



American Littoral Society

Mission: The American Littoral Society promotes the study and conservation of marine life and habitat, protects the coast from harm, and empowers others to do the same.

- Established in 1961
- Membership-based coastal conservation organization
- Headquartered on beautiful Sandy Hook in Highlands, New Jersey





Threats / Impacts



Degraded Water
Quality



Impaired
Waterways



Fisheries
Affected

Fish
Consumption
Advisory



Threat of Development

New Jersey's environment remains threatened by continuing and pervasive development.

- 1986-2007 a total 324,256 acres of land (507 square miles) have been urbanized (i.e., developed) in the State.
- During the six-year period of 2002 through 2007, the urbanization rate in New Jersey actually increased by seven percent (7%) from the immediately preceding six-year period.
- New Jersey's total urban footprint now accounts for more than 30% of the State's five (5) million acres.



Draft Water Quality Report

The DEP recently released a draft report on water quality throughout the State, the results of which serve to further demonstrate the impacts of cumulative development on aquatic resources. Of the waters assessed by the Department:

- **Drinking Water Supply.** 32% of waters designated for drinking water supply do not support this use;
- **Recreation.** 72% of waters designated for recreational use do not support this use. The main reason such waters do not support recreational use is the presence of pathogens (i.e., fecal coliform, *E. coli* and *Enterococcus*);
- **Aquatic Life.** 71% of waters designated for aquatic life did not support this use;
- **Shellfish Harvest for Consumption.** Due to a six percent (6%) decline since 2008, 42% percent of waters designated for shellfish harvest for consumption did not support this use;
- **Fish Consumption.** None of the waters designated for fish consumption supported this use.



Loss of Environmentally Sensitive Land

The recent trend in losses of environmentally sensitive land is no less bleak. Wetlands are a vital ecological resource for water quality and habitat, and due to their regulation, are not being lost as quickly as forest or farmland. Nevertheless, from 1986 to 2007, New Jersey experienced a net loss of 52,285 acres of wetlands (more than 80 square miles). Even amidst heightened public sentiment in favor of their preservation, 8,652 acres (13.5 square miles) were lost in the period of 2002 through 2007.



Out of Date Plans

Establish policies, procedures and standards which, wherever attainable, help to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the State, including groundwaters, and the public trust therein, to protect public health, to safeguard fish and aquatic life and scenic and ecological values, and to enhance the domestic, municipal, recreational, industrial and other uses of water.



WQMP Rule Amendments – 2008

Core approaches of rules central to environmental concerns:

- Protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas from development, including excluding areas from consideration for sewer service because of high intensity development impacts;
- Protect and restore water quality through explicit limitations on pollution creating activities, linkages to “capacity related metrics” and connections to restoration requirements
- Manage wastewater comprehensively by reducing numbers of planning agencies and ending piece-meal amendments
- Bring plans up to date through strong enforcement approaches



Sustainability and Smart Growth

- Integrating local growth and state water protection policies
- Evaluation criteria for WQMPs



Water Supply

N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.25(f) addresses cumulative water supply issues - requires applications for WMPs and WMP updates to include information that will allow the Department to determine if there is sufficient water supply available to serve the water supply needs that would be associated with the environmental build-out condition, consistent with the findings of the most current New Jersey State Water Supply Plan (NJSWSP), applicable regional water supply studies or adopted TMDLs.

Where future water demand exceeds safe and sustainable water supply as identified in existing water allocation permits, the NJSWSP, or conflicts with an adopted regional water supply plan or TMDL, a wastewater management plan cannot be approved.



Nonpoint Source Pollution

Proposed N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.25(g) requires that wastewater management plans, plan updates and wastewater management plan amendments consider and address the effects of planned future development with respect to nonpoint source pollution.

The standards are set forth in terms of requirements for stormwater recharge, quality, and quantity and limitations on disturbance of riparian zones and steep slopes. In addition, adopted TMDLs or watershed restoration plans may establish measures related to nonpoint source pollution control that will need to be incorporated into a wastewater management plan or update.



Restoring impaired waters: TMDLs

- States are required to establish, in accordance with the priority ranking assigned to the impaired waters, TMDLs for waters listed as water quality limited segments for identified pollutants.
- TMDLs are to be set at levels necessary to achieve the applicable water quality standards



Current Status and Future Direction

- Administration and Legislative Delay and Weakening of Current Rule
- Basis and Direction of Changes?
- Need for “parallel planning”
 - Water Supply Master Plan
 - State Strategic Plan
 - TMDLs, Regional SW Plans
 - Special Area Management Plan



Linkages: New Sources and Historic Problems

- Restoration Best Practices
 - Stormwater Basin “retrofits”
 - Stream corridor restoration
 - Low Impact Development Standards
 - Green Infrastructure
- Regional Approaches