

Development of
Statewide
Biostimulatory
Substances and Bio-
integrity Protection
Policy

Karen Mogus

Deputy Director, Division of Water Quality

Update to SCCWRP Commission

9/11/2020



Proposing amendment to the Inland Surface Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan



Framework for controlling eutrophication and other impacts from biostimulatory substances including nutrients



Implementation plan for assessing, protecting, and restoring biological integrity



Three phased approach for different water body types:

Streams
Lakes
Estuaries, lagoons, enclosed bays and large rivers

Summary

Amendment Components

- Statewide numeric or narrative water quality objectives or thresholds for biostimulatory substances and conditions to protect aquatic life beneficial uses
- Need consistent and broadly applicable methods for interpreting narrative objectives for eutrophication indicators
 - Nitrogen
 - Phosphorous
 - Dissolved Oxygen
 - pH
 - Chlorophyll-a
 - Cyanotoxins
- Establish standard methods for assessing, scoring and interpreting biological integrity in wadeable streams

Policy Development Process

- Science Advisory Panel
- Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Regulatory Advisory Group
- Technical Team



Proposed Implementation

- Assess biological condition consistently statewide
- Define expectations in “modified” streams
- Set biological integrity targets for TMDLs
- Determine whether site-specific objectives for chemicals are appropriate
(biology in good condition but exceeding water quality objective)





Policy Development Status

Technical Team led by SCCWRP produced technical basis for policy with input from the three advisory groups

SCCWRP working on project to define types modified streams and establish expectations for biology for categories of streams

State Board to utilize technical products to develop policy options

Re-engage in Spring 2021 to work with Stakeholder and Regulatory Advisory Groups to develop outline of the policy