83.160833	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_03_545	Lake Oconee - Richland Creek Arm	Oconee	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.3947	-83.1767	X		X						X		2022-2023

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LK_03_600	Lake Sinclair- Little River/Oconee River Confluence	Oconee	Augusta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.1875	-83.275	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_04_893	Lake Jackson at confluence of Alcovy River and Yellow/South River Branch	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.368229	-83.863339	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_04_897	Lake Jackson - Dam Forebay	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.322	-83.8409	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_05_2076	High Falls Lake - Midlake	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.1973	-84.031	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_05_2078	High Falls Lake - Dam Forebay	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.1799	-84.0209	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_05_2131	Lake Juliette - Midlake	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.0464	-83.8106	X		X						X		2022
LK_05_2132	Lake Juliette - Dam Forebay	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	33.0338	-83.7572	X	X							X		2022
LK_05_2144	Lake Tobesofkee - Midlake	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	32.8346	-83.8161	X		X						X		2022
LK_05_2146	Lake Tobesofkee - Dam Forebay	Ocmulgee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	32.8215	-83.7706	X		X						X		2022
LK_09_3199	Banks Lake - Near Lakeland, Ga.	Suwannee	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	31.026667	-83.105555	X	X							X		2022-2023
LK_11_3467	Lake Blackshear @ Midlake	Flint	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	31.9665	-83.9342	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_11_3520	Lake Blackshear @ Dam Forebay	Flint	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	31.8479	-83.9394	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_11_3534	Flint River Reservoir @ Midlake, Flint River Arm	Flint	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	31.6085	-84.119	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_11_3535	Flint River Reservoir (Lake Worth) @ Dam Forebay	Flint	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	31.6033	-84.1365	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_11_3551	Lake Worth (original) - Above Hwy 91 Bridge	Flint	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	31.6109	-84.15	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_11_3569	Lake Seminole - Flint River Arm @ Spring Creek	Flint	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	30.7627	-84.8171	X		X						X		2022-2023

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LK_12_3913	Lake Sidney Lanier - Little River Embayment, b/w M1WC & 3LR	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.355	-83.8427	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_3995	Lake Sidney Lanier at Boling Bridge (State Road 53) on Chestatee River	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.31235	-83.950103	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_3998	Lake Sidney Lanier at Lanier Bridge (State Road 53) on Chattahoochee River	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.32195	-83.880171	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4001	Lake Sidney Lanier at Browns Bridge Road (State Road 369)	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.261666	-83.950662	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4005	Lake Sidney Lanier - Flat Creek Embayment, 100' U/S M7FC	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.2587	-83.9198	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4007	Lake Sidney Lanier - Balus Creek Embayment, 0.34m SE M6FC	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.2504	-83.9244	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4010	Lake Sidney Lanier - Mud Creek Embayment, b/w Marina & Ramp	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.2333	-83.9373	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4012	Lake Lanier upstream from Flowery Branch Confluence (Midlake)	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.200278	-83.982869	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4019	Lake Sidney Lanier - Six Mile Creek Embayment, 300' E M9SM	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.2335	-84.0287	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4028	Lake Sidney Lanier upstream of Buford Dam Forebay	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	34.162778	-84.067108	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4048	West Point Lake at LaGrange Water Intake near LaGrange, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP/ USGS	Lake Monitoring	33.0783	-85.110833	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4060	West Point Lake - Dam Forebay	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	32.9208	-85.1834	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4072	Lake Harding - Midlake, Main Body	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	32.7379	-85.1125	X		X						X		2022
LK_12_4074	Lake Harding - Dam Forebay (aka Chatt. River US Bartletts Ferry Dam)	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP/ CWW	Lake Monitoring	32.6633	-85.090278	X		X						X		2022
LK_12_4078	Goat Rock Lake - Dam Forebay	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	32.6112	-85.0794	X		X						X		2022

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LK_12_4080	Lake Oliver - Dam Forebay	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Lake Monitoring	32.516	-85.0009	X		X						X		2022
LK_12_4097	Lake Walter F. George @ U.S. Highway 82	Chattahoochee	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	31.891944	-85.120833	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4103	Lake Walter F. George @ Dam Forebay	Chattahoochee	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	31.629167	-85.0725	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4107	Lake Andrews @ Dam Forebay	Chattahoochee	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	31.2632	-85.113	X	X							X		2022-2023
LK_12_4113	Lake Seminole @ Chattahoochee Arm, Lower	Chattahoochee	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	30.7662	-84.9201	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_12_4115	Lake Seminole @ Dam Forebay	Chattahoochee	Tifton WP	Lake Monitoring	30.7115	-84.8647	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_14_4494	Lake Allatoona Upstream from Dam	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.160833	-84.725845	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_14_4497	Lake Allatoona at Allatoona Creek Upstream from Interstate 75	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.085833	-84.711389	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_14_4502	Lake Allatoona at Etowah River upstream from Sweetwater Creek (Marker 44E/45E)	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.19	-84.577778	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_14_4523	Carters Lake (CR1) - Upper Lake, Coosawattee Arm	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.62087	-84.6212	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_14_4524	Carters Lake - Midlake (upstream from Woodring Branch)	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.6076	-84.638	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_14_4553	Lake Allatoona at Little River upstream from Highway 205	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.158611	-84.577222	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_14_4556	Lake Allatoona downstream from Kellogg Creek (Markers 18/19E)	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.138611	-84.639167	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_14_4895	Lake Chatuge LMP 12 at State Line (aka Hiwassee River)	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.983333	-83.788611	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_14_4899	Lake Nottely (LMP15A) at Reece Creek	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.91152	-84.0506	X		X						X		2022-2023

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LK_14_4900	Lake Nottely - Dam Forebay (aka Nottely River - Upstream from Nottely Dam)	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.957778	-84.092222	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_14_4907	Lake Blue Ridge (LMP18) - 300 Meter Upstream of Dam	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.881667	-84.28	X		X						X		2022-2023
LK_14_4908	Lake Blue Ridge (LMP18A) - 4 miles upstream Dam	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Lake Monitoring	34.84017	-84.2731	X		X						X		2022-2023
RV_02_15770	Ogeechee River at RM 5	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Estuary Monitoring	31.856992	-81.110452	X								X		2022-2023
RV_02_313	Ogeechee River at Fort McAllister State Park	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Estuary Monitoring	31.890611	-81.200778	X			X							2022-2023
SH_02_317	Little Ogeechee River at Green Island	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Estuary Monitoring	31.88823	-81.08798	X	X							X		2022-2023
SH_02_364	St Catherines Sound at Medway River near Midway, GA	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Estuary Monitoring	31.715469	-81.156798	X	X							X		2022-2023
SH_02_372	Sapelo Sound at South Newport River near Barbour Island	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Estuary Monitoring	31.554108	-81.200361	X	X							X		2022-2023
SH_02_374	Sapelo River - Mouth of Broro River - 1.4 miles South of Shellman's Bluff	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Estuary Monitoring	31.544861	-81.316027	X	X							X		2022-2023
SH_02_56	Mouth of Wilmington River - Marker #19 Wassaw Sound	Ogeechee	Brunswick WP	Estuary Monitoring	31.932416	-80.977111	X	X							X		2022-2023
SH_06_15212	Doboy Sound	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Estuary Monitoring	31.39494	-81.2944	X	X	X						X		2022-2023
SH_06_2857	Altamaha River - channel marker #201 off Wolf Island	Altamaha	Brunswick WP	Estuary Monitoring	31.319166	-81.325	X	X							X		2022-2023
SH_07_3008	St. Andrews Sound at Satilla Riv near	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Estuary Monitoring	30.983162	-81.453238	X	X							X		2022-2023
SH_07_3049	Cumberland Sound at St. Marys Riv nr St Marys, GA	Satilla	Brunswick WP	Estuary Monitoring	30.728073	-81.489794	X			X					X		2022-2023

Georgia Station Number	Sampling Site	River Basin	Sampling Organization ¹	Waterbody Type/Project	Latitude	Longitude	Routine ²	Fecal coliform	E. coli	enterococci	Ortho Phosphorus	Metals	Macroinvertebrates	Diatoms ³	Chlorophyll a	Discharge	Year
RV_01_144	Kettle Creek at Stone Bridge Rd	Savannah	Augusta WP	Biological Monitoring	33.68301	-82.85747	X		X		X	X	2022	2022		X	2022-2023
RV_02_17701	North Fork Ogeechee River at Brooks Rd near Union Point, GA	Ogeechee	Augusta WP	Biological Monitoring	33.58844	-83.00938	X		X		X	X	2022	2022		X	2022-2023
RV_11_3807	Little Ichawaynochaway Creek at CR 3 near Shellman, Ga	Flint	Tifton WP	Trend Monitoring	31.803532	-84.640013	X	X			X	X					2022-2023
RV_12_4123	Hillabahatchee Creek at CR 210 near Frolona, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Biological Monitoring	33.311218	-85.187675	X		X		X	X	2022			X	2022-2023
RV_12_4316	Peachtree Creek at Northside Dr in Atlanta, GA	Chattahoochee	Atlanta WP	Biological Monitoring	33.8194	-84.407778	X		X		X	X	2022			X	2022-2023
RV_14_4829	Dykes Creek at Dykes Creek Crossing	Coosa	Cartersville WP	Biological Monitoring	34.29357	-85.0855	X	2022	2023		X	X	2022			X	2022-2023
RV_15_4961	E. Chickamauga Creek at Lower Gordon Springs Rd	Tennessee	Cartersville WP	Biological Monitoring	34.74717	-85.1243	X	2022	2023		X	X	2022			X	2022-2023
JIWY	Jekyll Island - Captain Wylly Road Crossover Beach	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.063161	-81.404438				x							2022-2023
JIN	Jekyll Island - North Beach at Dexter Lane	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.077175	-81.401756				X							2022-2023
JISD	Jekyll Island - South Dunes Picnic Area Beach	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.031801	-81.41495				x							2022-2023
JISA	Jekyll Island - St. Andrews Beach	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.021002	-81.434903				x							2022-2023

Georgia Station Number	Sampling Site	River Basin	Sampling Organization ¹	Waterbody Type/Project	Latitude	Longitude	Routine ²	Fecal coliform	E. coli	enterococci	Ortho Phosphorus	Metals	Macroinvertebrates	Diatoms ³	Chlorophyll a	Discharge	Year	
JIM	Jekyll Island - Middle Beach at Convention Center	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.048649	-81.408999				X								2022-2023
JIS	Jekyll Island - South Beach at Soccer Complex	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.017755	-81.421065				X								2022-2023
JICC	Jekyll Island - Clam Creek Beach	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.118236	-81.41691				X								2022-2023
JIDW	Jekyll Driftwood	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.05	-81.403				X								2022-2023
SIN	Saint Simons Island - North Beach at Goulds Inlet	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.152005	-81.365855				x								2022-2023
SIF	Saint Simons Island - 5th Street Crossover Beach	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.135723	-81.384978				X								2022-2023
SIM	Saint Simons Island - Middle Beach (aka East Beach Old Coast Guard Station)	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.143995	-81.370008				X								2022-2023
SIMA	Saint Simons Island - Massengale Park Beach	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.140415	-81.376669				X								2022-2023
SIS	Saint Simons Island - South Beach at Lighthouse	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.133474	-81.393706				X								2022-2023
SES	Sea Island - South Beach	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.181139	-81.344992				X								2022-2023
SEN	Sea Island - North Beach	Altamaha	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.19763	-81.329772				X								2022-2023
BIRP	Blythe Island Sandbar Beach	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.152417	-81.561267				X								2022-2023
REIM	Reimolds Pasture Beach	Altamaha	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.303567	-81.3943				X								2022-2023
TYST	Tybee Island - Strand Beach at Pier	Savannah	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.992987	-80.845794				X								2022-2023
TYN	Tybee Island - North Beach at Gulick Street	Savannah	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	32.020688	-80.841481				X								2022-2023

Georgia Station Number	Sampling Site	River Basin	Sampling Organization ¹	Waterbody Type/Project	Latitude	Longitude	Routine ²	Fecal coliform	E. coli	enterococci	Ortho Phosphorus	Metals	Macroinvertebrates	Diatoms ³	Chlorophyll a	Discharge	Year	
TYM	Tybee Island - Middle Beach at Center Terrace	Savannah	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	32.007311	-80.841002				X								2022-2023
TYS	Tybee Island - South Beach at Chatham Street	Savannah	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.986827	-80.851302				X								2022-2023
TYP	Tybee Island - Polk Street Beach	Savannah	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	32.026133	-80.854733				X								2022-2023
SKID	Skidaway Narrows County Park Beach (aka Butterbean Beach)	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.946671	-81.06779				X								2022-2023
DALL	Dallas Bluff Sandbar Beach	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.591	-81.299067				X								2022-2023
KING	Kings Ferry County Park Beach	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.97804	-81.287606				X								2022-2023
CNBF	Contentment Bluff Sandbar Beach	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.57307	-81.31293				X								2022-2023
SOSS	South Ossabaw	Medway	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.73249	-81.12221				x								2022-2023
BOSS	North Ossawaw (Bradley Beach)	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.82131	-81.05109				x								2022-2023
1049	Southernmost tributary off Romerly Marsh Creek	Savannah	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.92866	-81.01839	X	X										2022-2023
1050	Northern mouth of Habersham Creek	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.92503	-81.0086	X	X										2022-2023
1052	Northernmost tributary off Romerly Marsh Creek	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.94317	-81.00914	X	X										2022-2023
1152	Old Romerly Marsh Creek	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.92557	-80.9852	X	X										2022-2023
1153	Romerly Marsh Creek Chatham Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.92993	-80.98919	X	X										2022-2023
1154	Halfmoon River at Beard Creek	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.97741	-80.96789	X	X										2022-2023
1155	Tybee Cut South	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.95172	-80.98532	X	X										2022-2023

Georgia Station Number	Sampling Site	River Basin	Sampling Organization ¹	Waterbody Type/Project	Latitude	Longitude	Routine ²	Fecal coliform	E. coli	enterococci	Ortho Phosphorus	Metals	Macroinvertebrates	Diatoms ³	Chlorophyll a	Discharge	Year
1159	Pa Cooper Creek	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.96792	-80.936	X	X									2022-2023
1200	Mouth of House Creek Chatham Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.946	-80.93	X	X									2022-2023
1201	North of House Creek/Wassaw Sound Chatham Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.955	-80.933	X	X									2022-2023
1222	Cut Oyster Creek to Bull River Chatham Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	32.015	-80.924	X	X									2022-2023
1223	North Fork Oyster Creek Chatham Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	32.014	-80.916	X	X									2022-2023
1224	North Junction Lazaretto & Oyster Creeks Chatham Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.998	-80.912	X	X									2022-2023
1225	South Junction Lazaretto & Oyster Creeks Chatham Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.995	-80.91	X	X									2022-2023
1337	Bull River upstream of Betz Creek	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	32.02829	-80.94725	X	X									2022-2023
1338	Betz Creek	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	32.02005	-80.94529	X	X									2022-2023
1352	Priest Landing Chatham Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.96058	-81.01186	X	X									2022-2023
3242	Medway River Near Sunbury	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.685	-81.296	X	X									2022-2023
3249	Halfmoon East	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.686	-81.277	X	X									2022-2023
3255	Mouth of Jones Hammock Creek	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.734	-81.194	X	X									2022-2023
3273	Bear River across from Newell Creek	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.741	-81.161	X	X									2022-2023
3275	Bear River across from Kilkenny	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.771	-81.16998	X	X									2022-2023
3285	Dickinson Creek Mouth	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.7568	-81.2724	X	X									2022-2023

Georgia Station Number	Sampling Site	River Basin	Sampling Organization ¹	Waterbody Type/Project	Latitude	Longitude	Routine ²	Fecal coliform	E. coli	enterococci	Ortho Phosphorus	Metals	Macroinvertebrates	Diatoms ³	Chlorophyll a	Discharge	Year	
3286	Jones Creek Mouth	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.74765	-81.2541	X	X										2022-2023
3288	Medway River East of Sunbury Creek	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.728	-81.22028	X	X										2022-2023
3291	Van Dyke Creek Mouth	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.6894	-81.194	X	X										2022-2023
3319	Walburg Northwest	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.68713	-81.15633	X	X										2022-2023
4092	Eagle Creek, McIntosh	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.51	-81.278	X	X										2022-2023
4100	Back River at July Cut	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.53	-81.33	X	X										2022-2023
4120	Mud River at Dog Hammock	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.52777	-81.25732	X	X										2022-2023
4122	Little Mud River at Barbour Island River	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.59343	-81.26117	X	X										2022-2023
4123	Sapelo Sound at Highpoint	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.53432	-81.22433	X	X										2022-2023
4175	Old Teakettle Creek, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.442	-81.306	X	X										2022-2023
4177	Shellbluff Creek, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.476	-81.332	X	X										2022-2023
4178	Creighton Narrows, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.488	-81.323	X	X										2022-2023
4179	New Teakettle Creek, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.485	-81.295	X	X										2022-2023
4180	Front River, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.523	-81.291	X	X										2022-2023
4184	Juliention River, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.554	-81.314	X	X										2022-2023
4185	Little Mud River, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.5636	-81.25778	X	X										2022-2023
4186	South Mouth Barbour Island River, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.55775	-81.23293	X	X										2022-2023

Georgia Station Number	Sampling Site	River Basin	Sampling Organization ¹	Waterbody Type/Project	Latitude	Longitude	Routine ²	Fecal coliform	E. coli	enterococci	Ortho Phosphorus	Metals	Macroinvertebrates	Diatoms ³	Chlorophyll a	Discharge	Year	
4187	Middle Barbour Island River, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.593	-81.236	X	X										2022-2023
4188	Middle Wahoo River, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.615	-81.214	X	X										2022-2023
4190	South Swain River, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.632	-81.224	X	X										2022-2023
4191	North Swain River, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.634	-81.237	X	X										2022-2023
4195	Todd River, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.56232	-81.21815	X	X										2022-2023
4196	Crescent River, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.503	-81.335	X	X										2022-2023
4197	Crescent River, South-end of Creighton, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.491	-81.332	X	X										2022-2023
4304	Julienton River mouth, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.559	-81.274	X	X										2022-2023
4305	Julienton River middle, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.548	-81.308	X	X										2022-2023
4306	Four Mile Island southwest, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.539	-81.302	X	X										2022-2023
4330	Jolly Creek	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.555	-81.29	X	X										2022-2023
4333	South end of Sapelo Island	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.38741	-81.28912	X	X										2022-2023
4400	Julienton River, middle, McIntosh Co.	Ogeechee	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.557	-81.294	X	X										2022-2023
5069	Jointer River Mouth, Glynn Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.055	-81.469	X	X										2022-2023
5105	Jointer River - Mac's Basin	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.1	-81.516	X	X										2022-2023
5198	Mouth Cedar Creek, Glynn Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.089	-81.479	X	X										2022-2023
5199	Jointer River, Glynn Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.08	-81.506	X	X										2022-2023
5200	Cobb Creek, Glynn Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.071	-81.483	X	X										2022-2023
5322	Jointer Island West, Glynn Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.091	-81.515	X	X										2022-2023

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5357	Jointer Creek at Sage Dock, Glynn Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.102	-81.527	X	X									2022-2023
5358	Jointer Creek upstream of Sage Dock, Glynn Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.106	-81.533	X	X									2022-2023
5359	Little Satilla River at Honey Creek, Glynn Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.064	-81.526	X	X									2022-2023
6201	Little Satilla River, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.039	-81.491	X	X									2022-2023
6210	Cabin Bluff, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.064	-81.526	X	X									2022-2023
6212	North Brickhill River, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.039	-81.491	X	X									2022-2023
6213	Delaroché Creek Mouth, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.892	-81.512	X	X									2022-2023
6214	South Brickhill River, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.904	-81.461	X	X									2022-2023
6215	Mouth Black Point Creek, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.863	-81.497	X	X									2022-2023
6216	Crooked River, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.849	-81.542	X	X									2022-2023
6217	Crooked River South, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.841	-81.521	X	X									2022-2023
6218	South Crooked River Mouth, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.823	-81.498	X	X									2022-2023
6300	Cumberland River-Marker #39, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.927	-81.452	X	X									2022-2023
6317	Cumberland River East Shellbine, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.911	-81.485	X	X									2022-2023
6318	Delaroché Creek Headwaters, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.861	-81.508	X	X									2022-2023
6323	Brickhill River Upstream 6214, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.855	-81.467	X	X									2022-2023
6343	Brickhill River West Bend, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.868	-81.485	X	X									2022-2023
6344	Mumford Creek at Brickhill River, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.883	-81.479	X	X									2022-2023
6360	Maiden Creek	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.0693	-81.545	X	X									2022-2023

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6361	Honey Creek	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	31.0547	-81.539	X	X										2022-2023
6411	Downstream from Cabin Bluff @ marker 51A, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.881	-81.511	X	X										2022-2023
6412	Upstream from Delaroché Ck @ marker 55, Camden Co.	Satilla	CRD	Coastal Monitoring	30.87	-81.499	X	X										2022-2023

Rivers and streams stations are sampled monthly for field and chemical parameters. Four bacterial samples are collected each calendar quarter to calculate four geometric means at selected stations.

Lakes and reservoir stations are sampled monthly during the “growing season” from April through October.

Coastal Monitoring stations: For stations monitored by CRD, Numeric stations are sampled for fecal coliform, dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, and specific conductance monitoring. Letter stations are sampled for enterococci and pH

¹ **Sampling Organization:** Atlanta WP = EPD Atlanta office; Augusta WP = EPD Augusta Office; Brunswick WP = EPD Brunswick Regional office, Cartersville WP = EPD Cartersville Regional Office Tifton WP = EPD Tifton Regional office, CRD = Coastal Resource Division, USGS = United States Geological Survey, CWW = Columbus Water Works.

² **Routine field and chemical parameters include:** gage height / tape down or discharge measurement, air temperature, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance, turbidity, 5-day BOD, , alkalinity, hardness, suspended solids, ammonia, nitrate-nitrite, Kjeldahl nitrogen, total phosphorus, total organic carbon

Lake field, chemical and biological parameters include: water depth, secchi disk transparency, photic zone depth, air temperature, depth profiles for dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, and specific conductance, and chemical analyses for turbidity, specific conductance, 5-day BOD, pH, alkalinity, hardness, suspended solids, ammonia, nitrate-nitrite, Kjeldahl nitrogen, total phosphorus, total organic carbon, and chlorophyll a.

³ **Biomonitoring:** conducted for invertebrates and periphyton using Georgia EPD protocols. If a year is given that is the year the monitoring was conducted.

survey period. A new sampling methodology was enacted in 2020, but some sites were not able to be assessed for pH since some data was taken before the new methods went into effect. In addition, EPD is investigating whether low pH may be a natural condition in low alkalinity waters. Once these questions are answered, EPD will be able to assess waters for pH compliance more accurately and the percentage of waters impaired for pH may change.

EPD also participated in all the USEPA probabilistic National Aquatic Resource Surveys, including the National Lakes Assessment Surveys (2007, 2012, 2017, and 2022), the National Rivers and Streams Assessments (2008-2009, 2013-2014, 2018-2019, and 2023-2024), the National Wetlands Condition Assessments (2011, 2016, & 2021), and in cooperation with the DNR Coastal Resources Division, the National Coastal Condition Assessment (2015 & 2020).

Lake Monitoring Since the late 1960's EPD has maintained a monitoring program for Georgia's 28 public lakes. Currently, these lakes are sampled every year from April to October when primary productivity is highest. The data collected in the lake monitoring of lakes includes depth profiles for dissolved oxygen, temperature,

pH, and specific conductance; secchi disk transparency and photic zone depth; and chemical analyses for turbidity, specific conductance, 5-day BOD, alkalinity, hardness, suspended solids, ammonia, nitrate-nitrite, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, total phosphorus, total organic carbon, bacteria (*E. coli*), and chlorophyll *a*.

Three measurements (secchi depth, chlorophyll *a*, and total phosphorus) are used to calculate Carlson's Trophic State Index (TSI) for each lake's dampool location each month using the equations below.

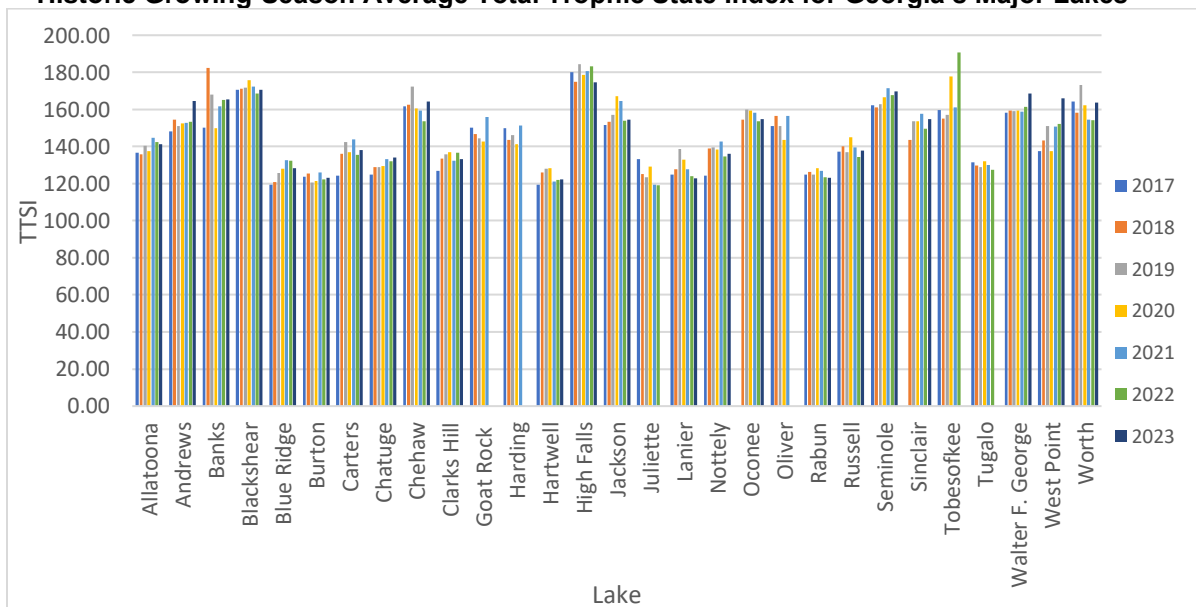
$$TSI_{\text{secchi}} = 60 - (14.41) (\ln \text{Secchi disk (meters)})$$

$$TSI_P = (14.42) (\ln \text{Total phosphorus (ug/L)}) + 4.15$$

$$TSI_{\text{chl}} = (9.81) (\ln \text{Chlorophyll a (ug/L)}) + 30.6$$

Results are combined into a total trophic state index (TTSI) and the growing-season average TTSI is used to assess each of the various lakes. The historic growing-season average TTSI for each of the major lakes are graphed in Figure 3-2. Due to a lack of resources, data for TTSI calculations was not collected on lakes Goat Rock, Harding and Oliver in 2022 or 2023, and data was not collected on lakes Juliette, Tobesofkee and Tugalo in 2023.

Figure 3-2.
Historic Growing-Season Average Total Trophic State Index for Georgia's Major Lakes



Estuary Monitoring In addition to the lakes, EPD monitors eight estuaries annually during the growing season from April through October. The average TTSI for these estuaries from 2022-2023 is 180 ranging from 160 in the Cumberland Sound to 192 in the Altamaha Sound.

Coastal Monitoring CRD conducts the majority of coastal monitoring in the State. CRD conducts water quality monitoring in estuarine and near-shore coastal waters through its Public Health Water Quality Monitoring Program. This program includes the Shellfish Sanitation and Beach Water Quality Monitoring Programs that are concerned with public health. See Chapter 5 for more details.

Biological Monitoring Biological monitoring is performed to assess the biological integrity of the State's waters. WRD has been conducting fish bioassessments since the early 1990s. Since 2007, EPD has been utilizing macroinvertebrate data to assess the biotic integrity of wadeable streams.

Intensive Surveys These studies focus intensive monitoring on a particular issue or problem over a short time period. EPD conducts several basic types of intensive surveys, including model calibration surveys for wasteload allocation and/or TMDL modeling and impact studies to determine the cause-and-effect relationships between pollutant sources and receiving waters.

EPD is currently reevaluating the State's instream criteria for dissolved oxygen and pH. Some areas of the State, particularly in South Georgia, have dissolved oxygen concentrations and pH levels that are often naturally lower than the State's current criteria, especially in blackwaters. The percentage of streams assessed as impaired for dissolved oxygen may change once the new criteria are adopted.

Toxic Substance Stream Monitoring EPD has focused on the management and control of toxic substances in the State's waters for many years. During 2022-2023, metals were monitored at 99 sites. Wherever discharges were found to have toxic impacts or to include toxic pollutants, EPD incorporated specific limitations on toxic pollutants in NPDES discharge permits. Toxic

substance analyses are conducted on samples from selected trend monitoring stations.

Aquatic Toxicity Testing Biomonitoring requirements are addressed in all municipal and industrial NPDES permits. EPD has Reasonable Potential Procedures that outline conditions for conducting whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing for municipal and industrial discharges.

Facility Compliance Sampling EPD conducts evaluations and compliance sampling inspections of municipal and industrial water pollution control plants and State-permitted industrial pretreatment facilities. Compliance sampling inspections include collection of 24-hour composite samples, evaluation of the permittee's sampling and flow monitoring provisions and sampling documentation. Each year, over 73 inspections are performed. The results are used to confirm validity of permittee self-monitoring data and as supporting evidence in enforcement actions.

