

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Fact Sheet: Proposed SSAC for Fenholloway River (WBID 3473B and 3473C)

Location Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Taylor &amp; Madison County, Florida – Panhandle East nutrient watershed region, Econfina-Steinhatchee watershed (CDA Code G086x).</li> <li>2. SSAC begins at 30°4'24.573"N, 83°40'3.893"W and extends upstream in the main channel and tributaries of the Fenholloway River (WBIDs 3473B and 3473C)</li> <li>3. Map attached.</li> </ol>
Numeric Nutrient Criteria Comparison	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Currently applicable criteria are: TN=1.03 mg/l, TP=0.18 mg/l</li> <li>2. SSAC requested for TN and TP: Proposed TN SSAC=1.49mg/l Proposed TP SSAC=0.11 mg/l 1994 FDEP UAA and 2009 EPA Region 4 nutrient TMDL attached.</li> </ol>
Synopsis of Protection of Designated Use	<p>The application uses an Other Scientifically Defensible Method by using the unimpaired Econfina River as the reference condition for the Fenholloway. Historically, the Fenholloway River's designated use was classified Class V (Industrial, Navigation, and Utility). Based upon the findings of the December 1994 FDEP Fenholloway River Use Attainability Analysis (UAA), the Florida Environmental Regulatory Commission reclassified and EPA Region 4 approved the reclassification to Class III (Recreation, Propagation and Maintenance of a Healthy, Well-Balance Population of Fish and Wildlife) effective December 31, 1997. The findings of the UAA anticipated the need for site specific water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen, color and nutrients based upon the Econfina river and estuary.</p> <p>EPA Region 4 TMDL for nutrients in the Fenholloway River (WBIDs 3473A and 3473B), Econfina River Basin, dated January 2009 used nutrient measurements at freshwater stations on the Econfina River (WBID 3402) and estimated runoff flows developed from USGS flow data to establish the non point source (NPS) loads coming from the freshwater Fenholloway (WBIDs 3473B and 3473C) (TMDL, page 12). These loads are considered natural background and determined not to adversely impact natural water quality standards and therefore not reduced in the TMDL (TMDL, Page 16).</p> <p>The proposed SSAC maintains the load allocation approach of the EPA Region 4 nutrient TMDL, which for point and non point source loads achieves an annual average chl-a reference condition of 5 ug/l in the Fenholloway river estuary and adjacent coastal area. This chl-a target supports healthy submerged aquatic vegetation growth, is based upon the Econfina estuary near shore system and is consistent with the EPA National Coastal Condition Report II recommendations for Gulf Coast Estuaries (USEPA, 2004). The TMDL also includes a point source waste load allocation for the Buckeye Florida, L.P. permit into the Fenholloway River estuary, Marine WBID 3473A.</p>
History of Assessment	<p>WBIDs 3473B and 3473C are in the Basin Group 1 303(d) list and have been determined to not support their designated uses for water quality parameters associated with nutrients. Per the EPA Region 4, Amended Decision Document dated September 2, 2009; WBID 3473B is listed for dissolved oxygen, nutrients, un-ionized ammonia, biochemical oxygen demand, conductivity and mercury. For WBID 3473B, EPA Region 4 has issued a TMDL for dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, un-ionized ammonia, total nitrogen and total phosphorus. WBID 3473C is listed for dissolved oxygen category 5. FDEP indicates this dissolved oxygen impairment may be linked to total nitrogen levels.</p>
Identification of Downstream Waters	<p>Fenholloway Estuary and Adjacent Coastal Waters – Marine WBIDs 3473A and 8030</p>

Map 2. Fenholloway River WBIDs

