

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

TALU Manager's Pilot Project

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Presentation Overview

- 💧 **Status of Water Quality Programs in the Northeast**
- 💧 **TALU Manager's Pilot Project**
- 💧 **Next Steps and “Call-to-Action”**

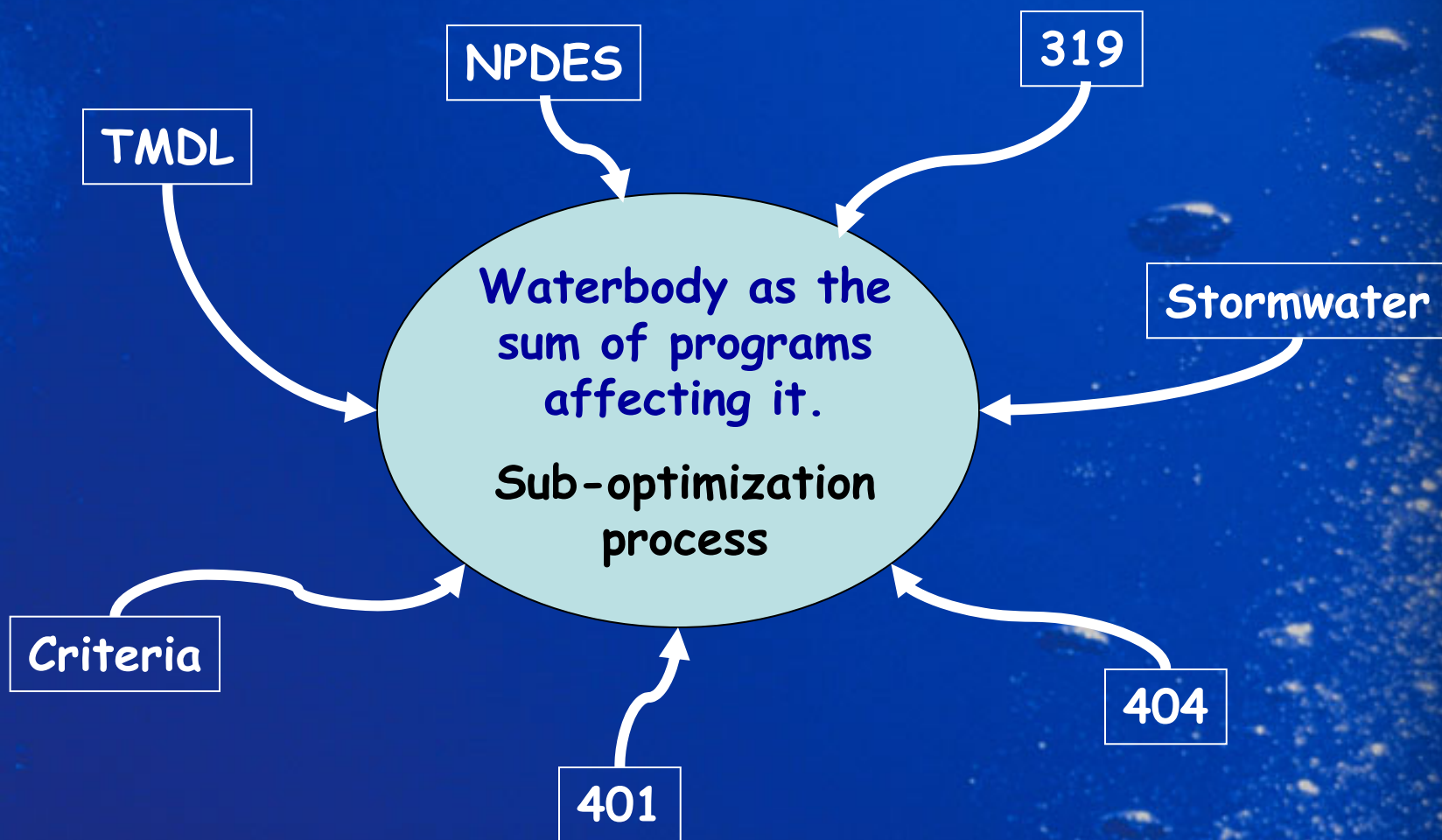
Water Quality Programs in the Northeast

We've made major improvements in water quality in the Northeast, but state programs are currently faced with:

- 💧 Shrinking resources**
- 💧 Multiple and changing program priorities**
- 💧 Complex water quality challenges**

