

DEMONSTRATING WATER QUALITY RESTORATION USING A WATERSHED APPROACH

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**GOAL: Show How
the Performance
Measure - *SP12* -
Can Be Applied to
Document
Watershed-Scale
Restoration in the
National Estuary
Program**

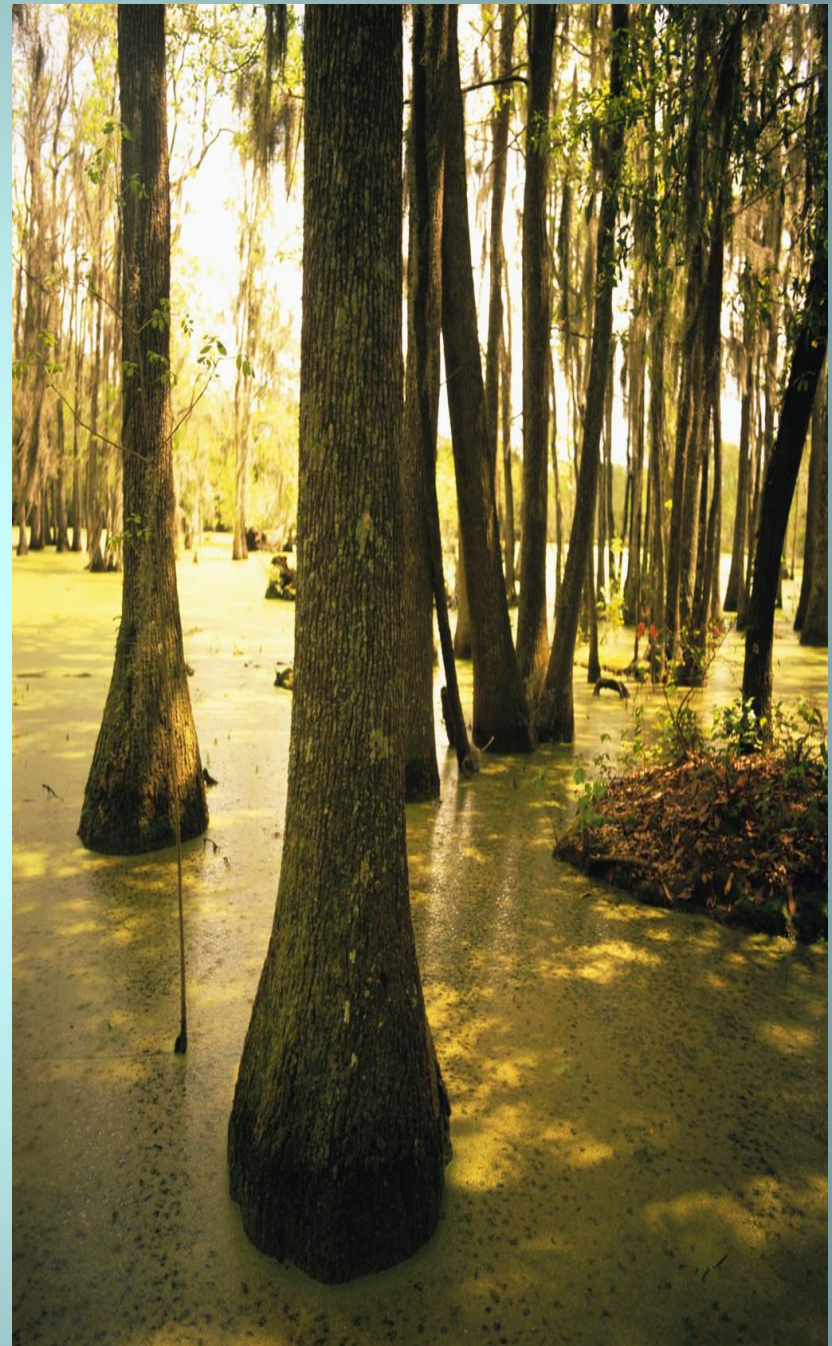
SP-12 BENEFITS

- Documents Environmental Outcome
- Justifies Watershed Approach
- Requires Minimal Reporting
- Uses an Existing Measure
- Can be Applied Flexibly
- Clearly Communicates Success to all Levels (Local, Regional, HQ, Congress)

Government Performance & Reporting Act of 1993 (GPRA)

Requires that Federal Agencies:

