Update on the Proposed Bacteria Provisions

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Marina Interagency Coordinating Committee & Anti-Fouling Strategies Workgroup

Outline

- Objectives of the proposed Bacteria Provisions
- Current Regulations
- Proposed Changes
- Effects on Basin Plans

Objectives of the Provisions

- Focus on protecting human health by reducing the risk of illness associated with exposure to water containing fecal bacteria
- Create consistency between regions
- Avoid the need for Basin Plan Amendments
- Align our objectives with the USEPA recommendations
- Utilize best available science and relevant studies conducted nationwide and in California

Current Regulations

- **30-day Geometric Mean (GM)**
  - 1) Total coliform density shall not exceed 1,000 per 100 mL;
  - 2) Fecal coliform density shall not exceed 200 per 100 mL; and
  - 3) Enterococci density shall not exceed 35 per 100 mL.
- **Single sample maximum (SSM)**
  - 1) Total coliform density shall not exceed 10,000 per 100 mL;
  - 2) Fecal coliform density shall not exceed 400 per 100 mL;
  - 3) Enterococci density shall not exceed 104 per 100 mL; and
  - 4) Total coliform density shall not exceed 1,000 per 100 mL when the fecal coliform/total coliform ratio exceeds 0.1.

Proposed Changes

- Based on USEPA's 2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria
- Use of E. coli only for freshwaters
- Implement a 6-week rolling GM instead of 30 days
- Use a Statistical Threshold Value (STV) instead of a SSM
- New definition of Limited REC-1 beneficial use
- Allowance of Natural Source Exclusion and a reference beach, Antidegradation Approach (with a TMDL)

Proposed Water Quality Objectives

Estimated Illness Rate (NGI): 32 per 1,000 primary contact recreators		
Indicator	**GM (cfu/100 mL)**	**STV (cfu/100 mL)**
Enterococci (for marine and fresh)	30	110
E. coli (fresh)	100	320

Effects on Basin Plans

- Except for site-specific objectives, the proposed Provisions…
- Will supersede numeric water quality objectives
- Will not supersede narrative water quality objectives
- Will be implemented, through NPDES permits, water quality certifications, waste discharge requirements, and waivers of waste discharge requirements

Next Steps

- The State Water Board adoption was postponed
- Currently, no date has been set for an adoption
- If you would like to receive updates on the Bacteria Provisions, make sure you are on the California Ocean Plan (COP) Lyris list
  - Sign up here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html

Availability and Questions

- Documents available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/
- Please direct questions…
- Regarding the marine environment to Karen Black at (916) 341- 6899 or Karen.Black@waterboards.ca.gov
- Regarding freshwaters to Stephanie Rose at (916) 341-5574 or Stephanie.Rose@waterboards.ca.gov