

Texas Surface Water Quality Standards Revisions for Contact Recreational Use

Patricia Wise
Clean Rivers Program
Monitoring & Assessment Section
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TSWQS Overview



- Establish explicit goals for surface waters throughout the state
- Are developed to maintain the quality of surface waters in Texas so that it supports:
 - public health and enjoyment
 - protects aquatic life
 - consistent with the sustainable economic development
- Provide a framework for TCEQ regulatory programs to attain the goals
- To be revised every 3 years through a public stakeholder process

TSWQS Revisions-Contact Recreation



- Stakeholders provided comments, requested more flexibility in the assessment of the Contact Recreation use

- Current Water Quality Standards do not consider water body type or flow status

 - An intermittent ditch has the same standard as a perennial stream



- Broaden recreation categories

 - Primary contact recreation (PCR)

 - Secondary contact recreation (SCR) 1 & 2

 - Noncontact Recreation (NCR)

Assessment of Contact Recreation



-Contact Recreation is assessed by evaluating levels of bacteria

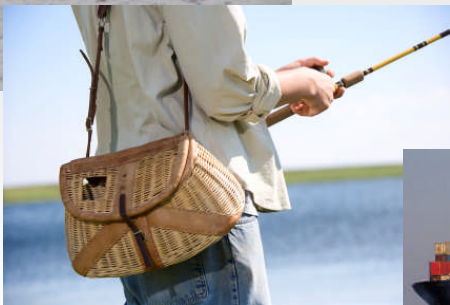
-Bacteria are evaluated to estimate the relative risk involving direct contact with the water.

-It is possible to swim in water that does not meet this standard without becoming ill

-Probability of becoming ill is higher than it would be if bacteria levels were lower.



Proposed Contact Recreation Use Categories



-Primary contact recreation (PCR)

-recreational activities that involve a significant risk of ingestion

-Secondary contact recreation (SCR) 1 & 2

- SCR 1 water recreation can occur, but the nature of the recreation does not involve a significant risk of ingestion

- SCR 2 still do not involve a significant risk of water ingestion, and where activities occur less frequently than for SCR 1 due to physical characteristics of the water body and/or limited public access

-Noncontact Recreation (NCR)

-do not involve a significant risk of water ingestion, and where primary and secondary contact recreation uses should not occur because of unsafe conditions

Criteria

Uses	Geometric Mean Criteria (colonies/100 ml)	
	<i>E. coli</i> (FW)	Enterococci (SW)
<i>Existing Standards:</i>		
Contact recreation	126	35

Draft Criteria

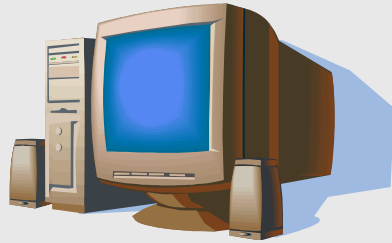
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Contact recreation	126	35
<i>Draft Standards:</i>		
Primary contact	206	35
Secondary contact 1	630	175
Secondary contact 2	1030	--

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<i>Existing Standards:</i>		
Noncontact rec.	605	168
<i>Draft Standards:</i>		
Noncontact recreation	2060	350

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Web Pages

Primary standards web page address:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/eq_swqs.html

Standards Advisory Work Group Address:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg.html

