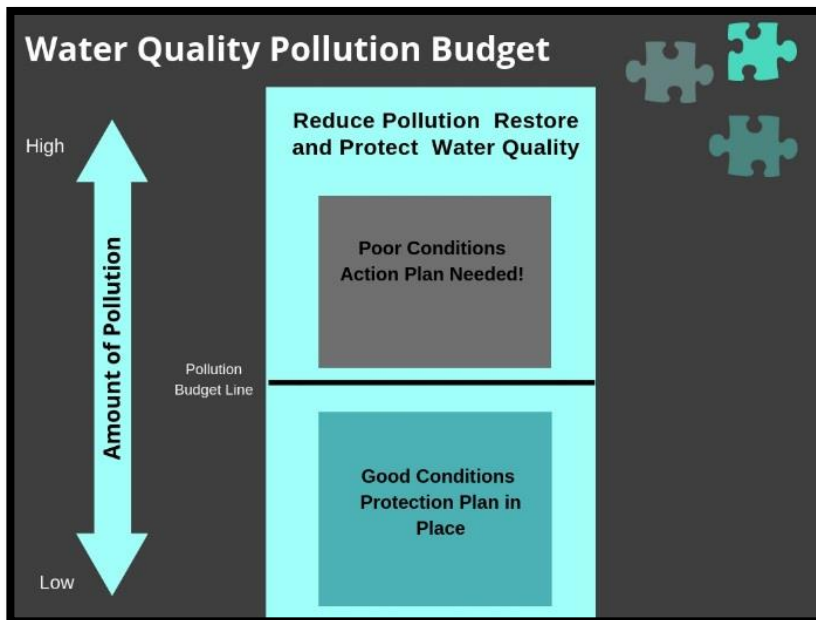


Connecticut DEEP Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program Factsheet



What is a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)?

A TMDL is an Action Plan used to address pollution, kind of like a budget. Any waterbody that is overspending its daily budget for a substance is considered to be polluted or impaired. Any waterbody that is spending less than its daily budget for a substance has good water quality which should be protected. TMDLs provide the framework for restoring impaired waters by establishing the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive without adverse impact to fish, wildlife, recreation, or other uses. A TMDL can also be used to set a budget to protect waters with good water quality.

Piece by piece



To create a TMDL, the waterbody is cut into pieces known as segments. These segments are like pieces of a puzzle. Each piece is reviewed for available data and pollution levels. A budget is determined for each piece in order to restore or protect water quality. Reaching these goals allows for a waterbody to meet the planned budget. This will reduce pollution and improve water quality.



ACTION PLANS TO RESTORE AND PROTECT- DESIGNATED USES

RECREATION



High levels of bacteria in waters may cause illness to people coming in contact with it. Escherichia coli and Enterococci bacteria are used as CT's primary bacteria indicator for assessing recreational uses in the State's fresh and salt waterbodies.

AQUATIC LIFE



Good water quality supports healthy communities of fish and macroinvertebrates or "river bugs" that live in or at the bottom of an aquatic environment. This community is very sensitive and serves as a useful tool for detecting environmental stress.

SHELLFISHING



Shellfish harvesting can either be, suitable for direct human consumption (Class SA waters), or shellfish harvesting suitable for commercial operations (Class SB waters). High levels of bacteria in shellfish may cause illness to people who eat them. Fecal coliform bacteria are used to determine risk for shellfish direct and indirect consumption. The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Aquaculture regulates shellfish harvesting in the State of Connecticut.



Fix what is broken And protect what is not

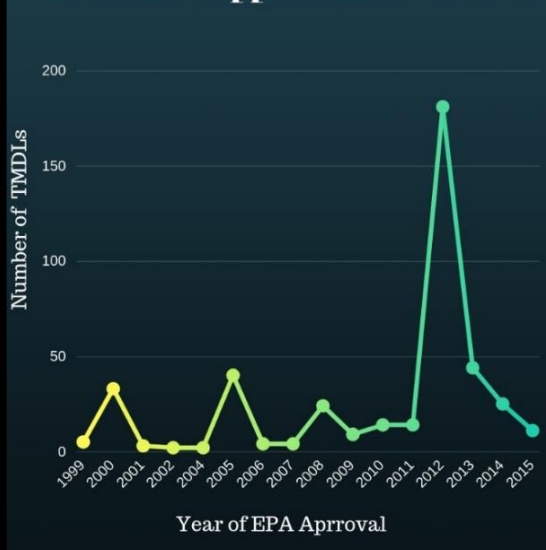
TMDLs are action plans that provide water quality targets for the waterbody and identifies sources of water pollution. As changes are made to achieve these targets in impaired waters and fixes are implemented, the result will be protection of natural resources and cleaner water. This provides better habitat for fish and safer recreation for people.

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) is a planning approach to benefit the TMDL program to work more effectively towards restoring and protecting our waters. This approach is done under existing TMDL authority and doesn't create new regulations, but enhances CT DEEP TMDL efforts by focusing state resources, building on partnerships, and looking at flexible and efficient ways to connect our environmental data with actions that protect or restore Connecticut's waters. CT DEEP studies our waters through our [Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Program](#). The focus is on how our waters are used, such as drinking

water, fishing, swimming and for supporting healthy wildlife and fish communities, as well as the water quality needed to support these activities.

Number of Approved CT TMDLs



Integrated Water Quality Report

Information on the health of Connecticut's waters are reported on every two years in [the Integrated Water Quality Report to Congress](#). Some waters are assessed to be unhealthy and in need of actions to bring back or restore good water quality. Other waters are healthy and have very good water quality, which needs to be maintained and protected. Water Quality Action Plans are established to achieve restoration or protection goals and to work with partners to protect areas of good water quality and restore areas with poor water quality. The State of Connecticut has completed over 400 TMDLs since 1999.

What You Can Do

- Pick up after your pooch! Waste from pets can run-off into local rivers and streams.



- Keep your [septic systems](#) properly maintained and functioning.

- [Volunteer!](#) CT DEEP currently coordinates two programs for volunteers interested in monitoring streams and rivers in their towns or watersheds.

- Many watershed groups and local organizations already strive to make CT waterbodies clean and healthy. CT DEEP would like to work together to



accomplish our clean water goals. We need your

participation! [Contact Connecticut's Watershed Management Program!](#) The Watershed, Lakes, and Nonpoint Source Program Staff are here to work with you on water-related projects and issues statewide. Please feel free to contact them about the ways in which they may be able to assist you. Partners can be Towns, industries, Government Agencies and advocacy groups.

- Check out Connecticut [Pollution Prevention](#) (P2)! P2 offers a variety of ways that you can become environmentally active in your community such as, using organic lawn care instead of chemicals that can pollute our water, harm wildlife and have adverse health effects on people and pets.

- Become a member of a local watershed group! Visit the [Rivers Alliance of Connecticut](#) or the [Connecticut Conservation District](#) web pages to find a group near you!



Related Links:

[Integrated Water Resource Management](#)

[Integrated Water Quality Report](#)