

Section A

General Basinwide Information

Chapter 1 - Introduction to Basinwide Water Quality Planning

1.1 What is Basinwide Water Quality Planning?

Basinwide water quality planning is a nonregulatory watershed-based approach to restoring and protecting the quality of North Carolina's surface waters. Basinwide water quality plans are prepared by the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ) for each of the seventeen major river basins in the state, as shown in Figure A-1 and Table A-1. Preparation of an individual basinwide water quality plan is a five-year process, which is broken down into three major phases as presented in Table A-2. While these plans are prepared by the Division of Water Quality, their implementation and the protection of water quality entails the coordinated efforts of many agencies, local governments and stakeholder groups in the state. The first cycle of plans was completed in 1998, but each plan is updated at five-year intervals.

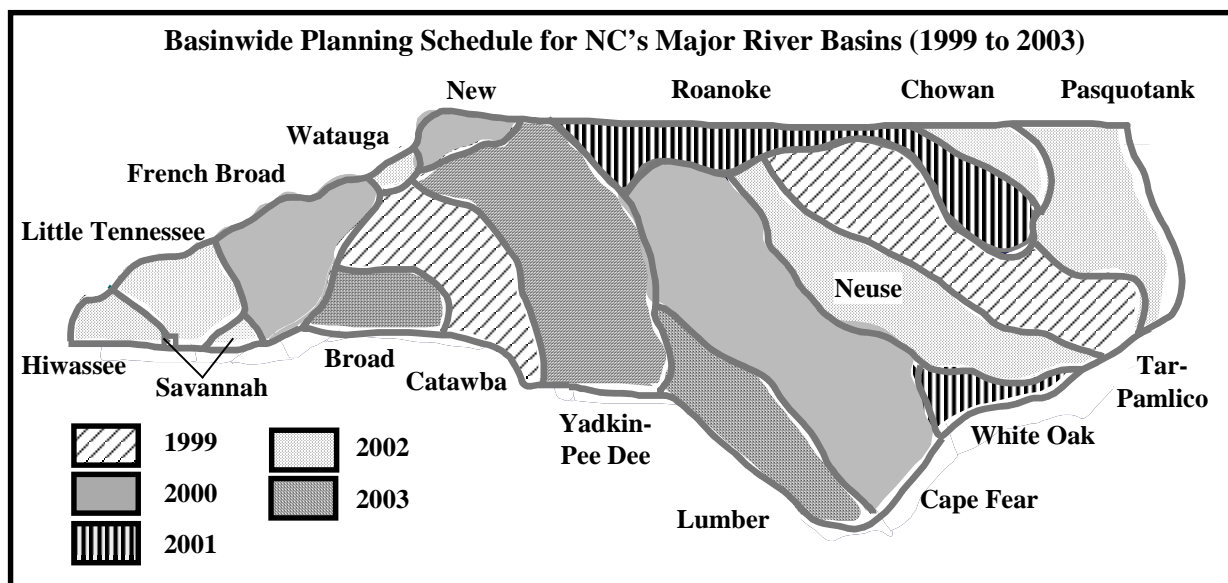


Figure A-1 Basinwide Planning Schedule (1999 to 2003)

1.2 Goals of Basinwide Water Quality Planning

The goals of basinwide planning are to:

- identify water quality problems and restore full use to impaired waters;
- identify and protect high value resource waters;
- protect unimpaired waters while allowing for reasonable economic growth;
- develop appropriate management strategies to protect and restore water quality;
- assure equitable distribution of waste assimilative capacity for dischargers; and
- improve public awareness and involvement in the management of the state's surface waters.