Fish Tissue Monitoring Each year fish tissue samples are collected from Georgia lakes and rivers, and estuaries by either WRD, or CRD, depending on whether the site is freshwater (WRD), or estuarine/marine waters (CRD) and analyzed for general contaminants. Sampling sites, fish species, and fish size are selected based on fishing pressure and/or where more information is required for a particular species. The data assessments are incorporated annually into the [Guidelines for Eating Fish for Georgia Waters](#) and Georgia's Freshwater and Saltwater Sport Fishing Regulations. See Chapter 6 for more details.

As part of the implementation of the Federal Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR), a rigorous monitoring program of mercury in fish tissue was developed for trend analysis and to determine the efficacy of reductions in air mercury emissions. A project was designed and implemented in 2006 consisting of 22 fish mercury trend stations, which were monitored annually. Nineteen stations were fresh water and three are estuarine. The mercury in fish trend monitoring sites are provided in Table 3-4. The field work for this study was completed in 2020 and in December 2023, a report was prepared for the DNR Board. The results of the report are discussed in Chapter 6.

**TABLE 3-4.
MERCURY IN FISH TREND MONITORING STATIONS**

Antioch Lake at Rocky Mtn. PFA	Flint River below Ichawaynochaway Creek
Oostanaula River at Georgia Hwy. 140	Lake Kolomoki at Kolomoki State Park
Lake Acworth	Satilla River below U.S. Hwy. 82
Lake Tugalo	Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
Bear Creek Reservoir	Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Randy Pointer Lake (Black Shoals Reservoir)	Savannah River at U.S. Hwy. 301
Chattahoochee River below Morgan Falls	Savannah River at I-95
Chattahoochee River Below Franklin	Ogeechee River at Ga. Hwy. 204
Lake Tobesofkee	Wassaw Sound
Ocmulgee River below Macon at Ga. Hwy. 96	Altamaha Delta and Sound
Lake Andrews	St. Andrews Sound

Surface Water Quality Assessment Summary

For the 2024 list, new data were assessed for 654 Waters that included newly assessed waters and existing waters. Sixty-one waters were assessed for the first time. Of these, 18 were found to be Supporting their uses, 26 were found to Not be Supporting their uses and 17 were categorized as Assessment Pending, which means at this time EPD could not determine if they were supporting or not supporting their uses. For those assessed as Not Supporting, the impairments were for bacteria, impairments to the fish community (Bio F), dissolved oxygen, metals and fish tissue (PCBs). Sixty impairments were removed and 153 impairments were added to the 2024 305(b)/303(d) list of waters. The majority of impairments were added for Bacteria (81), various pollutants in fish tissue (36), dissolved oxygen (9), and metals (12).

Some significant changes in the 2024 list include:

- Changes in the chlorophyll *a* listing for many of the lakes.
- The bacteria criteria were changed from fecal coliform to *E. coli* or enterococci for the Fishing and Drinking Water uses as part of the 2019 Triennial Review (approved by U.S. EPA on August 31, 2022). Approximately 800 waters were listed as impaired for fecal coliform on the 2022 List. If we had *E. coli* or enterococci data to assess these waters for the 2024 List, then

the fecal coliform impairments were changed to *E. coli* or enterococci (or the water was delisted if the data supported this). If we did not have any *E. coli* or enterococci data to assess for waters listed as impaired for fecal coliform on the 2022 List, then the fecal coliform listing was changed to “bacteria” on the 2024 List. EPD is working toward collecting new *E. coli* or enterococci data for waters listed as impaired for “bacteria”, so that all waters will eventually be assessed using the new bacteria criteria.

- The Geospatial (GIS) coverage of many stream reaches was updated using the most current version of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) (1:24,000) resolution. Sizes of the waterbodies were also updated.

Supplemental material providing more detail about these and other changes can be found in the documents “Highlights of the 2024 List” and “Summary of 2024 Listing Decisions”: These documents can be found on [Georgia's 305\(b\)/303\(d\) webpage](#).

The total number of assessed waters on the 2024 list is 3,093. Of these, 1,196 (39%) are Supporting, 1,620 (52%) are Not Supporting, and 277 (9%) are Assessment Pending. The percentage of waters assessed as “supporting”, “not supporting” or “assessment pending” is the same as it was in 2022 as shown in Table 3-5.

**Table 3-5
Summary of the 305(b)/303(d) Lists**

	2024 List	2022 List	2020 List	2018 List	2016 List	2014 List
Waters Assessed	3,093	2,976	2,777	2,616	2,399	2,297
Supporting	1,196 (39%)	1,158 (39%)	1,153 (42%)	1,142 (44%)	1,052 (44%)	1,019 (44%)
Not Supporting	1,620 (52%)	1,542 (52%)	1,373 (49%)	1,301 (50%)	1,226 (51%)	1,175 (51%)
Assessment Pending	277 (9%)	276 (9%)	251 (9%)	173 (6%)	121 (5%)	103 (5%)

305(b)/303(d) List Appendix A includes an integrated list of waters for which data have been assessed. Appendix A also includes [Georgia's 2024 Listing Assessment Methodology](#), which provides a description of how Georgia makes assessment decisions.

Assessed waters are placed into one or more of the five categories as described below:

Category 1–Data indicate that waters are meeting their designated use(s).

Category 2–A water body has more than one designated use and data indicate that at least one designated use is being met, but there is insufficient evidence to determine that all uses are being met.

Category 3–There were insufficient data or other information to make a determination as to whether or not the designated use(s) is being met.

Category 3N - Additional data/information is needed to determine if violations of water quality criteria are due to Natural Conditions.

Category 4a–Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met, but TMDL(s) have been completed for the parameter(s) that are causing a water not to meet its use(s).

Category 4b–Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met, but there are actions in place (other than a TMDL) that are predicted to lead to compliance with water quality standards.

Category 4c–Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met, but a pollutant does not cause the impairment.

Category 5 -Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met and TMDL(s) need to be completed for one or more pollutants.

Category 5Alt–Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met; however, TMDL development is deferred while an alternative restoration plan is pursued. If the alternative restoration plan is not successful, then the water will be placed back in Category 5 and a TMDL will be developed.

Data Assessment Water quality data are assessed in accordance with [Georgia's Listing Assessment Methodology](#) to determine if standards are met and if the water body supports its designated use. If monitoring data show that standards are not met, the water body is said to be “not supporting” the designated use. The data reviewed included EPD monitoring data, data from other State, Federal, local governments, and data from groups with EPD approved QA/QC programs. Table 3-6 provides a list of agencies that contributed data used to develop the 2024 report. The data may have been submitted specifically for the 2024 list or for previous listing cycles.

Evaluation of Use Support Table 3-7 and Figure 3-3 provides summary information from Appendix A on the total number of stream, coastal beach and freshwater beach miles; lake acres; or square miles of sounds/harbors that fall in each assessment category.

Assessment of Causes of Nonsupport of Designated Uses Many potential pollutants

may interfere with the designated use of rivers, streams, lakes, beaches, and coastal waters.

**TABLE 3-6.
CONTRIBUTORS OF WATER QUALITY DATA FOR ASSESSMENT OF GEORGIA WATERS**

DNR-EPD, Watershed Planning & Monitoring Program	City of Cartersville
DNR-EPD, Wastewater Reg. Program (Municipal)	Georgia Ports Authority
DNR-EPD, Wastewater Reg. Program (Industrial)	Chattahoochee/Flint RDC
DNR, Wildlife Resources Division	Upper Etowah Adopt-A-Stream
DNR, Coastal Resources Division	Middle Flint RDC
State University of West Georgia	Central Savannah RDC
Gainesville College	Chatham County
Georgia Institute of Technology	City of Savannah
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Heart of Georgia RDC
U.S. Geological Survey	City of Augusta
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Southwire Company
U.S. Forest Service	DNR-EPD, Brunswick Coastal District
Tennessee Valley Authority	DNR-EPD, Hazardous Waste Mgmt. Branch
Cobb County	Ellijay High School
Dekalb County	DNR, Georgia Parks Recreation & Historic Sites Division
Douglas County Water & Sewer Authority	DNR-EPD, Ambient Monitoring Unit (Macroinvertebrate Team)
Fulton County	Forsyth County
Gwinnett County	Tyson Foods, Inc.
City of Gainesville	South Georgia RDC
City of LaGrange	Northeast GA RDC
Georgia Mountains R.D.C.	Ogeechee Canoochee Riverkeeper
City of Conyers	Screven County
Lake Allatoona (Kennesaw State University)	Coastal GA RDC
Lake Blackshear (Lake Blackshear Watershed Association)	City of Roswell
Lake Lanier (University of Georgia)	City of Alpharetta
West Point (LaGrange College/Auburn University)	Columbia County
Georgia Power Company	Southwest GA RDC
Oglethorpe Power Company	Southeast GA RDC
Alabama DEM	Coweta County
City of College Park	Middle GA RDC
Kennesaw State University	Bartow County
University of Georgia	Atlanta Regional Commission
Town of Trion	Soquee River Watershed Partnership
Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority	Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Clayton County Water Authority	Henry County
City of Atlanta	City of Clayton
Columbus Water Works	South Carolina Electric and Gas Company
Columbus Unified Government	South Carolina DHEC
Jones Ecological Research Center	St. Johns River Water Mgmt. District
City of Sandy Springs	Athens Clarke County
City of Suwanee	City of Dacula
LandTec Southeast, Inc	Woodruff & Howe Environmental Engineering Inc.
City of Fayetteville	Limestone Valley RDC

**TABLE 3-7.
EVALUATION OF USE SUPPORT BY WATER BODY TYPE AND ASSESSMENT CATEGORY
2022-2023**

Degree of Use Support	Streams/ Rivers (miles)	Lakes/ Reservoirs (acres)	Freshwater Beaches (miles)	Coastal Streams/ Rivers (miles)	Sounds/ Harbors (sq. miles)	Coastal Beaches (miles)
Support	5,329	118,771	2.07	362	15	26.2
Not Support	10,724	261,882	0.17	111	24	11.25
Assessment Pending	1,305	10,582	0	51	50	0
Total	17,358	391,235	2.24	524	89	37.45

These can be termed the causes of use impairment. Figure 3-4 summarizes the causes that contributed to the impairment of designated uses for each water body type (streams, beaches, lakes, etc.).

Assessment of Sources of Nonsupport of Designated Uses Pollutants may come from point or nonpoint sources. Point sources are discharges into waterways through discrete conveyances, such as pipes or channels. Nonpoint sources are diffuse sources of pollution primarily associated with stormwater runoff.

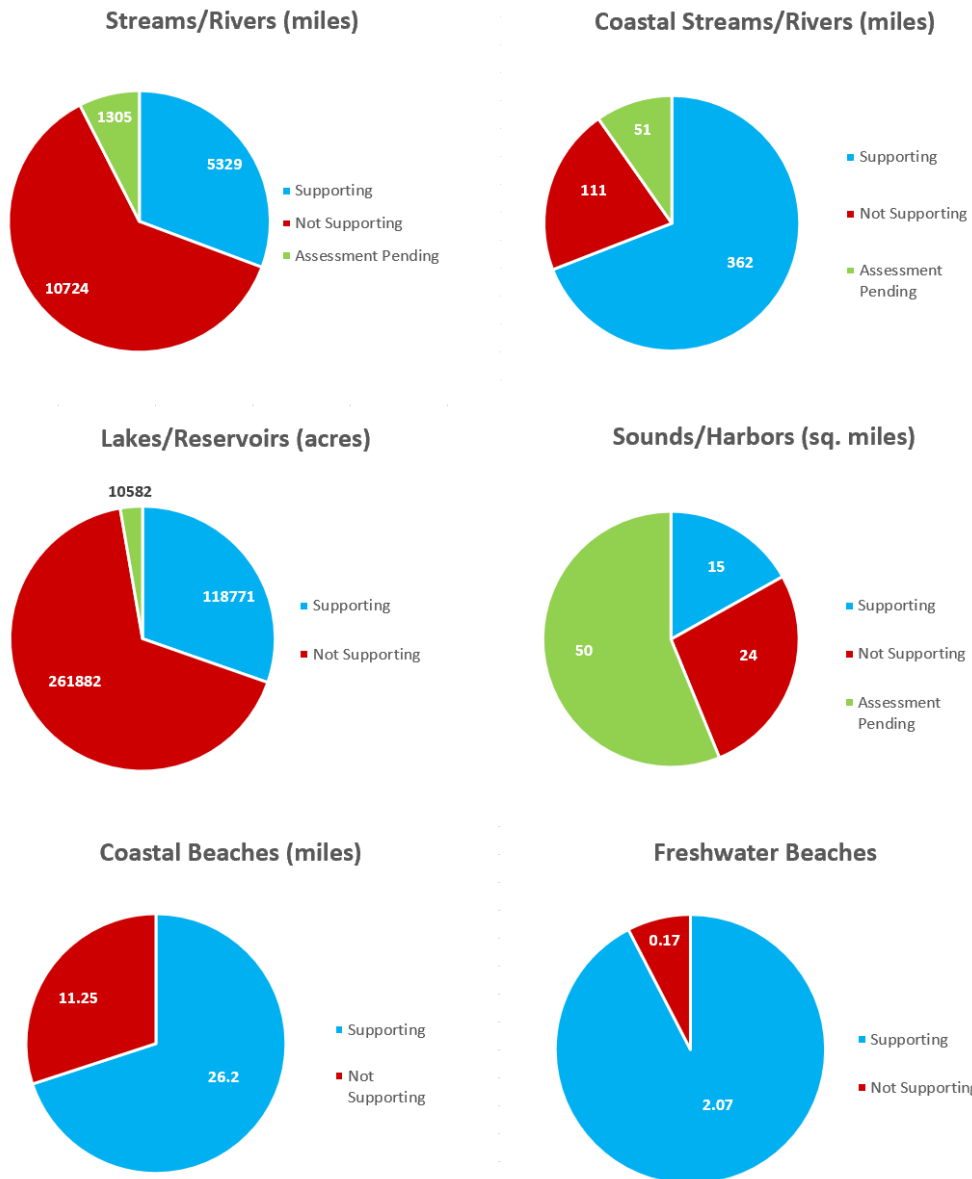
The sources of pollution in Georgia water bodies has radically shifted over the last several decades. Streams are no longer dominated by untreated or partially treated sewage discharges which resulted in little or no oxygen and little or no aquatic life. The sewage is now treated, oxygen levels have returned and fish have followed. Now, nonpoint source pollution is the major contributor to impairment. Figure 3-5 summarizes the sources of pollutants that prevent achievement of water quality standards and use support in Georgia's waters.

Priorities for Action The list of waters in Appendix A has become a comprehensive list of waters for Georgia incorporating the information requested by Sections 305(b), 303(d), 314, and

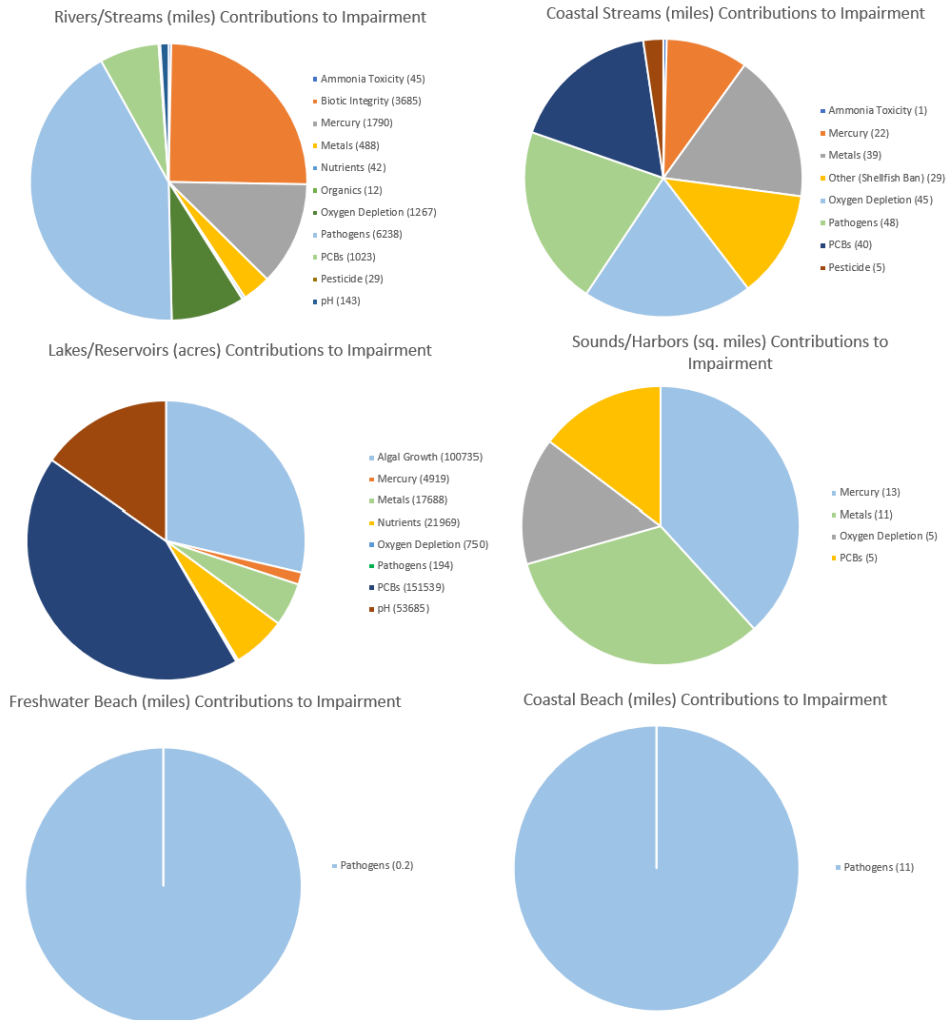
319 of the Federal CWA. Waters listed in Appendix A are active 305(b) waters. Lakes or reservoirs within these categories provide information requested in Section 314 of the CWA. Waters with nonpoint sources identified as a potential cause of a standards violation are considered to provide the information requested in the CWA Section 319 nonpoint assessment. The 303(d) list is made up of all waters within Category 5 in Appendix A. The proposed date for development of a TMDL for 303(d) waters is indicated within the priority column on the list of waters.

Georgia's Priority Waters Under U.S. EPA's Long-Term Vision In December 2013, USEPA released a new Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection of waters under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program. The document goes through 2022 and focuses on six elements: 1) Prioritization, 2) Assessment, 3) Protection, 4) Alternatives, 5) Engagement, and 6) Integration. According to USEPA, as part of the Prioritization element, states are to review, systematically prioritize, and report priority watersheds or waters for restoration and protection in their biennial integrated reports to facilitate strategic planning and maximize limited resources. Each state was to develop a Priority Framework and a list of priority waters for which the states would have a TMDL, TMDL alternative, or protection plan written for by 2022. EPD developed a [Priority Framework](#) in February 2015 and posted it on EPD's website.

FIGURE 3-3.
EVALUATION OF USE SUPPORT BY WATER BODY TYPE AND ASSESSMENT CATEGORY



**FIGURE 3-4.
CAUSES OF NONSUPPORT OF DESIGNATED USES BY WATER BODY TYPE
2022-2023**



The total mileage/acreage provided for each impairment category (e.g. Pathogens, Toxic Organics, Metals, etc.) is a summation of the mileage/acreage of all the waters impaired by one or more of the pollutants in the category.

FIGURE 3-5.
POTENTIAL SOURCES OF NONSUPPORT OF DESIGNATED USES BY WATER BODY TYPES 2022-2023



The total mileage/acres provided for each source category (e.g. Industrial, Municipal, Nonpoint, etc.) is a summation of the mileage/acres of all the waters impaired by one or more of the sources in the category.

EPD has consistently written TMDLs for impaired waters in a timely manner. EPD writes TMDLs on a five-year rotating river basin schedule. Because all river basins are reviewed in a 5-year period, a water is typically on the impaired list for no more than 5 years before a TMDL is written. Since Georgia did not need to

prioritize waters based on what TMDLs could be developed by 2022, EPD instead chose priority waters based on anticipated resource allocation. In particular, EPD assessed the following factors in selecting priority waters: impacts to public health, recreational use, interstate issues, national or regional USEPA priorities (like

reduction of nutrients), and stakeholder involvement in the area. Georgia identified the five groups of waters as priority waters.

1) Lake Lanier – Lake Lanier is composed of five segments. Only one of these segments (Lanier Lake – Browns Bridge Road (SR 369)) was on the 2012 303(d) list for chlorophyll *a*. However, the other four segments were added to the priority list and a TMDL for chlorophyll *a* was written for the entire lake. USEPA approved the Lake Lanier TMDL in 2017. The TMDL addressed nutrients, which are a National priority.

2) Carters Lake – Carters Lake is composed of two segments. Both were on the 2012 303(d) list for chlorophyll *a* and total phosphorus. Georgia put both segments of the lake on the priority list for each parameter and developed a TMDL to address them. USEPA approved the Carters Lake TMDL in 2016. This TMDL addressed nutrients, which are a National priority.

3) Savannah Harbor – This segment is impaired for DO. EPD is working with South Carolina DHEC and the Savannah River/Harbor Discharger Group to restore this water and has completed a TMDL alternative plan (5R). The Savannah Harbor Restoration Plan was developed in 2015.

4) Coosa River – A segment of the Coosa River was on the 2012 303(d) list for temperature. The cause of the temperature violation is known and will be addressed through direct implementation. A wasteload allocation for heat loads was developed and an NPDES permit was issued in 2019. The temperature impairment was removed on the 2024 305(b)/303(d) list of waters based on data from 2018-2023.

5) Four coastal beaches listed on the 2012 303(d) list for enterococci – Georgia chose to put these beaches on the priority list to address human health concerns. TMDLs were developed to address these impairments. USEPA approved these TMDLs in 2016 and 2017.

**Table 3-8.
List of Priority Waters**

Group	Water ID	Name/Location	Parameter of Concern	Approach to Address Parameter of Concern	Completed
Lake Lanier	GAR031300010819	Lanier Lake (Browns Bridge Road (SR 369))	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	TMDL	2018
	GAR031300010705	Lanier Lake (Bolling Bridge)	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Protection via TMDL	2018
	GAR031300010818	Lanier Lake (Lanier Bridge Road (SR53))	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Protection via TMDL	2018
	GAR031300010820	Lanier Lake (Flowery Branch)	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Protection via TMDL	2018
	GAR031300010821	Lanier Lake (Dam Pool)	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Protection via TMDL	2018
Carters Lake	GAR031501020406	Carters Lake (US Woodring Branch/Midlake)	Chlorophyll <i>a</i> & Phosphorus	TMDL	2016
	GAR031501020408	Carters Lake (Coosawattee River Embayment)	Chlorophyll <i>a</i> & Phosphorus	TMDL	2016
Savannah Harbor	GAR030601090318	Savannah Harbor (SR 25 (old US Hwy 17) to Elba Island Cut)	Dissolved Oxygen	TMDL Alternative (5R)	2016
Coosa River	GAR031501050209	Coosa River (Beach Creek to Stateline)	Temperature	Direct to Implementation	Permit issued 2019
Beaches	GAR030602040306	Kings Ferry County Park Beach (US Hwy 17 Kingsferry Bridge on Ogeechee River - Entire Beach)	Enterococci	TMDL	2016
	GAR030701060506	Reimolds Pasture Beach (Eastern Shore of Buttermilk Sound)	Enterococci	TMDL	2017
	GAR030702030230	Jekyll Island Clam Creek Beach (Clam Creek to Old North Picnic Area)	Enterococci	TMDL	2017
	GAR030702030415	Jekyll Island – St. Andrews Beach (Macy Lane to St. Andrews Picnic Area)	Enterococci	TMDL	2017

The timeline for the first Vision period ended in 2022. EPD completed 100% of plans for our Priority Waters tracked by EPA. Georgia also completed many other TMDLs during the first Vision period based on our rotating basin approach.

USEPA developed new Long-Term Vision Guidance documents and EPD has developed a new Priority Framework that will guide the decision process on what TMDLs, TMDL Alternatives, or Protection Plans will be prioritized. The new vision period will begin in 2024 and extend through 2032.

To bridge the time period from the end of the first and the start of the second Long-Term Vision, USEPA asked States to develop a list of Priority Waters for which TMDLs, TMDL Alternatives, or Protection Plans would be drafted in 2023 and 2024. During the “bridge period”, EPD focused on bacteria TMDLs. EPD changed the State’s bacteria criteria from fecal coliform to E. coli or enterococci for all designated uses in 2022. As part of this process, EPD completed all TMDLs for waters in Category 5 for fecal coliform. In addition, EPD developed a supplemental document for each existing TMDL for fecal coliform bacteria to address the new bacteria criteria (E. coli or enterococci) and provided appropriate TMDL and WLAs for the new bacteria criteria.

CHAPTER 4

Wetland Programs

Wetlands in Georgia Estimates of the total extent of Georgia's wetlands have varied from 4.9 to 7.7 million acres, including more than 600,000 acres of open water habitat found in estuarine, riverine, palustrine, and lacustrine environments. Estimates of wetland losses in the state from colonial times to the present range between 20-25% of the original wetland acreage.

Elevations within Georgia's boundaries range from sea level to 4,788 feet at Brasstown Bald in the Blue Ridge Mountain Province. At the higher elevations, significant, pristine cool water streams originate and flow down steep to moderate gradients until they encounter lower elevations of the Piedmont Province. Many of the major tributaries originating in the mountains and Piedmont have been impounded for hydropower and water supply reservoirs.

Georgia has approximately 100 miles of shoreline along the south Atlantic coast, with extensive tidal marshes separating barrier islands composed of Pleistocene and Holocene sediments from the mainland. Georgia's barrier islands and tidal marshes are considered to be well preserved compared to other South Atlantic states. Georgia's coastline and tidal marshes are managed under the Coastal Marshlands Protection and Shore Protection Acts of 1970 and 1979, respectively.

Some significant wetlands are associated with blackwater streams originating in the Coastal Plain, lime sinkholes, spring heads, Carolina bays, and the Okefenokee Swamp, a vast bog-swamp measuring approximately one-half million acres in South Georgia and north Florida.

The lower Coastal Plain has frequently been referred to as the Atlantic Coastal Flatwoods region, where seven tidal rivers headwater in the ancient shoreline terraces and sediments of Pleistocene age. Scattered throughout the flatwoods are isolated depressional wetlands and drainageways.

Due to considerable variation in the landscape in topography, hydrology, geology, soils, and climatic regime, Georgia has one of the highest

levels of biodiversity in the eastern United States. Georgia provides a diversity of habitats for nearly 4,000 vascular plant species and 1,000 vertebrate species. Many of the rarer species are dependent upon wetlands for survival.

Extent of Wetland Resources The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources have assessed Georgia's wetland resources. The NRCS is developing digital databases at the soil mapping unit level. Published soil surveys have proven useful in wetland delineation in the field and in the development of wetland inventories. County acreage summaries provide useful information on the distribution of wetlands across the state.

The [USFWS National Wetland Inventory \(NWI\)](#) utilizes soil survey information during photo-interpretation in the development of the 7.5 minute, 1:24,000 scale products of this nationwide wetland inventory effort. Wetlands are classified according to a system developed by Cowardin et al. (1979). Although not intended for use in jurisdictional determinations of wetlands, these products are invaluable for site surveys, trends analysis, and land use planning.

A complementary database, completed by Georgia DNR in 1991, was based on classification of Landsat TM satellite imagery. Due to the limitations of remote sensing technology, the classification scheme was simplified compared to the Cowardin system. The targeted accuracy level for the overall landcover assessment using Landsat imagery was 85%. However, the classification error was not necessarily distributed equally throughout all classes.

Similar Landsat-based landcover databases have been produced with more recent satellite imagery. The Federal government completed mapping in Georgia using imagery from the mid-1990s as part of the National Landcover Database. The Georgia Gap Analysis Program, supported in part by funding from Georgia DNR, completed an 18-class database using imagery from 1997-1999. Both these databases include wetland landcover classes. More recently, the Natural Resources Spatial Analysis Laboratory at the University of Georgia completed an updated landcover dataset using 2015 imagery. This

dataset is available from the [Georgia GIS Clearinghouse](#).

Additional habitats have been mapped through the [Georgia Coastal Land Conservation Initiative](#) that may be helpful in identifying wetlands. WRD botanists mapped the Nature Serve Classification of habitats for the 11 county coastal area in 2010.

NWI for Georgia's six coastal counties was updated by CRD using 2006 base imagery. A summary of wetland acreages derived from this database is as follows:

Wetland System: Class	Acreage
Marine Unconsolidated Shore	3,084
Estuarine: Emergent	351,236
Estuarine: Unconsolidated Shore	10,700
Estuarine: Scrub-Shrub	4,495
Estuarine: Forested	2,053
Lacustrine: Aquatic Bed	108
Lacustrine: Emergent	10
Lacustrine: Unconsolidated Shore	32
Palustrine: Forested	339,743
Palustrine: Emergent	52,511
Palustrine: Scrub-Shrub	30,899
Palustrine: Unconsolidated Bottom	8,242
Palustrine: Aquatic Bed	832
Palustrine: Unconsolidated Shore	193
Riverine: Unconsolidated Shore	90

The [full report](#) can be found on CRD's website and the data from NWI can be found at www.fws.gov.

