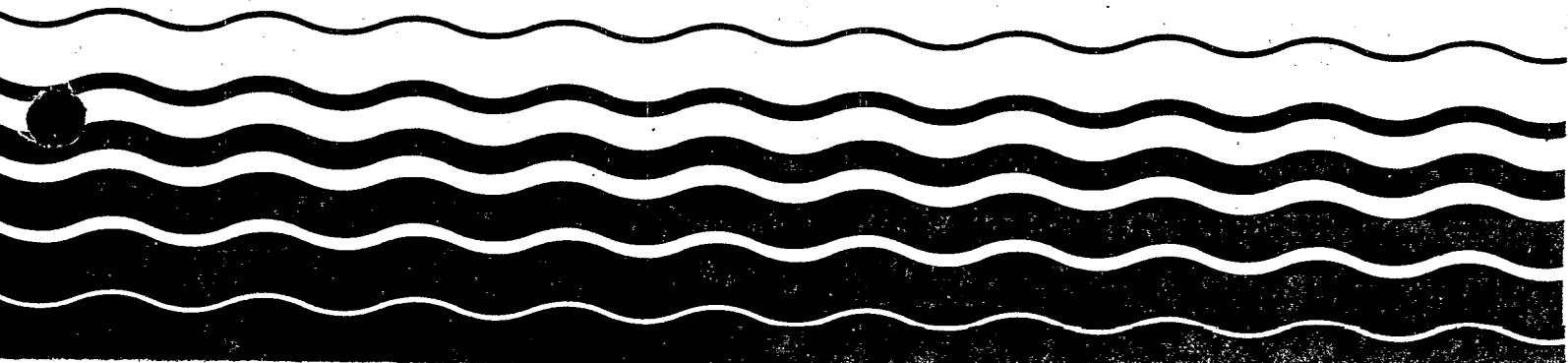


Water



# State Water Quality Standards Summary: Alabama





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The reader should consult the water quality standards of a particular State for exact regulatory language applicable to that State. Copies of State water quality standards may be obtained from the State's Water Pollution Control Agency or its equivalent.

Additional information may also be obtained from the:

Standards Branch  
Criteria and Standards Division (WH-585)  
Office of Water Regulations and Standards  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20460  
202-475-7315

This document may be obtained only from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) at the following address:

National Technical Information Service  
5285 Front Royal Road  
Springfield, Virginia 22161  
703-487-4650

The NTIS order number is: PB89-141659



## ALABAMA

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Department of Environmental Management  
1751 Federal Drive

Montgomery 36109  
205-271-7825

**State Contact:**  
James McIndoe

Water Division  
Alabama Dept. of Environmental Mgmt.  
1751 Federal Drive  
Montgomery 36109 205-271-7826

**Standards Available From:**  
James McIndoe

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Montgomery 36109  
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### State Narrative Language For: Antidegradation

The purpose and intent of the water quality standards is to conserve the waters of the State of Alabama and to protect, maintain and improve the quality thereof for public water supplies for the propagation of wildlife, fish and aquatic life, and for domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational and other legitimate beneficial uses; and to provide for the prevention, abatement and control of new or existing water pollution. Waters of high quality located within national and state parks and other areas which constitute an outstanding national resource shall be maintained at such high quality.

Waters of quality higher than that established by the standards as of the effective date of such standards shall be maintained at that high quality water provided that the Commission has the authority to approve a new or increased discharge of waste to a high quality water upon demonstration that such discharge is necessary for economic or social development.

- (1) In no case will developments constituting a new or increased source of pollution to high quality waters be allowed to install or operate less than the highest and best degree of treatment available under existing technology.
- (2) Developments constituting a new or increased source of thermal pollution shall assure that such release will not impair the propagation of a balanced indigenous population of fish and aquatic life.
- (3) In applying these policies and requirements, the State of Alabama will recognize and protect the interests of the federal government. Toward this end the Commission will consult and cooperate with the Environmental Protection Agency on all matters affecting the Federal interest.

### State Narrative Language For: Toxics

State waters shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes in concentrations or combinations which are toxic or harmful to human, animal or aquatic life to the extent commensurate with the designated usage of such waters.

### State Narrative Language For: Free From

- A. State waters shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes that will settle to form bottom deposits which are unsightly, putrescent, or interfere directly or indirectly with any classified water use.
- B. State waters shall be free from floating debris, oil, scum, and other floating materials attributable to sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes in amounts sufficient to be unsightly or interfere directly or indirectly with any classified water use.
- C. State waters shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes in concentrations or combinations which are toxic or harmful to human, animal or aquatic life to the extent commensurate with the designated usage of such waters.

