NORTH CAROLINA (REGION 4)
A Snapshot of North Carolina’s TMDL Program (November 2008)

The Basics
Key Agency/Department & website
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tmdl/

TMDL Program Structure/Placement
Housed in Division of Water Quality, Planning Section

By the Numbers
Number of Impaired Waters 902
Number of Causes of Impairment 982
Top Five Causes of Impairment
1. Pathogens
2. Cause Unknown–Impaired Biota
3. Mercury
4. Turbidity
5. Organic Enrichment/Oxygen Depletion

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually 15
Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est’d by EPA) 125
Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007 13/7/24
2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date) 4/1/2008
Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues 3.4 (dev’t & impl’n)

TMDLs
EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs? N
Broad-Scale? (e.g., watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.)

Non-TMDL Options
Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters? Y

Funding
Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program
Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding FTE salaries
federal 106 & 319 funds; fees/receipts (permits, etc.)

TMDL Implementation
TMDL Implementation Required? N

Innovations
Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed
--working on a TMDL to address impairment of biological integrity, using a variation of the impervious cover method; if EPA approves it, we hope to apply it elsewhere
--developing state regulations for nutrient TMDLs to ensure that the load allocations are achieved

--if others are working to improve water quality without a TMDL, we postpone TMDL development to see how their efforts work out

--developing a system to track TMDLs along with all other restoration and protection activities in the state, regardless of the lead organization

--emphasizing increased collaboration and looking at what we can stop doing to ensure that the program is successful and sustainable

TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

Links to NC TMDLs:
http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tmdl/TMDL_list.htm#Final_TMDLs

**Barriers**

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. most of the impairments in NC are mercury in fish tissue, or biological; there are no well-established methods for TMDL development for these impairments
2. there are only six staff in the unit that develop TMDLs, and they have other duties as well
3. TMDL development is often not on the best (time-wise or cost-wise, *e.g.* ) path toward attainment of WQSs; if we really had to develop TMDLs for every impaired waterbody to improve, it would take forever

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. lack of local interest in voluntary implementation of load allocations
2. lack of local resources (expertise, money, etc.) for voluntary implementation of load allocations
3. sometimes, it’s just hard to figure out which NPSs are contributing, and which reductions would lead to attainment of standards