

Recovery Potential Metrics **Summary Form**

Indicator Name: 303D SCHEDULE PRIORITY

Type: Social Context

Rationale/Relevance to Recovery Potential: For pollutant-impaired waters that will undergo TMDL development en route to their restoration, Clean Water Act (CWA) regulations require states to prioritize the current 303(d) listed waters for TMDL development in a schedule. High priority waters on this schedule have the best chance of accelerated action toward their recovery. Faster, earlier restoration may also decrease the likelihood that continuing degradation will meanwhile progress further and lead to greater losses of ecological function and beneficial uses.

How Measured: High, medium and low priority categories are assigned by states to the 303(d)-listed waters they list each cycle, indicating relative priority for TMDL development. Values of 1,2, and 3 can be assigned to corresponding priority categories. The values can be averaged if there is more than one 303(d) segment per reporting unit. If the recovery potential screening involves only listed waters without TMDLs (e.g. the most recent listing cycle only, where prioritized schedule has been completed), this metric is appropriate for use. The metric is inappropriate for non-303(d) waters or for screening waters that already have TMDLs or watershed plans, or where the recovery potential screening is intended to provide the basis for 303(d) schedule priority-setting.

Data Source: The Assessment TMDL Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) (See: <http://www.epa.gov/waters/ir/>) contains information on 303d-listed waters by state and by semi-annual reporting cycle. Assigned schedule priority is among attribute information linked to each impaired water in EPA's ATTAINS data system.

Indicator Status (check one or more)

- Developmental concept.
 Plausible relationship to recovery.
 Single documentation in literature or practice.
 Multiple documentation in literature or practice.
 Quantification.

Supporting Literature (abbrev. citations and points made):

- (USEPA 2005) A summary of states' reporting requirements for each of these sections and corresponding regulations is provided below: **Section 303(d)** – by April 1 of all even numbered years, a list of impaired and threatened waters still requiring TMDLs; identification of the impairing pollutant(s); and priority ranking of these waters, including waters targeted for TMDL development within the next two years.
- (CWA section 303(d); 40 CFR 130.7) By April 1 of all even numbered years, states must submit to EPA the following information:
 - A list of water quality-limited (impaired and threatened) waters still requiring TMDL(s), pollutants causing the impairment and priority ranking for TMDL development (including waters targeted for TMDL development within the next two years).
 - A description of the methodology used to develop the list.
 - A description of the data and information used to identify waters, including a description of the existing and readily available data and information used.

- A rationale for any decision to not use any existing and readily available data and information.
- Any other reasonable information requested by EPA, such as demonstrating good cause for not including a water or waters on the list.