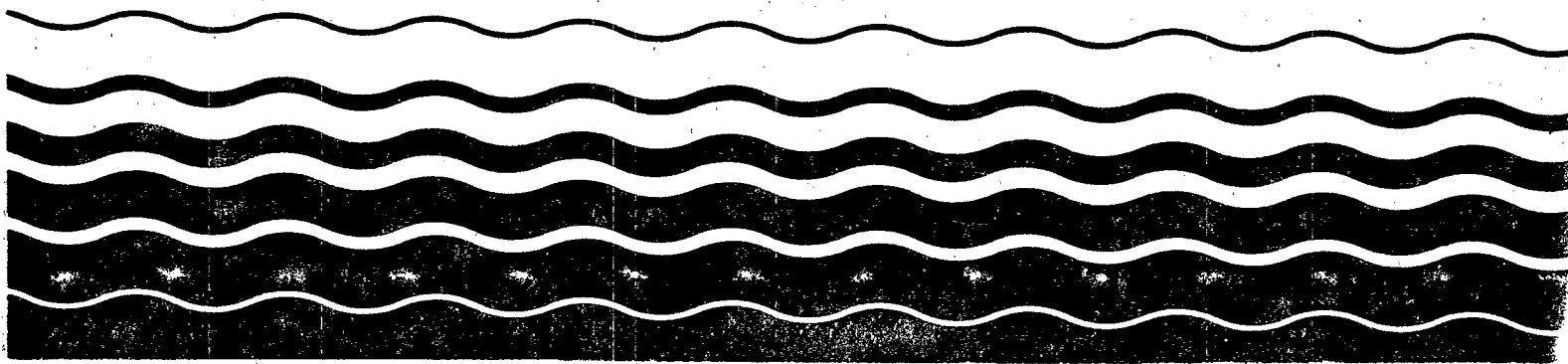


Water



State Water Quality Standards Summary: Virgin Islands



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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: PB89-142152

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State Narrative Language For: Antidegradation

Waters whose existing quality is better than the established standards as of the date on which such standards become effective will be maintained at their existing high quality. The quality of these and other waters of the United States Virgin Islands shall be maintained and protected unless the Territory's water pollution control agency and the Environmental Protection Agency find, after full satisfaction of the intergovernmental coordination and public participation provisions and the Territory's continuing planning process, that allowing lower water quality is justifiable as a result of necessary economic or social development and will not interfere with or become injurious to any assigned uses made of, or presently possible in such waters.

Further, the Territory's water pollution control agency and the Environmental Protection Agency shall assure that there is achieved the highest statutory and regulatory requirements for all new and existing point sources and cost-effective and reasonable best management practices for nonpoint source control.

Where high quality waters constitute an outstanding National resource; such as waters of National and State parks and wildlife refuges and waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance, that water quality shall be maintained and protected.

In those cases where potential water quality impairment associated with a thermal discharge is involved, the antidegradation policy and implementing method shall be consistent with Section 316 of the Clean Water Act.

State Narrative Language For: Toxics

All surface waters shall be free of substances attributable to municipal, industrial, or other discharges or wastes in concentrations or combinations which are toxic or which produce undesirable physiological responses in human, fish, and other animal life, and plants.

State Narrative Language For: Free From

All surface waters shall meet generally accepted aesthetic qualifications and shall be capable of supporting diversified aquatic life. These waters shall be free of substances attributable to municipal, industrial, or other discharges or wastes as follows:

- A. Materials that will settle to form objectionable deposits.
- B. Floating debris, oil, scum, and other matter.
- C. Substances producing objectionable color, odor, taste, or turbidity.
- D. Materials, including radionuclides, in concentrations of combinations which are toxic or which produce undesirable physiological responses in human, fish and other animal life, and plants.
- E. Substances and conditions or combinations thereof in concentrations that produce undesirable aquatic life.

State Narrative Language For: Mixing Zones

(a) Criteria - 1. Mixing zones shall be provided solely of mixing. Mixing must be accomplished as quickly as possible through the use of devices which insure that the waste is mixed with the allocated dilution water in the smallest practicable area.

2. For the protection of aquatic life resources, the mixing zones, must not be used for or be considered as, a substitute for waste treatment facilities.

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3. At the boundary of the mixing zone the water should comply with all the water quality standards set forth for its classification. If, after complete mixing with the available dilution water, these requirements are not met, the effluent must be adequately pretreated until standards are met.
 4. No conditions shall be permitted to exist within the mixing zone, (A) that are rapidly lethal (i.e. exceed the 96-hour median tolerance limit) to locally important and desirable indigenous aquatic life, (B) that prohibit planktonic organisms from being carried through the mixing zone.
 5. Maximum vertical dispersion of waste water discharge shall be provided for in the mixing zone.
 6. Mixing zones shall not overlap spawning or nursery areas, migratory routes, water intakes or river mouths.
 7. Suspended solids in waste waters being discharged shall not settle in measurable amounts in the zones.
- Boundaries - 1. The mixing zone must be located in such a manner as to allow at all times, passageways for the movement or drift of the biota. The width of the mixing zone and the volume of flow in it shall depend on and will be determined by the nature of the water current and/or the estuary. The area, depth, and volume of the flow must be sufficient to provide a usable and desirable passageway for fish and other aquatic organisms.
2. The passageway must contain at least 75% of the cross sectional area and/or volume of flow of the estuary, and should extend to at least 50% of the width.
 3. A mixing zone shall not overlap with adjacent one.

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Classifications:

- Class A Preservation of natural phenomena requiring special conditions, such as the Natural Barrier Reef at Buck Island, St Croix and the Under Water Trail at Trunk Bay, St. John.
- Class B For propagation of desirable species of marine life and for primary contact recreation (swimming, water skiing, etc.)
- Class C For the propagation of desirable species of marine life and primary contact recreation (swimming, water skiing, etc.)

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	All Classes	Class A	Class B	Class C
Physical				
pH				
Upper Value			8.3	8.5
Lower Value			7.0	6.7
Dissolved Oxygen				
Upper Value		Narr.	mg/L	mg/L
Lower Value			5.5 mg/L	5.0 mg/L
Temperature				
Upper Value			90 F	
Temperature Change				
Upper Value			1.5 F	
Turbidity				
Upper Value		Narr.	3 NTU	1 m secchi 1 m. secchi dep
Nutrients				
Phosphorus				
Upper Value	50 ug/L			
Toxic Metals				
Pesticides				
Organics				
Bacteria				
Fecal Col. (Geo. Mean)				
Upper Value		Narr.	70 /100 mL	200 /100 mL