Table A-1 Schedule for Second Cycle of Basinwide Planning (1998 to 2003)

Basin	DWQ Biological Data Collection	River Basin Public Workshops	Public Mtgs. and Draft Out For Review	Final Plan Receives EMC Approval	Begin NPDES Permit Issuance
Neuse	Summer 2000	6/2001	5/2002	7/2002	1/2003
Lumber	Summer 2001	12/2002	9/2003	12/2003	7/2004
Tar-Pamlico	Summer 97	6/1998	4/1999	7/1999	1/2000
Catawba	Summer 97	2/1999	10/1999	12/1999	3/2000
French Broad	Summer 97	5/1999	2/2000	5/2000	8/2000
New	Summer 98	6/1999	4/2000	7/2000	11/2000
Cape Fear	Summer 98	7/1999	4/2000	7/2000	12/2000
Roanoke	Summer 99	4/2000	2/2001	7/2001	1/2002
White Oak	Summer 99	10/2000	7/2001	9/2001	6/2002
Savannah	Summer 99	10/2000	12/2001	3/2002	8/2002
Watauga	Summer 99	10/2000	12/2001	2/2002	9/2002
Little Tennessee	Summer 99	3/2001	12/2001	4/2002	10/2002
Hiwassee	Summer 99	10/2000	12/2001	3/2002	8/2002
Chowan	Summer 2000	3/2001	5/2002	7/2002	11/2002
Pasquotank	Summer 2000	3/2001	5/2002	7/2002	12/2002
Broad	Summer 2000	11/2001	11/2002	2/2003	7/2003
Yadkin Pee-Dee	Summer 2001	4/2002	12/2002	3/2003	9/2003

Note: A basinwide plan was completed for all 17 basins during the first cycle (1993 to 1998).

Table A-2 Five-Year Process for Development of an Individual Basinwide Plan

Years 1 - 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sampling needs • Conduct biological monitoring activities • Conduct special studies and other water quality sampling activities • Coordinate with local stakeholders and other agencies to continue to implement goals within current basinwide plan
Water Quality Data Collection and Identification of Goals and Issues	
Years 2 - 3	
Data Analysis and Public Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather and analyze data from sampling activities • Develop use support ratings • Conduct special studies and other water quality sampling activities • Conduct public workshops to establish goals and objectives and identify and prioritize issues for the next basin cycle • Develop preliminary pollution control strategies • Coordinate with local stakeholders and other agencies
Years 3 - 5	
Preparation of Draft Basinwide Plan, Public Review, Approval of Plan, Issue NPDES Permits and Begin Implementation of Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop draft basinwide plan based on water quality data, use support ratings, and recommended pollution control strategies • Circulate draft basinwide plan for review and present draft plan at public meetings • Revise plan after public review period • Submit plan to Environmental Management Commission for approval • Issue NPDES permits • Coordinate with other agencies and local interest groups to prioritize implementation actions • Conduct special studies and other water quality sampling activities

1.3 Major Components of the Basinwide Plan

The second round of basinwide plans uses a different format from the earlier basinwide plans. Each plan is subdivided into three major sections. The intent of the format change is to make the plans easier to read and understand, but still comprehensive in content.

Section A: Basinwide Information

- Introduces the basinwide planning approach used by the state.
- Provides an overview of the river basin including: hydrology, land use, local government jurisdictions, population and growth trends, natural resources, wastewater discharges, animal operations and water usage.
- Presents general water quality information including summaries of water quality monitoring programs and use support ratings in the basin.

Section B: Subbasin Information

- Summarizes recommendations from first basin plan, achievements made, what wasn't achieved and why, current priority issues and concerns, and goals and recommendations for the next five years by subbasin.

Section C: Current and Future Initiatives

- Presents current and future water quality initiatives by federal, state and local agencies, and corporate, citizen and academic efforts.
- Describes DWQ goals and initiatives beyond the five-year planning cycle for the basin.

1.4 Benefits of Basinwide Water Quality Planning

Several benefits of basinwide planning and management to water quality include:

- *Improved efficiency.* The state's efforts and resources are focused on one river basin at a time.
- *Increased effectiveness.* The basinwide approach is in agreement with basic ecological principles.
- *Better consistency and equitability.* By clearly defining the program's long-term goals and objectives, basinwide plans encourage *consistent* decision-making on permits and water quality improvement strategies.
- *Increased public participation in the state's water quality protection programs.* The basinwide plans are an educational tool for increasing public involvement and awareness about water quality issues.
- *Increased integration of point and nonpoint source pollution assessment and controls.* Once waste loadings from both point and nonpoint sources are established, management strategies can be developed to ensure compliance with water quality standards.

