

Total Maximum Daily Loads

The Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that states develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for impaired waters identified in their section 303(d) lists. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that load among the various sources of that pollutant. Pollutant sources are characterized as either point sources that receive a wasteload allocation (WLA), or nonpoint sources that receive a load allocation (LA). Point sources include all sources subject to regulation under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, e.g., wastewater treatment facilities, municipal stormwater discharges, and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Nonpoint sources include all remaining sources of the pollutant as well as anthropogenic and natural background sources. Load allocations (LAs) are implemented by nonpoint sources through a wide variety of state, local, and federal programs (which may be regulatory, non-regulatory, or incentive-based, depending on the program), as well as voluntary action by citizens.

As part of EPA's Strategic Measures, the Agency tracks annually the number, and national percent, of TMDLs that are established or approved by EPA [Total TMDLs] on a schedule consistent with national policy (WQ-08a) and the number, and national percent, of approved TMDLs that are developed by States and approved by EPA [State TMDLs] on a schedule consistent with national policy (WQ-08b). The table below shows by Region, FY 2010 end-of-year results and FY 2011 commitments.

WQ-08a	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	National Total
FY 10 Actual	439	112	2,823	305	437	230	124	184	82	215	4,951 (147%)
FY 11 Commitments	205	40	750	337	325	215	106	150	65	240	2,433 (74%)
WQ-08b	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	National Total
FY 10 Actual	439	112	224	249	437	222	101	184	79	215	2,262 (69%)
FY 11 Commitments	205	40	474	265	325	196	84	150	25	235	1,999 (62%)