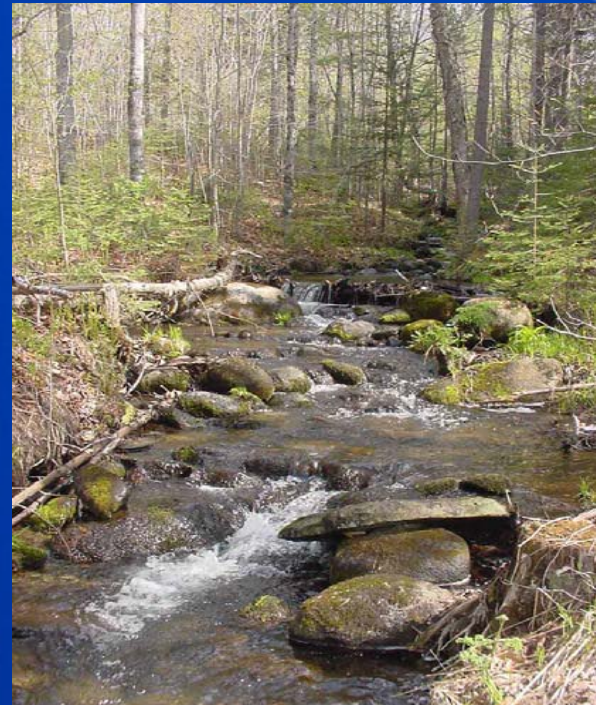


Water Quality Programs in the Northeast



Water Quality Programs Need:

- 💧 To be based on sound science
- 💧 To be strategic
- 💧 To be clear and concrete
- 💧 To be protective
- 💧 To be able to achieve results
- 💧 To be transparent to the public





Our Collective Goal: The Clean Water Act

Section 101 (a)

“ The objective of this Act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of our nation’s waters.”





States Need a Management Framework that:

- 💧 **Targets actions to achieve environmental results**
- 💧 **Fosters setting ecologically sound goals**
- 💧 **Measures and communicates accomplishments**
- 💧 **TALU Provides the Tools**



Genesis of TALU Manager's Pilot Project

- 💧 Susan Davies and Martha Kirkpatrick came to the NEIWPCC Commission Meeting in January 2008 to present the idea of a TALU management framework.
- 💧 NEIWPCC Executive Committee endorsed project idea.
- 💧 NEIWPCC staff reached out to state Monitoring Workgroup and other NEIWPCC workgroups to form a Steering Committee.



TALU Manager's Pilot Project

💧 Steering Committee Members

- 💧 Andy Fisk, ME DEP
- 💧 Harry Stewart, NH DES
- 💧 Jennie Bridge, EPA Region 1
- 💧 Hilary Snook, EPA Region 1 Lab
- 💧 Ernie Pizzuto, CT DEP
- 💧 Dave Neils, NH DES
- 💧 Susan Davies, ME DEP/Midwest Biodiversity Institute
- 💧 Martha Kirkpatrick, Midwest Biodiversity Institute
- 💧 Beth Card, NEIWPCC
- 💧 Kerry Strout, NEIWPCC

TALU Manager's Pilot Project Overview

- 💧 TALU addresses the need to protect, restore and enhance waters in the Northeast. The mission of the TALU Manager's Pilot Project is to optimize understanding of the following questions:
 - 💧 Are our highest quality resources adequately protected?
 - 💧 Can we respond to small, but detectable declines in biological condition?
 - 💧 Do declines in biota trigger sufficient regulatory or non-regulatory responses?
 - 💧 Are incremental improvements retained?
 - 💧 Do we have a scientifically sound approach to manage intractable legacy impacts?

TALU Manager's Pilot Project Overview

- 💧 To evaluate and illustrate the value of biologically based water quality management and the value added of a tiered-use management framework.
- 💧 The pilot is structured around the selection of TALU vs. non-TALU waterbodies for comparison purposes.

Waterbodies

- 💧 The waterbodies selected have common criteria such as:
 - 💧 A compelling management issue;
 - 💧 Opportunity value for yielding solutions; and
 - 💧 In-hand biological data that documents a range of biological condition.
- 💧 Waterbodies will be evaluated primarily for how biological information was used in an integrated management framework to make decisions to produce measurable environmental outcomes.



TALU: Workplan and Timeline

- 💧 **Draft workplan has been submitted to the Steering Committee and has been vetted by state biologists.**
- 💧 **Following states will have waterbodies evaluated using the TALU management framework:**
 - 💧 **NH**
 - 💧 **ME**
 - 💧 **CT**
 - 💧 **VT**
- 💧 **During spring, the participating states will apply TALU management framework to selected waterbodies and report on a comparison table.**

TALU Workplan and Timeline, Continued

-  **In August 2009, NEIWPCC will host an informational webinar to educate a variety of water quality program areas about TALU. Managers are encouraged to participate.**
-  **September 2009, NEIWPCC will host a one or two day meeting to demonstrate how TALU management framework can be used in various water program areas.**

Call-to-Action

- 💧 Engage water quality staff and managers.
- 💧 What can we do between now and then to encourage participation from all programs?
- 💧 Can you share what you have learned today with other program areas in your department-both technical staff and managers?

Contact Information

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