1.5 How to Get Involved

To assure that basinwide plans are accurately written and effectively implemented, it is important for local citizens and other stakeholders to participate in the planning process. DWQ offers three opportunities for the public to participate in the process:

- **Public Workshops:** Held prior to writing the basinwide plans. DWQ staff present information about basinwide planning and the water quality of the basin. Participants then break into smaller groups where they can ask questions, share their concerns, and discuss potential solutions to water quality issues in the basin.
- **Public Meetings:** Held after the draft basinwide plan has been approved by the Water Quality Committee of the Environmental Management Commission. DWQ staff present more detailed information about the draft basinwide plan and its major recommendations. Then, the public is invited to comment and ask questions.
- **Public Comment Period:** Held after the draft plan has been approved by the Water Quality Committee of the Environmental Management Commission. The comment period is at least thirty days in length from the date of the first public meeting.

Citizens seeking involvement in efforts to restore and protect water quality can call the DWQ Planning Branch at (919) 733-5083 and ask to speak to the basin planner for your river basin.

1.6 Other References

There are several reference documents and websites that provide additional information about basinwide planning and the basin's water quality:

- *Pasquotank River Basinwide Assessment Report.* January 2002. This technical report presents the physical, chemical and biological data in the Pasquotank River basin. 131 pp.
- *Pasquotank River Basinwide Water Quality Management Plan.* September 1997. This first basinwide plan for the Pasquotank River basin presents water quality data, information and recommended management strategies for the first five-year cycle.
- *A Citizen's Guide to Water Quality Management in North Carolina.* August 2000. This document includes general information about water quality issues and programs to address these issues. It is intended to be an informational document on water quality. 156 pp.
- *NC Basinwide Wetlands and Riparian Restoration Plan for the Pasquotank River Basin.* August 1998. DWQ NC Wetlands Restoration Program. Raleigh, NC.
- *North Carolina's Basinwide Approach to Water Quality Management: Program Description.* Creager, C.S. and J.P. Baker. 1991. DWQ Water Quality Section. Raleigh, NC.
- NC Division of Water Quality Basinwide Planning Website <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us>. Click on Water Quality Section and then, under Programs, click on Basinwide Planning Program.
- NC Division of Water Quality Environmental Sciences Branch Website <http://esb.ehn.state.nc.us/BAU.html>.

Anyone interested in receiving these documents can contact the
DWQ Planning Branch at (919) 733-5083 or by internet:
<http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/basinwide/>.

1.7 Division of Water Quality Functions and Locations

The major activities coordinated by DWQ through basinwide planning are listed in Figure A-2. Information on the location, address and phone numbers for each Branch and Regional Office are also shown in Figure A-2 and Figure A-3. Additional information can be found on the Division of Water Quality website at <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/>.