CRD also produced an NWI Plus database, which adds additional descriptors to the updated NWI dataset and provides a functional component to wetlands in the six coastal counties. CRD rated wetlands as either a High Potential, Moderate Potential, or Low to No Potential for 11 functions. In addition, CRD completed an Impacted Wetland Inventory that identified, assessed, and inventoried impacted wetlands in the six coastal counties. The project area included all estuarine, marine and tidal fresh wetlands, as delineated by the NWI updates completed in 2009, based on 2006 base imagery.

Any of the wetland related data can be viewed at [CRD's wetland restoration portal](#). For more information about the dataset, contact CRD.

Wetland Trends in Georgia The loss of wetlands is of increasing concern because of associated adverse impacts to flood control, water quality, aquatic wildlife habitat, rare and endangered species habitat, aesthetics, and recreation. Historically, wetlands were treated as "wastelands" that needed "improvement". Today, "swamp reclamation" acts are no longer funded or approved by Congress and wetland losses are in part lessened. However, Georgia lacks accurate assessments for historic losses in wetland acreages.

Wetlands cover an estimated 20 percent of Georgia. This total includes approximately 368,000 acres of estuarine wetlands and 7.3 million acres of palustrine wetlands (forested wetlands, scrub-shrub, and emergent). Georgia has lost wetlands through conversion, as well as timber harvesting. Despite these losses, Georgia still retains the highest percentage of pre-colonial wetland acreage of any southeastern state.

Acceptable uses of wetlands include:

- Timber production and harvesting
- Wildlife and fisheries management
- Wastewater treatment
- Recreation

Wetland Monitoring The State maintains monitoring and enforcement procedures for estuarine marshes under authority of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act of 1970. Over-flights are made of the Georgia coastline to locate potential violations. Restoration is recommended by staff and penalties are provided for in the Act.

CRD monitors shorelines along tidal creeks to quantify habitat use and restoration of shorelines. Every five years, CRD monitors sea level rise impacts to coastal marshlands and associated upland habitats. CRD partnered with WRD in 2012 to initiate this monitoring at nine locations distributed throughout the coastal counties. These sites will continue to be monitored every 5 years as long-term monitoring stations. In 2022, CRD and WRD conducted the 10 year follow-up survey, collecting vegetation, elevation, and salinity data at each of the nine sites. CRD also participates in periodic National Wetlands Condition Assessment (NWCA) efforts coordinated by the USEPA. In 2021, the USEPA identified 27 wetland sites

across the state of Georgia to be included in the NWCA and CRD conducted field data collection for nine tidal marsh sites.

In 2011, EPD initiated a wetland monitoring and assessment program that uses an ecoregion-level approach. The goal of the program is to develop appropriate wetland assessment protocols. To date, 90 wetland sites within five ecoregions have been selected and monitored using various protocols, including National Wetlands Condition Assessment (NWCA) protocols. In 2022 and 2023, wetland monitoring continued with focus on assessment of wetland hydric soil characteristics correlated to groundwater hydrology conditions occurring in terrain gradients extending from central wetland areas through transitional border zones toward adjacent uplands at study sites established within several DNR Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs); wetland assessment investigations also continued at a number of long-established GDOT wetland mitigation sites. In 2020, monitoring was established at reference quality wetland habitats situated within five DNR Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) selected from statewide candidate sites. Across these five WMA, 8 to 10 hydric soil/groundwater well stations per WMA were established in transects or arrays in terrain that transition from wetland to upland. A total of 43 hydric soil/groundwater stations were established in this effort, employing 2-foot deep hydric soil profiles and 3-foot deep groundwater well placements. Groundwater wells were equipped with automated water pressure/depth recording devices (HOBO units), which have up to a 5-year lifespan, allowing for long term groundwater assessment correlated to rainfall patterns. In separate but similar work, in 2021, assessment of hydrology, soils, and vegetation began at various statewide wetland restoration and creation sites that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) established approximately 20 to 30 years ago under terms of Corps of Engineers 404 permit wetland mitigation requirements. A total of 14 wetland mitigation sites were assessed, including eight wetland creation sites and six wetland restoration sites. At wetland creation sites, borrow earthwork material for roadbed construction had been excavated adjacent to natural wetland/stream systems in a manner intended to generate wetland hydrology conditions. Wetland restoration projects were generally situated on lands that had previously been ditched/draind and converted to

agricultural or silvicultural use and where GDOT performed hydrology restoration by backfilling of drainage ditches and performed vegetation restoration by planting of wetland adapted tree/shrub vegetation. At these 14 GDOT wetland mitigation sites EPD established 59 hydric soil profile stations, placed 54 recording groundwater wells, and performed quantitative vegetation sampling of planted and naturally recruited tree specimens in more than 115 tenth to quarter acre vegetation plots. Wetland monitoring in Georgia, to the extent possible, is being coordinated with work being conducted by other Region 4 states within the same ecoregions.

Wetland Permitting In 2011, EPD formed a Wetlands Unit to review projects and issue 401 Water Quality Certifications (WQCs) for federal permits and licenses, help oversee the compensatory mitigation program, and advance EPD's wetlands program. During 2022-2023, EPD issued eighty-nine (89) 401 WQCs. Three of those 401 WQCs were for GDOT projects.

All dredge and fill activities in freshwater wetlands are regulated in Georgia by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Joint permit procedures between the USACE and DNR, including public notices, are carried out in Georgia. Separate permits for alterations to salt marsh and the State's water bottoms are issued by the Coastal Marshlands Protection Committee, a State permitting authority. Enforcement is carried out by the State, USACE and USEPA in tidal waters, and by USACE and USEPA in freshwater systems.

Throughout Georgia, wetlands are granted special consideration in local planning processes under the Georgia Planning Act and the Department of Community Affairs Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning. Specifically, landuse plans must address the following wetlands considerations:

- 1) Whether the area is unique or significant in the conservation of flora and fauna including threatened, rare or endangered species.
- 2) Whether alteration or impacts to wetlands will adversely affect the function, including the flow or quality of water, cause erosion or shoaling, or impact navigation.

3) Whether impacts or modification by a project would adversely affect fishing or recreational use of wetlands.

4) Whether an alteration or impact would be temporary in nature.

5) Whether alteration of wetlands would have measurable adverse impacts on adjacent sensitive natural areas.

6) Where wetlands have been created for mitigation purposes under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, such wetlands shall be considered for protection.

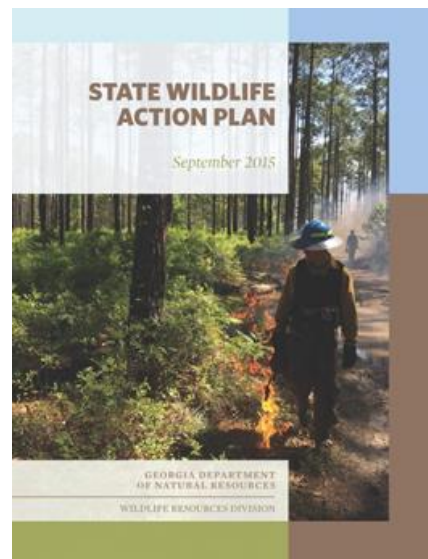
Wetland Protection Georgia protects its wetlands through land acquisition, public education, land use planning, regulatory programs, and wetland restoration. Additional wetlands protection is provided either directly or indirectly by the following statutes:

- Coastal Marshlands Protection Act
- Shore Protection Act
- Water Quality Control Act
- Ground Water Use Act
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act
- Metropolitan Rivers Protection Act
- Georgia Planning Act

Education and Public Outreach The Georgia EPD Adopt-A-Stream program has contracted with UGA Marine Extension and to coordinate the Coastal Georgia [Adopt-A-Wetland Program](#) from Skidaway Island, just outside of Savannah. Funding is through an EPA Wetland Program Development Grant. The goals of the program are to educate the public on the importance of wetlands, increase public awareness of water quality issues, train citizens to monitor and protect wetlands and collect baseline wetland health data.

CRD, in collaboration with the Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for Geographic Information Systems, has developed two interactive web portals: Georgia Coastal and Marine Planner (GCAMP) and Georgia Wetlands Restoration Access Portal (G-WRAP). These portals are designed to provide information on the Georgia coast to regulators, planners, and the public. Both portals are available through CRD's website at <http://coastalgadnr.org/CMPWebMaps>.

State Wildlife Action Plan Georgia's [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) is a statewide strategy to conserve populations of native wildlife species and their habitats before these species become more challenging to conserve. The Plan identifies high priority species and habitats in Georgia, describes problems affecting these species and habitats, and outlines specific research, conservation, and monitoring needs to maintain the state's wildlife diversity. The plan identifies the protection of wetland and aquatic habitats as a critical wildlife conservation need.



CHAPTER 5

Estuary and Coastal Programs

Background Georgia DNR CRD manages Georgia's coastal resources. CRD's Coastal Management Section administers Georgia's Coastal Management Program and its enforceable authorities, manages Georgia's shellfish harvest program, and conducts water quality and wetlands monitoring based on specific grants and programmatic requirements.

CRD's Marine Fisheries Section manages Georgia's marine fisheries, balancing the long-term health of fish populations with the needs of those who fish for commercial and recreational purposes. The Section conducts scientific surveys of marine organisms and their habitats; collects harvest and fishing effort information; and assesses, restores and enhances fish habitats; along with other responsibilities. WRD and GAEPD each play additional roles to manage resources in the Georgia coastal environment.

Georgia Coastal Management Program

Recognizing the economic importance of environmentally sensitive coastal areas, the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 encourages states to balance sustainable development with resource protection in their coastal zone. As an incentive, the federal government awards states financial assistance to develop and implement coastal zone management programs that fulfill the guidelines established by the Act. Georgia entered this national framework in 1998 upon the approval of the Georgia Coastal Management Program (GCMP) by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Financial assistance under the federal grant to the GCMP has been used, in part, to support the Shellfish and Water Quality Monitoring Program described below.

The [Coastal Management Program](#) has provided guidance and technical assistance to improve coastal water quality in general, the development of a [Coastal Non-Point Source Control Program](#) in particular. Under the Coastal Zone Management Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990, Congress added a section entitled

"Protecting Coastal Waters." That section directs states with federally approved coastal management programs to develop a Coastal NonPoint Source (NPS) Program. The Coastal NPS Program is the summary of the full set of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches the State of Georgia uses to control runoff from nonpoint sources, such as agriculture, forestry, and development, into the State's coastal marshlands, wetlands, and beaches. The Coastal NPS Program is required by NOAA and EPA for all coastal states that participate in the Coastal Zone Management Program. In Georgia, the Coastal NPS Program is limited to the 11 coastal counties. The Coastal NPS Program is part of the Georgia's Statewide NPS Program, and GAEPD and CRD partner to implement the program.

Shellfish and Water Quality Monitoring Program

The CRD conducts water quality monitoring in estuarine and near-shore coastal waters through its [Shellfish and Water Quality Monitoring Program](#). This Program has two distinct parts: Shellfish Sanitation and Beach Water Quality Monitoring Programs. Both are based on public health.

Shellfish Sanitation Program

CRD's Shellfish Sanitation Program monitors the quality of Georgia's shellfish harvest waters for harmful bacteria that might affect the safety of shellfish for human consumption. Seven harvest areas are designated for recreational picking of oysters and clams by the general public. An additional 21 harvest areas are designated for the commercial harvest of oysters and clams.

The US Food and Drug Administration's National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) establishes national standards to show that shellfish harvest areas are "not subject to contamination from human and/or animal fecal matter in amounts that in the judgment of the State Shellfish Control Authority may present an actual or potential hazard to public health." Water samples from each approved harvest area are collected by CRD and analyzed regularly to ensure the area is below the established fecal coliform threshold. Waters approved for shellfish harvest must have a geometric mean that does not exceed the threshold set forth by the NSSP.

**TABLE 5-1.
LOCATION AND SIZE OF AREAS APPROVED FOR
SHELLFISH HARVEST**

County	Approved	Leased	Public
Chatham	16,512 acres	0 acres	1,267 acres
Bryan/Liberty	45,289 acres	1,933 acres	936 acres
McIntosh	44,915 acres	14,515 acres	1,974 acres
Glynn/Camden	29,324 acres	1,856 acres	4,355 acres

Water quality sampling occurs monthly at 82 stations in five counties on the coast: Chatham, Liberty, McIntosh, Glynn, and Camden counties. These stations are located to provide representative coverage of all the approved harvest areas along the coast.

Beach Monitoring Program The [Beach Monitoring Program](#) was developed in response to the federal Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000. The BEACH Act is an amendment to the Federal Clean Water Act. The Act requires states to: 1) identify and prioritize their coastal recreational beaches; 2) monitor the beaches for the presence of the bacterial indicator enterococcus; 3) notify the public when the EPA threshold for enterococcus has been exceeded; and 4) report the location, monitoring, and notification data to EPA.

Georgia's recreational beaches have been identified and prioritized into three tiers based on their use and proximity to potential pollution sources. Tier 1 beaches are high-use beaches. Tier 2 beaches are lower-use beaches. Tier 3 beaches are lowest-use or at low probability for potential pollution. Water quality sampling occurs regularly depending upon the tier: Tier 1 beaches are monitored weekly, March through November, and every other week for December through February; Tier 2 beaches are monitored monthly from April through October, and Tier 3 beaches are not monitored. Beaches that exceed the threshold for enterococcus are put under a swimming advisory that is not lifted until the levels of bacteria are sufficiently reduced, based on resampling. Beaches under a permanent swimming advisory are monitored quarterly.

Twenty-eight (28) coastal beaches are monitored and 17 beaches support their designated uses. Three beaches are under permanent swimming advisory and do not support their designated uses for enterococci; two of these beaches are located on Jekyll Island at St Andrews picnic area and at Clam Creek and one beach is the Kings Ferry beach located on the Ogeechee River in Chatham County. Eight (8) other beaches are not supporting their designated use based on data from 2018-2023. These beaches include Jekyll Island Driftwood Beach, Saint Simons Massengale Park Beach, Saint Simons Island – Middle Beach (aka East Beach Old Coast Guard Station), Saint Simons Island – 5th Street Crossover Beach, Saint Simons Island - North Beach at Goulds Inlet, Saint Simons Island South Beach at the lighthouse, Tybee Island – Polk Street Beach, and Tybee Island – Strand Beach at Pier.

Coastal Streams, Harbors, and Sounds

Several water bodies have been shown to have low DO readings over discrete periods of time during an annual cycle. EPD has categorized these streams as needing further assessment. There are 13 coastal streams or sound/harbors listed for low DO. There are 43 streams in Category 3 for DO. These low DO readings typically occurred in the late summer and early fall and may be natural. To more accurately represent and report on natural DO levels in coastal water bodies, additional directed effort will be required at each location to increase the general state of knowledge for these estuarine systems.

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

CRD has several projects that produce information used to determine the status of commercially and recreationally important fish, crustaceans, and mollusks. The [Ecological Monitoring Survey \(EMS\)](#) conducts monthly assessment trawls (blue crabs, shrimp, and beginning in 2003, finfish) in the Wassaw, Ossabaw, Sapelo, St. Simons, St. Andrew and Cumberland estuaries. Data from this survey are used to describe the abundance, size composition, and reproductive status of penaeid shrimp and blue crab. In addition, information collected on finfish and other invertebrate species since 2003 provides a broad ecologically based evaluation of species' abundance, distribution, and diversity in these estuaries. These data have been used in regional

stock assessments for menhaden and southern flounder.

The [Marine Sportfish Population Health Survey](#) (MSPHS) uses gill and trammel nets to capture recreational finfish in the Wassaw, St. Andrew, and Altamaha River Sounds from June to November. These data have been used in regional stock assessments for red drum, and black drum.

Started in 2006, the Coastal Longline Survey (CLS) uses a half-mile longline with 60 hooks to sample adult red drum and coastal shark species. Sampling is conducted in nearshore and offshore waters from Doboy Sound to the St. Mary's River. These data have been used in regional stock assessments for red drum, and coastal shark species.

The Fisheries Statistics Work Unit collects catch and effort information from the recreational and commercial fisheries in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Total annual commercial landings in Georgia ranged from 5.66 to 19.04 million pounds of product during the period from 2013 to 2022, with an annual average of 10.01 million pounds.

Penaeid shrimps are the most valuable catch in Georgia commercial landings, averaging \$9.96 million (2.22 million pounds of tails) in unadjusted, ex-vessel value during recent years. Catches are composed primarily of white shrimp (*Penaeus setiferus*) during the fall, winter and spring, and brown shrimp (*Penaeus aztecus*) during the summer. These shrimp spawn in oceanic waters but depend on the salt marsh wetlands to foster their juvenile and sub-adult stages.

White shrimp landings have varied over the last 50 years with a recent downward trend due to declining fishing effort. Research has shown that densities of spawning stock respond strongly to cold air outbreaks during the early winter that can produce wide scale kills of white shrimp, and to a suite of environmental variables impacting the salt marsh ecosystem that produce a range of growing conditions. Cold weather kills have been associated with abnormally cold winters in 1984, 1989, 2000, and 2018. Abnormally high rainfall in summer 2013 may have contributed to low recruitment and a high occurrence of black-gill syndrome resulting in a low abundance of white shrimp available to harvesters.

Blue crabs live longer than penaeid shrimps (3-4 years versus 1-2 years) and exhibit fewer extreme fluctuations in annual abundance from one year to the next. The 10-year average (2013 – 2022) of commercial blue crab harvest was 3.57 million pounds with an ex-vessel value of \$5.21 million. A severe drought from 1998 to 2002 reduced annual harvest to 80% of the long-term average. That drought resulted in a reduction in the quantity of oligohaline and mesohaline areas within Georgia's estuaries. This effect was more pronounced in estuaries that did not receive direct freshwater inflow from rivers. It is believed this altered salinity profile resulted in: 1) higher blue crab predation; 2) increased prevalence of the fatal disease caused by the organism, *Hematodinium sp*; 3) reduction in the quantity of oligohaline nursery habitat and 4) recruitment failure. Blue crab harvest and fishery independent estimates of abundance continue to be low – most likely being driven by environmental variables.

Commercial finfish landings fluctuate annually depending on market conditions and the impacts of management. American shad populations in the Altamaha River have fluctuated over the past 30 years. Since 2001, effort estimates have been collected using a trip ticket system with effort being recorded as the number of trips for both the set and drift gill net fisheries. Previously, anecdotal evidence indicated participation in the American shad fishery was declining. However, licensing requirements that were implemented in 2014 (Letter of Authorization) and 2018 (license endorsement in lieu of the Letter) may correlate with an increase in participation that is demonstrated in the landings data. The 10-year average (2013 - 2022) of shad trips is 220 with a high of 332 and a low of 78. Regulations enacted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Fishery Management Plan on American Shad (Amendment 3), mandated additional monitoring efforts. Additionally, sustainability plans were required of any water system where commercial fishing is conducted. In Georgia, only the Altamaha, Ogeechee, and Savannah Rivers have commercial fisheries. The commercial fishery on the Ogeechee is very small, with effort averaging less than 10 reported trips, landings averaging less than 500 lbs, and participation averaging less than 3 fisherman. No effort has been reported since 2011 and as such,

the fishery has remained closed in recent years. By contrast, the Altamaha accounts for most of the harvest and reported trips.

CHAPTER 6

Public Health & Aquatic Life Issues

Risk-Based Assessment for Fish Consumption

In 1995, Georgia began issuing tiered recommendations for fish consumption. [Georgia's Fish Consumption Guidelines](#) are "risk-based" and conservatively developed using available scientific information regarding likely intake rates of fish and toxicity values for the detected contaminants. Under the guidelines, each species receives one of four, recommendations for each location: No Restriction, Limit Consumption to One Meal Per Week, Limit Consumption to One Meal Per Month, or Do Not Eat. In 2023, 54.1% of recommendations for fish tested in Georgia waters were No Restriction, 29.3% were Limit Consumption to One Meal Per Week, 13.4% were Limit Consumption to One Meal Per Month, and 3.2% were Do Not Eat.

This information is also provided annually in Georgia's Freshwater and Saltwater Fishing Regulations, which is available [online](#) and in print from DNR and supplied with each fishing license purchased. This information is also updated annually in the DNR publication [Guidelines for Eating Fish from Georgia Waters](#). These guidelines are designed to protect you from experiencing health problems associated with eating contaminated fish. It should be noted that these guidelines are based on the best scientific information and procedures available. As more advanced procedures are developed these guidelines may change.

PCBs, chlordane, dieldrin, DDT and methylmercury build up in your body over time. It may take months or years of regularly eating contaminated fish to accumulate levels that would affect your health. It is important to keep in mind that these guidelines are based on eating fish with similar contamination over a period of 30 years or more. These guidelines are not intended to discourage people from eating fish, but to help fishermen choose safe fish for eating.

Of the 46 constituents tested, only antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, dieldrin, heptachlor epoxide, mercury, PCBs, selenium, thallium, and toxaphene have been found in fish at

concentration above what may be safely consumed at an unlimited amount or frequency.

Fish Consumption Guidelines Georgia has more than 44,000 miles of perennial streams and more than 421,000 acres of lakes. Georgia DNR cannot sample every waterbody in the State, so DNR focuses on public areas that are frequented by a large number of anglers. The 26 major reservoirs of Georgia make up more than 90% of the total lake acreage. These lakes are high priority and monitored to track any trends in fish contaminant levels. DNR also prioritizes sampling fish in rivers and streams downstream of urban and/or industrial areas and in the coastal estuaries. In addition, several small lakes less than 500 acres that are heavily used by anglers are also monitored.

The general contaminants program includes testing tissue samples from edible fish and shellfish for the substances listed in Table 6-1.

**TABLE 6-1.
PARAMETERS FOR FISH TISSUE TESTING**

Antimony	a-BHC	HCB
Arsenic	b-BHC	Heptachlor
Beryllium	d-BHC	Heptachlor Epoxide
Cadmium	g-BHC (Lindane)	Methoxychlor
Chromium, Total	g-Chlordane	Mirex
Copper	Chlordane, Total	PCB-1016
Lead	Chlorpyrifos	PCB-1221
Mercury	4,4-DDD	PCB-1232
Nickel	4,4-DDE	PCB-1242
Selenium	4,4-DDT	PCB-1248
Silver	Dieldrin	PCB-1254
Thallium	Endosulfan I	PCB-1260
Zinc	Endosulfan II	PCB-1268
Aldrin	Endosulfan Sulfate	Pentachloroanisole
a-Chlordane	Endrin	Toxaphene
	Endrin Aldehyde	

The use of PCBs, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, heptachlor epoxide, and toxaphene have been banned in the United States, and, over time, the levels of these chemicals in the environment are expected to decline. Currently there are no restricted consumption recommendations due to chlordane or DDT. However, Proctor Creek in Atlanta has restrictions due to dieldrin and heptachlor epoxide and along the coast, Terry and Dupree Creeks have restrictions due to toxaphene and heptachlor epoxide. Approximately 22% of the restrictions are due to historic PCBs.

In 1995, USEPA updated guidance on mercury in response to documented increased risks of consuming fish with mercury. The DNR reassessed all mercury data and added consumption guidelines in 1996 for several waterbodies, which had no restrictions in 1995. Georgia's 2023 guidance reflects the continued use of the more stringent USEPA risk level for mercury. The 2023 Fish Consumption Guidelines indicate that mercury is the leading cause of fish consumption restrictions in Georgia. In freshwater lakes, rivers, and streams, over 75% of the restrictions are the results of mercury. The lake data indicate there are more restrictions in the larger (>16") fish.

In estuarine waters, fish consumption restrictions are due to a variety of chemicals. The chemicals that are most frequently result in restrictions include PCBs, thallium, arsenic, antimony, and mercury.

Evaluation of Fish Consumption Guidance for Assessment of Use Support USEPA guidance for evaluating fish consumption advisory information for 305(b)/303(d) listings has been used to assess a waterbody as fully supporting uses if fish can be consumed in unlimited amounts. A water is not supporting its designated use if consumption is limited or not recommended. This risk-based assessment methodology is used for all fish contaminants except mercury. For mercury, if the trophic-weighted fish community tissue mercury is in excess of the water quality criteria of 0.3 µg/g wet weight total mercury, then the water is listed as impaired.

General Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks

The following suggestions may help to reduce the risks of fish consumption:

Keep smaller fish for eating. Generally, larger, older fish may be more contaminated than younger, smaller fish. You can minimize your health risk by eating smaller fish (within legal size limits) and releasing the larger fish.

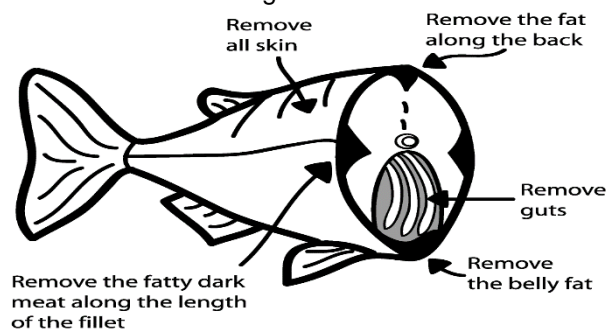
Vary the kinds of fish you eat. Contaminants build up in large predators and bottom-feeding fish, like bass and catfish, more rapidly than in other species. By substituting a few meals of panfish, such as perch, sunfish, and Crappie, you can reduce your risk.

Eat smaller meals when you eat big fish and eat them less often. If you catch a big fish, freeze part of the catch and space the meals from this fish over a longer period of time.

Clean and cook your fish properly. How you clean and cook your fish can reduce the level of contaminants by as much as half in some fish. Some chemicals have a tendency to concentrate in the fatty tissues. Removing the fish's skin and trimming fillets properly according to the diagram below, can reduce the level of contaminants substantially. Mercury, however, is bound to the meat of the fish, so these precautions will not help reduce mercury contamination.

Remove the skin from fillets or steaks. The skin is often high in fat and contaminants.

Trim off the fatty areas. These include the belly fat, side or body fat, and the flesh along the top of the back. Careful trimming can reduce some



contaminants by 25 to 50%. Internal organs (intestines, liver, roe, and so forth) are also high in fat and contaminants.

Cook fish so fat drips away. Broil, bake, or grill fish and do not use the drippings. Deep-fat frying removes some contaminants, but you should not reuse the oil for cooking. Pan frying removes few, if any, contaminants.

Special Notice for Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers, and Children If you plan to become pregnant in the next year or two, are pregnant now, or are a nursing mother, you and your children under 6 years of age are especially sensitive to the effects of some contaminants. For added protection, women in these categories and children may wish to limit consumption to a greater extent than recommended.

The College of Family and Consumer Sciences, Cooperative Extension Services, University of Georgia and the Chemical Hazards Program, Georgia Department of Public Health collaborated with DNR to develop *A Woman's Guide to Eating Fish*. These simple brochures provide specific information targeted to women of child-bearing age and children for four areas of Georgia: Coastal Georgia; Coosa, Etowah, and Oostanaula Rivers; North Georgia; and Central and South Georgia. These [brochures](#) are available in both English and Spanish and can be found on the DNR website. The information will be updated as needed.

Mercury in Fish Trend Project Mercury is a naturally occurring metal that cycles between the land, water, and air. As mercury cycles through the environment, plants and animals absorb and ingest it. States across the southeast and the nation have detected mercury in fish at levels that have resulted in limits on fish consumption. The source of mercury in Georgia's fish is most likely due to atmospheric deposition.

Mercury may be naturally occurring, such as in South Georgia swamps, or from anthropogenic sources, such as municipal or industrial sources or fossil fuels. Mercury contamination is related to global atmospheric transport. USEPA has evaluated the sources of mercury loading to several river basins in Georgia as part of TMDL development and has determined that 99% or greater of the total mercury loading to these waters occurs via atmospheric deposition.

In response to regulatory actions requiring reductions in air emissions of mercury, DNR recognized the need to establish a mercury in fish trend network to provide data that could be used to evaluate potential changes that may result in fish body burdens. In 2006, 22 stations were established based on proximity to major air-emission sources (coal-fired electric generating units and a chlor-alkali plant), waters with TMDLs for mercury in fish, and State boundaries for out-of-state sources. A designated predator species is monitored annually, and the fish tissue is analyzed for mercury. The field work for this study was completed in 2020.

In December 2023, a report was prepared for the DNR Board. Water quality criterion for methylmercury in edible fish tissue was developed to protect human health and aquatic life and is 0.3

milligrams of mercury per kilogram of fish tissue (mg/kg). When evaluating the data, EPD noticed that over the course of the study, eleven sampling sites met the criterion at both the beginning and end of the study; three sampling sites failed to meet the criterion at the beginning of the study, but did so by the end of the study; seven sampling sites failed to meet the criterion at the beginning of the study and at the end of the study, and one sampling site met the water quality criterion at the beginning of the study, but no longer met the criterion at the end of the study. A downward trend in fish tissue mercury concentrations was observed at seven trend sites. This downward trend was most prominent in the black water sites where there were higher overall fish tissue mercury concentrations at the beginning of the study. The steady downward trend of fish tissue mercury concentrations in the black water sites shows that the mercury emissions reductions benefit these waters the most. It is recommended as part of the fish consumption guideline monitoring program, that fish samples continue to be collected from the blackwater sites and the sites at or above the mercury water quality criterion every ten years and the results from this sampling will be included in the Guidelines for Eating Fish From Georgia Waters booklet.

Recreational Public Beach Monitoring USACE conducts *E. coli* monitoring at its reservoir bathing beaches in Georgia. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Georgia Power, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and counties and cities throughout the state also conduct some sampling at the public beaches they operate.

