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#### Greetings!

The GREEN BOOK is reopened for public comment!



The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission State Board voted unanimously on Friday, February 21, 2014, to reopen The Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia, 6th Edition and testing procedures for public comment and to make changes from comment(s) as needed.

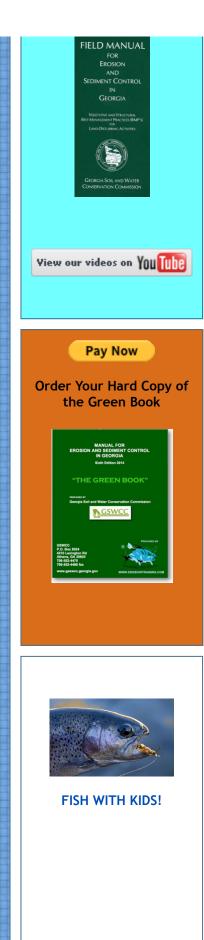
<u>CLICK HERE</u> for information, or questions email certification@gaswcc.org

# Should individual state water quality standards exclude US EPA influence and oversight?



Florida is fighting this battle now and has been for a few years and everyone is watching. <u>Environmental groups</u> <u>are challenging a</u> <u>Federal Judge's Ruling</u> <u>Allowing State Water</u> <u>Quality Rules instead</u> <u>of Federal</u>.

In 1948, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act was born that gave primary water quality enforcement responsibility to state governments. It was poor state oversight and enforcement of water quality standards that resulted in a growing and continued discharge of pollution into our nation's waterways. Polluted rivers grew more polluted, some rivers burned from chemical pollution, with almost 500 Million fish kills (reported) between 1961 and 1974. While fish kills continued to grow under state oversight, and a growing number of people became ill from poor water quality, the American public began to raise their voice to their political representatives with



complaints! As a result, the US EPA was organized and became the federal environmental police in 1970 under the Nixon Administration. Shortly thereafter, the Clean Water Act amendments of 1972 were passed by a Congress that overwhelming voted to override



a Nixon veto just days before re-election. It was this legislation among other things, that gave the USEPA water quality enforcement authority over state governments. The 1972 amendments gave the Clean Water Act its current form and established an aggressive national goal that all waters of the U.S. should be fishable and swimmable by 1985.



This goal was to be achieved by eliminating all pollutant discharges into waters of the U.S. with an interim goal of making the waters safe for fish, shellfish, wildlife and people by July 1, 1983. By not

considering stormwater pollution a problem in the beginning, stormwater discharges threw a big monkey wrench into meeting this goal which has yet to be achieved in 40% of our nation's waterways. However, it is the Clean Water Act of 1972 that many give credit as being the single most effective environmental law to ever be passed in the United States.

As a young United States Marine, I will never forget the disease, poverty and stinking rivers I witnessed first hand when serving my country overseas 35 years ago. As we try to figure out how to work together as Americans, protecting our water quality and growing our economy (which pays for our clean water) let's not throw the baby out with the bath water!



Remember, it's the direct relationship between <u>Clean Water and Economic</u> <u>Growth</u> that makes our country strong! We must work together to achieve the quality of life we wish for our children in this awesome country of ours!

"Here's to tight lines and good times in Clean Abundant Water!"

So I put a little sediment in the creek, no big deal (or is it)?

How much oxygen does a fish need to survive anyway?

While there are other factors that can change the chemical composition of water that kill fish (like wet concrete washed into a stormdrain that changes a streams pH to a point of burning fish gills) the reduction of available oxygen for a fish to breath in water caused

from pollution is very often the reason fish die. The air we humans inhale is about 21% oxygen or 210,000 parts per million (ppm), while the oxygen our lungs actually absorb is about 50,000 ppm. *Isn't it amazing to know that most fish only need a little* 



*more than 5 ppm* to live, and a little more than that to successfully reproduce.

The oxygen that fish breathe <u>is not</u> the oxygen that makes up water in the form of H2O. Instead, fish breath O2 (oxygen gas) that is dissolved in the water (DO), from their gills. Many different gases dissolve in liquids, and we see an example of that all the time in

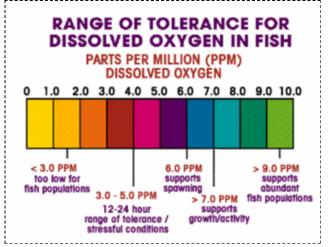


carbonated beverages. In these beverages, carbon dioxide gas dissolved in water rushes out in the form of bubbles when it's not under pressure. Cold water contains more pressure than warm water, which keeps gasses like carbon dioxide and oxygen

dissolved. In other words, a cola is tasty when it's cold and fizzy, but the warmer it gets the more carbon dioxide gas is released into the atmosphere until it finally becomes warm and "flat" with no fizz. This is what happens to dissolved oxygen in water in a stream, lake, or coastal area, but of course it's a lot more serious when a fish is relying on it for survival.

In the fish world, oxygen is a rare and precious resource that humans commonly impact through stormwater runoff from urban runoff through storm drains, construction, farming, and timber harvesting. Pollution added from illicit chemical discharges and malfunctioning wastewater treatment systems also have a huge impact on the amount of dissolved oxygen in a watershed. Most fish and their food source (macro-invertebrates) begin to die when dissolved oxygen levels fall below 2 ppm to 3 ppm.