- Set Goals
- Define Targets
- Report Performance

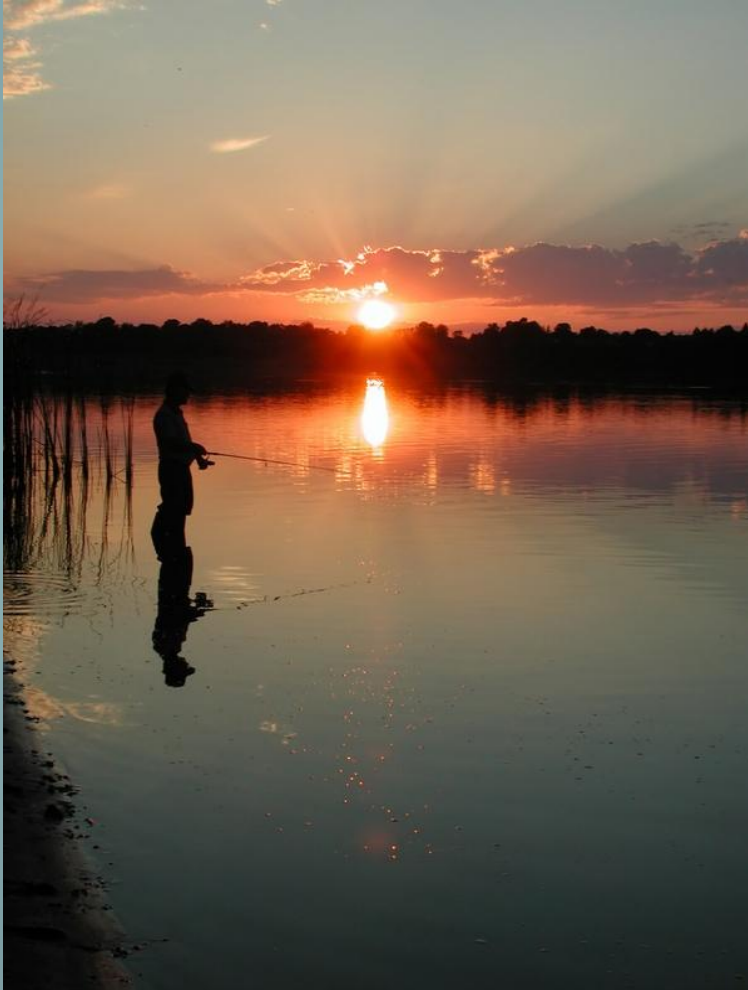


EPA STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL 2: CLEAN & SAFE WATER

- Objective 2.2: Protect Water Quality
- Sub-objective 2.2.1: Improve Water Quality Watershed-wide
- Measures:
 - SP-10 – Full Attainment of Standards for All Impairments
 - SP-11 – Partial Attainment of Standards for Impairments
 - *SP-12 – Watershed-scale Water Quality Improvement*

DEFINITIONS



- Standards = Water Quality Standards
- Impaired Waters = 303(d) Listed Waters (May Have a TMDL)
- Baseline for Improvements = 2002 Listing Cycle
- Watershed = HUC12 or Equivalent

WATERSHED APPROACH

- Hydrologically Defined Area
- Involves Key Stakeholders
- Iterative Planning or Adaptive Management to Address Priority Water Resource Goals
- Integrated Restoration Tools & Programs (Voluntary &/or Regulatory)
- Environmental Outcome Objectives
- Monitoring/Assessment to ID Improvements/Needed Adjustments
- www.epa.gov/type/watersheds

SP-12: Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis



- Option 1: Remove 1 or more of the causes of impairment for at least 40% of the impaired water bodies.
- Option 2: Demonstrate significant watershed-wide improvement.

Option 2: Watershed-wide Improvement

- Use Water Quality Monitoring Data to Demonstrate Improvement Through:
 - a) Statistical Procedures (90% Confidence)
 - b) Multiple Lines of Evidence (Cumulative Weight)
- Standards May Not be Met Yet



Option 2b: Evidence for Watershed-wide Improvement

- Improving Trend in Water Quality (Physical *or* Chemical) Based on Empirical Data (Which May *or* May Not be Statistically Significant) +
- Improving Trend in:
 - Related Biological Indicator/Index *or*
 - Water Quality Based on Predictive/Modeled Data with Ground Truthing *or*
 - Widespread Significant Load Reductions +
- Widespread Implementation Actions (Point/Nonpoint Source *or* Watershed) +
- No Significant Deteriorating Trends (Data Required)

SP-12 Reporting Process

- Use Templates from SP-12 Guidance
- EPA Reviews /Accepts or Comments
- EPA Posts Electronically
 - EPA Portal (<http://portal.epa.gov>) Watershed Managers Forum in the Environmental Science Connector
 - EPA R4 Watersheds Website (www.epa.gov/region4/water/watersheds/watershed_summaries)
 - Other Publications
- Add Monitoring Data to STORET

Template Reporting

- Watershed(s) ID
 - # of Watersheds Improved
 - Project Title
 - Organization
 - Contact
- 2002 Baseline Condition
 - HUC-12 Code
 - 2002 Impairments
 - Map
- Evidence of Impairment Removal or Watershed-wide Improvement
 - Impairments Removed
 - Statistical Results
 - Environmental Significance
 - Improving &/or Supporting Trends
 - Evidence of Implementation
 - Documentation of No Deteriorating Trends
 - Photos/Graphics
- Watershed Approach
 - Geographic Area
 - Key Stakeholders & Roles
 - Watershed Plan
 - Restoration Work

SE NEPs REPORTING SP-12

- Charlotte Harbor
- Indian River Lagoon
- Sarasota
- Tampa Bay



More Information

[http // www.epa.gov / ow / waterplan](http://www.epa.gov/ow/waterplan)





QUESTIONS ???

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