The USGS, along with the National Park Service, Cobb County Water System, City of Roswell, Chattahoochee RiverKeeper, and the Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy, operate the [BacteriALERT](#) website. The website provides users of the Chattahoochee River and citizens of Atlanta with real-time predictions of *E. coli* bacteria concentrations for three sites on the Chattahoochee River using turbidity as an indicator. Estimating bacteria concentrations from turbidity is a new and inexact analysis, and the statistical model that ties the two together is not a simple linear correlation.

DNR Parks conducts weekly *E. coli* monitoring at the 24 State Park lake swimming beaches listed in Table 6-2 during the summertime recreational season.

Table 6-2. DNR State Park Beaches

A.H. Stephens State Park Group Camp Beach
Don Carter State Park
Elijah Clark State Park
FDR State Park
Fort Mountain State Park
Fort Yargo State Park
George T. Bagby State Park and Lodge
Georgia Veterans State Park
Hard Labor Creek State Park: Camp Daniel Morgan Beach
Hard Labor Creek State Park: Camp Rutledge Beach
Hard Labor Creek State Park: Day Use Camp Beach
Kolomoki Mounds State Historic Park
Laura Walker State Park Day Use
Little Ocmulgee State Lodge Park
Mistletoe State Park
Red Top Mountain State Park and Lodge
Reed Bingham State Park
Richard B. Russell State Park
Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area
Seminole State Park
Tallulah Gorge State Park
Tugaloo State Park
Unicoi State Park Day Use Beach
Vogel State Park

DNR set a Beach Action Value of 252 counts/100 mL, which is two-times the primary recreational water quality criteria for *E. coli.*, for triggering a post of a swim advisory. Swim advisories are also posted if the recreational water quality criteria for *E. coli.* (a 30-day geometric mean of 126 counts/100 mL) is exceeded based on a rolling 30-day period). If this should occur, a second sample is immediately collected and based on the results the swim advisory will be withdrawn or remain in effect until the Beach Action Value or water quality criteria are met. In 2022, five swim advisories were issued, two of which lasted for more than one week. During the 2023 recreational season, nine swim advisories were posted at seven lake beaches, one which lasted for more than one week, one which lasted three days, and all other postings were for two days.

CRD conducts [enterococcus monitoring](#) at public coastal beaches and other recreationally used estuarine locations, such as boat ramps and sandbars. Using a Beach Action Value of 70 counts/100, twice the primary recreational water quality criteria for enterococci, CRD works with the local County Health Departments in issuance of swimming advisories. During the 2022

recreational season, there were forty-three (43) swim advisories, six which lasted for more than one week and of those six, three beaches are under a permanent advisory. During 2023, there were sixty-five (65) swim advisories, eight which lasted for more than one week and of those eight, three beaches are under a permanent advisory.

Shellfish Area Closures Georgia’s one hundred linear mile coastline contains approximately 500,000 acres of potential shellfish habitat. Most shellfish in Georgia grow in the narrow intertidal zone and are exposed between high water and low water tide periods. Only a limited portion of that area produces viable shellfish populations. Lack of suitable cultch, tidal amplitudes, disease, littoral slope, and other unique geomorphologic features contribute to the limited occurrence of natural shellfish resources along the Georgia Coast.

CRD currently monitors and maintains five shellfish growing areas comprising commercial leases and public recreational harvest areas. Shellfish waters on the Georgia coast are classified as “Approved” or “Prohibited” in accordance with the criteria of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. Specific zones within shellfish growing areas may be closed to shell fishing because of the proximity to a marina or a municipal or industrial discharge.

Georgia maintains approximately 33,000 acres approved for the harvest of shellfish for commercial and/or personal consumption. Only those areas designated as [Public Recreational Harvest](#) or those areas under commercial lease are classified as “Approved for shellfish harvest.” Shellfish growing area waters are monitored regularly to ensure that these areas remain in compliance with FDA fecal coliform thresholds. All other waters of the state are classified as “Prohibited” and are closed to the taking of shellfish. It is important to note that, even though some of these areas could potentially meet the criteria to allow for harvesting, they have been classified as “Prohibited” due to the lack of available water quality data.

Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae) Blooms

Cyanobacteria blooms are an increasing concern for Georgia. Cyanobacteria occur naturally in low abundance in Georgia’s lakes and reservoirs. However, cyanobacteria blooms can cause a variety of water quality issues, including the

potential to produce toxins and taste-and-odor compounds.

In 2019, EPA released concentration recommendations for two cyanotoxins, microcystins (8 µg/L) and cylindrospermopsin (15 µg/L). EPA's guidance recommended that states either adopt these criteria into their water quality standards or use them to implement swim advisories.

On April 16, 2021, EPD facilitated an interagency meeting to discuss Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and the 2019 EPA recommended cyanotoxin criteria. The virtual meeting was attended by academic researchers, lake managers, and state and federal agencies with public/human health interest. Researchers presented on various aspects of HAB monitoring and management. These presentations were followed by a valuable discussion with the lake managers about developing a standard sampling protocol that could be used to help determine when to post swim advisories related to HABs.

EPD developed a [Story Map](#) to provide the public with information on HABs, what HABs are, their impacts, what should you do if you see a potential HABs, what causes HABs, and how to reduce their occurrence. EPD also developed and distributed an informational flyer to be posted at beaches by lake managers. The posted fliers inform the public on conditions to watch for and how to contact the appropriate agency if a bloom is identified. Recreators and their pets are instructed to avoid contact with water when blooms might be present. EPD is working on developing additional signage to raise public awareness of potential HABs.

In 2024, EPD monitoring staff began checking EPA's [Cyanobacteria Assessment Network \(CyAN\)](#) website regularly for blooms for 28 Georgia lakes. CyAN uses satellite imagery to detect algal blooms and is updated regularly. Monitoring staff will use this information to identify potential locations for cyanotoxin testing and will be collecting data to verify the CYAN website.

EPD is working on a HABs response plan that includes protocol for monitoring and sampling when blooms are reported, as well as guidance for lake managers, EPD, and WRD to make coordinated decisions regarding swim advisories to protect human and animal health.

CHAPTER 7

Watershed Protection Programs

Program Perspective The first major legislation to deal with water pollution control in Georgia was passed in 1957. This legislation was ineffective and was replaced by the Water Quality Control Act of 1964. This Act established the Georgia Water Quality Control Board, the predecessor of the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources which was established in 1972. Early efforts by the Board in the late 1960's and early 1970's included documenting water quality conditions, cleaning up targeted pollution problems, establishing water use classifications and water quality standards, initiating trend monitoring, and implementing a state construction grants program.

In 1972, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, also known as the Clean Water Act (CWA) was enacted by Congress. The CWA launched the national objective to provide "for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and provide for recreation in and on the water." The CWA established the NPDES permit system for regulation of municipal (domestic) and industrial water pollution control plants, a water use classifications and standards process, and a construction grants process to fund the construction of municipal water pollution control facilities.

Most industries in Georgia had installed water pollution control facilities by the end of 1972. In the mid/late 1970's emphasis was placed on the design and construction of municipal facilities through the federal Construction Grants Program. First and second round NPDES permits were negotiated and operation and maintenance, compliance monitoring, and enforcement programs were initiated. Basin planning, trend monitoring, intensive surveys, modeling and wasteload allocation work was well underway.

In 1987, Congress made significant changes to the CWA. The federal Water Quality Act of 1987 placed increased emphasis on toxic substances,

control of nonpoint source pollution, and clean lakes, wetlands and estuaries. The Act required all states to evaluate their water quality standards and adopt numeric criteria for toxic substances to protect aquatic life and public health, which EPD initiated and completed in the late 1980s. The Act also required each state to evaluate nonpoint source pollution impacts and develop a management plan to deal with documented problems. Georgia's initial *Nonpoint Source Assessment Report* was approved by USEPA in January 1990. This report, *Water Quality in Georgia*, serves as the process to update the *Nonpoint Source Assessment Report*. EPD then completed the first nonpoint source management plan in the late 1990s.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Georgia General Assembly passed several laws that set the agenda for EPD in the early 1990s, such as the Growth Strategies Act, which protects sensitive watersheds, wetlands, and groundwater recharge areas and the ban on high phosphate detergents to reduce nutrient loading to rivers and lakes. Legislation passed in 1990 required EPD to conduct comprehensive studies of major publicly owned lakes and establish specific water quality standards for each lake. In addition, in 1991, the General Assembly passed the Georgia Environmental Policy Act requiring an environmental effects report be developed for major State funded projects, accorded major river corridors additional protections (OCGA 12-2-8), and passed a law requiring a phosphorus limit of 0.75 mg/l for all major point sources discharging to the Chattahoochee River between Buford Dam and West Point Lake (OCGA 12-5-23.2). In 1992, the General Assembly passed the River Basin Management Planning Act that required EPD to develop and implement plans for water protection for each major river basin in Georgia.

Building on those planning activities, in 2004, the General Assembly passed the Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Planning Act. The legislation created a framework for developing Georgia's first comprehensive statewide water management plan by providing a vision for water management in Georgia, guiding principles for plan development and the assignment of responsibility for developing the plan to a newly-formed Georgia Water Council.

The EPD Director chaired the Council, and with the help of numerous stakeholders, the Council produced and submitted an initial draft of the statewide water plan on June 28, 2007. Following several rounds of public input, the Georgia Water Council approved the “Georgia Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Plan” on January 8, 2008. The plan was approved in the 2008 session of the General Assembly and signed by Governor Perdue on February 6, 2008. The plan established Regional Water Planning Council and charged them with regional planning efforts. The Regional Water Planning Councils completed plans in 2011 and updated them in 2017 and 2023. This work is discussed in Chapter 2.

Watershed Planning and Monitoring Program

Water Quality Standards and Numeric Nutrient Criteria the Clean Water Act requires that each State revise its water quality standards from time to time, but at least once every three years. This is known as the Triennial Review. During the 2019 Triennial Review, which was approved by EPA on August 31, 2022, EPD made the following changes to Georgia’s Water Quality Standards found in GA Rule 391-3-6-.03:

- Replaced “Water Use Classifications” with “Designated Uses”;
- Added a definition for “primary contact recreation and updated the definition for “secondary contact recreation”;
- Removed the word “unreasonably” from general criteria;
- Added Water Effects Ratio (WER) multiplier to the metal freshwater aquatic life criteria equations;
- Adopted the recommended aquatic life criteria for acrolein and carbaryl;
- Updated the *E. coli* and enterococci criteria for Fishing and Drinking Water designated uses and clarify the sampling frequency for geometric mean;
- Designated 14 waterbody segments as Recreation;
- Proposed criteria for Lakes Oconee and Sinclair; and

- Added language to allow site-specific metal criteria based on Biotic Ligand Models and Water Effect Ratio.

EPD initiated the 2022 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards with a public hearing held on March 22, 2022. EPD is planning to make the following changes to Georgia’s Water Quality Standards as part of the 2022 Triennial Review, which is expected to wrap up in the fall of 2024:

- Adopt updated human health criteria for 83 pollutants and new human health criteria for 11 pollutants;
- Adopt EPA’s 2016 selenium criteria recommendation;
- Change designated uses to recreation for nominated waterbodies;
- Propose site-specific criteria for Lakes Burton, Rabun, and Tugaloo; and
- Propose site-specific metal criteria based on the City of Atlanta Water Effects Ratio (WER) and Biotic Ligand Model (BLM).

USEPA requested each State develop a strategy for adopting nutrient water quality criteria to protect waters from the adverse effects of nutrient enrichment. EPD first developed [Georgia’s Plan for the Adoption of Water Quality Standards for Nutrients](#) in 2005, which was subsequently revised in October 2008 and August 2013.

In 2015, USEPA, EPD, and SCDHEC collaborated on a technical report “[An Approach to Develop Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Georgia and South Carolina Estuaries](#)” supporting the development and establishment of numeric water quality criteria under the CWA to protect the applicable designated uses in Georgia and South Carolina estuaries from the effects of excess nitrogen and phosphorus. Conceptual estuarine eutrophication models established for other U.S. estuaries are often based upon hypoxia below the pycnocline, production dominated by phytoplankton, and seagrass endpoints – none of which apply well to Georgia and South Carolina’s estuaries, which tend to be well-mixed, mediated by heterotrophs, and have light-limited phytoplankton production. An alternative conceptual model was presented to derive nutrient targets via measures that are surrogates for designated use endpoints.

Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment

EPD seeks to effectively manage, regulate, and allocate the water resources of Georgia. Monitoring the State's water resources is necessary to achieve this goal and allows the establishment of baseline and trend data, documentation of existing conditions, development of protective and scientifically defensible water quality standards, study of impacts of specific discharges, determination of improvements resulting from upgraded water pollution control plants, initiation or escalation of enforcement actions, establishment of wasteload allocations for new and existing facilities, development of TMDLs, verification of water pollution control plant compliance, and documentation of water use impairment. EPD uses long term trend monitoring, targeted and probabilistic monitoring, biological monitoring, intensive surveys, toxic substances monitoring, aquatic toxicity testing, and facility compliance sampling, among other monitoring tools. Details regarding Georgia's monitoring programs are discussed in Chapter 3.

Water Quality Modeling, Wasteload Allocations and TMDL Development

EPD uses water quality models to develop TMDLs for waterbodies not meeting their water quality standards. These models are also used to develop wasteload allocations to determine appropriate water quality-based permit limits for discharges into the State's waters.

In 2013, USEPA released "A Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program" (2013 Vision) to coordinate and focus efforts to advance the effectiveness of the TMDL Program. To accomplish this, the Vision focused on six elements: 1) Prioritization, 2) Assessment, 3) Protection, 4) Alternatives, 5) Engagement, and 6) Integration.

EPD prioritized the following list of waters for protection, "direct to implementation", TMDL development, and/or TMDL alternative development: Lake Lanier, Carters Lake, Savannah Harbor, Coosa River, and four Coastal beaches listed for enterococci. EPD has

completed all the TMDLs, Restoration Plans and permits for these priority waters.

In 2022, USEPA released "2022 - 2032 Vision for the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program" ("2022 Vision"). This document provides a refined articulation of the original 2013 Vision and goals developed in coordination with States, Territories, and Tribes. The refined goals under the 2022 Vision are 1) Planning and Prioritization, 2) Restoration, 3) Protection, 4) Data and Analysis, and 5) Partnerships. The 2022 Vision also includes the additional EPA focus areas of 1) Environmental Justice, 2) Climate Change, 3) Tribal Water Quality and Program Development, and 4) Program Capacity Building.

For the years between the completion of the 2013 Vision period and the initiation of work on the 2022 Vision (i.e. Federal Fiscal Years 2023 & 2024), States were tasked with identifying their TMDL development priorities under what is referred to as the "Bridge Metric". Georgia's TMDL program priorities during this period were to develop TMDLs for all waterbodies that were listed as impaired for fecal coliform on the 2022 303(d) list of waters. This included developing TMDLs for 164 waterbodies state-wide.

To implement the 2022 Vision, states are required to develop a TMDL Prioritization Framework that outlines its long-term planning objectives and priorities. State are then required to submit TMDL development priorities every two years, in conjunction with the biennial Water Quality Report and Integrate List of Waters. EPD is in the process of developing this Framework document and will regularly engage with stakeholders regarding the development of biennial TMDL development priorities in futures years.

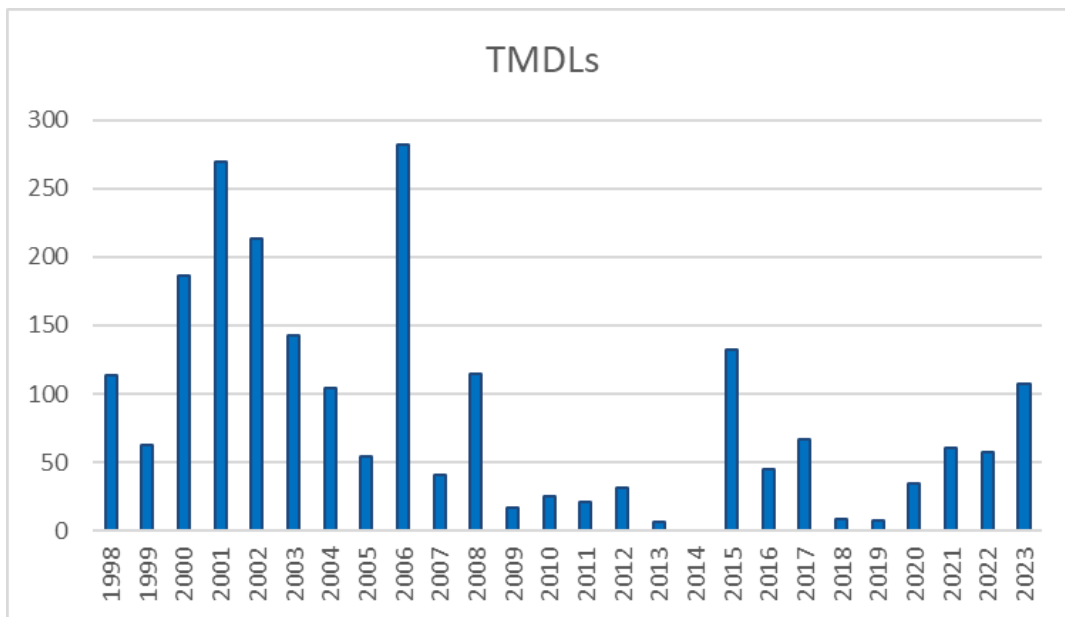
Meanwhile, EPD continues to develop [TMDLs using the rotating basin approach](#). Of the fourteen river basins, the four basins with the most TMDLs are the Chattahoochee (14.4%), Coosa (13.3%), Ocmulgee (15.6%), and Oconee (11.5%). To date, approximately 2200 TMDLs have been developed for 20 parameters. The majority of TMDLs are for bacteria (49.9%), sediment (28.1%), and DO (10.9%). Figures 7-1 and 7-2 show the number of TMDLs developed each year

since 1998 and the cumulative total of TMDLs EPD has prepared.

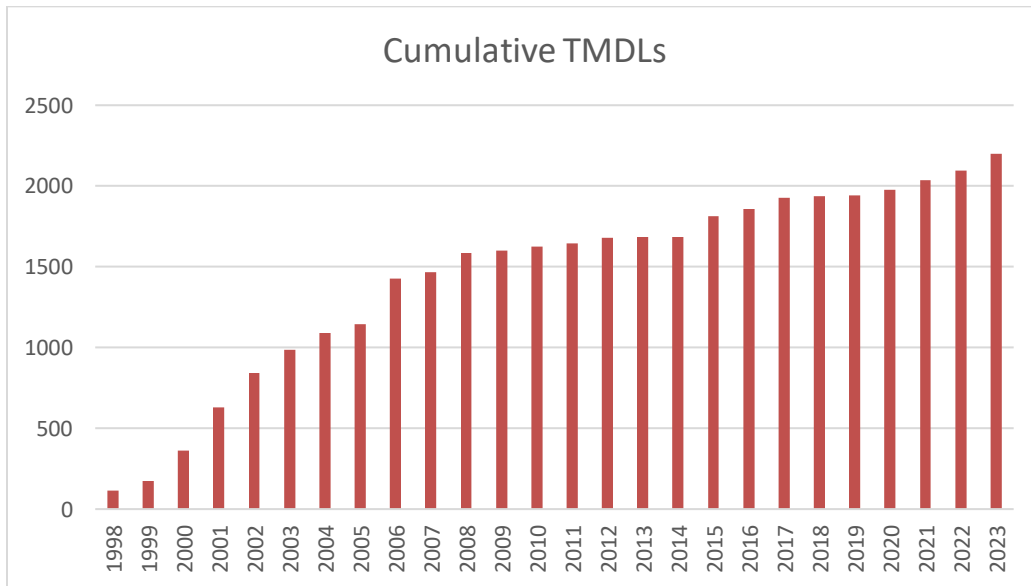
TMDLs are implemented through changes in NPDES permits to address needed point source reductions and watershed management plans to address needed nonpoint source reductions.

Changes in NPDES permits are made by EPD in coordination with permittees. Watershed management plans, which outline specific nonpoint source best management practices, are developed and implemented through partnerships and grants.

Figure 7-1. Number of TMDLs Developed Each Year



7-2. Cumulative Number of TMDLs Georgia EPD has Developed



Coosa River DO and Lake Weiss Nutrient TMDLs EPD listed a 17-mile segment of the Coosa River as impaired for DO and developed a DO TMDL for this segment in 2004. Comments received suggested that this section of the Coosa River is a river-reservoir transition zone, representing an upstream backwater of Weiss Reservoir, where vertical DO gradients may be present during the algal growing season.

EPD's RIV-1 model was successfully used to model the approximately 200 miles of the Coosa River from the headwaters at Allatoona Lake, Carter's Lake, and Conasauga River near Eton to State Road 100. A Lake Weiss EFDC hydrodynamic and water quality model has been developed to provide improved modeling of the section of the river from State Road 100 to the Georgia/Alabama State Line. This model has been used to verify the nutrient reduction needed in the Coosa River Basin to meet the downstream water quality standards in Lake Weiss and may be used to revise the Coosa River DO TMDL and wasteload allocations for permitted discharges.

Ochlockonee River Basin and Lake Talquin TMDL In 2009, Lake Talquin, was listed as

impaired by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FLDEP). About 75 percent of the lake's watershed is in Georgia. BASF Catalysts, a chemical company in Attapulgus, Georgia, is the largest point source contributor and agriculture is the largest non-point source of the pollution.

EPD worked with USEPA, FLDEP, as well as industry, county, and municipal officials to develop a nutrient TMDL for Lake Talquin. USEPA developed a series of complex water quality models that cover the entire watershed using Loading Simulation Program in C++ (LSPC) to estimate the nutrient loads within and discharged from each sub-basin, EFDC to simulate three-dimensional movement of water mass in the rivers and lake, and WASP to simulate the movement of pollutant mass in the rivers and lake. These models provide the basis for setting nutrient limits that will affect those that discharge in the lake's watershed.

FLDEP issued an initial TMDL in May 2017 that was successfully challenged by BASF. The models were revised, the calibration period was extended, and stakeholder meetings were held to

review the revised model calibrations. In October 2021, FLDEP issue a revised version of the Lake Talquin TMDL that developed site-specific nutrient and chlorophyll limits for the lake. EPA approved the Lake Talquin TMDL in August 2022. In 2023, EPD began implementing the required nutrient reductions in NPDES permits located in the Ochlockonee River Basin.

Wastewater Regulatory Program

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program The CWA requires NPDES permits for point source wastewater and stormwater dischargers, compliance monitoring for those permits and appropriate enforcement action for violations of the permits.

In addition to NPDES permits, EPD continues to implement a permit system for land application and disposal systems (LAS). LAS are used as alternatives to surface water discharges, when appropriate.

From January 2022 to December 2023, NPDES and LAS permits were issued, modified or reissued for 147 municipal and private discharges and for 130 industrial discharges.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) The Georgia rules require animal feeding operations to obtain a NPDES or LAS permit through EPD's Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) permitting program.

Georgia has permitted 88 farms that have been issued a LAS or NPDES permit. In the interest of efficiency, EPD redirected, through a contract, some inspections and compliance activities related to these farms to the Georgia Department of Agriculture Livestock/Poultry Section (GDA).

Combined Sewer Systems (CSS) A Combined Sewer System (CSS) is a sewer system that is designed to collect rainwater runoff, domestic sewage and industrial wastewater in the same pipe. EPD has issued NPDES permits to the three municipalities (Albany, Atlanta, and Columbus) that have CSS. The permits require that the CSS must not cause or contribute to instream violations of Georgia Water Quality Standards.

Nonpoint Source Program

Stormwater Permitting The CWA Amendments of 1987 require NPDES permits to be issued for stormwater discharges associated with construction activity, industrial activity, and municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4). EPD designated all municipalities and counties in the metropolitan Atlanta area (Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett Counties) as of 1994 as large MS4s and issued forty-five individual NPDES stormwater permits to the Atlanta area municipalities on June 15, 1994. These permits were reissued in 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019. These permits are currently undergoing the reissuance process, with a target reissuance of April 2024.

Augusta, Macon, Savannah, Columbus, the counties surrounding these cities and any other incorporated cities within these counties were identified as medium MS4s. Thirteen individual NPDES stormwater permits were issued to these MS4s April and May 1995. These permits were reissued in 2000, 2005, 2010, 2012, 2017, and 2022. In 2014, the number of medium MS4s was reduced to twelve when the City of Macon and Bibb County became consolidated as Macon-Bibb County Consolidated Government.

The 1999 Phase II regulations for MS4s required permit coverage for municipalities with a population less than 100,000 and located within an urbanized area, as defined by the latest decennial census. In addition, EPD was required to develop criteria to designate any additional MS4s with the potential to contribute to adverse water quality impacts, such as the Georgia Department of Transportation and military installations. In December 2002, EPD issued a NPDES general permit for small MS4s, which covered 86 cities and counties. This permit was most recently reissued in December 2022 and currently covers 109 municipalities, including 20 MS4s designated as a result of the 2010 census. Due to the incorporation of the City of South Fulton in 2017 and the necessary transition period, EPD designated South Fulton as a Phase II small MS4 in 2019. In 2009, EPD issued a NPDES general permit to seven Department of Defense installations. EPD reissued the NPDES general permit for Department of Defense installations in 2014 and 2019, and the permit currently covers 6 facilities. In 2011, EPD issued a NPDES general permit to the Georgia

Department of Transportation (GDOT). EPD reissued this permit in January 2022.

None of the NPDES MS4 permits contain numeric effluent limits. Instead, each MS4 permittee is required to implement a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) with best management practices that will control stormwater pollution. The stormwater permits for industrial facilities and MS4s require the submittal of Annual Reports to EPD. Each year, EPD reviews these Annual Reports and provides comments to permittees.

In 1993, EPD issued a NPDES general permit for industrial stormwater. This permit was reissued in 1998, 2006, 2012, 2017, and 2022. As of December 31, 2023, this 2022 permit covers the stormwater discharge from 2,144 industrial facilities. An additional 507 facilities have submitted a No Exposure Exclusion Form. EPD issued a NPDES general permit for construction stormwater associated with land disturbances of five acres or more, which was subsequently appealed in 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1999. The permit was issued in 2000. In 2003, the NPDES general permit for construction stormwater was reissued by EPD as three general permits: one for stand-alone projects, one for infrastructure projects, and one for common development projects. In accordance with the Phase II stormwater rules, these general permits required coverage for projects disturbing one acre or more. EPD reissued these permits in 2013, modified them in 2016, and then reissued them in 2018. During 2022-2023, 19,365 primary, secondary and tertiary permittees submitted Notices of Intent for coverage under the construction general permits. As of September 30, 2023, there were 32,453 construction sites with NPDES coverage.

In July 2023, a petition was filed with EPD appealing issuance of the 2023 Permits. As provided in state law at O.C.G.A. § 12-2-2(c)(2)(B), because that petition was filed, the 2023 Permits are stayed until the case is resolved. The 2018 versions of the construction stormwater Permit Nos. GAR100001, GAR100002 and GAR100003 each specifically provide that they continue “in force and effect until a new general permit is issued, final and

effective.” Consistent with that language and with state law at O.C.G.A. § 50-13-18(b) and Ga. Comp. R. and Regs. Rule 391-3-6-.16(13), until the case about the 2023 Permits is resolved, the 2018 permits will remain in force.

Nonpoint Source Management EPD’s Nonpoint Source Program is the lead agency for implementing the State’s *Nonpoint Source Management Program*. This program combines regulatory and non-regulatory approaches, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, local and regional governments, State colleges and universities, businesses and industries, non-governmental organizations and individual citizens.

States are required to update their Nonpoint Source Management Programs at least once every five years. In 2014 and again in 2019, EPD completed the process of revising the State’s *Nonpoint Source Management Program*. The [2019 Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan](#) (Plan) focuses on the nonpoint source pollution categories identified in Section 319(b): Agriculture, Silviculture, Construction, Urban Runoff, Hydrologic/Habitat Modification, Land Disposal, Resource Extraction and Other Nonpoint Sources. The 2019 Plan is organized by land use to support the nonpoint source implementation recommendations in the TMDLs, and includes a section discussing statewide programmatic approach, such as education and outreach and grants. The revised plan was developed through a public process, incorporating input from a wide range of stakeholders involved in nonpoint source management activities throughout the State.

Agriculture Georgia addresses agricultural nonpoint sources through both regulatory (CAFO NPDES and LAS permits, for example) and non-regulatory approaches. The statewide non-regulatory approach uses cooperative partnerships with various agencies and a variety of activities and programs. Key activities and programs are included as specific goals in the Agriculture Chapter of the Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan.

The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) serves as the primary implementation partner for the agriculture section of the Plan. In Federal Fiscal Year 2022 (FFY22)

and 2023 (FFY23) GSWCC led five Section 319(h) agriculture projects throughout the state. During FFY2023, GSWCC continued work on the expanded cow/calf and poultry specific editions of the *Best Management Practices for Georgia Agriculture Manual* and a watershed-based plan update to the Hard Labor Creek Watershed Management Plan. The project also included cost share funding for producers to implement water quality conservation based BMPs.

Silviculture The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) has been an integral partner with the EPD since 1977, committed to protecting and maintaining the integrity and quality of the State's waters. EPD designated GFC as the lead agency for the silviculture portion of the State's *Nonpoint Source Management Program*. This program is managed by a Statewide Water Quality Coordinator and 12 foresters serving as District Water Quality Coordinators. GFC Coordinators receive specialized training in erosion and sediment control, forest road layout and construction, stream habitat assessment and wetland delineation.

