

Water Quality Data Flow in the Florida TMDL Program

Ellen McCarron

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Mail Station 3525, 2600 Blair Stone Road,
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Biographical Sketch of Author

Ellen McCarron is an Environmental Administrator with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Ellen has been with the department for twenty-two years, most of which have been involved in co-founding and managing the Florida Bioassessment Program with Russel Frydenborg. Ellen is trained in Oracle database modeling and design, and in various ESRI GIS software programs such as ArcInfo and ArcView (now ArcGIS). Ellen has been working since 1999 as the administrator in charge of watershed monitoring (i.e., Florida's statewide status and trends programs) and data management for both the referenced monitoring programs and Florida's TMDL program.

Abstract

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is developing a comprehensive water quality data integration and management plan for its TMDL program. The overall goal of the plan is to provide an efficient data flow for TMDL program data providers that will result in much faster input, improved quality and more efficient analysis of water quality data, faster impaired waters listings and strategic monitoring planning. In short, it will solve the current problems that are associated with having a fragmented, non-integrated data system.

Some of the points to be included in the presentation are:

- How stakeholder data is used in the TMDL program
- Implementing QA data elements and use of a new software product to check the quality of laboratory analytical data from stakeholders
- Using ruggedized field PCs to automate field data collection
- Joining field data with lab data into a common repository
- Using web-based tools for water quality data checking, viewing, downloading and mapping
- Using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) as the basis for TMDL assessment units

A new comprehensive database is being designed and built to replace STORET as the single repository for all water quality data used in the TMDL program. Problems with STORET will be discussed.