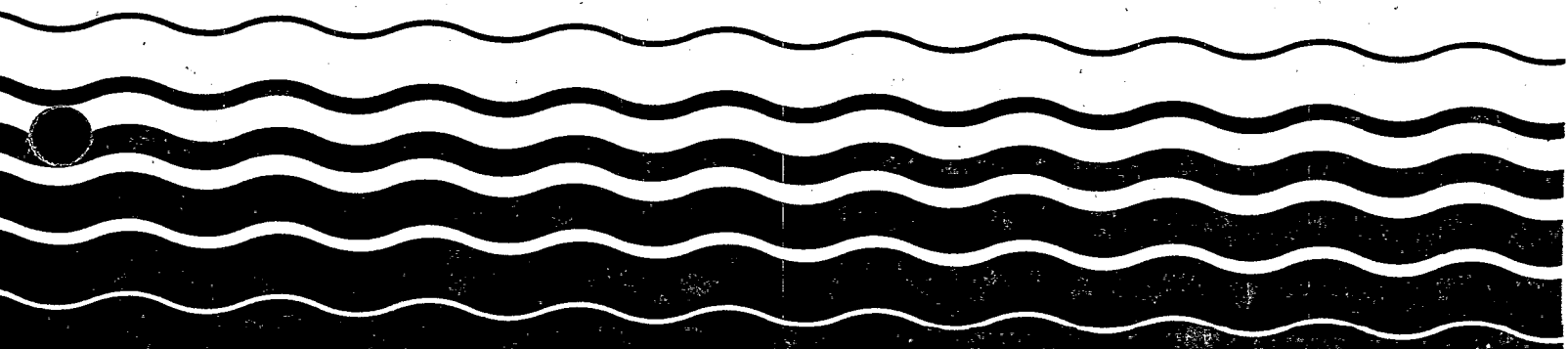


Water



# State Water Quality Standards Summary: Puerto Rico





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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: PB89-142061



## PUERTO RICO

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Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board  
P.O. Box 11448

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809-722-5959

### State Contact:

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### State Narrative Language For: Antidegradation

Waters whose existing quality as of the effective date of these Regulations is better than the standards established herein will be maintained at such quality. These and other waters of the Commonwealth will not be lowered in quality unless it has been affirmatively demonstrated to the Board (Environmental Quality Board) that such a change is justified as a result of necessary economic or social development and will not interfere or become injurious to any assigned uses made of, or presently possible in, such waters. This will require that any industrial, public or private project, or development which would constitute a new source of pollution, or a modified source of pollution, to a high quality water body, possess as a part of the initial project design the best practicable control technology currently available. This decision of the Board shall be preceded by adequate public notice.

### State Narrative Language For: Toxics

The waters of Puerto Rico shall not contain any substance in a concentration which is toxic or which produces undesirable physiological responses in human, fish or other animal life, and plants.  
The waters of Puerto Rico shall not contain two or more substances whose combination is toxic or which will produce chronic or other undesirable physiological responses in humans, fish or other animal life and plants.

### State Narrative Language For: Free From

The waters of Puerto Rico shall not contain material attributable to discharges that will settle to form objectionable deposits. Nor will they contain floating debris, scum, oil and other floating materials attributable to discharges in amounts sufficient to be unsightly or deleterious.  
The waters of Puerto Rico shall be free from color, odor, taste or turbidity attributable to discharges in such a degree as to create a nuisance.  
The waters of Puerto Rico shall not contain any substance in a concentration which is toxic or which produces undesirable physiological responses in human, fish or other animal life, or plants.

### State Narrative Language For: Low Flow

Water quality standards shall apply at all times, except in surface waters during periods when their flows are less than the average minimum seven day low flow which occurs once in any two consecutive years.

### State Narrative Language For: Mixing Zones

5.1 Requirements for the Authorization of Mixing Zones - A discharge will be permitted for which a mixing zone has not been defined and authorized by the Board only when the petitioner demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that the discharge, undiluted, complies with all the water quality standards (at the discharge sampling point).

5.2 Natural Background Concentrations - If the petitioner demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board, through extensive field monitoring and investigations, that the natural background concentration of the receiving waters exceed one or more of the water quality standards set forth for the corresponding classification, the Board may allow the parameters in the discharge to be equal to or less than the natural

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background values.

Please refer to the "EPA Water Quality Criteria Summaries: A Compilation of State/Federal Criteria" for additional mixing zone language for Puerto Rico.

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### Classifications:

- Class SA Coastal waters whose existing characteristics should not be altered in order to preserve the existing natural phenomena.
- Class SB Coastal waters intended for uses where the human body may come in direct contact with the water (such as complete submergence); and for use in propagation and preservation of desirable species.
- Class SC Coastal waters for uses where the human body may come in indirect contact with the water (such as fishing, boating, etc.), and for use in propagation and maintenance of desirable species.
- Class SD Surface waters intended for use as a raw water source for public water supply, and propagation and preservation of desirable species. These waters cannot be safely used for primary and secondary contact recreation, unless they comply with Section 2.2.4.B.10.
- Class SE Surface waters of exceptional ecological value, whose existing characteristics should not be altered in order to preserve the existing natural phenomena.