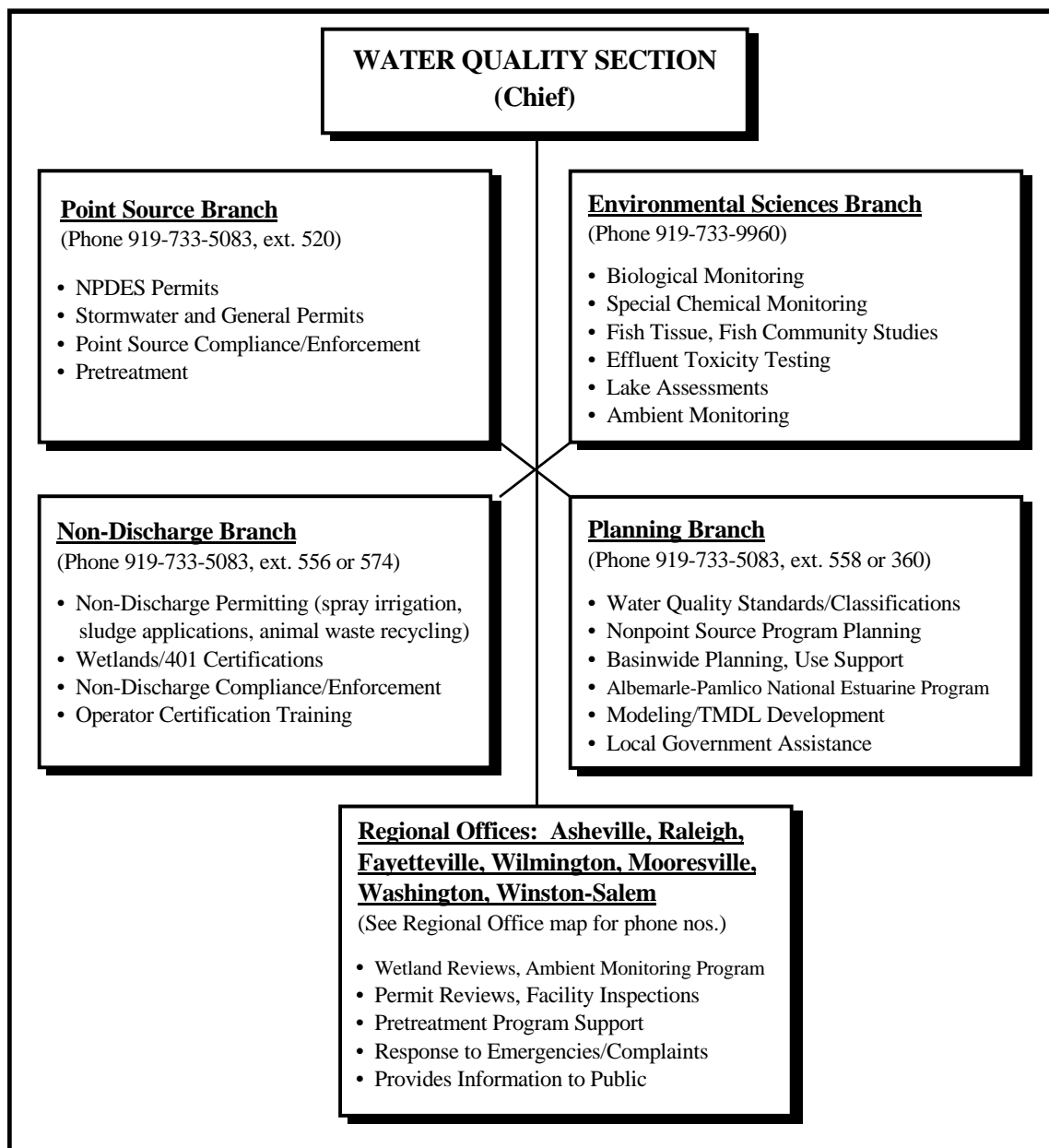
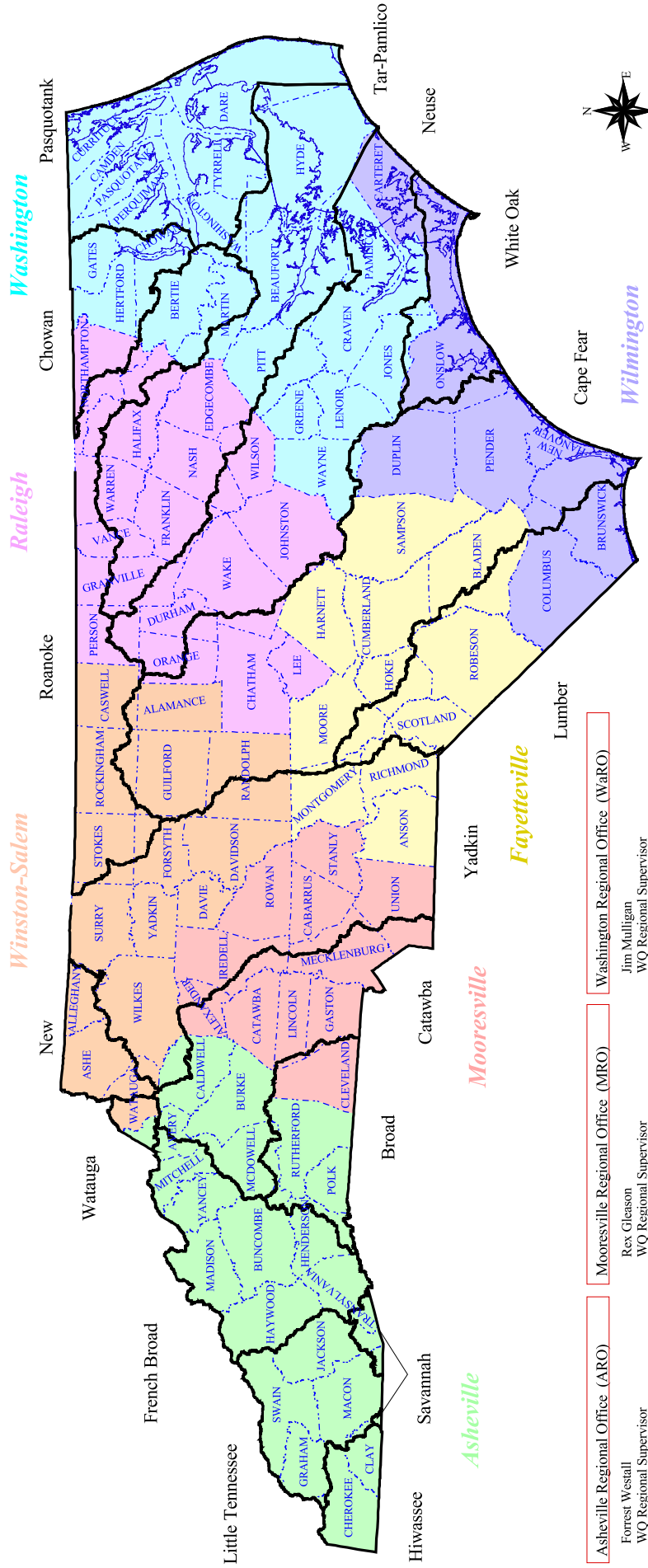


