



RECREATIONAL USE ATTAINABILITY ANALYSES



Laurie Curra
Monitoring & Assessment Section
Water Quality Planning Division



Use-Attainability Analysis

- A use-attainability analysis (UAA) is an assessment of environmental and economic factors that affect the attainment of a use for a specific body of water.
- The goal is to ensure that appropriate uses and criteria are assigned to a particular water body.
- Conducting an UAA does not mean that a change in the water quality standard will/must occur.



RECREATIONAL USE ATTAINABILITY ANALYSES (RUAA)

- RUAAAs are a tool to provide information on the type of recreational use occurring in a water body.
- Warm weather study consisting of physical measurements of the stream, observation of bank access and current and historical recreational uses.
- The goal is to ensure the appropriate recreational use is assigned to a particular water body.



RECREATIONAL USE ATTAINABILITY ANALYSES (RUAA)

- RUAA's conducted using TCEQ developed guidelines "Procedures for a Comprehensive RUAA and a Basic RUAA Survey May 2009".
- Procedures have recently been revised using feedback from TCEQ, TSSWCB and entities conducting fieldwork.
- New procedures will be implemented for FY12 RUAA's.



EXPANDED RECREATIONAL USE CATEGORIES

- **Primary Contact** Significant risk of ingestion (swimming, diving, wading by children, tubing, etc.).
- **Secondary Contact 1** No significant risk of ingestion (wading by adults, fishing, canoeing, etc.).
- **Secondary Contact 2** Same as SC1, but recreational activities occur less frequently because of physical characteristics or limited public access.
- **Noncontact Recreation** No significant risk of ingestion and contact recreation does not occur because of unsafe conditions (ship and barge traffic, birding, etc.).



RECREATIONAL CRITERIA

Uses	E. coli (FW)	Enterococci (Salty inland FW)*	Enterococci (SW)	Fecal coliform (FW & SW)
Primary contact (PCR)	126	33	35	200**
Secondary contact 1 (SCR1)	630	165	175***	1000
Secondary contact 2 (SCR2)	1030	270	--	1000
Noncontact recreation (NCR)	2060	540	350	2000

* Salty (high saline) inland FW = High saline inland water bodies (conductivity $\geq 9000 \mu\text{mhos/cm}$)

** Fecal coliform will be gradually phased out as criteria for salty inland waters however, fecal coliform would continue to be used for oyster waters criterion (14/100ml median)

*** Secondary contact 1 for SW would only be applicable when not in conflict with the federal Beach Act



STATUS OF RUAAs

- 76 RUAAs on water bodies are under review by TCEQ.
- 11 additional RUAAs being conducted by TSSWCB.
- Three currently out for public comment (Upper Oyster Creek, Atascosa River, and Trinity D/FW Urban Streams).



RUAA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- Final reports will be released to the public via the TCEQ RUAA webpage.
- Announcement of the public comment period will be made through TCEQ webpage, Surface Water Quality Standards Advisory Work Group Listserve and local newspapers.
- Public will have 30 days to comment on report.
- Comments will be taken into consideration when making the final recommendation on a water body.



<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/index>



TEXAS COMMISSION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Search

A to Z Index | Org Chart

[Home](#) | [AIR](#) | [LAND](#) | [WATER](#) | [Public](#) | [Businesses](#) | [Governments](#)

Site Navigation

You are here: [Home](#) → [Water Quality](#) → [Surface Water Standards](#) → [Recreational Use Attainability Analyses](#)

>> [Questions or Comments:](#)

standards@tceq.texas.gov

- [Cleanups, Remediation](#)
- [Emergency Response](#)
- [Licensing](#)
- [Permits, Registrations](#)
- [Preventing Pollution](#)
- [Recycling](#)
- [Reporting](#)
- [Rules](#)

Recreational Use Attainability Analyses

RUAAs planned, in progress, or completed for Texas rivers and streams.

- [UAAs: What They Are and How They Are Used](#)
- [Recreational Uses](#)
- [RUAA Procedures](#)
- [Public Participation](#)
 - [Meetings](#)
 - [Reports for Public Comment](#)
- [Find RUAAs by Basin](#)
- [For More Information](#)

 [Data](#)

 [Forms](#)

 [Maps](#)

 [Public Notices](#)



NEXT STEPS

- TCEQ will determine the appropriate contact recreation use and submit revisions to EPA (if needed) with the next triennial revision of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.
- Next revision is in 2013. EPA must approve any revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.
- Future identification of impairments in each stream will be based on assigned uses.



Questions

RUAA Coordinator

Joe Martin

Joe.Martin@tceq.texas.gov

512-239-3163