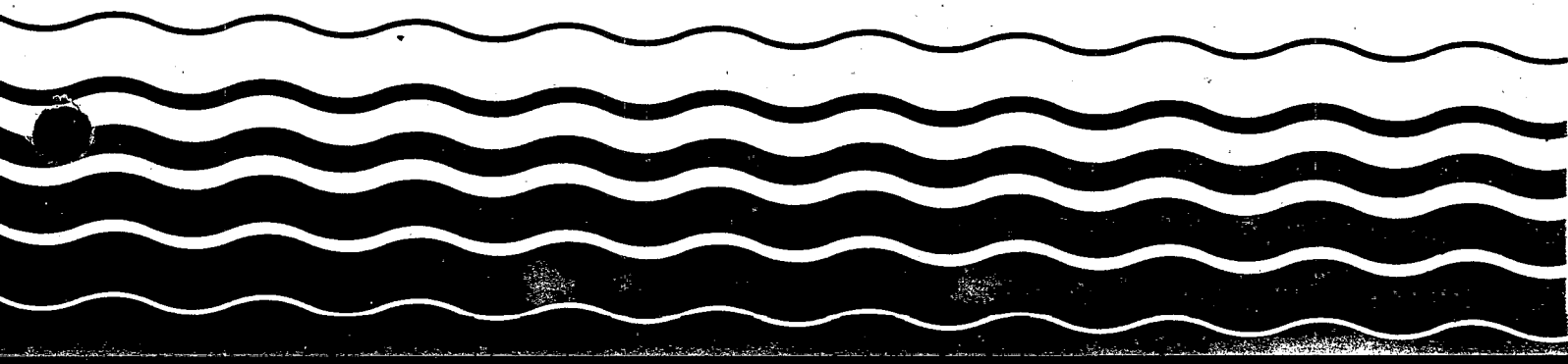


Water



State Water Quality Standards Summary: Oregon



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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: PB89-142046

OREGON

Responsible Agency:
Department of Environmental Quality
1234 S.W. Morrison Street

State Contact:

Portland

.97025

Standards Available From:

Edison Quan
Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
Planning Section

State Contact:

503-229-6978 Fee: no Mailing List: yes

State Narrative Language For: Antidegradation

1. Existing high quality waters which exceed those levels necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and recreation in and on the water shall be maintained and protected, unless the Environmental Quality Commission chooses, after full satisfaction of the intergovernmental coordination and public participation provisions of the continuing planning process, to lower water quality for necessary and justifiable economic or social development. The Director, or his designee, may allow lower water quality on a short-term basis in order to respond to emergencies, or to otherwise protect the public health and welfare. In no event, however, may degradation of water quality interfere with or become injurious to the beneficial uses of water within surface waters of the following areas:

- A. National Parks;
- B. National Wild and Scenic Rivers;
- C. National Wildlife Refuges;
- D. State Parks;

Point source discharges shall follow policies and guidelines (2), (3), and (4), and nonpoint source activities shall follow guidelines (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9). See Oregon Water Quality Standards in BNA Environment Reporter for these guidelines.

State Narrative Language For: Toxics

The creation of tastes or odors or toxic or other conditions that are deleterious to fish or other aquatic life or affect the potability of drinking water or the palatability of fish or shellfish shall not be allowed. Where industrial, commercial, or agricultural effluents contain quantities of potentially toxic elements, treatment requirements shall be determined utilizing appropriate bioassays.

State Narrative Language For: Mixing Zones

The Department may suspend the applicability of all or part of the water quality standards set forth in this rule, except those standards relating to aesthetic conditions, within a defined immediate mixing zone of specified and appropriately limited size adjacent to or surrounding the point of waste water discharge. The sole method of establishing such mixing zone shall be by the Department defining same in a waste discharge permit.

In establishing a mixing zone in a waste discharge permit, the Department:

- (a) May define the limits of the mixing zone in terms of distance from the point of the waste water discharge or the area or volume of the receiving water or any combination thereof;
- (b) May set other less restrictive water quality standards to be applicable in the mixing zone in lieu of the suspended standards; and
- (c) Shall limit the mixing zone to that in all probability, will:
 - i. Not interfere with any biological community or population of any important species to a degree which is damaging to the ecosystem; and
 - ii. Not adversely affect any other beneficial use disproportionately.

ERRATA SHEET -- OREGON TOXICS

(p) Toxic Substances:

(A) Toxic substances shall not be introduced above natural background levels in the waters of the state in amounts, concentrations, or combinations which may be harmful, may chemically change to harmful forms in the environment, or may bioaccumulate to levels that adversely affect public health, safety, or welfare; aquatic life; or other designated beneficial uses.

(B) Levels of toxic substances shall not exceed the most recent criteria values for organic and inorganic pollutants established by EPA and published in *Quality Criteria for Water* (1986). A list of the criteria is presented in Table 20.

(C) The criteria in paragraph (B) of this subsection shall apply unless data from scientifically valid studies demonstrate that the most sensitive designated beneficial uses will not be adversely affected by exceeding a criterion or that a more restrictive criterion is warranted to protect beneficial uses, as accepted by the Department on a site specific basis. Where no published EPA criteria exist for a toxic substance, public health advisories and other published scientific literature may be considered and used, if appropriate, to set guidance values.

(D) Bio-assessment studies such as laboratory bioassays or instream measurements of indigenous biological communities, shall be conducted, as the Department deems necessary, to monitor the toxicity of complex effluents, other suspected discharges or chemical substances without numeric criteria, to aquatic life. These studies, properly conducted in accordance with standard testing procedures, may be considered as scientifically valid data for the purposes of paragraph (C) of this subsection. If toxicity occurs, the Department shall evaluate and implement measures necessary to reduce toxicity on a case-by-case basis.

OREGON

Classifications:
Not Available

OREGON

All Not Available
Classes

Physical

Total Dissolved Solids
Upper Value

Narr. site-spec.

Nutrients

Toxic Metals

Arsenic

Upper Value

Narr. site-spec.

Cadmium

Upper Value

Narr. site-spec.

Cyanide

Upper Value

Narr. site-spec.

Barium

Upper Value

Narr. site-spec.

Boron

Upper Value

Narr. site-spec.

Manganese

Upper Value

Narr. site-spec.

Pesticides

Organics

Phenols

Upper Value

0.001 mg/L

Bacteria

Fecal Coliform

Upper Value

Narr.