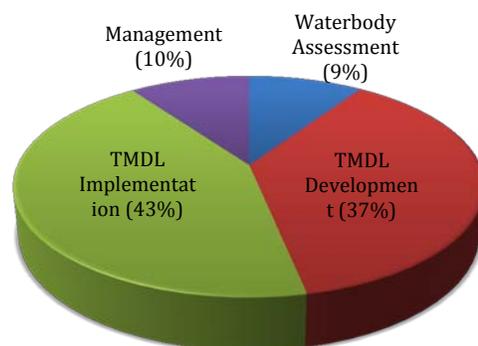


North Coast Impaired Waters & TMDL Program Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014 Accomplishments

This summary highlights the accomplishments of the North Coast Region's Impaired Waters and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program from July 2013 through June 2014. Program priorities focused on assessing the quality of surface waters, addressing impaired waters by developing and implementing TMDLs, and developing and implementing permits and policies that will improve water quality without the need for TMDLs. The North Coast Region allocated 10.1 positions in FY 13-14 to support these priorities.



TMDL Program Positions

The development of TMDLs is necessary when pollutant impacts, sources, and solutions to impairments require investigation and research. This is the case for impairments to the Laguna de Santa Rosa, Russian River, and Elk River, which were the focus of 3.8 positions in FY 13-14.

With over half of the region's impaired waters (per the 2010 List) addressed by completed TMDLs, 4.4 positions were directed to implementing TMDLs and achieving tangible water quality results.

The North Coast Region continued to address impaired waters by developing and utilizing regulatory implementation mechanisms before (and hopefully in place of) technical TMDL analyses when sources and solutions are well understood. Once these programs are in place they should provide reasonable assurance that standards will be achieved in a reasonable period of time, thereby allowing 4b categorization on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, which will negate the need to develop TMDLs for several impaired waterbodies.

Permits, Programs & Policies that Address Impaired Waters

County Roads Waiver	Adopted May 2013
Diary Permit Program	Adopted January 2012
Grazing Regulatory Action Plan	Under Development
Lily Bulb Ag. Discharge Permit*	Under Development
Mendocino Co. Permit Coordination Program*	Adopted Nov. 2013
Scott River TMDL Waiver*	Renewed October 2012
Shasta River TMDL Waiver*	Renewed October 2012
Temperature Policy*	Adopted March 2014
Timber Harvest Permit Program	Renewed May 2014
Tule Lake Ag. Discharge Permit*	Under Development
U.S. Forest Service Waiver	Adopted June 2010
Vineyard & Orchard Discharge Permit*	Under Development

*Funded by the TMDL Program

2012 Integrated 303(d) & 305(b)

Assessment Report: Staff completed over 4,700 lines of evidence comparing data to water quality standards and developed 991 decisions to list or not list waterbodies as impaired. The public review draft was released in March 2014 and staff hosted two public workshops in April. Staff responded in writing to over 130 comment letters and presented a summary of public comments to the Regional Water Board in May. The adoption hearing is scheduled for August 14, 2014. With the 2012 update to the List of Impaired Waters, staff proposes 33 new listings, 1 increase in geographic scope, 11 delistings, and 21 reductions in geographic scope of existing listings.

Russian River Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL



Russian River at Monte Rio Beach.
Photo by Steve Butkus. July 2013

Staff completed sampling efforts to assess the impacts of intense recreational water uses in July 2013. This was the last monitoring exercise needed for the TMDL, which allowed staff to move into the data assessment phase this fiscal year. Staff completed internal drafts of the technical TMDL, including the evidence of impairment, targets, source analysis, linkage analysis, loading capacity, and load allocations chapters. In spring 2014, staff began developing the TMDL implementation actions. Staff initiated stakeholder outreach efforts by hosting informal meetings to scope and discuss potential actions.



