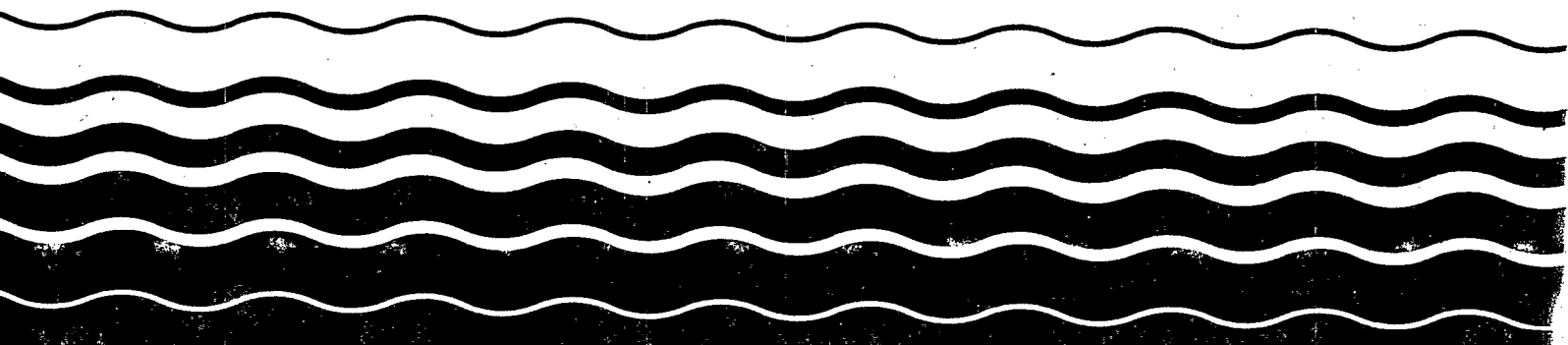




Water

State Water Quality Standards Summary: Texas



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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: PB89-142129.

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Responsible Agency:

Texas Water Commission
1700 North Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13087, Capitol Station

Austin 78711-3087

State Contact:

Mr. Charles Bayer

Texas Water Commission
P.O. Box 13087, Capitol Station

Austin 78711-3087 512-463-8475

Standards Available From:

Agency Information Consultants
P.O. Box 2181

State Contact:

Austin 78768-2181
512-478-8991 Fee: yes Mailing List: no

State Narrative Language For: Antidegradation

1. Existing uses will be maintained and protected. Categories of existing uses are the same as for designated uses, as defined in 307.7 of this title (relating to site-specific uses and criteria).
2. No activities subject to regulatory action which would cause significant degradation of waters exceeding fishable/swimmable quality will be allowed unless it can be shown to the commission's satisfaction that the lowering of water quality is necessary for important economic or social development. Significant degradation is defined as a lowering of water quality to more than a de minimus extent, but not to the extent that an existing use is impaired. Fishable/swimmable waters are defined as waters which have quality sufficient to support propagation of indigenous fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water.
3. Outstanding national resource waters are defined as high quality waters within or adjacent to national parks and wildlife refuges, state parks, wild and scenic rivers designated by law, and other designated areas of exceptional recreational or ecological significance. The quality of outstanding national resource waters will be maintained and protected.
4. The commission will not authorize or approve any waste discharge that will result in the quality of any water being lowered below water quality standards without complying with federal and state laws applicable to water quality standards amendment.
5. Anyone discharging wastewater which would constitute a new source of pollution or an increased source of pollution from any industrial, public, or private project or development will be required to provide a level of wastewater treatment consistent with the provisions of the Texas Water Code and the Clean Water Act. As necessary, cost-effective and reasonable best management practices established through the Texas water quality management program shall be achieved for nonpoint sources of pollution.

State Narrative Language For: Toxics

- (1) Water in the state shall not be acutely toxic to aquatic life except in small zones of initial dilution at discharge points, in accordance with 307.8 (relating to application of standards).
- (2) Water in the state with designated or existing aquatic life uses shall not be chronically toxic to aquatic life, except in mixing zones and below critical low-flow conditions, in accordance with 307.8 of this title (relating to Application of Standards).
- (3) Water in the state shall be maintained to preclude adverse toxic effects on human health resulting from contact recreation, or consumption of drinking water after reasonable treatment. In addition to other provisions of this section, permitted discharges or other controllable sources shall not cause maximum contaminant levels for public drinking water supplies, as established in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (42 United States Code 300f et seq.), to be exceeded after reasonable treatment by a water supply treatment plant. The commission will utilize available investigative and regulatory means to identify and control sources of toxic pollutants which cause or could potentially cause the following guidelines to be exceeded:
 - (A) EPA maximum contaminant levels for drinking water supplies; and
 - (B) U.S. Food and Drug Administration Action Levels for toxic concentrations in fish and shellfish tissue.

