



Jeb Bush  
Governor

# Department of Environmental Protection

Twin Towers Office Building  
2600 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Colleen M. Castille  
Secretary

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Eric Shaw, Environmental Manager  
Water Quality Standards and Special Projects

DATE: April 28, 2006

SUBJECT: Proposed Rulemaking for the Establishment of Site Specific Alternative Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen in the Marine Portions of the Lower St. Johns River

The Department has conducted two public workshops in Jacksonville (1/20/06 and 4/7/06) on the proposed establishment of site specific alternative criteria for dissolved oxygen in the marine portions of the lower St. Johns River. Based on the Department's analysis and public comments, the Department proposes to establish site specific alternative criteria for dissolved oxygen in the marine portion of the lower St. Johns River from Julington Creek to the mouth of the river. The criteria were specifically designed to support a healthy aquatic environment and will maintain the designated use of the river.

The proposed criteria will be expressed as a minimum concentration of 4.0 mg/L, which is the existing minimum default criterion for Class III marine waters, and a Total Fractional Exposure for each annual evaluation period of not greater than 1.0. The total fraction exposure is defined by the equation:

$$\left( \text{Total Fractional Exposure} \right) = \frac{\text{Days between 4.0 - < 4.2 mg/L}}{16 \text{ day Max}} + \frac{\text{Days between 4.2 - < 4.4 mg/L}}{21 \text{ day Max}} + \frac{\text{Days between 4.4 - < 4.6 mg/L}}{30 \text{ day Max}} + \frac{\text{Days between 4.6 - < 4.8 mg/L}}{47 \text{ day Max}} + \frac{\text{Days between 4.8 - < 5.0 mg/L}}{55 \text{ day Max}}$$

The Total Fractional Exposure utilizes the measured larval recruitment/survival and growth responses of sensitive species to limit the number of days in which the dissolved oxygen can be in each 0.2 mg/L interval between 4.0 and 5.0 mg/L.

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The proposed rule amendment is scheduled for formal consideration by the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission at a public hearing scheduled as follows:

DATE: Thursday, May 25, 2006  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Northeast District Office  
7825 Baymeadows Way, Suite B200  
Conference Rooms A & B  
Jacksonville, Florida

This meeting is open to the public. A copy of the Department's formal notice is attached. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting Eric Shaw with the Water Quality Standards and Special Projects Program at (850) 245-8429. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service by calling (800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (800) 955-8770 (Voice). If you have any questions, please contact Eric Shaw in Tallahassee (telephone (850) 245-8429 or SUNCOM 205-8429) or via email at: [Eric.Shaw@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Eric.Shaw@dep.state.fl.us)

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Attachment