Laguna de Santa Rosa upstream of Occidental Rd.
Photo by Rebecca Fitzgerald. April 2013

Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDLs:

Staff continued to conduct technical analyses for the development of phosphorus, nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and sediment TMDLs. In FY 13-14, the draft sediment source analysis was completed and staff initiated a photo monitoring study of the invasive water plant *Ludwigia sp.* TMDL staff assisted with the renewal of NPDES permits for two wastewater treatment facilities, resulting in permit adoption in November 2013. In spring 2014, staff updated and enhanced the TMDL's stakeholder outreach plan and took advantage of several timely opportunities for early implementation efforts throughout the year. These include participating in the assessment of municipal stormwater monitoring and reporting requirements, development of a nutrient credit trading market, assessment of wetland resources, historical ecology studies, nutrient management planning for non-dairy livestock, and stream maintenance and restoration work.

Upper Elk River Sediment TMDL: Staff released the peer review draft of the TMDL and staff responses to peer reviewer comments to the public in July 2013. This generated extensive stakeholder comments on the scientific basis of the draft TMDL and staff are making revisions in response to stakeholder and board member input. Staff held a Regional Water Board workshop in May 2014 to solicit input on a single action approval process and the TMDL implementation strategy. Additionally, staff initiated the Elk River Recovery Assessment and Sediment Remediation Pilot Project using funding from the Cleanup and Abatement Account.

Eel, Mattole, and Navarro River

Temperature Action Plans: In March 2014, the Regional Water Board adopted Action Plans to address eight temperature impairments in three major watersheds. The action plans are an amendment to the Basin

Plan and implement EPA-established temperature TMDLs.

Temperature Policy: In March 2014, the Regional Water Board adopted the Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature as an amendment to the Basin Plan. The policy describes the significance of stream shade, sediment, and flow as factors affecting water temperatures and directs staff to address temperature impacts through existing regulatory authorities and processes.

Garcia River Sediment TMDL:

Implementation actions continued in high gear in FY 13-14 in the Garcia River Watershed. Erosion control plans were developed and are being implemented for three large properties, which address 55 miles of roads. In May 2014, a free public workshop funded by a 319(h) grant exhibited effective erosion and sediment control work. The grant also helped fund an update to the useful *Handbook for Forest, Ranch, and Rural Roads*. Also in FY 13-14, a large wood recruitment project was installed along 1.5 miles of South Fork of the Garcia River, providing critical habitat for threatened and endangered salmonids. Wood recruitment has now been implemented across more than ten miles of the river's coho salmon core recovery areas.

Klamath River Basin TMDLs: Staff continue to make progress implementing several TMDLs in the Klamath River Basin, which includes the Upper Klamath Basin, Lost River, Shasta River, Scott River, Salmon River, and Trinity River. Staff played a lead role in coordinating control efforts throughout the basin to address temperature, nutrient, dissolved oxygen, microcystin, pH, and sediment impairments. Staff coordinated or participated in the Klamath Basin Monitoring Program, development of stewardship reports for the Shasta River Watershed, the

Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement Interim Measure Committee, water quality improvement pilot projects, fish health tracking and response actions, and the implementation of the Klamath Tracking and Accounting Program. Additionally, staff continued to actively implement TMDL Action Plans and the Shasta and Scott River TMDL Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements.



Steelhead and Coho Salmon in the Garcia River. Photo by Jonathan Warmerdam. September 2012

Agricultural Lands Discharge Permit Program:

Staff began the fiscal year by rescoping the permit effort from one, region-wide permit to several separate permits specific to a particular commodity or area. Staff hosted an Advisory Group meeting in September 2013 and brought the rescoping proposal to the Regional Water Board in October. Staff then began focusing efforts on writing permits for agricultural discharges in the Tule Lake Watershed, discharges from lily bulb cultivation, and discharges from vineyards and orchards. Other TMDL staff focused on implementing existing permits in the Scott and Shasta River watersheds while non-TMDL program staff focused on discharges from marijuana cultivation and grazing impacts. Staff met with stakeholders on the Tule Lake, lily bulb, and vineyard and orchard permits throughout 2014, and

continued to refine third-party concepts for the permits. Additionally, staff initiated a surface water sampling effort near lily bulb farms in FY 13-14.



Agriculture and Tule Lake Sumps.

Photo credit unknown.

Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program: In November 2013, the Regional Water Board adopted the Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for the Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program. The program provides a one-stop-shop for landowners to obtain permits for restoration and sediment control work, saving time and money.