

Nonpoint source pollution: why TMDLs are controversial (Newsletter)*

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Nonpoint source pollution (NPS) policy and regulation under the Clean Water Act (CWA) is difficult for regulatory agencies, and is open to challenge as being too restrictive or not sufficiently restrictive. The accepted standard for regulating nonpoint source pollutants are total daily maximum loads (TMDLs) which affect all natural resource operations, among others.

The two major questions regulators need to answer are:

1. How to predict contaminant concentrations in unsampled areas?
2. How to determine sources and their relative contributions to support TMDLs?

The two biggest issues involved with developing NPS regulations such as TMDLs and aquatic life criteria are the lack of sufficient data and how existing data are analyzed.

To expand your understanding of how these two factors affect the apportionment of contaminant discharges by industry type or location read the white paper, "Nonpoint Source Pollution: Why TMDLs are Controversial," which you can download from

<<http://www.appl-ecosys.com/nonpointsource-pollution.pdf>>.

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