State Narrative Language For: Free From

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1. Concentrations of taste- and odor-producing substances shall not interfere with the production of potable water by reasonable water treatment methods, impart unpalatable flavor to food fish including shellfish, result in offensive odors arising from the waters, or otherwise interfere with the reasonable use of the waters of the state.
2. Surface waters shall be essentially free of floating debris and suspended solids that are conducive to producing:
 - A. adverse responses in aquatic organisms; or
 - B. putrescible sludge deposits or sediment layers which adversely affect benthic biota or any lawful uses.
3. Surface waters shall be essentially free of settleable solids conducive to changes in flow characteristics of stream channels or the untimely filling of reservoirs, lakes, and bays.
4. Surface waters shall be maintained in an aesthetically attractive condition.
5. Waste discharges shall not cause substantial and persistent changes from ambient conditions of turbidity or color.
6. There shall be no foaming or frothing of a persistent nature.
7. Surface waters shall be maintained so that oil, grease, or related residue will not produce a visible film of oil or globules of grease on the surface or coat the banks or bottoms of the watercourse.
8. Surface waters will not be toxic to man or terrestrial or aquatic life.

State Narrative Language For: Low Flow

Please refer to the "EPA Water Quality Criteria Summaries: A Compilation of State/Federal Criteria for low-flow language for Texas.

State Narrative Language For: Mixing Zones

(b) A reasonable mixing zone will be allowed at the discharge point of permitted discharges into surface water in the state, in accordance with the following provisions.

(1) The following portions of the standards don't apply within mixing zones:

- (A) site-specific criteria, as defined in 307.7 of this title (relating to site-specific criteria and uses) and listed for each classified segment in Appendix A of 307.10 of this title (relating to Appendices A - C);
- (B) numerical chronic criteria for toxic materials as established in 307.6 of this title (relating to toxic materials);
- (C) total chronic toxicity restrictions as established in 307.6 of this title (relating to toxic materials);
- (D) maximum temperature differentials as established in 307.4(f) of this title (relating to general criteria)
- (E) dissolved oxygen criteria for unclassified waters, as established in 307.4(h) of this title (relating to general criteria);
- (F) dissolved oxygen criteria for intermittent streams and barge canals, as established in 307.4(j) of this title (relating to general criteria);
- (G) fecal coliform criteria for unclassified waters, as established in 307.4(k) of this title (relating to general criteria).

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

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Classifications:

Contact Recreation	Recreational activities involving a significant risk of ingestion of water, including wading by children, swimming, water skiing, diving, and surfing.
Non-contact Recreation	Recreational pursuits not involving a significant risk of water ingestion, including fishing, commercial and recreational boating, and limited body contact incidental to shoreline activity.
Domestic Water Supply	Segments designated for public water supply are those known to be used or exhibit characteristics that would allow them to be used as the supply source for community and non-community water supply systems, as defined by regulations promulgated pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 United States Code 300f et seq).
Aquifer Protection	Segments designated for aquifer protection are capable of recharging the Edwards Aquifer. In accordance with board rules, the principal purpose of this use designation is to protect the quality of the water infiltrating into and recharging the aquifer.
Limited Quality Aquatic Habitat	
Intermediate Quality Aquatic Habitat	
High Quality Aquatic Habitat	
Exceptional Quality Aquatic Habitat	
Oyster Waters	
Additional Uses	Other basic uses, such as navigation, agricultural water supply, and industrial water will be maintained and protected for all water in the state in which these uses can be achieved.

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	All Classes	Contact Recreat..	Non-contact	Domestic Water
Physical				
pH				
Upper Value	9.0			
Lower Value	6.5			
Secondary Upper Limit	8.5			
Temperature				
Upper Value	Narr.			
Temperature Change				
Upper Value	Narr.			
Turbidity				
Upper Value	Narr.			
Total Dissolved Solids				
Upper Value	Narr. site-spec.			
Nutrients				
Toxic Metals				
Pesticides				
Organics				
Bacteria				
Fecal Coliform				
Upper Value		Narr.	Narr.	

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Exceptional Qua... Oyster Waters

Additional Uses

Physical

Dissolved Oxygen

Lower Value

6.0 mg/L

Nutrients

Toxic Metals

Pesticides

Organics

Bacteria

Fecal Coliform

Upper Value

Narr.

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Aquifer Protect.. Limited Quality Intermediate Qu.. High Quality

Physical

Dissolved Oxygen
Lower Value

3.0 mg/L

4.0 mg/L

5.0 mg/L

Nutrients

Toxic Metals

Pesticides

Organics

Bacteria