GFC Coordinators provide local and statewide training to the forestry community through workshops, field demonstrations, presentations, management advice to landowners and distribution of [Georgia's Best Management Practices for Forestry](#) manual and brochures. GFC also investigates and mediates complaints involving forestry operations. However, the GFC is not a regulatory authority; therefore, in situations where GFC cannot get satisfactory compliance, the case is turned over to EPD for enforcement as provided under the Georgia Water Quality Control Act.

In FFY22 and FFY23 GFC conducted statewide BMP Assurance Monitoring and extensive outreach, including:

- 61 in person events.
- 967 copies of BMP brochures were distributed.
- 5 in person Master Timber Harvester workshops.
- 44 in person Continuing Logger Education and other BMP trainings.
- 6,168 online Master Timber harvesters and Continuing Logger education attendees.
- 33 unique complaints requiring 56 complaint site visits/inspections.

- 20 BMP demonstrations for 235 participants.
- 181 BMP advise visits.
- 282 firebreak BMP inspections.
- 83 logger conferences.

Urban Runoff The water quality in an urban watershed is the result of both point source discharges and the impact of diverse land activities in the drainage basin (i.e., nonpoint sources). Activities which can alter the integrity of urban waterbodies include habitat alteration, hydrological modification, erosion and sedimentation associated with land disturbing activities, stormwater runoff, combined sewer overflows, illicit discharges, improper storage and/or disposal of deleterious materials, and intermittent failure of sewerage systems. During urbanization, pervious, vegetated ground is converted to impervious, unvegetated surfaces such as rooftops, roads, parking lots and sidewalks. Increases in pollutant loading generated from human activities are associated with urbanization, and imperviousness results in increased stormwater volumes and altered hydrology in urban areas.

Consistent with the multiple sources of urban runoff, strategies to manage urban runoff have multiple focuses. Specifically, the Plan focuses on stormwater management through green infrastructure, onsite sewage disposal systems, dirt roads, land disturbing activities, floodplain management, and hydromodification, particularly dams.

To further statewide coordination and implementation of urban runoff best management practices, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and EPD published the [Georgia Stormwater Management Manual – Volume 1, Stormwater Policy Guide and Volume 2, Technical Handbook](#) in August 2001. This guidance manual for developers and local governments illustrates proper design of best management practices for controlling stormwater and nonpoint source pollution in urban areas in Georgia. The ARC published Volume 3: Pollution Prevention in 2012. The Georgia Stormwater Management Manual was updated in 2016. Also, in partnership with EPD, ARC, numerous local governments and other stakeholders, the Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Center for Watershed Protection

developed a Coastal Stormwater Supplement to the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual, to specifically address coastal stormwater in 2009.

Erosion and Sedimentation Control The Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act (GESA) was signed into law in April 1975. GESA established a statewide comprehensive program for erosion and sedimentation control to conserve and protect the State's natural resources. GESA allows municipalities and counties to adopt local ordinances and become delegated "Issuing Authorities." EPD delegates local "Issuing Authority" (LIA) status, administers EPD rules where no LIA exists, and oversees LIA implementation. Currently 321 cities and counties have been certified as LIAs. In 2021, due to amendments to GESA, EPD revised its rules to allow for the certification of water authorities and water and sewer authorities as LIAs. In FFY22 and FFY23, EPD certified three (3) new LIAs and decertified five (5) LIAs.

Amendments to GESA created additional protections for the State's natural resources. GESA sets up an integrated permitting program for erosion and sedimentation control for land disturbing activities of one acre or greater, thereby standardizing the requirements for local Land Disturbing Activity Permits and the NPDES construction stormwater permits. GESA also holds Georgia's only NPDES permit fee system for construction stormwater, and established training and education requirements for individuals involved in design, review, permitting, construction, monitoring or inspection of any land disturbing activity. GSWCC administers the training and certification program.

GESA also specifies buffer protections and variances to those protections and required the Georgia Board of Natural Resources to adopt amendments to its Rules to implement a warm water, trout stream, and coastal marshland buffer variance program. EPD administers the buffer variance program. In FFY22 and FFY23, 405 stream buffer variances were reviewed, of which 395 were approved, six (6) were withdrawn and four (4) were denied.

319(h) Grants Under Section 319(h) of the CWA, USEPA awards a Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant to EPD to fund projects that implement the State's Plan. Priorities for funding include implementation of TMDL

implementation plans and watershed management plans, addressing listed streams, and protecting healthy watersheds. Projects with a BMP monitoring components, those located on the coast, and those addressing a priority watershed are also prioritized.

Section 319(h) grant funds are made available annually to public agencies in Georgia. Receiving agencies are required to show substantial local commitment by providing at least 40% of the total project cost in local match or in-kind efforts. During FFY22, EPD administered 65 Section 319(h) projects, totaling more than \$17.5 million in federal funds and \$11.8 million in matching funds or in-kind services. GAEPD awarded and contracted projects to a diverse group of grantees located in watersheds in all ecoregions of the state. GAEPD offered awards to eight (8) partner organizations, including four (4) first-time grantees. During FFY23, GAEPD administered 64 Section 319(h) grant-funded projects, totaling more than \$18.4 million in federal funds and \$14.2 million in matching funds or in-kind services. GAEPD awarded grants to four (4) partner organizations, including one (1) first-time grantee. Based on the *Climate and Economic Screening Tool* (CEJST), one awarded project will benefit a census tract identified as disadvantaged based on Linguistic Isolation (94th percentile), Low Income (82nd percentile); and High School Education (26 percent).

Outreach EPD's Outreach program consists of four primary programs that support the education and involvement of community members in activities to protect Georgia's waterways from nonpoint source pollution. The four programs, highlighted below, include Georgia Project WET, River of Words, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream and Rivers Alive.

Water Education Today

For over 25 years, Georgia EPD has partnered with the Project WET (Water Education Today) Foundation to provide curriculum, training, and resources to formal and nonformal educators across Georgia. Project WET was selected as the most appropriate water science and nonpoint source education curriculum for the State due in part to its immense potential to expand water education efforts in a systemic and effective manner and its commitment to fostering a water-literate society and sustainable environment. The

program provides water education through published curricula, training workshops, community water events, and a worldwide network of educators, water resource professionals, and scientists. The goals of Georgia Project WET are to facilitate and promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through classroom-ready teaching aids aligned to state education standards.

Thousands of Georgia teachers have completed Project WET certification trainings, and the versatility of Project WET materials has allowed extension of their use beyond classroom educators to a diverse range of audiences, including staff of natural resources agencies, museums, aquariums, nature centers, state parks, and the like. The impact of Georgia Project WET is felt far and wide, thanks to the adaptability and relevance of the resources.

In addition, Georgia Project WET partners with the Georgia Center for the Book to offer educators the opportunity to participate in the River of Words program, an international poetry and art contest for preK-12th grade students focused on the theme of watersheds. Each year, all winning art and poetry pieces from Georgia are published in a full color Art and Poetry Journal, are featured on the Georgia Project WET website, and may be available for display at libraries, schools, museums, conferences, non-profit organizations, and State buildings. Students selected for recognition are honored at an annual awards ceremony where the winning selections are displayed, and the students are invited on stage to share their work and what inspired it with others.

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program The [Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program](#) (AAS) is a citizen monitoring and stream protection program. AAS's objectives are: (1) increase individual's awareness of how they contribute to nonpoint source pollution problems, (2) generate local support for nonpoint source management through public involvement and monitoring of waterbodies, (3) provide educational resources and technical assistance for addressing nonpoint source pollution problems statewide, and (4) collect and share baseline water quality data.

Currently, 1,306 active leaders and over 10,000 volunteers participate in the over 200 community

sponsored AAS Programs. Volunteers conduct cleanups, stabilize streambanks, monitor waterbodies using physical, chemical and biological methods, and evaluate habitats and watersheds at over 600 sites. These activities lead to a greater awareness of water quality and nonpoint source pollution, active cooperation between the public and local governments in protecting water resources, and the collection of basic water quality data.

AAS provides volunteers with additional resources such as the *Getting to Know Your Watershed*, *Visual Stream Survey*, *Macroinvertebrate and Chemical Stream Monitoring*, *Bacterial Monitoring*, *Adopt-A-Wetland*, *Adopt-A-Lake*, Amphibian Monitoring and *Adopt-A-Stream Educator's Guide* manuals, PowerPoint presentations, and promotional and instructional training videos. Every three months a newsletter is published and distributed to over 10,000 volunteers statewide with program updates and information about available resources.

Starting in 2010, Georgia AAS brought back their annual conference, [Confluence](#), which has grown from 150 participants to 205 participants annually. The conference provides volunteers with an opportunity to further their knowledge of water related issues, such as visual monitoring, green infrastructure, and stream stabilization. Confluence also includes an award ceremony for recognizing the outstanding achievements of volunteers and local trainers.

AAS has an online database that houses volunteer water quality monitoring data and programmatic information. The website provides visitors with real time stats and graphs automatically generated by the information volunteers submit. As of December 31, 2023, 183 groups actively monitor 611 sites.

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream partners with the Georgia River Network to lead the monitoring team for Paddle Georgia, a weeklong paddle down major Georgia waterways. In 2022, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream assisted with the 3-day Chattahoochee River paddle, sampling and testing 83 sites, including the mainstem and tributaries. These events connect citizens with activities that protect and improve Georgia waters.

Rivers Alive EPD coordinates an annual volunteer waterway cleanup event, [Rivers Alive](#), held in late summer through fall. Rivers Alive is a statewide event that includes streams, rivers, lakes wetlands and coastal waters. The mission of Rivers Alive is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's water resources. Rivers Alive provides t-shirts and other materials, such as posters and public service announcements, to support local organizers.

Rivers Alive maintains an online database for registering cleanups and submitting cleanup data. The cleanup results are displayed on maps and in graphs for each group to view and share. Additional information about Rivers Alive is available on the EPD website. During 2022 and 2023, 22,270 volunteers cleaned 1,877 miles of waterways and removed 742,004 pounds of trash.

Compliance and Enforcement Program

Ensuring compliance with permit conditions is an important part of protecting water quality. Staff review discharge and groundwater monitoring reports, inspect facilities, sample effluents, investigate citizen complaints, provide on-site technical assistance and, when necessary, initiate enforcement action.

Inspections are also an important compliance tool. In FFY22 and FFY23, EPD staff conducted inspections at 2,337 construction sites with stormwater permit coverage, 234 facilities with industrial stormwater permit coverage, and 70 phase I and phase II MS4s. EPD conducted inspections at 563 municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants that discharge to state waters, and at 71 significant industrial users that hold state-issued pretreatment permits and discharge to municipal wastewater systems.

EPD utilizes all reasonable means to obtain compliance, including technical assistance, letters of noncompliance, notices of violation, conferences, consent orders, administrative orders, and civil penalties. The EPD Director has the authority to negotiate consent orders and issue administrative orders. In FFY22 and FFY23, in addressing permit issues for permittees holding individual permits, EPD issued 4,183 informal enforcement actions, 172 formal enforcement actions (i.e. consent orders),

and collected \$1,543,450 in negotiated settlements.

As of December 31, 2023, 187 of the 202 (92.6%) major municipal and industrial wastewater discharge facilities were in compliance with their permit conditions. The remaining facilities are under compliance schedules to resolve the noncompliance or implementing infiltration/inflow strategies. As of September 30, 2023, the end of FFY23, the significant noncompliance (SNC) rate for wastewater facilities in Georgia was 3.8%.

The vast majority of stormwater enforcement orders are issued in connection with the three construction permits. Between 2022 and 2023, EPD issued a total of 12 construction stormwater enforcement orders (consent orders) and collected \$17,599 in negotiated settlements.

During 2022-2023, increased emphasis was placed on the industrial pretreatment programs delegated to municipalities to ensure that the municipalities comply with applicable requirements for pretreatment program implementation.

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (District) was created on April 5, 2001, as a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive regional and watershed-specific plans to be implemented by local governments in the District, a 15 county area that includes Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale counties. These plans are designed to protect water quality and public water supplies, protect recreational values of the waters, and minimize potential adverse impacts of development on waters in and downstream of the region. These plans were updated in May 2017 and under went another update, that was completed in December 2022. [The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Resource Management Plan](#) brings together water supply and conservation, wastewater management, and watershed management into a single, integrated document.

EPD conducts audits to determine whether local governments are in compliance with the District Plan. State law prohibits the EPD Director from

approving any application by a local government in the District to issue, modify, or renew a permit (if such permit would allow an increase in the permitted water withdrawal, public water system capacity, or waste-water treatment system capacity of such local government, or any NPDES Phase I or Phase II stormwater permit), unless such local government is in compliance with the applicable provisions of the District Plan, or the Director certifies that such local government is making good faith efforts to come into compliance.

Zero Tolerance In January 1998, the Georgia Board of Natural Resources adopted a resolution requiring that regulatory initiatives be developed to ensure polluters are identified and that appropriate enforcement action is taken to correct problems. The resolution also directed EPD to provide the "best quality of effort possible in enforcing Georgia's environmental laws." High growth areas that were identified as in need of enhanced protection include the Chattahoochee River Basin (from the headwaters through Troup County), Coosa River Basin, Tallapoosa River Basin, and the greater metropolitan Atlanta area. EPD developed a "zero tolerance" strategy for these identified geographic areas.

This strategy requires enforcement action on all violations of permitted effluent limitations, with the exception of flow, and all sanitary sewer system overflows into the waters of the State. The strategy includes short-form consent orders, (Expedited Enforcement Compliance Order and Settlement Agreement (EECO)), which address violations where the cause of noncompliance has been or is in the process of being corrected, with a monetary penalty for isolated, minor violations, and consent orders or administrative orders with conditions and higher monetary penalties for chronic and/or major violations.

Land Protection Programs

Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) During the 2018 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly passed [House Bill 332](#) and [House Resolution 238](#), establishing the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act. On November 6, 2018, Georgia voters passed the amendment with 83% support. The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act dedicates 40% of existing sales and use taxes on outdoor sporting goods to fund stewardship projects for existing state and local

parcs, acquire and develop new state and local parks, and acquire and protect new lands critical to the protection of our wildlife and clean water supplies.

In the 2022-2023 grant cycle, eligible applicants, who include local governments, recreation authorities, state agencies, and certain non-profit organizations, cumulatively submitted 55 applications requesting a total of \$107 million dollars in grant funding. This cycle committed \$28.7 million in funding to support twelve (12) local parks, trails systems, and state-owned lands projects. Grantees also committed an estimated \$35 million to match grant dollars. For more information about these grants visit the [Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program](#) website.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loans The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). CWSRF is a federally-funded loan program for wastewater infrastructure and pollution prevention projects including permanent land conservation projects, such as fee-title purchases and easement acquisitions. In order to use Clean Water State Revolving Funds for land conservation and preservation, such transactions must be in accordance with Georgia's Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan.

During FFY2022 and FFY2023, GAEPD continued to assist the Georgia Land Conservation Program (GLCP) administered by the GEFA to identify high-value conservation lands, particularly those lands that, if put into conservation, would have the greatest impact on mitigating nonpoint source pollution and protecting source waters. In FFY2022 GAEPD reviewed one project to protect 154.55 acres in the Tennessee River Basin, and in FFY2023 reviewed two projects: 100 acres in the Oconee River Basin and 110 acres in the Coosa River Basin.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), as authorized in the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills and administered by NRCS, protects the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses which negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation values, protect grazing uses and related conservation

values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land, and protecting and restoring and enhancing wetlands on eligible land. As of 2023, the ACEP has closed or enrolled 210 easements totaling 95,226 acres.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) EQIP was originally established under the 1996 Farm Bill and reauthorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to voluntarily address soil, water and other natural resource concerns on private lands. EQIP conservation practices include but are not limited to: pasture and hay land planting, heavy use areas, waste storage facilities, terracing, pest management, tree planting, seasonal high tunnels, organic crop assistance and wildlife habitat management. In FFY 22 and FFY23, NRCS obligated over \$97 million in financial assistance to producers through 2,628 contracts/agreements covering 268,314 acres.

Healthy Forests Reserve Program The Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP), as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill and administered by NRCS, helps landowners restore, enhance and protect forestland resources on private lands through easements and financial assistance. HFRP provides landowners with 10-year restoration agreements and 30-year or permanent easements for specific conservation actions. As of 2023, the HFRP has either closed or enrolled seven (7) easements, covering 4,331 acres.

Georgia Emergency Response Team The Georgia EPD Emergency Response Team provides State On-Scene Coordinators (SOSCs) capable of responding to solid waste, oil, or hazardous materials spills 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. In the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan, EPD is designated as the lead state agency for hazardous material spill notification and response. Notification of spills is made by the responsible party by calling the State Warning Point at 1-800-241-4113.

The SOSCs enforce all environmental laws administered by EPD. SOSCs typically interact at the unified command level with local, state, and federal agency personnel to ensure the protection of human health and the environment during emergency situations. SOSCs have access and the ability to communicate and coordinate with all EPD staff and resources and serve in both a

technical support and regulatory role during an incident. SOSCs can work directly with responsible parties to coordinate all necessary clean-up actions are conducted in a timely manner in accordance with State standards and that appropriate enforcement actions are coordinated with the correct EPD District or Branch.

Environmental Radiation In 1976, the Georgia Radiation Control Act was amended to provide EPD with responsibility for monitoring of radiation and radioactive materials in the environment. EPD takes the lead agency role in radiological emergency planning, preparedness and response, and for analyzing drinking water samples collected pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act for the presence of naturally-occurring radioactive materials such as uranium, 226Ra, 228Ra and gross alpha activity. EPD also monitors environmental media in the vicinity of nuclear facilities in or bordering Georgia to determine if radioactive materials are being released into the environment in quantities sufficient to adversely affect the health and safety of the citizens of Georgia or the quality of Georgia's environment.

CHAPTER 8

Groundwater Protection and Water Withdrawal Permitting

In 2023, groundwater supplied 2,141 of Georgia's 2,383 public water systems, which are permitted by EPD's Drinking Water Program. About 68% of the groundwater withdrawal permits are for municipal systems, which are permitted for 444 million gallons per day on an annual average (MGD-ADD). The remaining ground water withdrawal permits are for industrial and commercial systems, which are permitted for 352 MGD-AAD. About 13,737 of the 26,355 farm water withdrawal permits in Georgia are groundwater permits. In the rural parts of the state, virtually all individual homes not served by public water systems use wells as their source of drinking water.

Georgia's Groundwater Resources

Groundwater is extremely important to the life, health, and economy of Georgia. Ambient groundwater quality, as well as the quantity available for development, is related to the geologic character of the aquifers. Georgia's aquifers can, in general, be characterized by the five main hydrologic provinces in the State (Figure 8-1).

The State of Georgia possesses a groundwater supply that is both abundant and of high quality. The aquifers are ultimately recharged by precipitation and the Georgia Geologic Survey identified the most significant recharge areas for the main aquifer systems in the State (Figure 8-2). The economy of Georgia and the health of millions of persons could be compromised if Georgia's groundwater were to be significantly polluted. Except where aquifers in the Coastal Plain become salty at great depth, all of the State's aquifers are considered as potential sources of drinking water.

Georgia's Groundwater Monitoring Network In addition to sampling of public drinking water wells as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act and sampling

of monitoring wells at permitted facilities, the EPD monitors ambient groundwater quality through the Georgia Groundwater Monitoring Network. One of the purposes of the network is to allow the EPD to identify groundwater quality trends before they become problems. Figure 8-3 shows locations of stations for the groundwater monitoring network during calendar years 2022 through 2023.

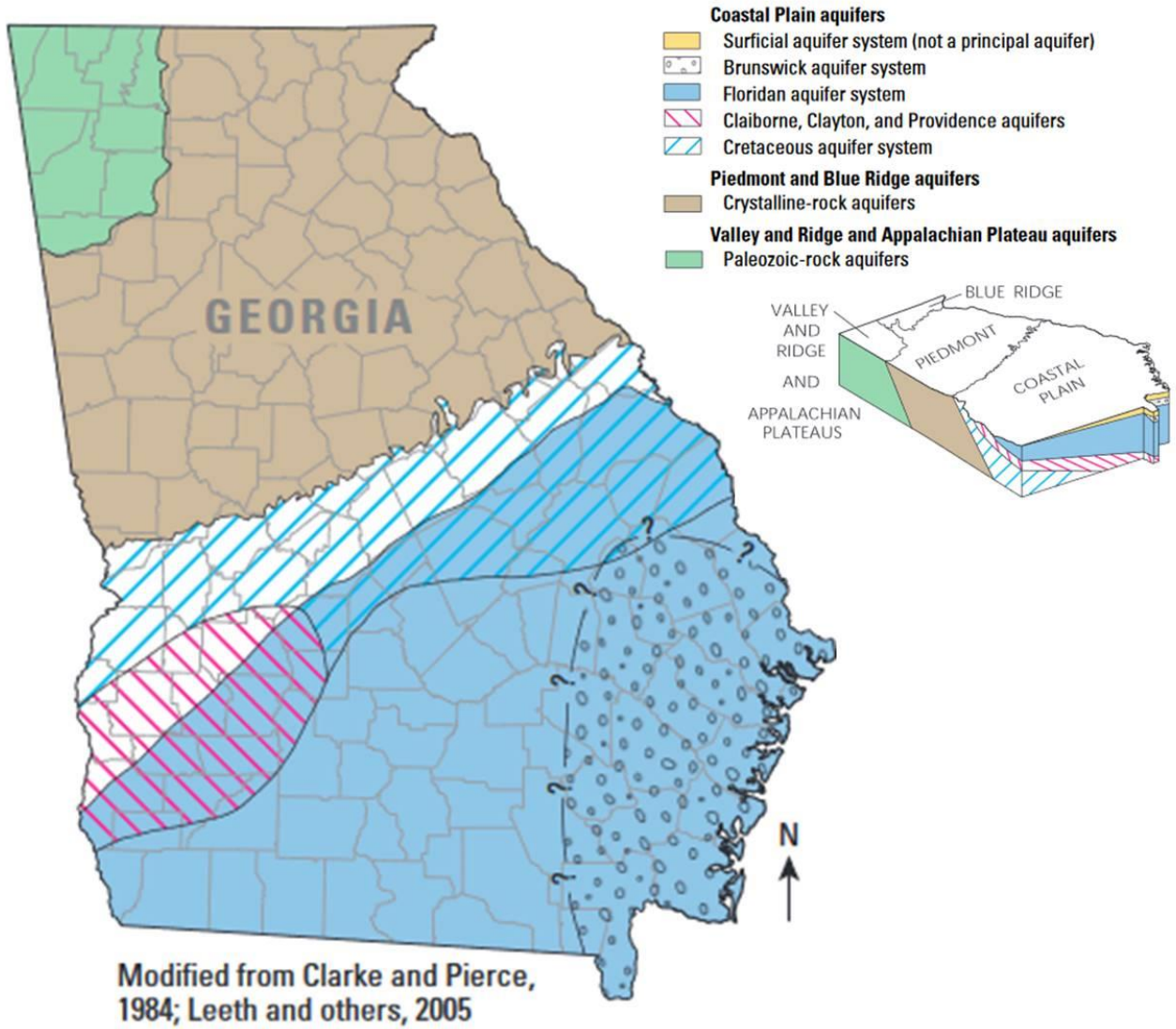
To date, most potential water quality issues that have been illuminated through monitoring efforts are either natural in origin (e.g. arsenic and uranium), or limited to one well, such as the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) contamination issues found within a well located in Atlanta. The 2022 ambient monitoring program had 67 sampling events with iron, manganese, aluminum, sulfate or chloride exceedances of the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and one spring with four samples with fluoride levels in excess of the Primary MCL. The 2023 ambient monitoring program had 51 sampling events with iron, manganese, aluminum, sulfate or chloride in excess of Secondary MCLs and one spring with four samples with fluoride in excess of the Primary MCL. Well owners with exceedances were notified, and, if the well was a public supply well or a private drinking water source, follow-up sampling was performed upon request. Major sources of groundwater contamination are provided in Table 8-1. Results of aquifer monitoring data for calendar years 2022 and 2023 are provided in Table 8-2.

Groundwater Issues

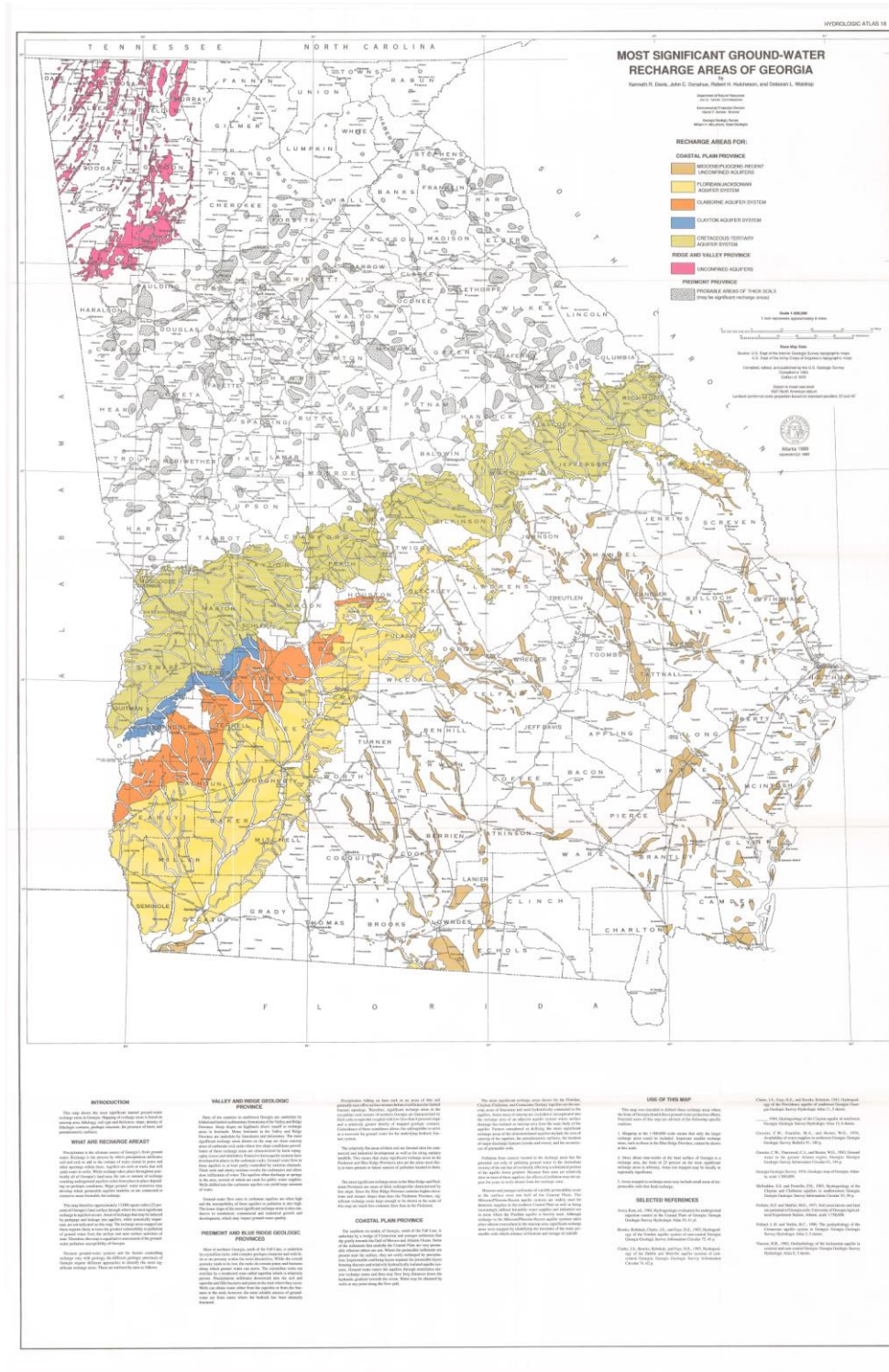
Sustainable Yields The Regional Water Plans (discussed in Chapter 2) are informed by assessments of the quantity and quality of surface waters in major streams and rivers, and the estimated ranges of sustainable yields of prioritized aquifers in Georgia.

