

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## WQ-21 [related to WQ-33 in FY 07]

**Measure:** Number of water segments identified as impaired in 2002 for which States and EPA agree that initial restoration planning is complete (i.e., EPA has approved all needed TMDLs for pollutants causing impairments to the waterbody or has approved a 303(d) list that recognizes that the waterbody is covered by a watershed plan [i.e., Category 4b or Category 5m]). (cumulative)

**Type:** Indicator measure

**Who Reports in ACS:** Regions

**Methodology for Computing:** This is a cumulative measure. The universe for this measure consists of waters identified as impaired in state submissions in 2002. The count for this measure will be reduced as water segments (“water bodies” or “segments”) move into full water quality standards attainment. Measure WQ-21 and measure SP-10 (SP-10 tracks the cumulative number of water bodies identified in 2002 as not attaining standards where water quality standards are now fully attained), when calculated together, reveal how the 2002 impaired water bodies are progressing through the initial restoration planning phase and then continue to track the water body when it fully attains water quality standards.

This measure counts water bodies for which all EPA-approved **TMDLs** and **Category 4b plans** (TMDL alternatives that recognize other required controls will lead to water quality standards attainment within a reasonable period of time) are established, or for which the state has a **Category 5m** (comprehensive mercury reduction) program in place that meets elements recommended by EPA (note: we recognize that Category 5m does not necessarily imply that water quality standards will be attained). Parties should not hold off on implementing other TMDLs for a segment while waiting to complete restoration planning for mercury. For Regions with mercury impairments, all segments for which restoration planning is complete except for mercury should be reported in the Annual Commitment System comment field.

This measure does not count segments with one or more Category 4a segments-impairment pairs unless all causes of impairments for the segment have been addressed by TMDLs approved by EPA, Category 4b designations, or 5m designations, as noted. Please refer to *Guidance for 2006 Assessment, Listing, and Reporting Requirements Pursuant to Sections 303(d), 305(b) and 314 of the Clean Water Act* at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/2006IRG/report/2006irg-sec5.pdf>, pp. 54-57, for details on Categories 4a and 4b.

This measure does not count segments where restoration planning is now unnecessary (i.e., restoration planning is now unnecessary because the waterbody is no longer impaired). A segment identified as impaired in 2002 is counted toward this measure when all of its impairments have initial restoration planning as described previously. When all of the segment’s 2002 impairments are addressed and the segment is attaining water quality standards, the water body is removed from the measure WQ-21 tally and added to measure SP-10’s tally (which is a cumulative number of water bodies identified in 2002 as not attaining standards where water quality standards are now fully attained).

Immediately below is a decision table which differentiates measure WQ-21 from measure SP-10 (full water body water quality standards attainment measure).

Table 1. Water body segments credited toward measure WQ-21 versus SP-10.

*Note: Measure WQ-21 for FY 2008 and measure WQ-33 for FY2007 are related, but computed differently.*

<b>Cases where mercury (Hg) is the only pollutant impairing a segment (per 2002 lists)</b>					
Hg attains?	5m program in place?			Gets counted in WQ-21?	Gets counted in measure SP-10?
No	No			No	No
No	Yes			Yes	No
Yes	(NA)			No - moves to measure SP-10	Yes
<b>Cases where Hg is among multiple pollutants impairing a segment (per 2002 lists)</b>					
Hg attains?	5m program in place?	Others attain?	Others have TMDLs/plans?	Gets counted in WQ-21?	Gets counted in measure SP-10?
No	No	No	No	No	No
No	No	No	Yes	No, report in ACS comment field	No
No	No	Yes	(NA)	No	Yes, footnote will give the number still impaired for Hg
No	Yes	No	No	No	No
No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
No	Yes	Yes	(NA)	Yes	Yes (footnote will give the number still impaired for Hg)
Yes	(NA)	No	No	No	No
Yes	(NA)	No	Yes	Yes	No
Yes	(NA)	Yes	(NA)	No - moves to measure SP-10	Yes

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