Figure A-2 Water Quality Section Organization Structure

**Figure A-3 North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Water Quality Regional Offices**



Asheville Regional Office (ARO)
 Forrest Westall
 WO Regional Supervisor
 59 Woodfin Place
 Asheville, NC 28801
 COURIER 12-59-01
 Phone: (828) 251-6208
 Fax: (828) 251-6452

Mooresville Regional Office (MRO)
 Rex Gleason
 WO Regional Supervisor
 919 North Main Street
 Mooresville, NC 28115
 COURIER 09-08-06
 Phone: (704) 663-1699
 Fax: (704) 663-6040

Washington Regional Office (WaRO)
 Jim Mulligan
 WO Regional Supervisor
 943 Washington Square Mall
 Washington, NC 27889
 COURIER 16-04-01
 Phone: (252) 946-6481
 Fax: (252) 946-9215

Winston-Salem Regional Office (WStRO)
 Larry Coble
 WO Regional Supervisor
 585 Wroughton Street
 Winston-Salem, NC 27107
 COURIER 13-15-01
 Phone: (336) 771-4600
 Fax: (336) 771-4630

Wilmington Regional Office (WYRO)
 Watauga
 Forsyth
 Guilford
 Wilkes
 Yadkin

Wilmington Regional Office (WYRO)
 Watauga
 Forsyth
 Guilford
 Wilkes
 Yadkin

Central Office
 DENR
 DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
 WATER QUALITY SECTION
 1617 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
 RALEIGH NC 27699-1617
 COURIER 52-01-00
 Phone: (919) 733-5083
 Fax: (919) 733-9919

Fayetteville Regional Office (FRO)
 Paul Rawls
 WO Regional Supervisor
 225 Green Street
 Suite 714 / Systel Building
 Fayetteville, NC 28301-5043
 COURIER 14-56-25
 Phone: (910) 486-1541
 Fax: (910) 486-0707

Raleigh Regional Office (RRO)
 Ken Schuster
 WO Regional Supervisor
 3800 Barrett Drive
 Raleigh, NC 27609
 INTEROFFICE
 Phone: (919) 571-4700
 Fax: (919) 571-4718

Wilmington Regional Office (WYRO)
 Rick Shiver
 WO Regional Supervisor
 127 Cardinal Drive Extension
 Wilmington, NC 28405-2845
 COURIER 04-16-33
 Phone: (910) 395-3900
 Fax: (910) 350-2004

Wilmington Regional Office (WYRO)
 Brunswick
 Carteret
 Columbus
 Duplin

Wilmington Regional Office (WYRO)
 Brunswick
 Carteret
 Columbus
 Duplin

Wilmington Regional Office (WYRO)
 Brunswick
 Carteret
 Columbus
 Duplin