Most of the aquifers prioritized for assessment were aquifers within the Coastal Plain physiographic province of Georgia where most groundwater use within the State occurs. Estimated ranges of sustainable yields of Coastal Plain aquifers were determined using finite difference and finite element numerical modeling

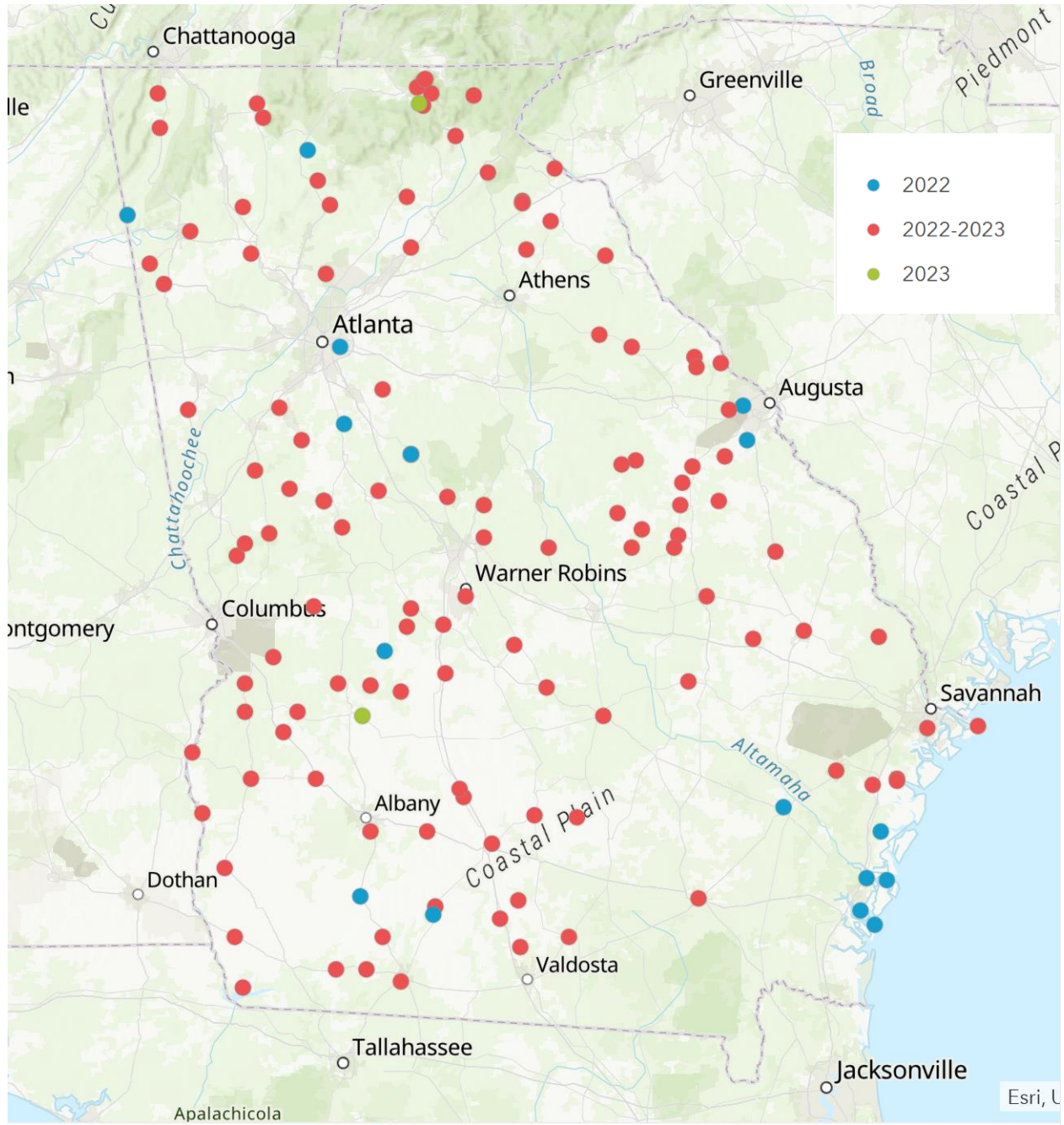
**FIGURE 8-1
HYDROLOGIC PROVINCES OF GEORGIA**



**FIGURE 8-2
GENERALIZED MAP OF SIGNIFICANT GROUNDWATER RECHARGE
AREAS OF GEORGIA**



**FIGURE 8-3
GROUNDWATER MONITORING NETWORK, 2022-2023**



2020_2021 Ground Water Monitoring Sites

- 2020-2021
- 2020

**TABLE 8-1
MAJOR SOURCES OF GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION**

Contaminant Source	Contaminant Source Selection Factors	Contaminants
Agricultural Activities		
Agricultural chemical facilities		
Animal feedlots		
Drainage wells		
Fertilizer applications		
Irrigation practices		
Pesticide applications		
Storage and Treatment Activities		
Land application		
Material stockpiles		
Storage tanks (above ground)		
Storage tanks (underground)*	C, D, F	D
Surface impoundments		
Waste piles		
Waste tailings		
Disposal Activities		
Deep injection wells		
Landfills*	C, D, F	D, H
Septic systems*	C	E, K, L
Shallow injection wells		

Contaminant Source	Contaminant Source Selection Factors	Contaminants
Other		
Hazardous waste generators		
Hazardous waste sites*	F	C, H
Industrial facilities*	C, F	C, D, H
Material transfer operations		
Mining and mine drainage		
Pipelines and sewer lines*	F	D
Salt storage and road salting		
Salt water intrusion*	B, C, E, F	G
Spills*	F	D
Transportation of materials		
Urban runoff*	D, E	Variable
Natural iron and manganese*	F	H, I
Natural radioactivity		

*10 highest-priority sources

Factors used to select each of the contaminant sources.

- A. Human health and/or environmental risk (toxicity)
- B. Size of the population at risk
- C. Location of the sources relative to drinking water sources
- D. Number and/or size of contaminant sources
- E. Hydrogeologic sensitivity
- F. State findings, other findings

Contaminants/classes of contaminants considered to be associated with each of the sources that were checked.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| A. Inorganic pesticides | G. Salinity/brine |
| B. Organic pesticides | H. Metals |
| C. Halogenated solvents | I. Radio nuclides |
| D. Petroleum compounds | J. Bacteria |
| E. Nitrate | K. Protozoa |
| F. Fluoride | L. Viruses |

TABLE 8-2

SUMMARY OF GROUNDWATER MONITORING RESULTS FOR 2022-2023

Year	Aquifer		Nitrate/ Nitrite	VOCs	Arsenic	Uranium	Copper or Lead	Fe, Mn, or Al	Sulfate/ Chloride
2022	Cretaceous/ Providence	Detections	11	2	0	1	9	23	4
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
	Clayton	Detections	3	1	0	1	6	7	3
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	Claiborne	Detections	1	0	0	0	0	4	1
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
	Jacksonian	Detections	6	0	0	0	2	9	2
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
	Floridan	Detections	17	5	3	10	0	34	37
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	7	1
	Miocene	Detections	2	1	0	0	2	8	2
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
	Piedmont/ Blue Ridge	Detections	50	4	0	35	17	81	39
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	34	4
Valley and Ridge	Detections	11	3	0	0	0	2	1	
	Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	Detections	101	16	3	47	36	168	89	
	Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	62	5	
2023	Cretaceous/ Providence	Detections	12	2	0	0	12	23	5
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
	Clayton	Detections	3	0	0	1	5	8	3
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
	Claiborne	Detections	1	1	0	0	0	4	1
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	Jacksonian	Detections	6	1	0	0	0	9	2
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Floridan	Detections	15	2	2	8	0	37	36
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
	Miocene	Detections	1	1	0	0	2	7	2
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
	Piedmont/ Blue Ridge	Detections	48	3	0	30	9	74	42
		Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	27	3
Valley and Ridge	Detections	10	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	Detections	96	11	2	39	28	163	92	
	Exceedances	0	0	0	0	0	47	4	

methods. The estimated range of sustainable yield was determined for the Paleozoic carbonate aquifer in a study basin of the Valley and Ridge physiographic province of northwestern Georgia using finite difference modeling, and estimated ranges of sustainable yield were determined for the crystalline rock aquifer in selected basins in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge physiographic provinces of northern Georgia using basin water budgets.

Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water (GWUDI) is defined as water beneath the surface of the ground with: significant occurrence of insects or other macro organisms, algae, or large diameter protozoa or pathogens such as *Giardia lamblia* or *Cryptosporidium*; and significant and relatively rapid shifts in water characteristics such as turbidity, temperature, conductivity or pH, which closely correlate to climatological or surface conditions.

Several factors are considered for risk of GWUDI, including location, historical sampling data, microbiological quality, chemical quality, physical parameters, well/spring construction, hydrogeology, geology, and aquifer type. Sources with the greatest risk are those in karst areas (where water-soluble limestone is perforated by channels, caves, sinkholes, and underground caverns); springs without filtration; old wells with broken sanitary seals, cracked concrete pads, or faulty well casings; and wells not grouted into the unweathered rock formation. In Georgia, the northwest and portions of the southwest and southcentral parts of the state contain areas of karst topography.

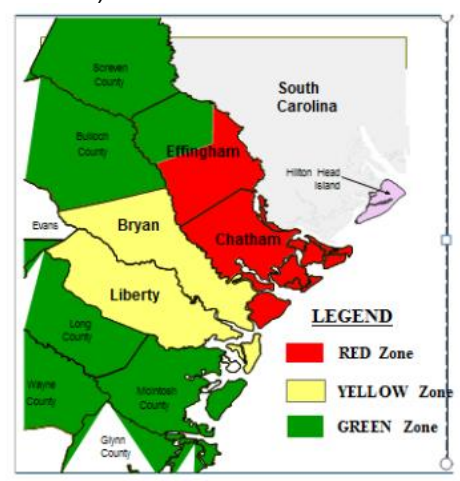
EPD evaluates public groundwater sources (wells and springs) to determine if they are likely to have direct surface water influence. EPD requires water systems considered to be at risk of GWUDI to make arrangements with a private contractor to complete Microscopic Particulate Analysis (MPA). MPA is a method of sampling and testing for significant indicators of GWUDI. In cases where the water system has a contract with the EPD Laboratory for water analysis, the EPD performs the analysis of the MPA sample. If sample analysis indicates GWUDI, Division

district office personnel work with the affected water systems and provide technical assistance in identifying and correcting the deficiencies contributing to the contamination.

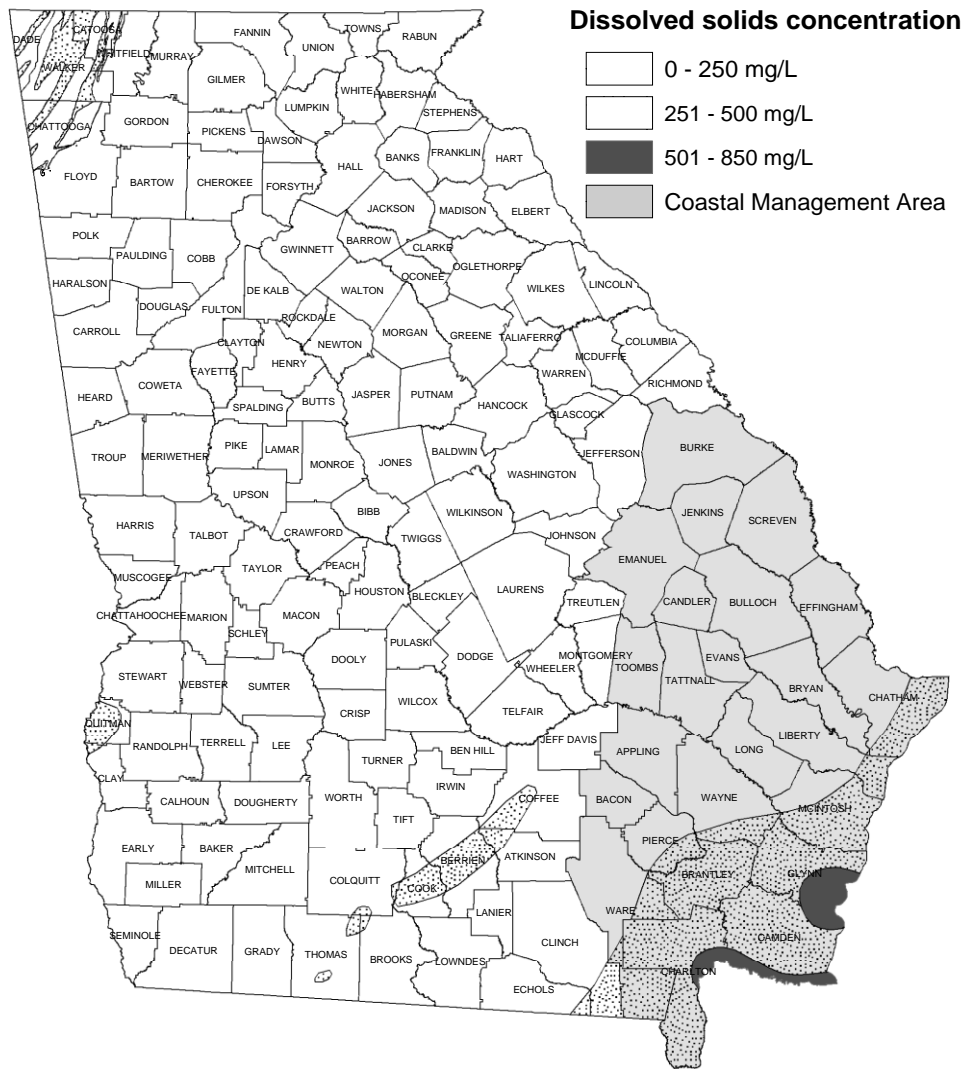
Salt Water Intrusion The most extensive contamination of Georgia's aquifers is from naturally occurring mineral salts (i.e., high total dissolved solids, or TDS levels). Areas generally susceptible to high TDS levels are shown in Figure 8-4.

Use of groundwater in the 24 counties of the Georgia coast has enabled some groundwater containing high levels of dissolved solids to enter freshwater aquifers either vertically or laterally. Salt-water intrusion into the Floridan Aquifer threatens groundwater supplies in Hilton Head, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia and Brunswick, Georgia. The 2006 "[Coastal Georgia Water & Wastewater Permitting Plan for Managing Salt Water Intrusion](#)" describes the goals, policies, and actions the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will undertake to manage the water resources of the 24-county area of coastal Georgia. A groundwater model has been developed to assess the extent of saltwater intrusion under the Coastal Sound Science Initiative (CSSI). The CSSI model has been used by Georgia EPD in reviewing water withdrawal applications in the coastal counties.

In May 2013 EPD's Director issued a prohibition of new or increased permitted withdrawals from the Floridan aquifer in four coastal Georgia counties (shown on the map below as red and yellow zones).



**FIGURE 8-4
 AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO NATURAL HIGH DISSOLVED SOLIDS AND 24 COUNTY
 AREA COVERED BY THE INTERIM COASTAL MANAGEMENT
 STRATEGY**



EPD determined the interconnectivity between the upper and lower Floridan permeable zones influence the saltwater intrusion into the upper Floridan permeable zone. Applicants for new water withdrawals may use alternate aquifers such as the Miocene or Cretaceous aquifers or may use surface water.

In 2017, a large percentage of Floridan aquifer systems with existing withdrawal permits in the red and yellow zones were issued new permits. The new permits have reduced limits that become effective in 2020 and 2025.

Pesticides Agricultural chemicals are commonly used in the agricultural regions of the State (Figure 8-5). In order to evaluate the occurrence of agricultural chemicals in groundwater, the EPD has sampled:

- A network of monitoring wells located downgradient from fields where pesticides are routinely applied,
- Domestic drinking water wells for pesticides and nitrates, and
- Agricultural Drainage wells and sinkholes in the agricultural regions of Georgia's Coastal Plain for pesticides.

Only a few pesticides and herbicides have been detected in groundwater in these studies. There is no particular pattern to their occurrence, and most detections have been transient; that is, the chemical is most often no longer present when the well is resampled. Prudent agricultural use of pesticides does not appear to represent a significant threat to drinking water aquifers in Georgia at this time.

Radiation A natural source of contamination is from radioactive minerals that are a minor rock constituent in some Georgia aquifers, including areas where fractured granite is the source of well water. While natural radioactivity may occur anywhere in Georgia (Figure 8-6), the most significant problems have occurred at some locations near the Gulf Trough, a geologic feature of the Floridan Aquifer in the Coastal Plain. Wells can generally be constructed to seal off the rocks producing the radioactive elements to provide safe drinking water. If the radioactive zones in a

well cannot be sealed off, the public may have to connect to a neighboring permitted public water system(s).

Radon, a radioactive gas produced by the radioactive minerals mentioned above, also has been noted in highly variable amounts in groundwater from some Georgia wells, especially in the Piedmont region.

Tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, was found in 1991 in excess of expected background levels by EPD sampling in Burke County aquifers. While the greatest amount of tritium thus far measured is only 15 percent of the US EPA MCL for tritium, the wells in which it has been found lie across the Savannah River from the Savannah River Site where nuclear weapons were produced.

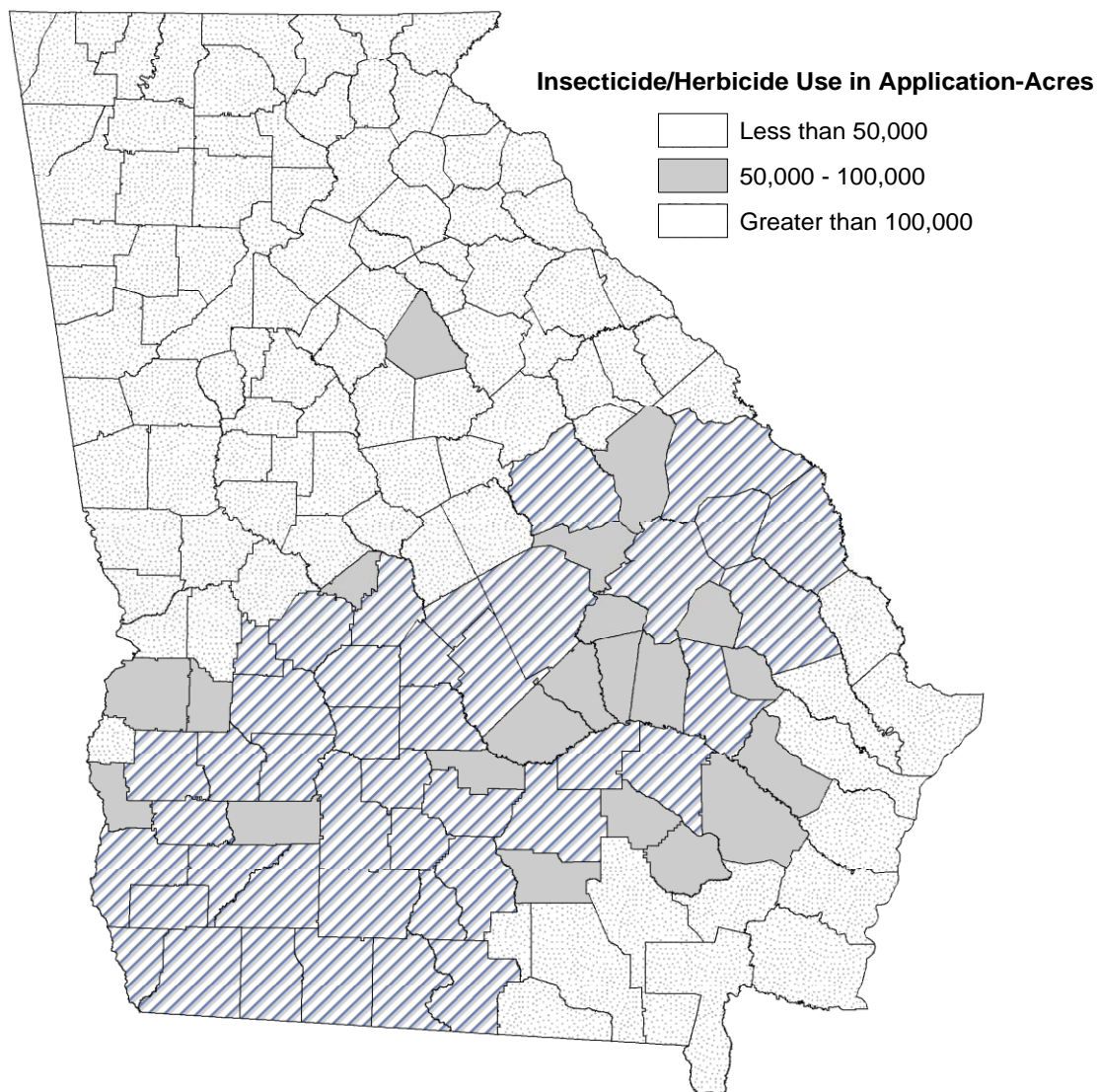
Permitted Withdrawals The Water Supply Program of the Watershed Protection Branch currently has three major water withdrawal permitting responsibilities: (a) permitting of municipal and industrial groundwater withdrawal facilities; (b) permitting of municipal and industrial surface water withdrawal facilities; and (c) permitting of both surface and groundwater for farm uses.

Groundwater Use Permit Management of groundwater quantity involves allocating the State's groundwater, through a permitting system, to ensure that the resource is sustainably used and continues to be productively available to present and future generations. The Georgia Ground-Water Use Act of 1972 requires all non-agricultural groundwater users of more than 100,000 gpd for any purpose to obtain a Groundwater Use Permit from EPD.

Applicants are required to submit details relating to withdrawal location, historic water use, water demand projections, water conservation, projected water demands, the source aquifer system, and well construction data.

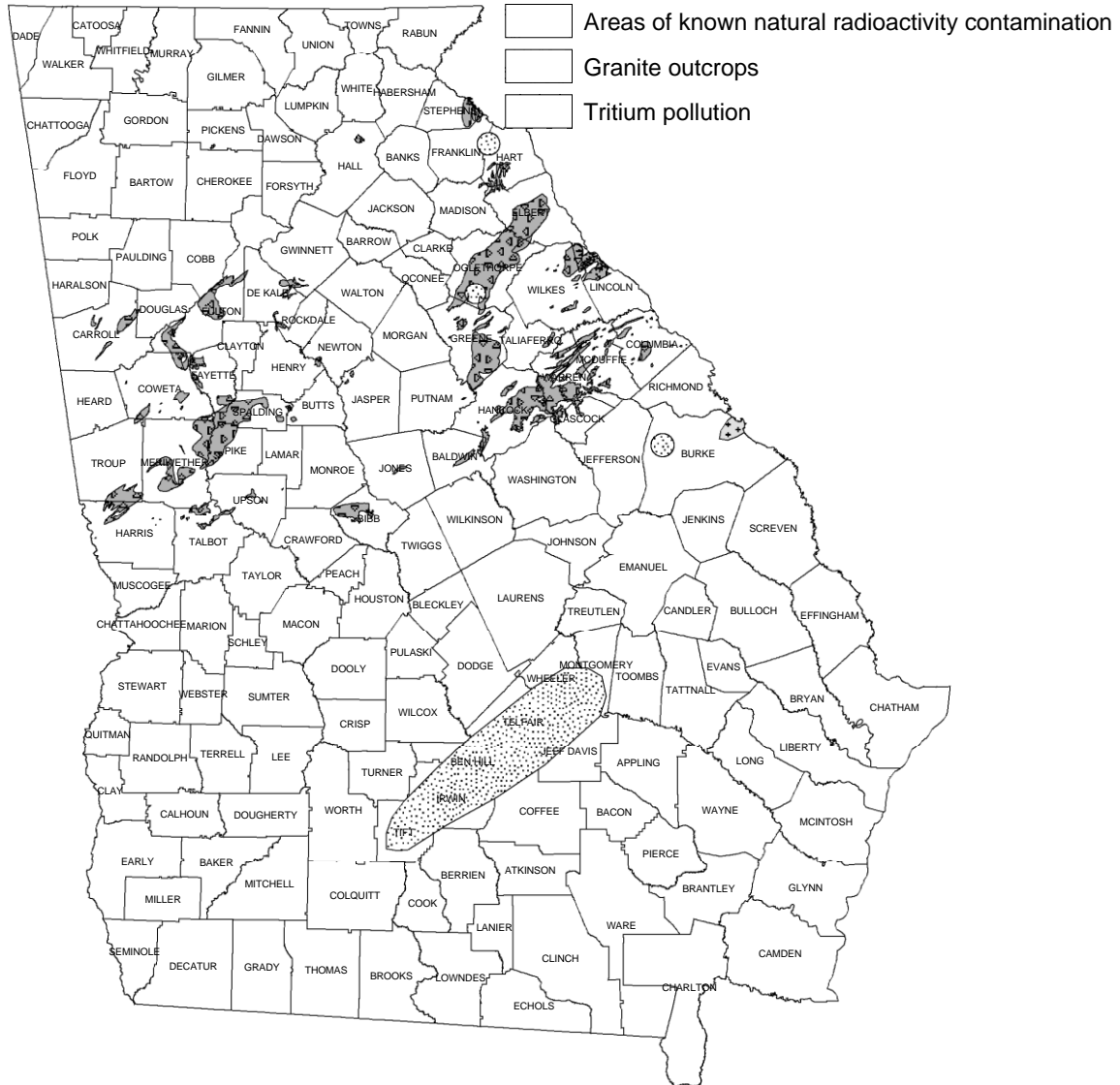
There are 494 active groundwater withdrawal permits: 336 municipal/public supply permits (68%) and 158 industrial permits (32%).

FIGURE 8-5
INSECTICIDE/HERBICIDE USE IN GEORGIA, 1980



Note: An application-acre represents one application of insecticide-herbicide to one acre of land. Some crops may require multiple applications.

FIGURE 8-6
AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO NATURAL AND HUMAN INDUCED RADIATION



Surface Water Withdrawal Permit The 1977 Surface Water Amendments to the Georgia Water Quality Control Act of 1964 require all non-agricultural surface water users of more than 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) on a monthly average (from any Georgia surface water body considered waters of the State) to obtain a Surface Water Withdrawal Permit. The 1977 statute "grandfathered" all pre-1977 users who could establish the quantity of their use prior to 1977. Under this provision these pre-1977 users were permitted at antecedent withdrawal levels with no minimum flow conditions. However, modifications of these permits with increased quantities would involve stream flow protections consistent with current practices.

Applicants for surface water withdrawal permits are required to submit details relating to withdrawal source, historic water use, water demand projections, water conservation, low flow protection (for non-grandfathered withdrawals), drought contingency, raw water storage, watershed protection, and reservoir management.

There are 273 active surface water withdrawal permits: 192 municipal permits, 66 industrial permits, and 15 golf course permits.

Farm Water Use Permit The 1988 Amendments to both the Ground-Water Use Act and the Water Quality Control Act require all farm groundwater and surface water users of more than 100,000 gpd on a monthly average to obtain a Farm Water Use Permit (70 gpm pump or larger).

"Farm Use" is specifically defined as "irrigation of any land used for general farming, forage, aquaculture, pasture, turf production, orchards, or tree and ornamental nurseries; provisions of water supply for farm animals, poultry farming, or any other activity conducted in the course of a farming operation." Farm uses "shall also include" the processing of perishable agricultural products and the irrigation of recreational turf (i.e., golf courses) except in certain areas of the state where recreational turf is considered as an industrial use.

These areas are defined for surface water withdrawals as the Chattahoochee River

watershed upstream from Peachtree Creek (North Georgia), and for groundwater withdrawals in the coastal counties of Chatham, Effingham, Bryan and Glynn.

Applicants for Farm Water Use Permits who were able to establish that their use existed prior to July 1, 1988 and whose applications were received prior to July 1, 1991, are "grandfathered" for the operating capacity in place prior to July 1, 1988.

Farm Water Use Permit identifies among other things the source, the purpose of withdrawal, total design pumping capacity, installation date, acres irrigated, and the location of the withdrawal. Special conditions may identify minimum surface water flow to be protected or the aquifer and depth to which a well is limited.

There are 26,355 agricultural water use permits (both ground and surface water), of which 13,737 are for groundwater withdrawals, 1,683 are for well to pond permits that has an associated groundwater withdrawal, and 411 are for golf courses and athletic fields.

Groundwater Protection Georgia, primarily the EPD, has delegated authority for all federal environmental groundwater protection statutes that are more stringent than federal statutes. Of the 28 programs, identified by USEPA, only three are not applicable to Georgia: discharges to groundwater are prohibited; the State's hydrogeology is not compatible to classification; and, while managed through construction standards, actual permits for underground storage tanks are not issued. Table 8-3 is a summary of Georgia groundwater protection programs. The prevention of groundwater pollution includes:

- Proper siting, construction and operation of environmental facilities and activities through a permitting system
- Implementation of environmental planning criteria by incorporation of land-use planning by local governments,
- Implementation of a Wellhead Protection Program for municipal drinking water wells,

**TABLE 8-3
SUMMARY OF STATE GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROGRAMS**

Programs or Activities	Check (X)	Implementation Status	Responsible Georgia Agency
Active SARA Title III Program	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Ambient groundwater monitoring system	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Aquifer vulnerability assessment	X	Ongoing	Environ. Protection
Aquifer mapping	X	Ongoing	Environ. Protection
Aquifer characterization	X	Ongoing	Environ. Protection
Comprehensive data management system	X	Ongoing	Environ. Protection
EPA-endorsed Core Comprehensive State Groundwater Protection Program (CSGWPP)	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Groundwater discharge		Prohibited	
Groundwater Best Management Practices	X	Pending	Environ. Protection
Groundwater legislation	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Groundwater classification		Not applicable	
Groundwater quality standards	X	Ongoing	Environ. Protection
Interagency coordination for groundwater protection initiatives	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Nonpoint source controls	X	Ongoing	Environ. Protection
Pesticide State Management Plan	X	Fully Established	Agriculture
Pollution Prevention Program		Discontinued	Natural Resources
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Primacy non-hazardous and hazardous solid waste	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
State Superfund	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
State RCRA Program incorporating more stringent requirements than RCRA Primacy non-hazardous and hazardous solid waste	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
State septic system regulations	X	Fully Established	Public Health
Underground storage tank installation requirements	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Underground Storage Tank Remediation Fund	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Underground Storage Tank Permit Program	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Underground Injection Control Program	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Vulnerability assessment for drinking water/wellhead protection	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Well abandonment regulations	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Wellhead Protection Program (EPA-approved)	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection
Well installation regulations	X	Fully Established	Environ. Protection

-
- Detection and mitigation of existing problems,
 - Development of other protective standards, as appropriate, where permits are not required, and
 - Education of the public to the consequences of groundwater contamination and the need for groundwater protection.