### State Narrative Language For: Low Flow

Agricultural and Industrial Water Supply & Industrial Operations & Navigation

This category includes watercourses in which natural flow is intermittent and non-existent during droughts and

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which may, of necessity receive treated wastes from existing municipalities and industries, both now and in the future. In such instances, recognition must be given to the lack of opportunity for mixture of the treated wastes with the receiving stream for purposes of compliance. It is also understood in considering waters for this classification that urban runoff or natural conditions may impact any waters so classified.

### State Narrative Language For: Mixing Zones

In making any tests or analytical determinations to determine compliance or non-compliance with water quality criteria, samples shall be collected in such manner and at such locations approved by a duly authorized representative of the receiving water after reasonable opportunity for dilution and mixture with the wastes discharged thereto. Mixing zones, i.e., that portion of the receiving waters where mixture of effluents and natural waters take place, shall not preclude passage of free-swimming and drifting aquatic organisms to the extent that their populations are significantly affected.

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### Classifications:

Public Water Supply	<p>Best Usage of Waters: Source of water supply for drinking or food-processing purposes.</p> <p>Conditions Related to Best Usage: The waters, if subjected to treatment approved by the State Department of Public Health equal to coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection, with additional treatment if necessary to remove naturally present impurities, and which meet the requirements of the State Department of Public Health, will be considered safe for drinking or food-processing purposes.</p>
Swimming and Other Whole Body Water- Contact Sports	<p>Best Usage of Waters: Swimming and other whole body water-contact sports.</p> <p>Conditions Related to Best Usage: The waters, under proper sanitary supervision by the controlling health authorities, will meet accepted standards of water quality for outdoor swimming places and will be considered satisfactory for swimming and other whole body water-contact sports. The quality of waters will also be suitable for the propagation of fish, wildlife and aquatic life. The quality of salt waters and estuarine waters to which this classification is assigned will be suitable for the propagation and harvesting of shrimp and crabs.</p>
Shellfish Harvesting	<p>Best Usage of Waters: Propagation and harvesting of shellfish for sale or use as a food product.</p> <p>Conditions Related to Best Usage: Waters will meet the sanitary and bacteriological standards included in the latest edition of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Manual of Operations, Sanitation of Shellfish Growing Areas, published by the Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the requirements of the State Department of Public Health. The waters will also be of a quality suitable for the propagation of fish and other aquatic life, including shrimp and crabs.</p>
Fish and Wildlife	<p>Best Usage of Waters: Fishing, propagation of fish, aquatic life, and wildlife, and other usage except for swimming and water-contact sports or as a source of water supply for drinking or food-processing purposes.</p>
Agricultural and Industrial Water Supply	<p>Best Usage of Waters: Agricultural irrigation, livestock watering, industrial cooling and process water supplies, and any other usage, except fishing, bathing, recreational activities, including water-contact sports, or as a source of water supply for drinking or food-processing purposes.</p>
Industrial Operations	<p>Best Usage of Waters: Industrial cooling and process water supplies, and any other usage, except fishing, bathing, recreational activities including water-contact sports or as a source of water supply for drinking or food-processing purposes.</p> <p>Conditions Related to Best Usage: The waters, except for natural impurities which may be present therein, will be suitable for industrial cooling waters and will be suitable after special treatment, as may be needed under each particular circumstance, for industrial process water supplies. The waters will also be suitable for other uses for which waters of lower quality will be satisfactory.</p>
Navigation	<p>Best Usage of Waters: Navigation and related activities.</p>

# ALABAMA

All  
Classes

Public Water Su.. Swimming and Ot.. Shellfish Harve..

## Physical

pH

Upper Value

8.5

8.5

8.5

Lower Value

6.0

6.0

6.5

Dissolved Oxygen

Lower Value

5.0 mg/L

5 mg/L

5 mg/L

Temperature

Upper Value

90 F

90 F

90 F

Secondary Upper Limit

Narr. F

F

F

Temperature Change

Upper Value

5 F

5 F

5 F

Turbidity

Upper Value

50 Neph.

## Nutrients

## Toxic Metals

## Pesticides

## Organics

## Bacteria

Fecal Coliform

Upper Value

Narr.

Narr.

Narr.

Secondary Upper Limit

Narr.

Narr.



# ALABAMA

Fish and Wildli.. Agricultural an.. Industrial Navigation

## Physical

pH

Upper Value

8.5

8.5

8.5

8.5

Lower Value

6.0

6.0

6.0

6.0

Dissolved Oxygen

Lower Value

5

mg/L

3.0

ppm

Temperature

Upper Value

90

F

90

F

90

F

90

F

Temperature Change

Upper Value

5

F

5

F

5

F

5

F

## Nutrients

## Toxic Metals

## Pesticides

## Organics

## Bacteria

Fecal Coliform

Upper Value

Narr.

Secondary Upper Limit

Narr.

