North Carolina's List of Priority Waters

In December 2013, U.S. EPA released a new framework for managing the Clean Water Act 303(d) program responsibilities, entitled "A Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program". The Vision was designed to help coordinate and focus EPA and State efforts to advance the effectiveness of the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program direction in the coming decade. To accomplish this, the Vision focuses on six elements including 1) Prioritization, 2) Assessment, 3) Protection, 4) Alternatives, 5) Engagement and 6) Integration.

To address the first element of the Vision (Prioritization), States were to develop a list of priority waters for protection, direct to implementation, TMDL development and/or TMDL alternative development. North Carolina's priorities reflect where the State plans to focus resources through Fiscal Year 2022. They were selected using the U.S. EPA approved 2014 305b/303d list of waters as the baseline and the state's priority framework.

As mentioned above, waters on the priority list will be addressed using a variety of approaches. Direct to implementation will be done when the cause is known and can be addressed through NPDES permits. TMDL and TMDL alternatives will be developed for waters listed as impaired on North Carolina's 305(b)/303(d) list of waters. Protection plans, on the other hand, will be written for waters that are not assessed as "impaired" in an effort to keep the water from becoming impaired.

North Carolina's list of priority waters are given in the table below. The table lists the parameters of concern along with the approach the state plans to use for each waterbody. This list is considered draft and is subject to change based on data and resource availability.

Assessment Unit ID	Assessment Unit Name	Cause Name	Plan Type
NC11-29-22	Shooks Creek	Low pH	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC11-38-32-9ut3	Unnamed tributary to Frankum Creek	Low pH	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC11-38-34-14	Harper Creek	Low pH	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-94-(0.5)b2b	Muddy Creek	Turbidity	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC6-34-(15.5)	Davidson River	Low pH	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC7-2-52-(1)	South Toe River	Low pH	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC7-3-22	Bald Creek	Fecal Coliform	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC7-3-22-1	Fox Creek	Fecal Coliform	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC7-3-22-4	Elk Wallow Creek	Fecal Coliform	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC7-3-22-5	Lickskillet Branch	Fecal Coliform	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC7-3-22-7	Possumtrot Creek	Fecal Coliform	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC11-129-8-4-(1)	Mill Creek	Ecological/Biological Integrity Benthos	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC27-52-6a	Hannah Creek	Dissolved Oxygen	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC27-52-6a	Hannah Creek	Ecological/Biological Integrity Benthos	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(108.5)b2	YADKIN RIVER (including upper portion of High Rock Lake below normal operating level)	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(108.5)b2	YADKIN RIVER (including upper portion of High Rock Lake below normal operating level)	Turbidity	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(108.5)b3	YADKIN RIVER (including upper portion of High Rock Lake below normal operating level)	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(108.5)b3	YADKIN RIVER (including upper portion of High Rock Lake below normal operating level)	Turbidity	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(108.5)b4	YADKIN RIVER (including upper portion of High Rock Lake below normal operating level)	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(114)a	YADKIN RIVER (including lower portion of High Rock Lake)	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(114)a	YADKIN RIVER (including lower portion of High Rock Lake)	High pH	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(114)a	YADKIN RIVER (including lower portion of High Rock Lake)	Turbidity	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(114)b1	YADKIN RIVER (including lower portion of High Rock Lake)	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(114)b1	YADKIN RIVER (including lower portion of High Rock Lake)	High pH	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(114)b2	YADKIN RIVER (including lower portion of High Rock Lake)	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(114)b3	YADKIN RIVER (including lower portion of High Rock Lake)	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-(124.5)a	YADKIN RIVER (including lower portion of High Rock Lake)	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-117-(3)a	Second Creek Arm of High Rock Lake	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-117-(3)b	Second Creek Arm of High Rock Lake	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]

Assessment Unit ID	Assessment Unit Name	Cause Name	Plan Type
NC12-117-(3)b	Second Creek Arm of High Rock Lake	High pH	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-118.5a	Abbotts Creek Arm of High Rock Lake	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC12-118.5b	Abbotts Creek Arm of High Rock Lake	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC21-32a	Calico Creek	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC21-32a	Calico Creek	Dissolved Oxygen	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC21-32a	Calico Creek	Turbidity	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC21-32b	Calico Creek	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC2-79-36	Savannah Creek	Fecal Coliform	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC13-17-36-9-(1)	Stewarts Creek	Ecological/Biological Integrity Benthos	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC13-17-36-9-(4.5)	Stewarts Creek [Lake Twitty (Lake Stewart)]	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC1-63a	Persimmon Creek (Lake Cherokee)	Ecological/Biological Integrity Fish Community	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC17-12a	Haskett Creek	Dissolved Oxygen	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC17-12a	Haskett Creek	Ecological/Biological Integrity Benthos	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC17-12b1	Haskett Creek	Ecological/Biological Integrity Benthos	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC17-12b2	Haskett Creek	Ecological/Biological Integrity Benthos	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC17-43-(1)b	Rocky River	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC17-43-(5.5)a	Rocky River	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC17-43-(8)b2	Rocky River	Chlorophyll-a	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC27-43-(1)d	Swift Creek	Ecological/Biological Integrity Benthos	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC27-43-(5.5)a	Swift Creek (Lake Benson)	Ecological/Biological Integrity Benthos	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC27-43-(5.5)but7	UT to Swift Creek (Lake Benson)	Ecological/Biological Integrity Benthos	TMDL or Alternative[1]
NC10-1-(33.5)	South Fork New River	Not applicable	Protection
NC10-2-13-3	Long Hope Creek	Not applicable	Protection
NC16-(1)b	HAW RIVER	Not applicable	Protection
NC16-(1)c1	HAW RIVER	Not applicable	Protection
NC18-24	Carvers Creek (Cypress Lake)	Not applicable	Protection
NC22-18	Mill Creek	Not applicable	Protection
NC25-17	Bennetts Creek (Merchants Millpond)	Not applicable	Protection
NC28-79-25b	Little Fishing Creek	Not applicable	Protection
NC7-2-21	Justice Creek	Not applicable	Protection
NC7-2-22-(1)	Pyatt Creek	Not applicable	Protection
NC7-2-24	Jones Creek	Not applicable	Protection
NC7-2-27	Gouges Creek	Not applicable	Protection
NC7-2-41-(1)	Beaver Creek	Not applicable	Protection
NC7-2-59-1-1	Stagger Weed Creek	Not applicable	Protection
NC7-2-59-1-2	Mine Fork Branch	Not applicable	Protection

Assessment Unit ID	Assessment Unit Name	Cause Name	Plan Type
NC7-2-59-1-2-1	Sugartree Branch	Not applicable	Protection
NC7-2-59-1-2-1-1	Dobson Branch	Not applicable	Protection

1. Alternative plan types include 9-element plans, 4b demonstrations, nutrient management strategies, or direct implementation