Other programs EPD uses to protect groundwater included:

Hazardous Site Response Act - requires the notification and control of releases of hazardous materials to soil and groundwater. As of December 31, 2023, there are 467 sites listed on the Georgia Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI), down from the 485 sites listed in December 2021. A trust fund has been established raised from fees paid by hazardous waste generators for the purpose of cleaning abandoned hazardous waste sites.

Recharge Area Protection Program - EPD has detailed maps showing the relative susceptibility of shallow groundwater to pollution by man's activities at the land surface. EPD has developed environmental criteria to protect groundwater in significant recharge areas. These criteria also reflect the relative pollution susceptibility of the land surface in recharge areas. Local governments are currently incorporating the pollution prevention measures contained in the criteria in developing local land use plans.

Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program During 2022-2023, EPD issued 72 UIC permits and as of December 31, 2023, EPD has 156 active UIC permits covering 5,269 Class V wells. Most of the permits are for remediation wells for UST sites, petroleum product spills, hazardous waste sites, or for non-domestic septic systems.

Underground Storage Tank Act - Groundwater protection from leaking underground storage tanks was enhanced with the enactment of the Georgia Underground Storage Tank Act in 1988. The program established a financial assurance trust fund and instituted corrective action requirements to cleanup leaking underground storage tanks. As of December 31, 2023, there are a total of 29,573 underground storage tanks (USTs) at a total of 8,674 UST facilities.

Water Well Standards Act -Georgia law requires that water well drillers constructing domestic, irrigation and public water supply wells and all pump installers be licensed and bonded. As of December 31, 2023, Georgia had 233 active licensed water well contractors, 42 active bonded drillers, and 88 active certified pump installers that are required to follow strict well construction and repair standards.

Wellhead Protection - Where recharge to individual wells using the surficial or unconfined aquifers is taking place, EPD implemented a Wellhead Protection Program for municipal drinking water wells in 1993. Wells in confined aquifers have a small Wellhead Protection Area, generally 100 feet from the well. Wells using unconfined aquifers have Wellhead Protection Areas extending several hundred to several thousand feet from the well. Wells in karstic areas require even larger protection areas, which are defined using hydrogeologic mapping techniques. Currently, there are 468 active systems with Wellhead Protection Plans covering 1,735 active municipal groundwater wells.

Monitoring of Unregulated Drinking Water Contaminants The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) is used to collect data on contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water, and therefore the source water, and do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Beginning in 2000, and approximately once every five years, EPA has issued a list of no more than 30 contaminants for monitoring by public water systems. The chemicals tested are not regulated, are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems and may warrant future regulations under the SWDA.

Thus far, water samples have been tested for 109 chemicals and 2 viruses by UCMR1-UCMR4. UCMR5 began in 2022. During UCMR5, drinking water samples are being analyzed for 29 chemicals in the PFOS family plus lithium. PFOA and PFOS were analyzed during UCMR3 and are being sampled again during UCMR5 because of growing concerns regarding the wide-spread extent of these chemicals.

CHAPTER 9

Major Issues and Challenges

Georgia's major issues and challenges include increased population placing considerable demands on Georgia's water resources; nonpoint source pollution resulting in excessive nutrient levels that have detrimental effects on human health and the environment; harmful algae blooms that impact recreational and drinking water uses; emerging pollutants such as PFAS that affect human health.

Comprehensive State and Regional Water Planning Georgia is one of the fastest growing states in the nation. The increasing population places considerable demands on Georgia's ground and surface water resources in terms of water supply, water quality, and assimilative capacity.

Regional Water Councils and the Metro District were charged with the responsibility of developing water plans to provide a roadmap for sustainable use of Georgia's water resources. Georgia is currently in the third round of regional planning and the plans were updated and adopted in June 2023.

The plans present solutions identified by a cross-section of regional leaders, drawing on regional knowledge and priorities to ensure that Georgia's waters can be sustainably managed to support the state's economy, protect public health and natural systems, and enhance the quality of life for all Georgians.

Indirect Potable Reuse

Georgia's water resources are finite, and as the state's population continues to grow, their capacities will be stressed. Some portions of the state already operate under water resources constraints. Local governments and industries are faced with finding new options to meet increasing water demands and limited assimilative capacity, many times within geographical limitations. As entities across the state continue to expand and build new operations, coordination among potable surface water intakes and wastewater discharges needs

to occur to promote safe, healthy water reuse practices to promote water resource resiliency. Indirect potable reuse (IPR) is the augmentation of a drinking water source with reclaimed water, followed by an environmental buffer that precedes drinking water treatment (USEPA 2012).

IPR can result from a proactive decision by a utility to discharge or encourage discharge of highly treated reclaimed water into surface water supply that augments the yield of that source for drinking water supply. A type of IPR called "de facto reuse," however, refers to a situation in which the discharge of treated wastewater into a surface water body by one entity impacts downstream drinking water sources of another entity. Occurrence of de facto reuse is often driven by the proximity of multiple entities, the limited availability and yield of alternate sources, or the high cost of developing alternate water sources. GA EPD has prepared a guidance document to shepherd various parties interested in or navigating IPR scenarios through the regulatory process to maintain human health and the environment.

Nonpoint Source Pollution The pollution impact on Georgia streams has radically shifted over the last several decades. Streams are no longer dominated by untreated or partially treated sewage discharges that resulted in little or no oxygen and little or no aquatic life. The sewage is now treated, oxygen levels have returned, and fish have followed.

However, another source of pollution affecting Georgia streams is nonpoint sources that include mud, litter, bacteria, pesticides, fertilizers, metals, oils, detergents and a variety of other pollutants being washed into rivers and lakes by stormwater. Even stormwater runoff itself may detrimentally alter a stream's hydrology, flow rate, temperature and other physical and biological characteristics.

Nonpoint source pollution must be reduced and controlled to fully protect Georgia's streams. In addition to structural pollution controls, the use of nonstructural techniques should be significantly expanded to minimize nonpoint source pollution. Some controls that should be considered include: green infrastructure, low impact development, enhanced stream buffers, erosion and sedimentation controls, street cleaning and

limitations on pesticide and fertilizer usage. Some of these best management practices can be implemented through local government planning and zoning.

Nutrients Nutrients serve a very important role in our environment. They provide the essential building blocks necessary for growth and development of healthy aquatic ecosystems. However, if not properly managed, nutrients in excessive amounts can have detrimental effects on human health and the environment, creating such water quality problems as excessive growth of macrophytes and phytoplankton, harmful algal blooms, dissolved oxygen depletion, and an imbalance of flora and fauna.

In Georgia, site specific nutrient criteria have been adopted for several major lakes and their tributaries, including most recently Lakes Oconee and Sinclair. Four of these lakes, Allatoona, Carters, Lanier, and Walter F George, have been listed as impaired for chlorophyll a, which is the primary biological indicator in lakes for nutrient over enrichment. TMDLs, based on watershed modeling, have been completed to address the nutrient issues for Allatoona, Carters and Lanier. These TMDLs require both point and nonpoint source reductions. The wasteload allocations outlined in the TMDLs are currently being implemented in NPDES permits.

Harmful Algal Blooms Cyanobacteria are commonly referred to as blue-green algae and they occur naturally in waters. Under certain circumstances, these algae may grow rapidly to form dense accumulations known as blooms. When blooms are formed by toxin-producing bacteria like blue-green algae, it is generally referred to as a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB). These blooms are considered harmful because they can produce irritants and/or toxins, called cyanotoxins, which can pose health risks to humans and animals. Cyanobacteria are also associated with taste and odor problems.

Cyanotoxins can cause human and animal illness through direct contact, ingestion, or inhalation. Depending on the species of cyanobacteria, the toxins affect the nervous system, liver, skin, or stomach. No human deaths due to cyanotoxins have occurred in the United States, though animal deaths have been widely reported. Pets, livestock, and wildlife may be exposed to cyanotoxins if they drink water from toxin-

contaminated waterbodies, lick their fur after swimming in such waters, or consume toxin-containing algal scum or mats.

Table 9-1 provides the human and animal health effects from HABs.

Table 9-1. Health Effects from Cyanotoxin Exposure

Humans	Animals
Rash, irritation, swelling, sores	Vomiting
Gastrointestinal problems	Diarrhea
Respiratory problems	Seizures
Fever	Death
Headache	
Neurologic symptoms	
Ear symptoms	

Waterbodies should be visually monitored for the presence of HABs. If there is a large temporal and spatial extent of the bloom, microscopic identification should be performed to determine the algal species causing the bloom. If microcystins and/or cylindrospermopsin are present in large enough amounts to trigger toxin production, then cyanotoxin levels should be confirmed through laboratory testing. Cyanotoxins may be present both before and after cyanobacteria are observed. The toxins typically tested for include microcystins/nodularins, cylindrospermopsin, saxitoxin and anatoxin-a.

The World Health Organization (WHO) considers toxin levels under 10 micrograms/liter to represent a low-level risk for adverse health outcomes from short-term recreational exposure. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends microcystin cyanotoxins not exceed 8 micrograms/liter and cylindrospermopsin cyanotoxins not exceed 15 micrograms/liter in recreational waters.

Certain sensitive populations, such as children, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems, may still be at risk even at low concentrations and should avoid any exposure. Remember, "When in doubt, it's best to stay out!"

PFAS Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have strong carbon-fluorine bonds, which cause them to be highly persistent

in the environment and in animals, including fish and human beings. These chemicals don't break down and they can accumulate over time.

There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects. These chemicals can cause reproductive and developmental problems to fetuses during pregnancy or to breastfed infants (e.g., low birth weight), liver and kidney damage, and immunological effects in laboratory animals. Both chemicals have caused tumors in animals.

Health advisories provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. On May 25, 2016, EPA established lifetime health advisory levels at 70 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. On June 15, 2022, EPA published lifetime health advisories for GenX of 10 parts per trillion and PFBS of 2,000 parts per trillion. EPA also updated the lifetime health advisories for PFOA and PFOS with interim health advisories of 0.004 parts per trillion for PFOA and 0.02 parts per trillion for PFOS. Currently, analytical methods can detect PFOA and PFOS down to 4 parts per trillion, which means that the interim health advisories are significantly below detection.

In the winter of 2021, EPD initiated a targeted PFAS monitoring project. EPD's primary goal for this project is to fulfill its mission to protect human health and the environment by assessing the level of PFAS contamination in drinking water and drinking water sources across the State. Public water systems received sample kits from the EPD Laboratory to collect finished drinking water. These samples were returned to the EPD Laboratory for analysis. The results of this monitoring effort are posted to EPD's PFAS [StoryMap](#).

Phase I

Because PFAS has already been found near or above USEPA's 2016 lifetime health advisory level in the Coosa basin, the first phase of PFAS sampling focused on the Coosa and neighboring Tennessee basin. In these two basins, EPD required all surface water public drinking water systems (including systems that use springs as source water), regardless of the population served, and all groundwater public drinking water

systems serving a population of 500 or more to sample their finished drinking water. This effort included systems that were not sampled as part of UCMR 3. Phase I has been completed.

Phase II

For Phase II, EPD prioritized all large public water systems located in the state serving a population greater than 100,000 and public water systems located near significant Department of Defense (DOD) installations, specifically Fort Stewart, Robins Air Force Base, and Moody Air Force Base. As in Phase I, GA EPD included all surface water public drinking water systems and all groundwater public drinking water systems serving a population of 500 or more. EPD also collected samples from a small public water system serving a population less than 500 located in Cherokee County near a larger system with PFAS detections in the finished water.

Phase III

In 2023, EPA initiated monitoring under UCMR 5. This monitoring includes 29 species of PFAS, and all public water systems serving populations of 3,300 or more are required to participate. EPD does not wish to duplicate this effort and will pay close attention to the results of UCMR5. However, to supplement UCMR5, EPD will initiate a third and final phase of monitoring of finished drinking water from public water systems that rely on groundwater in areas where groundwater is highly susceptible to pollution.

Note that the Reporting Limits for EPD's PFAS survey are either 4 or 5 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS.

APPENDIX A

WATERS ASSESSED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DESIGNATED USES

The attached tables present Georgia's 2024 Integrated 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters. EPD issued a public notice on February 1, 2023 soliciting data from any outside sources to be included in the assessment of water quality data for the 2024 305(b)/303(d) List. All available data, including that which was collected by the Department of Natural Resources, were considered and determinations were made for compliance with designated uses. Information as to the specific data sources and an explanation for the various codes used with the 2024 listing assessment are included in the "Data Source Code/Key for Abbreviations" Table that follows this narrative.

Collected data and information were compared against applicable water quality standards to make listing assessment decisions. Assessed waters were placed into one or more of the five categories as described below:

Category 1 – Data indicate that waters are meeting their designated use(s).

Category 2 – A water body has more than one designated use and data indicate that at least one designated use is being met, but there is insufficient evidence to determine that all uses are being met.

Category 3 – There were insufficient data or other information to make a determination as to whether or not the designated use(s) is being met.

Category 3N - Additional data/information is needed to determine if violations of water quality criteria are due to Natural Conditions.

Category 4a – Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met, but TMDL(s) have been completed for the parameter(s) that are causing a water not to meet its use(s).

Category 4b - Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met, but there are actions in place (other than a TMDL) that are predicted to lead to compliance with water quality standards.

Category 4c - Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met, but a pollutant does not cause the impairment.

Category 5 - Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met and TMDL(s) need to be completed for one or more pollutants.

Category 5R – Data indicate that at least one designated use is not being met; however, TMDL development is deferred while an advanced restoration plan is pursued. If the advanced restoration plan is not successful, then the water will be placed back in Category 5 and a TMDL will be developed.

In the 5-part categorization method, waters that are assessed as "not supporting" their uses were either placed in Category 4a, 4b, 4c, 5 or 5R. The federally mandated 303(d) list is made up of those waters in Category 5 (including Category 5R). Waters that are assessed as "supporting" their uses were placed in Category 1. Waters for which there were insufficient data to make a use assessment were placed in Category 2, 3 or 3N.

Georgia's Integrated List of Waters is organized by water type (streams, lakes, coastal streams, sounds/harbors, coastal beaches, and freshwater beaches). Each water type is organized by river basin. Water bodies within a river basin are alphabetized. Information provided in the List of Waters includes a description of the water's location, data source, designated water use classification, use assessment, criterion violated, potential cause, estimates of extent affected and the assessment category (1-5). For waters within category 5, an entry in the priority column indicates the year by which a TMDL will be drafted for the pollutant of concern. A "Notes" column has been included to provide additional information for some water bodies such listing any TMDLs have been completed. Finally, each listed water has a unique Reach ID assigned to it. The Reach ID is a thirteen-digit code made up of the letters "GAR" followed by the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC 10) in which the waterbody falls followed by two sequential digits (i.e. 01, 02, 03).

In providing the information for the evaluated causes as listed in the tables on the following pages, many potential sources which may have caused the violation of the indicated criterion were considered. These sources are identified as the most likely candidates for affecting a particular water segment. One potential source may be largely responsible for the criterion violated or the impact may be the result of a combination of sources.

Georgia contains a vast number of waterbodies. While EPD has assessed a large number of these waters, there are many waters (especially smaller creeks and lakes) that have not been assessed due to a lack of data. Waters that do not appear in the 305(b)/303(d) list of waters are to be considered to be in Category 3 (no data).

EPD developed a listing assessment methodology to use in the assessment of State waters. This methodology describes the different types of data that EPD evaluates and explains how the evaluation of the data results in water being placed in one or more of the 5 categories described above.

Georgia's 2024 305(b)/303(d) Listing Assessment Methodology

The outline below provides the listing assessment methodology used for the solicitation, review, consideration, and assessment of data for Georgia's 2024 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters. Each biennial listing cycle, the Listing Assessment Methodology is updated to include needed changes and to reflect the most current Listing Guidance provided by the USEPA. Each listing cycle brings new challenges in the review and assessment of data. The information that follows is intended as a guide. The methodology does not cover all possible scenarios, so best professional judgment is used along with the Listing Assessment Methodology, as needed. A best professional judgment approach is also used where insufficient information or data were available to making listing decisions.

I. Data Solicitation

On February 1, 2023, a notice soliciting water quality data for use in the development of the 2024 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters was e-mailed to people that had requested to be notified regarding announcements on water quality standards, Total Maximum Daily Loads, 305(b)/303(d) issues, and grant opportunities. In addition, the announcement was placed on the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's (EPD) website. The notice was placed on the webpage for the State's 305(b)/303(d) List (<https://epd.georgia.gov/water-quality-georgia>) and on the webpage that contains public announcements for the Watershed Protection Branch (<https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch-public-announcements>). The notice stated EPD was gathering water quality data and information to be used in the development of Georgia's draft 2024 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters. Any comments, data, or other information were requested to be submitted to EPD by July 1, 2023. The notice included a link to a document on EPD's website that provides information as to the requirements

for the submission and acceptance of water quality data for EPD's use in 305(b)/303(d) listing assessments.

II. Data Acceptability Requirements

In accordance with 40 CFR Part 130.7(b)(4), EPD is to evaluate all existing and readily available water quality data when assessing waters for the 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters. However, water quality data can vary in both quality and quantity. Data used for assessing waters can be placed into 3 Tiers based upon its quantity and quality.

Tier 1 data is high in both quality and quantity and is used for assessing whether a waterbody is meeting its designated uses or not. In regard to data quality, this data will have been collected and analyzed in accordance with the Quality Control/Quality Assurance requirements in EPD's [Planning and Documentary Protocols for Water Quality Assessments](#) and [Quality Assurance Project Plan](#). In the case of data collected by our sister agencies (Wildlife Resources Division, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia's Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division, and USGS), the data will have been collected in accordance with their quality assurance/quality control guidelines. In the case of data collected by third parties, the data would have been collected in accordance with an EPD approved Sampling and Quality Assurance Plan (SQAP) as described in Chapter 391-3-6-.03(13) of Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control. As for data quantity, Tier 1 data will meet or exceed the "preferred minimum data set" provided in Section VII below.

Tier 2 data is still of high quality (it meets the same quality standards as Tier 1 data), but does not meet the "preferred minimum data set." Tier 2 data are evaluated closely to determine whether the data quantity is sufficient to be used to assess the condition of the waterbody (i.e., determine if the designated use is being met or not) or if the waterbody needs to be placed in Category 3 (assessment pending) until additional data are collected. EPD needs to consider a number of factors when making this determination. These include evaluating: how close the data set is to the preferred minimum set; the reason the data set did not meet the preferred minimum (i.e. did the stream dry up part of the year making sampling impossible some months); the seasonality of the data with regards to the parameter being assessed; the data values in relation to the water quality criteria for that parameter; and results of other data including historical data at the site.

Tier 3 data is data that does not meet data quality requirements described under Tier 1. This data is not used for 305(b)/303(d) listing purposes but may be used for screening purposes to help EPD select sites for future sampling. Data collected by third parties that was not collected under an approved SQAP and who do not show their data was collected and analyzed in such a manner that it would have received SQAP approval fall into Tier 3. In addition, when EPD, USGS, or other agencies collect data and these data do not meet their respective quality guidelines, then these data are not used for listing purposes.

III. Data Assessment Period

All readily available data and information for the calendar years 2021-2023 were considered in development of Georgia's 2024 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters. For data collected in 2023, typically only data from January through June were available for assessment. Currently, Georgia has over 3,000 waterbodies on its 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters. It is not possible to obtain new data for all these waters every two years. In cases where no new data have been collected between 2021 and 2023, EPD continued to use the older available data for the waterbodies to make the assessments. In addition, data from 2018 through 2020 were considered along with the 2021 through 2023 data, when assessing a waterbody, if the data set were continuous. For instance, if data were collected every year from 2018-2023, then the data from all these years were used in the assessment. On the other hand, if data were

collected in 2018, but not again until 2022, then only the 2022 data were used in the assessment, since conditions may have changed in the intervening years. There are instances where EPD may choose not to use all years of consecutive data in the assessment of a waterbody. For example, where a local government or group has conducted specific water quality improvement efforts in the watershed of a waterbody and the data collected before and after the improvement projects provide a clear indication the project has succeeded in improving water quality, EPD may choose only to use data collected after implementation of the water quality improvements. It is the responsibility of the local government or group to submit specific documentation to EPD including a description of the improvement project, its location, and the date of implementation, along with the water quality data supporting the assertion the project has been successful.

IV. Data Collection and Areas of Focus

Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act requires States to assess the quality of their waters. To meet this goal, Georgia collects water quality data for a number of physical/chemical parameters such as dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, bacteria, metals, pesticides, etc. Biological data is also collected at some sites (fish or macroinvertebrates) to assess the health of the aquatic community. Fish tissue data is collected at some sites to enable the State to detect concentrations of toxic chemicals in fish that may be harmful to consumers and guide appropriate future actions to protect public health and the environment. The goal of the State's monitoring program is to collect data that accurately represents the condition of the waterbody that can vary throughout the year. The State's monitoring program is designed to collect data in different seasons to capture the impact of seasonality on the data. In addition, water quality samples are collected in a random fashion such that we are likely to obtain samples in both wet and dry weather. Samples are not taken if conditions are dangerous to personnel or if there is no visible water flow in a stream to be sampled.

EPD used data collected from across the state to develop its 2024 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters. EPD currently has monitoring staff located in five offices (Atlanta, Cartersville, Brunswick, Tifton, and Augusta). By spreading its monitoring staff out in different regions, EPD is better able to monitor waters throughout the State each year. In addition, EPD receives data from other GA DNR Divisions such as Georgia's Wildlife Resources Division, Georgia's Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division, and Georgia's Coastal Resources Division. EPD also accepts data from outside groups. This data may have been taken from anywhere in the State. Finally, EPD may conduct special projects and the data from these special projects can also be used for assessment purposes.

V. Data Rounding and Use of Replicate Data

When assessing waters, EPD compares water quality data with their respective water quality criteria. Water quality data for a given parameter will be rounded to the same number of significant digits as the criterion for that parameter before the two are compared for the purpose of making listing determinations. Should it be necessary to perform mathematical operations with the data before comparison with the appropriate criterion (such as the calculation of an average of a number of data points), EPD will keep extra decimal places throughout the calculations and then round to the appropriate number of decimal places at the end. This practice prevents the propagation of rounding errors throughout the calculation.

In accordance with the Georgia [Quality Assurance Project Plan \(QAPP\)](#) section B5.2, Georgia EPD associates will collect replicate samples at 10% of all sample events (this is subject to change based on the project plan and/or lab constraints). Results of replicate sampling are not used directly for assessment of waters. Instead, replicate data are used as part of our Quality Assurance/Quality Control Procedures to help quantify precision of data.

VI. Assessment of Waters Using the 5-Part Categorization System

USEPA developed a five-part categorization system for all states and tribes to use when developing their 305(b)/303(d) Lists of Waters. EPD first adopted the five-part categorization system with the 2008 305(b)/303(d) report. Assessed waters are placed into one or more of five categories as described below:

Category 1 – Data indicate waters are meeting their designated use(s).

Category 2 – A waterbody has more than one designated use and data indicate at least one designated use is being met, but there is insufficient evidence to determine whether all uses are being met.

Category 3 – There is insufficient data/information to make a determination as to whether or not the designated use(s) is being met.

Category 3N – Additional data/information is needed to determine if violations of water quality criteria are due to Natural Conditions.

Category 4a – Data indicate at least one designated use is not being met, but a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has been completed for the pollutant(s) causing a waterbody not to meet its use(s).

Category 4b - Data indicate at least one designated use is not being met, but there are actions in place (other than a TMDL) that are predicted to lead to compliance with water quality standards.

Category 4c - Data indicate at least one designated use is not being met, but the impairment is not caused by a pollutant.

Category 5 - Data indicate at least one designated use is not being met and TMDL(s) need to be completed for one or more pollutants.

Category 5R - Data indicate at least one designated use is not being met; however, TMDL development is deferred while an advanced restoration plan is pursued. If the advanced restoration plan is not successful, then the water will be placed back in Category 5 and a TMDL will be developed.

A waterbody will be assessed as supporting its designated use (Category 1); not supporting its use (Category 4 or 5); or assessment pending (Category 2 or 3). Waters in Category 5 or 5R are considered to be on the State's 303(d) list since the 303(d) list is a list of impaired waters that still need to have a TMDL completed. It is possible for a waterbody to be in category 4 and 5 at the same time if it is impaired by more than one pollutant. For instance, if a waterbody were impaired for copper and dissolved oxygen and a TMDL had been completed only for dissolved oxygen, then the waterbody will be placed in category 4a for dissolved oxygen and category 5 for copper.

VII. Assessment Methodology for Making Use Support Decisions (Listing/Delisting Strategies)

The following provides an outline of the assessment methodology employed during the 2024 Listing Cycle. The conditions under the header "listing" describe what data are needed to place a waterbody on the "not supporting" list for a specific parameter. The conditions under the header "delisting" describe what data are needed to remove a specific parameter from the "not supporting" list. Generally, the data required to "delist" a parameter are the same as would be required to assess a waterbody as "supporting" its use for the parameter in question. The methodology below also describes a number of situations that would result in a waterbody being placed in Category 3 "assessment pending."

A "preferred minimum data set" is provided for a number of the parameters below. If the quantity of data available is less than the "preferred minimum set," EPD uses best professional judgment to determine if there are sufficient data available to make an assessment of use support or if the waterbody should be placed in Category 3 until more data are collected. Best professional judgment is also used in cases where data are determined to be suspect.

- A. Fecal Coliform Bacteria: Beginning with the 2024 Listing Cycle, Fecal Coliform Bacteria data are only used to assess waters located within Shellfish Growing areas on the coast. This is because *E coli* and enterococci were adopted as bacteria indicators in place of Fecal Coliform bacteria for the Fishing and Drinking Water uses as part of the 2019

Triennial Review. *E coli* and enterococci had previously been adopted as the bacteria indicators for waters with a Recreation use as part of the 2013 Triennial Review. Preferred minimum data set for assessing FC in shellfish growing areas: at least 30 samples of FC.

1. Listing –

a. Waters within “shellfish growing areas”: Georgia’s Coastal Resources Division (CRD) designates certain waters of the State as being shellfish growing areas. CRD designates shellfish harvesting areas within the growing areas. CRD monitors these waters for fecal coliform contamination in accordance with FDA requirements. A geometric mean using the most recent 30 data points is calculated and this mean is compared against FDA’s criterion of 14 MPN/100 mL. In addition, the 90th percentile of the 30 samples is calculated and compared with FDA’s criteria of 43 MPN/100 mL for a five-tube decimal dilution test; 49 MPN/100 mL for a three-tube decimal dilution test or 31 CFU/100 mL for a MF (mTEC) test.

1. Waterbodies are determined **not** to be supporting their designated use if the geometric mean of the most recent 30 samples is greater than 14/100 mL MPN or if the 90th percentile exceeds the values provided above based upon the testing method used.

2. Delisting –

a. Waters within “shellfish growing areas”

1. Waters are eligible for delisting for fecal coliform bacteria if the geometric mean of the last 30 data points is less than or equal to 14 MPN/100 mL and the 90th percentile of the last 30 data points does not exceed the values provided above based upon the testing method used.

B. Enterococci: enterococci is the bacterial indicator species for coastal and estuarine waters (waters with a salinity of 0.5 parts per thousand and greater) . The criteria consist of both a geometric mean and a statistical threshold value (STV). The geometric mean and STV apply to data collected within a 30-day period. For waters with a designated use other than Recreation the criteria are seasonal and are: May – October (geometric mean 35 count/100 mL, STV 130 count/100 mL); November – April (geometric mean 74 count/100 mL, STV 273 count/100 mL). For waters with a use of Recreation, the criteria are equal to the May – October values above for the whole year.

Depending upon how frequently bacteria data are collected, EPD uses the geometric mean, STV, or both to assess water quality. Coastal beaches are sampled at different frequencies depending upon how many people use them for recreation and their proximity to potential pollution sources. Beaches are sampled either weekly (year-round); monthly (from April to October) or quarterly (if they are under a permanent advisory). Coastal waters other than beaches are generally sampled monthly from April to October if they are sampled by boat. For waters that can be sampled from a bridge, enterococci is typically sampled for four quarters (each quarter four samples are collected in a 30-day period for a total of 16 samples in a year). Preferred minimum data set – For coastal beaches: 10 geometric means for coastal beaches sampled weekly and 10 months of data for those sampled monthly. For other coastal waters sampled by boat – 10 months of data. For

waters sampled from a bridge – enough data to calculate 4 geometric means. Each geometric mean is to consist of at least 3 samples collected in a 30-day period.

1. Listing –

a. Monthly Samples: Since only 1 sample is taken per month, there are not enough data available to calculate a meaningful geometric mean. Instead, the results of each monthly sample are compared with the STV.

1. If more than 10% of the monthly data exceed the STV, a water is assessed as **not** supporting its use designation.

b. Weekly Samples: For beaches (or other waters) sampled weekly, a geometric mean is calculated for each calendar month (if there were at least 3 samples taken during the calendar month). Each geometric mean is compared with the criteria. In addition, the individual data points from each calendar month are compared against the STV. If one or more of the individual data points within a calendar month exceeds the STV, then that calendar month exceeds the STV.

1. Waters are determined **not** to be supporting their designated use if more than 10% of the geometric means exceed the geometric mean portion of the criterion and/or if the STV is exceeded in more than 10% of the 30-day sampling periods.

c. Quarterly Geometric Means (16 samples per year): For sites monitored quarterly for geometric means, a geometric mean is calculated for each quarter if there are at least 3 samples taken in a 30-day period. Each geometric mean is compared with the criteria. In addition, the individual data points collected in each 30-day period are compared with the STV.