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	All Classes	Class SA	Class SB	Class SC
Physical				
pH				
Upper Value		Narr.	8.5	8.5
Lower Value			7.3	7.3
Dissolved Oxygen				
Upper Value		Narr.	mg/L	mg/L
Lower Value			5	4
Temperature			mg/L	mg/L
Upper Value	94 F			
Temperature Change				
Upper Value	5 F			
Turbidity				
Upper Value		Narr.	10 NTU	10 NTU
Sulfates				
Upper Value			2800 mg/L	2800 mg/L
Total Dissolved Solids				
Upper Value		Narr.		
Nutrients				
Total Nitrogen				
Upper Value		Narr.	5 mg/L	5 mg/L
Toxic Metals				
Arsenic				
Upper Value		Narr.	150.0 ug/L	150.0 ug/L
Cadmium				
Upper Value		Narr.	5.00 ug/L	5.00 ug/L
Chromium - Total				
Upper Value		Narr.	300.0 ug/L	300.0 ug/L
Chromium - Hexavalent				
Upper Value		Narr.	50.0 ug/L	50.0 ug/L
Copper				
Upper Value		Narr.	50.0 ug/L	50.0 ug/L
Cyanide				
Upper Value		Narr.	20.0 ug/L	20.0 ug/L
Iron				
Upper Value		Narr.	200.0 ug/L	200.0 ug/L
Lead				
Upper Value		Narr.	15.0 ug/L	15.0 ug/L
Mercury				
Upper Value	1.00 ug/L			
Zinc				
Upper Value	50.0 ug/L			
Barium				
Upper Value		Narr.	1000.0 ug/L	1000.0 ug/L
Boron				
Upper Value		Narr.	4800.0 ug/L	4800.0 ug/L
Manganese				
Upper Value		Narr.	100.0 ug/L	100.0 ug/L



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	All Classes	Class SA	Class SB	Class SC
Selenium				
Upper Value		Narr.	10.0 ug/L	10.0 ug/L
Silver				
Upper Value		Narr.	2.00 ug/L	2.00 ug/L
Pesticides				
Aldrin & Dieldrin				
Upper Value	0.002 ug/L			
Chlordane				
Upper Value	0.004 ug/L			
2,4,D				
Upper Value	80.00 ug/L			
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)				
Upper Value	10.00 ug/L			
DDT				
Upper Value	0.001 ug/L			
Demeton				
Upper Value	0.100 ug/L			
Endosulfan				
Upper Value	0.001 ug/L			
Endrin				
Upper Value	0.001 ug/L			
Guthion				
Upper Value	0.010 ug/L			
Heptachlor				
Upper Value	0.001 ug/L			
Lindane				
Upper Value	0.004 ug/L			
Malathion				
Upper Value	0.100 ug/L			
Methoxychlor				
Upper Value	0.020 ug/L			
Mirex				
Upper Value	0.001 ug/L			
Parathion				
Upper Value	0.004 ug/L			
Toxaphene				
Upper Value	0.005 ug/L			
Organics				
Phenolic Compounds				
Upper Value		Narr.	10.0 ug/L	10.0 ug/L
Bacteria				
Fecal Coliform				
Upper Value		Narr.		Narr.
Total Coliform				
Upper Value		Narr.	Narr.	Narr.

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	Class SD		Class SE	
Physical				
pH				
Upper Value	9.0		Narr.	
Lower Value	6.0			
Dissolved Oxygen				
Lower Value	4.0	mg/L		
Turbidity				
Upper Value	50	NTU	Narr.	
Chlorides				
Upper Value	250	mg/L		
Total Dissolved Solids				
Upper Value	500	mg/L		
Nutrients				
Nitrate				
Upper Value	10	mg/L	10	mg/L
Toxic Metals				
Arsenic				
Upper Value	50.0	ug/L	50.0	ug/L
Cadmium				
Upper Value	5.0	ug/L	5.0	ug/L
Chromium - Total				
Upper Value	50.0	ug/L	50.0	ug/L
Chromium - Hexavalent				
Upper Value	50.0	ug/L	50.0	ug/L
Copper				
Upper Value	40.0	ug/L	40.0	ug/L
Cyanide				
Upper Value	200.0	ug/L	200.0	ug/L
Iron				
Upper Value	300.0	ug/L	300.0	ug/L
Lead				
Upper Value	50.0	ug/L	50.0	ug/L
Barium				
Upper Value			1000.0	ug/L
Boron				
Upper Value			1000.0	ug/L
Selenium				
Upper Value			10.0	ug/L
Silver				
Upper Value			2.00	ug/L
Pesticides				
Organics				
Phenolic Compounds				
Upper Value	1.00	ug/L	1.00	ug/L
Bacteria				

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	Class SD	Class SE
Fecal Coliform		
Upper Value	Narr.	
Total Coliform		
Upper Value	Narr.	Narr.