Suspended sediment is known to increase water temperature which in turn releases dissolved oxygen. Sediment particle adds more surface area to a pond or lake which gives pollutants and algae an extra place accumulate and grow, which significantly decreases



dissolved oxygen levels. Other pollutants, like fertlizers and pesticides, grass clippings, animal and human poop, etc. are called nutrients in the stormwater world and they cause bacteria growth in a



waterway, which in turns creates an over abundance of the algae and bacteria which then die and decay in the water which removes the dissolved oxygen in the water that fish and other critters must have for survival. Sediment also adds more problems for us humans when it settles and fills up our drinking water reservoirs and road culverts. Much of the time, this settling buries fish eggs as well as macroinvertebrates causing a waterway to be impaired which if left unchecked has proven to impair our quality of life.



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The increased likelyhood of more and more pollutants being added to our tributaries is evident when we look at Atlanta's massively growing population. Because fish are so dependent on dissolved oxygen, it is important that all individuals protect our

waters from the pollutants that decrease the amount of available oxygen that fish need to live in and reproduce.

The work that municipal seperate storm sewer system (MS4) Compliance and Enforcement Inspectors are doing to inspect, water sample, repair and enforce clean water regulations in their local watersheds is critaclly important if we are to be ahead of our future water pollution challenges!

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**<u>CONTACT US</u>** anytime if you have questions or need more information!







## COMPLIANCE TOOL BOX





**GREEN BOOK (Manual for E&SC in Georgia - New 2014) GREEN BOOK Update Presentation Free Download GREEN BOOK Transition Period Guidance (NOW CANCELLED)** 2013 NOI & NOT Forms 2013 FACT SHEET - NPDES General Permit for Construction (GA) 2013 FACT SHEET ADDENDUM - NPDES General Permit for Construction 2013 GAR100001 - NPDES GENERAL PERMIT - STAND ALONE 2013 GAR100002 - NPDES GENERAL PERMIT - INFRASTRUCTURE 2013 GAR100003 - NPDES GENERAL PERMIT - COMMON DEVELOPMENT WHO NEEDS TO BE CERTIFIED in GEORGIA - FACT SHEET March 5, 2012 Memo for Projects Less than 1-Acre 2012 303d LIST - GEORGIA 2007 EPD GUIDANCE TO SWCC DISTRICTS FOR PLAN REVIEWS **CITY OF ATLANTA - Forms, Checklists & CAD Sample Plans** 2009 MODEL ORDINANCE (Read Page 7, paragraph C) **BUILDING & RENOVATING A POND in GEORGIA CONCRETE WASHOUT PROCEDURES** STATE WATERS (CCouch Ltr 2004) LOCAL ISSUING AUTHORITIES - NEW FEB 2012 List **ALTERNATIVE BMP GUIDANCE DOC** TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS STREAMBANK & SHORELINE RESTORATION in GEORGIA GESA Exemption #8 **BUFFER VARIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR DAMS** 





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# STORMWATER CONFERENCES & TRAINING EVENTS

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Using the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE 2) to Predict Water Erosion and Sediment Deposition Rates on Construction Sites Sponsored by IECA - SE Chapter and SWCS AL Chapter

SOUTHEAST STORMWATER ASSOCIATION (SESWA) (UPCOMING CONFERENCES)

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF WATER PROFESSIONALS (UPCOMING CONFERENCES)

<u>GEORGIA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION (GRWA)</u> (UPCOMING CONFERENCES)





#### GWINNETT COUNTY <u>LOSES</u> GEORGIA SUPREME COURT CASE OVER SUGARLOAF PARKWAY CONSTRUCTION EROSION!

"It makes a big mess all over their property," he said. "We hope (the Supreme Court orders) makes things better. ... It's a good ruling for private property rights."

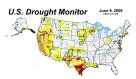
Supreme Court of Georgia ruled unanimously Monday, upholding a lower court's decision, that the county must stop water that this flowing through the yard of Gerard and Jewell McManus because of the project.



The couple lives on a 7.57-acre homestead on Martins Chapel Road outside Lawrenceville. According to court documents, the county began work on the Sugarloaf Parkway extension adjacent to and uphill from the McManuses' property. **The couple complained** "almost immediately" about an increase to stormwater runoff and sediment. According to the claims, the construction damaged ponds, eroded the driveway, destroyed a natural spring and caused pollution on the property.

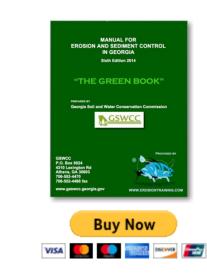
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## HERE's TO TIGHT LINES and GOOD TIMES!!! In Clean Abundant Water



**Respecting our neighbors downstream** is the BIG REMINDER! It's important that we sacrifice a little to give our future generations an equally great place to live, fish, and hunt!

There is a lot happening today with water regulations that affect a diverse community of public and private entities. If you have areas of interest that you would like included in this newsletter, please contact us at 678-469-5120.

Sincerely, NPDES TRAINING INSTITUTE

T. Luke Owen,PG President/Principal Trainer and Consultant www.npdestraining.com www.erosiontraining.com Luke@npdestraining.com