1. Waters are determined **not** to be supporting their designated use if more than 10% of the geometric means exceed the geometric mean portion of the criterion and/or if the STV is exceeded in more than 10% of the 30-day sampling periods.

d. Mixture of Sampling Types

1. If during the last five years, data are collected such that some years geometric means can be calculated and some years they cannot, then EPD assesses each data type separately as described above. If either the geometric mean or STV data indicate that a water is impaired, then the water will be listed as impaired.

e. Permanent Beach Advisory: Beaches under a permanent beach advisory are only sampled quarterly (4 samples per year). Beaches under a permanent beach advisory are assessed as **not** supporting their use designation based solely on the fact that a permanent advisory is in place.

2. Delisting –

a. Monthly Samples: Since only 1 sample is taken per month, there are not enough data available to calculate a meaningful geometric mean. Instead, the results of each monthly sample are compared with the STV.

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1. If 10% or less of the monthly data exceed the STV, a water is assessed as supporting its use designation.
 - b. Weekly Samples (for Beaches or other waters): A geometric mean is calculated for each calendar month (if there were at least 3 samples taken during the calendar month). Each geometric mean is compared with the criteria. In addition, the individual data points from each calendar month are compared against the STV. If one or more of the individual data points within a calendar month exceeds the STV, then that calendar month exceeds the STV.
 1. If 10% or less of the geometric means exceed the geometric mean portion of the criterion and if the STV is exceeded in 10% or less of the calendar months, the beach is eligible for delisting.
 - c. Quarterly Geometric Means: A geometric mean is calculated for each 30-day sampling period (if there were at least 3 samples taken). Each geometric mean is compared with the criteria. In addition, the individual data points from each 30-day sampling period are compared against the STV. If one or more of the individual data points within a 30-day period exceeds the STV, then that 30-day sampling period exceeds the STV.
 1. If 10% or less of the geometric means exceed the criterion and if the STV is exceeded in 10% or less of the 30-day sampling periods, the water is eligible for delisting.
 - d. Mixture of Sampling Types
 1. If during the last five years, data are collected such that some years geometric means can be calculated and some years they cannot, then EPD assesses each data type separately as described above. If both the geometric means and STV portions of the criteria are exceeded 10% or less of the time, then the water is eligible for delisting.
 - e. Permanent Beach Advisory: Beaches under a permanent beach advisory are not eligible for delisting.
3. Swimming Advisories – Swimming Advisories are issued by County Health Departments as described below. Swimming Advisories are not used for assessment purposes.
 - a. Beach swimming advisories are issued when the most recent enterococci data exceeds the Beach Action Value (BAV) of 70 CFU/100 mL.
 - b. The swimming advisory is lifted when new data shows the enterococci concentration is less than 70 CFU/100 mL.
- C. *E. Coli*: *E. coli* is the bacterial indicator species used for freshwater streams, lakes, and beaches. The criteria consist of both a geometric mean and a statistical threshold value (STV). The geometric mean and STV apply to data collected within a 30-day period. For waters with a designated use other than Recreation the criteria are seasonal and are: May – October (geometric mean 126 count/100 mL, STV 410 count/100 mL); November – April (geometric mean 265 count/100 mL, STV 861 count/100 mL). For waters with a use of Recreation, the criteria are equal to the May – October values for the whole year.
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Depending upon how frequently bacteria data are collected, EPD uses the geometric mean, STV, or both to assess water quality. EPD typically measures *E. coli* in lakes monthly (April – October). These samples are taken offshore (not at a beach). *E. coli* is typically sampled quarterly in streams (each quarter four samples are collected in a 30-day period for a total of 16 samples per year). The Georgia Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division (Parks Division) samples their beaches weekly from mid-April to Labor Day. Preferred minimum data set for data collected monthly: 7 monthly samples per year. Preferred minimum data set for data collected quarterly: 4 geometric means. Each geometric mean is to consist of at least 3 samples collected in a 30-day period. Preferred minimum data set for data collected weekly: 4 geometric means.

1. Listing –

a. Monthly Samples: Since only 1 sample is taken per month, there are not enough data available to calculate a meaningful geometric mean. Instead, the results of each monthly sample are compared with the STV.

1. If more than 10% of the monthly data exceed the STV, a water is assessed as **not** supporting its use designation.

b. Quarterly Geometric Means: A geometric mean is calculated for each 30-day sampling period (if there were at least 3 samples taken). Each geometric mean is compared with the criteria. In addition, the individual data points from each 30-day sampling period are compared against the STV. If one or more of the individual data points within a 30-day period exceeds the STV, then that 30-day sampling period exceeds the STV.

1. Waters are determined **not** to be supporting their designated use if more than 10% of the geometric means exceed the criterion and/or if the STV is exceeded in more than 10% of the 30-day sampling periods.

c. Weekly Samples (Parks Division Freshwater Beach data): A geometric mean is calculated for each calendar month (if there were at least 3 samples taken during the calendar month). Each geometric mean is compared with the criteria. In addition, the individual data points from each calendar month are compared against the STV. If one or more of the individual data points within a calendar month exceeds the STV, then that calendar month exceeds the STV.

1. Beaches are determined **not** to be supporting their designated use if more than 10% of the geometric means exceed the criterion and/or if the STV is exceeded in more than 10% of the calendar months.

d. Mixture of Sampling Types

1. If during the last five years, some years have geometric means available and other years only have monthly data available, then EPD assesses each data type separately as described above. Waters are determined **not** to be supporting their designated use if more than 10% of the geometric means exceed the criterion and/or if the STV is exceeded in more than 10% of the 30-day sampling periods.

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2. Delisting –
- a. Monthly Samples: Since only 1 sample is taken per month, there are not enough data available to calculate a meaningful geometric mean. Instead, the results of each monthly sample are compared with the STV.
 - 1. If 10% or less of the monthly data exceed the STV, a water is assessed as supporting its use designation.
 - b. Quarterly Geometric Means: A geometric mean is calculated for each 30-day sampling period (if there were at least 3 samples taken). Each geometric mean is compared with the criteria. In addition, the individual data points from each 30-day sampling period are compared against the STV. If one or more of the individual data points within a 30-day period exceeds the STV, then that 30-day sampling period exceeds the STV.
 - 1. If 10% or less of the geometric means exceed the criterion and if the STV is exceeded in 10% or less of the 30-day sampling periods, the water is eligible for delisting.
 - c. Weekly Samples (Parks Division Freshwater Beach data): A geometric mean is calculated for each calendar month (if there were at least 3 samples taken during the calendar month). Each geometric mean is compared with the criteria. In addition, the individual data points from each calendar month are compared against the STV. If one or more of the individual data points within a calendar month exceeds the STV, then that calendar month exceeds the STV.
 - 1. If 10% or less of the geometric means exceed the criterion and if the STV is exceeded in 10% or less of the calendar months, the beach is eligible for delisting.
 - d. Mixture of Sampling Types
2. If during the last five years, some years have geometric means available and other years only have monthly data available, then EPD assesses each data type separately as described above. If 10% or less of the geometric means exceed the criterion and if 10% or less of the 30-day sampling periods have values that exceed the STV, the water is eligible for delisting.
- D. Dissolved Oxygen (DO), pH, Water Temperature: preferred minimum data set – 12 samples in a 12-month period with 1 or 2 samples collected per month. Normally only discrete data is available for assessment. A single instantaneous reading of DO is taken at a site each time the site is visited. In the case of discrete data, the in-situ DO data is compared against the daily minimum criteria. Sometimes continuous data may be available for assessment. Continuous data is when a probe is left in the water for a long period of time and data is recorded multiple times per day. Continuous data may be collected for an entire year or only a portion of a year. Data must be collected in the critical period if it is to be used for assessment purposes. In the case of continuous data, both the daily average and daily minimum data would be compared against the criteria. The critical period for temperature and DO is May-October. The parameter pH does not have a critical period.
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The DO criteria are a daily average of 5.0 mg/L and no less than 4.0 mg/L. In the case of waters designated as trout streams by the Wildlife Resources Division the DO criteria are daily average of 6.0 mg/L and no less than 5.0 mg/L. The pH criteria are a minimum of 6.0 and a maximum of 8.5. Some lakes have site-specific pH criteria. These can be found in our Rules and Regulations at 391-3-6-.03(17). Water temperature is not to exceed 90° F.

1. Listing* –

a. Dissolved Oxygen – One year of available data or multiple consecutive years of available data:

1. Waterbodies are determined **not** to be supporting use designation if more than 10% of the data do not meet the water quality criteria. In the case of continuous data, a waterbody would be determined **not** to be supporting its use if more than 10% of the data in the critical period exceeds the criteria.
2. In the case where the DO criteria are not met more than 10% of the time, but where a “natural” dissolved oxygen concentration has been established, then the dissolved oxygen data are compared against the established “natural” dissolved oxygen concentration. If any of the data points are less than the “natural” dissolved oxygen concentration, then the waterbody is determined **not** to be supporting its designated use. If none of the DO data are less than the “natural” DO, then the waterbody is determined to be “supporting” its use (as far as DO is concerned).
3. Chapter 391-3-6-.03(7) of the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control recognizes some waters of the State “naturally” will not meet the instream criteria in the Rules and this situation does not constitute a violation of water quality standards. Before assessing a water as being impaired for DO, EPD needs to determine that low DO is not a result of natural conditions. Many waters in Georgia, specifically areas in South Georgia and near the Coast, have “natural” dissolved oxygen concentrations below the State’s standard dissolved oxygen criteria (daily average of 5.0 mg/l and an instantaneous minimum of 4.0 mg/l). If a waterbody does not meet the DO criteria more than 10% of the time and when it is anticipated the low dissolved oxygen condition is natural, then EPD will place the waterbody in Category 3N until work is completed that establishes the “natural” dissolved oxygen concentration for the waterbody. The measured dissolved oxygen data will then be compared with the “natural” dissolved oxygen concentration and an assessment will be made as to whether the waterbody is meeting its designated use.

b. Water Temperature, pH – One year or multiple consecutive years of available data:

1. Waterbodies are determined **not** to be supporting use designation if more than 10% of the data do not meet water quality criteria. In the case of continuous data, a waterbody would be determined **not** to be supporting its use if more than 10% of the data in the critical period exceeds the criteria.
2. Chapter 391-3-6-.03(7) of the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control recognizes some waters of the State “naturally” will not meet the instream criteria in the Rules and this situation does not constitute a violation of water quality standards. Georgia has many blackwater streams. The pH of blackwater streams is naturally low. If a waterbody has been identified as a

blackwater stream, then it is not listed as impaired if greater than 10% of the pH measurements are less than minimum pH criterion of 6.0, as long as there is no point source or land use issues that may be contributing to the low pH status of the stream. Until more definitive criteria for defining blackwater streams are developed, EPD will use dissolved organic carbon (DOC) or total organic carbon (TOC) concentrations along with field observations of water color to assess a stream as being blackwater. The water color should be described as tannic and the DOC/TOC is to be 10 mg/L or greater.

3. Obtaining accurate pH measurements in waters with low conductivity (<100 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) can be difficult based on how pH meters work. Waters with more than 10% of the data does not meet water quality criteria and where conductivity is < 100 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ will be placed in Category 3 until new methods used for measuring pH in low conductivity water are utilized.
4. EPD believes that waters with low alkalinity (< 20 mg/L as CaCO_3) may have naturally low pH. Until it can be established whether waters with low alkalinity have naturally low pH, pH will be placed in Category 3N if alkalinity is less than 20 mg/L as CaCO_3 .

2. Delisting –

a. Dissolved Oxygen – One year or multiple consecutive years of available data:

1. Waters are eligible for delisting for DO if 10% or less of the data are lower than the water quality criteria. In the case of continuous data a waterbody would be eligible for delisting if 10% or less of the data in the critical period exceeds the criteria.
2. In the case where the DO criteria are not met more than 10% of the time, but where a “natural” dissolved oxygen concentration has been established, the instream DO data is compared against the “natural” DO. If no violations of the natural dissolved oxygen concentration occur, the segment is eligible for delisting.

b. Water Temperature, pH – One year or multiple consecutive years of available data:

1. Waters are eligible for delisting for temperature or pH if 10% or less of the data does not meet the water quality criteria. In the case of continuous data, a waterbody would be eligible for delisting if 10% or less of the data in the critical period exceeds the criteria.

- E. Metals: preferred minimum data set – 4 samples in a 12-month period (2 winter, 2 summer). The criteria for many of the metals are hardness dependent (i.e. the criteria changes depending upon the hardness of the water). When metal samples are collected, hardness data are also collected. The criteria for metals are calculated using the hardness data collected at the same time the metals data are collected. The criteria for metals, including the formulas for hardness dependent criteria, can be found in the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control: Chapter 391-3-6-.03(5)I(ii) and (iv).

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1. Listing –
 - a. Waterbodies are determined **not** to be supporting their use designation if one sample exceeds the acute criteria in a three-year period or if more than one sample exceeds the chronic criteria in three years.
 2. Delisting –
 - a. Waters are eligible for delisting of metals if no exceedances of the acute criteria occur and no more than one exceedance of the chronic criteria occurs in three years.
- F. Priority Pollutant/Organic Chemicals: preferred minimum data set – 4 samples in a 12-month period (2 winter, 2 summer). Criteria can be found in our Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control Chapter 391-3-6-.03(5)I(i-iv)
1. Listing –
 - a. Waterbodies are determined **not** to be supporting their use designation if more than one sample exceeds the criteria in a three-year period.
 2. Delisting –
 - a. Waters are eligible for delisting for priority pollutants/organic chemicals if no more than one exceedance of the criteria occurs in a three-year period.
- G. Toxicity:
1. Listing –
 - a. Acute or Chronic toxicity tests conducted on municipal or industrial effluent samples and receiving waters – Waterbodies are determined **not** to be supporting use designation if:
 1. Effluent toxicity test(s) consistently predict in-stream toxicity at critical 7Q10 low stream flow and/or if toxicity tests performed on receiving waters consistently indicate the waterbody is toxic.
 2. Delisting –
 - a. New data with a facility consistently passing WET test(s) (if listing originated based on effluent toxicity test results) are eligible for delisting.
 - b. New data with receiving waters consistently passing toxicity test(s) (if listing originated based on stream toxicity test results) are eligible for delisting.
- H. Fish/Shellfish Consumption Guidelines:
1. Listing –
 - a. All Fish/Shellfish Tissue Contaminants Except Mercury:

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1. Waterbodies are determined **not** to be supporting use designation if the State's fish consumption guidelines document recommends consumption needs to be limited or if no consumption is recommended.
 - b. Fish/Shellfish Tissue – Mercury:
 1. Waterbodies are determined **not** to be supporting their use designation if the Trophic-Weighted Residue Value (calculated as described in the [October 19, 2001 EPD "Protocol"](#)), is in excess of Georgia's water quality criterion of 0.3 mg/kg wet weight mercury. Waters where the calculated Trophic-Weighted Residue Value for mercury is between 0.25 mg/kg and 0.30 mg/kg wet weight total are put in Category 3. The 2001 protocol document described above contains outdated information about how waters will be assessed, and the assessment information should be ignored. The protocol for calculating the Trophic-Weighted Residue Values themselves is still accurate.
 2. Delisting –
 - a. All Fish/Shellfish Tissue Contaminants Except Mercury:
 1. Waters are eligible for delisting if there are no consumption restrictions and fish/shellfish can be consumed in unlimited amounts.
 - b. Fish/Shellfish Tissue – Mercury:
 1. Waters are eligible for delisting if the calculated Trophic-Weighted Residue Values for mercury in fish tissue is less than 0.25 mg/kg wet weight total. Waters where the calculated Trophic-Weighted Residue Value for mercury is between 0.25 mg/kg and 0.30 mg/kg wet weight total are put in Category 3. The 2001 protocol document described above contains outdated information about how waters will be assessed, and the assessment information should be ignored. The protocol for calculating the Trophic-Weighted Residue Values themselves is still accurate.
 - I. Biotic Data (Fish Bioassessments):
 1. Listing – Fish Bioassessments are based on Fish Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) data. Waterbodies are determined **not** to be supporting use designation if:
 - a. The IBI ranking is "Poor" or "Very Poor";
 2. Delisting –
 - a. Waters are eligible for delisting if the waterbody has a Fish IBI rank of "Excellent", "Good", or "Fair".
 - J. Biotic Data (Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments):
 1. Listing – Benthic Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments based on a multi-metric index.
 - a. Waterbodies are determined **not** to be supporting use designation if the narrative rankings are "Poor" or "Very Poor".
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b. If the narrative ranking is “Fair”, then the waterbody is placed in Category 3.

2. Delisting –

a. Waterbodies are eligible for delisting if the waterbody scores a narrative ranking of “Very Good” or “Good”. If a waterbody scores “Fair”, it is placed in Category 3.

K. Data from Lakes with Site-Specific Nutrient Criteria:

Site-specific numeric criteria have been established for 8 major lakes in Georgia including 1) West Point Lake, 2) Lake Walter F. George, 3) Lake Jackson, 4) Lake Allatoona, 5) Lake Sidney Lanier 6) Carters Lake, 7) Lake Oconee and 8) Lake Sinclair. The criteria for these lakes can be found at 391-3-6-.03(17). These lakes are monitored annually and assessed for the parameters as described below:

1. Listing –

a. Chlorophyll a (lake stations): The last five calendar years of chlorophyll a data collected at each site-specific lake criteria station are assessed.

1. If during the five-year assessment period, the growing season average exceeds the site-specific growing season criteria 2 (or more) out of the last 5 years, the lake area representative for that station is assessed as not supporting its designated uses. If the average exceeds the site-specific growing season criteria for 1 out of last 5 years, the waterbody is placed in Category 3.

b. Total Nitrogen (lake stations): The last five calendar years of total nitrogen concentrations collected at each site-specific lake criteria station are assessed.

1. For Lakes other than Lake Allatoona: If greater than 10% of the total nitrogen values exceed the site-specific criteria, the lake area representative for that station is assessed as not supporting its designated uses.

2. For Lake Allatoona: A growing season average for each of the last five years is calculated for each site-specific lake criteria station. If any of the five growing season averages exceed the criterion, then the lake area is represented by that station is assessed as not supporting designated uses.

3. Lake Oconee and Sinclair do not have Total Nitrogen criteria at this time.

c. Major Lake Tributary Annual Total Phosphorous Loading Criteria: Annual total phosphorous loadings for each major lake tributary standard station are calculated for each of the last five calendar years.

1. If the average of the annual total phosphorous loadings exceeds the site-specific criteria, the site is assessed as not supporting designated uses. Note: Lake Oconee and Sinclair do not have Phosphorus Loading Criteria for their major tributaries.

d. Major Lake Annual Total Phosphorous Loading Criteria: The annual total phosphorus loading for each lake is calculated for each of the last five calendar years.

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1. If the average of the annual total phosphorous loadings exceeds the site-specific criteria, the site is assessed as not supporting its designated uses. Note: Lake Oconee and Sinclair do not have Phosphorus Loading Criteria.
2. Delisting –
 - a. Chlorophyll a (lake stations): The last five calendar years of chlorophyll a data collected at each site-specific lake standard station are assessed.
 1. If during the five-year assessment period, there are no chlorophyll a growing season averages exceeding the site-specific growing season criteria, the lake area representative for that station is eligible for delisting. If the average exceeds the site-specific growing season criteria for 1 out of 5 years, the waterbody is placed in Category 3.
 - b. Total Nitrogen (lake stations): The last five calendar years of total nitrogen concentrations collected at each site-specific lake standard station are assessed.
 1. For Lakes other than Lake Allatoona: If 10% or less of the total nitrogen values exceed the site-specific criteria, the lake area representative for that station is eligible for delisting.
 2. For Lake Allatoona: A growing season average for each of the last five years is calculated for each site-specific lake criteria station. If none of the five growing season averages exceed the criterion, then the lake area that is represented by that station is eligible for delisting.
 3. Lake Oconee and Sinclair do not have Total Nitrogen criteria at this time.
 - c. Major Lake Tributary Annual Total Phosphorous Loading Criteria: Annual total phosphorous loadings for each major lake tributary standard station were calculated for each of the last five calendar years.
 1. If the average of the annual total phosphorous loadings does not exceed the site-specific criteria, then the site was eligible for delisting. Note: Lake Oconee and Sinclair do not have Phosphorus Loading Criteria for their major tributaries.
 - d. Major Lake Annual Total Phosphorous Loading Criteria: The annual total phosphorus loading for each lake is calculated for each of the last five calendar years.
 1. If the average of the annual total phosphorous loadings does not exceed the site-specific criteria, then the site is eligible for delisting. Note: Lake Oconee and Sinclair do not have Phosphorus Loading Criteria.

L. Objectionable Algae (Nutrients)

1. Listing –

- a. A waterbody is listed for objectionable algae based upon visual observation of excessive algae, duckweed, or other aquatic plant life by field staff along with other factors including high concentrations of nutrients in the waterbody compared with other waters in the same river basin, and diurnal DO and pH swings indicative of high algae or plant activity (higher DO and pH later in the day and lower DO in the early morning).

2. Delisting –

- a. A waterbody is considered for delisting for objectionable algae if visual observation by field staff reveals algae, duckweed, or other aquatic plant life is no longer excessive compared to other streams in the area, and the DO, pH, and nutrient data are at levels that no longer indicated a problem with excessive algae/plant life.

M. Ammonia Toxicity:

EPD implemented U.S. EPA's 2013 Ammonia Criteria using our narrative criteria "All waters shall be free from toxic, corrosive, acidic, and caustic substances discharged from municipalities, industries, or other sources, such as nonpoint sources, in amounts, concentrations, or combinations which are harmful to humans, animals, or aquatic life", along with our [2017 NPDES Permitting Strategy for Addressing Ammonia Toxicity](#). As part of this permitting strategy, EPD has been collecting ammonia data upstream and downstream of NPDES facilities to determine if discharges are causing waters to exceed the U.S. EPA's chronic ammonia criteria.

1. Listing – Ammonia concentration are compared against the criteria in the *U.S. EPA Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia – Freshwater 2013*. The criteria are expressed as formulas and the allowed concentrations are dependent upon water temperature and pH. Salinity is also used as a variable when calculating criteria for marine waters (waters with a salinity of 0.5 parts per thousand and greater). When ammonia data is collected, temperature, pH and salinity data are also collected. Each ammonia concentration is compared against the ammonia toxicity criteria calculated using the temperature, pH and salinity data taken at the same time the ammonia sample was taken. Waterbodies are determined **not** to be supporting their use designation if any of the following occurs:

- a. Ammonia concentrations exceed the chronic criteria more than once a year.
- b. Ammonia concentrations exceed (2.5 x the chronic criteria) more than once in a 3-year period.
- c. Ammonia concentrations exceed the acute criteria more than once in a 3-year period.

2. Delisting – A waterbody is eligible for delisting when the following conditions occur:

- a. Ammonia concentrations exceed the chronic criteria once a year or less

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- b. Ammonia concentrations exceed (2.5 x the chronic criteria) no more than once in a 3-year period.
 - c. Ammonia concentrations exceed the acute criteria no more than once in a 3-year period.

VIII. Priorities for Action

Section 303(d)(1)(A) of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 130.7(b)(4) requires each State to “establish a priority ranking” for the segments it identifies on the 303(d) List (i.e. those waters in Category 5). In addition, States must submit a list of waters targeted for TMDL development in the next two years. The priority ranking is to take into account the severity of the pollution and the designated uses of such segments. States are to establish TMDLs in accordance with the priority ranking. States are given considerable flexibility in establishing their ranking system.

EPD has chosen to implement the priority ranking by indicating the year by which the TMDL for each segment on the 303(d) List will be drafted. TMDLs may be drafted before the year indicated in the report. Georgia typically uses a basin rotation approach when it comes to drafting TMDLs. There are some cases where EPD may choose to draft a TMDL outside of the basin rotation schedule. Factors influencing this decision could include the severity of the pollution and whether development of the TMDL may require additional data collection or complex analysis. All dates provided as part of the priority ranking are within the 13-year timeframe allowed for TMDL development as provided in the US EPA 1997 Interpretative Guidance for the TMDL Program. This guidance says states should develop schedules for establishing TMDLs expeditiously, generally within 8-13 years of being listed. If a water is in Category 5R, the priority ranking is provided as a narrative “Low” instead of providing the year by which the TMDL will be drafted. This is because TMDL development has been postponed while other restoration actions are being pursued. EPD also submits a list of the waters and pollutants that are targeted for TMDL development in the next two years to USEPA as part of the Integrated Report submittal in accordance with 40 CFR 130.7(b)(4).

IX. Long-Term Vision

In 2013 US EPA implemented the first Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection of waters. As part of this first Vision process, EPD developed a Priority Framework that described how we would prioritize waters on the 303(d) list for development of TMDLs or TMDL alternatives. EPD also developed a list of Priority Waters for which we planned to develop TMDLs or TMDL alternatives by 2022. EPD successfully completed all TMDLs or TMDL alternatives on our Priority list of waters by the 2022 deadline.

In 2022 US EPA released guidance for a new Long-Term Vision period (2022-2032). Under this new Vision Document, states will develop a new Priority Framework that will guide the decision process on what TMDLs, Advanced Restoration Plans or Protection Plans will be prioritized for completion by 2032. Every two years, EPD will provide U.S. EPA with a list of Priority waters for which we plan to develop TMDLs or other plans in the next two-year period. The first set of Priority Waters under the New Vision will be provided to U.S. EPA by September 30, 2024 (for plan development by 2026). Information about Georgia’s Priority Framework can be found on the [Water Quality in Georgia webpage](#).

Data Source Code/ Key for Abbreviations

Note: The list below is a list of all historical data sources. All sources were not necessarily used in compilation of the 2024 list.

1 = DNR-EPD, Watershed Planning & Monitoring Program	44 = City of Cartersville
2 = DNR-EPD, Wastewater Regulatory Program (Municipal)	45 = Georgia Ports Authority
3 = DNR-EPD, Wastewater Regulatory Program (Industrial)	46 = Chattahoochee/Flint RDC
4 = DNR, Wildlife Resources Division	47 = Upper Etowah Adopt-A-Stream
5 = DNR, Coastal Resources Division	48 = Middle Flint RDC
6 = State University of West Georgia	49 = Central Savannah RDC
7 = Gainesville College	50 = Chatham County
8 = Georgia Institute of Technology	51 = City of Savannah
9 = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	52 = Heart of Georgia RDC
10 = U.S. Geological Survey	53 = City of Augusta
11 = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	54 = Southwire Company
12 = U.S. Forest Service	55 = DNR-EPD, Brunswick Coastal District
13 = Tennessee Valley Authority	56 = DNR-EPD, Hazardous Waste Mgmt. Branch
14 = Cobb County	57 = Ellijay High School
15 = DeKalb County	58 = DNR, Georgia Parks Recreation & Historic Sites Division
16 = Douglas County Water & Sewer Authority	59 = DNR-EPD, Ambient Monitoring Unit (Macroinvertebrate Team)
17 = Fulton County	60 = Forsyth County
18 = Gwinnett County	61 = Tyson Foods, Inc.
19 = City of Clayton	62 = South Georgia RDC
20 = City of Gainesville	63 = Northeast GA RDC
21 = City of LaGrange	64 = Ogeechee Canoochee Riverkeeper
22 = Georgia Mountains R.D.C.	65 = Screven County
23 = City of Conyers	66 = Coastal GA RDC
24 = Lake Allatoona (Kennesaw State University)	67 = City of Roswell
25 = Lake Blackshear (Lake Blackshear Watershed Association)	68 = City of Alpharetta
26 = Lake Lanier (University of Georgia)	69 = Columbia County
27 = West Point (LaGrange College/ Auburn University)	70 = Southwest GA RDC
28 = Georgia Power Company	71 = Southeast GA RDC
29 = Oglethorpe Power Company	72 = Coweta County
30 = South Carolina Electric & Gas Company	73 = Middle GA RDC
31 = South Carolina DHEC	74 = Bartow County
32 = Jones Ecological Research Center	75 = Atlanta Regional Commission
33 = Alabama DEM	76 = Soquee River Watershed Partnership
34 = City of College Park	77 = Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
35 = Kennesaw State University	78 = Henry County

36 = University of Georgia	79 = City of Suwanee
37 = Columbus Water Works	80 = City of Dacula
38 = Columbus Unified Government	81 = City of Sandy Springs
39 = St. Johns River Water Mgmt. District	82 = Athens Clarke County
40 = Town of Trion	83 = LandTec Southeast, Inc
41 = Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority	84 = Woodruff & Howe Environmental Engineering Inc.
42 = Clayton County Water Authority	85 = City of Fayetteville
43 = City of Atlanta	86 = Limestone Valley RDC

Cause Code	Cause Name	Source Code	Source Name
As	Arsenic	CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
Algae	Objectionable Algae	I1	Industrial Point Source Discharge
Bio F	Biota Impacted (Fish Community)	I2	Industrial Site Runoff
Bio M	Biota Impacted (Macroinvertebrate Community)	M	Municipal Point Source Discharge
Cd	Cadmium	NP	Nonpoint Source
Cu	Copper	UR	Urban Runoff
1,1-DCE	1,1-Dichloroethylene		
DO	Dissolved Oxygen		
FC	Fecal Coliform Bacteria		
Hg	Mercury		
P	Phosphorus		
Pb	Lead		
Se	Selenium		
Trichloroethane	1,1,2-Trichloroethane		
Tox	Toxicity Indicated		
Zn	Zinc		

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