



## Summary of New Statewide Water Quality Objectives for Bacteria

- 1) State Board approved new bacteria objectives at a hearing held on August 7, 2018; will become effective if approved by OAL and EPA (likely in late 2018 or early 2019)
- 2) **New E. coli objective for inland surface waters ( $\leq 1$  ppt salinity) designated REC-1:**
  - A) Six week rolling geometric mean not to exceed 100 cfu per 100 milliliters (calculated weekly)  
*Note: current objective = 126 cfu/100 mL as a 30-day rolling geomean*
  - B) Statistical Threshold Value (STV) of 320 cfu/100 mL not to be exceeded by more than 10% of the samples collected in a calendar month (as a static calculation)  
*Note: current SSM for REC-1 (Tier A) = 235 cfu/100 mL (as a rolling calculation)*
  - C) New bacteria objectives supersede previous numeric objectives for REC-1 but do NOT supersede narrative objectives or site-specific objectives
- 3) **Water quality assessment**
  - A) If a statistically-sufficient number of samples is available, generally not less than 5 samples in 6 weeks, only the geomean shall be used for 303(d) listing process
  - B) If a statistically-sufficient number of samples is NOT available, then attainment of the water quality standard shall be determined based only on the STV
- 4) **TMDLs**
  - A) Existing TMDLs remain in effect even where the new bacteria objectives apply
  - B) Reg. Bd. may evaluate effectiveness of TMDLs in meeting the new objectives
  - C) Natural source exclusion can only be authorized through a TMDL (or BPA) and only after all anthropogenic sources are identified, quantified and controlled
- 5) **High Flow Suspensions or Seasonal Suspensions allowed (will require a UAA)**
- 6) **Limited REC-1 Designation (will require a UAA)**
  - A) Definition: *"uses of water that support limited recreational activities involving body contact with water, where the activities are predominately limited by physical conditions and, as a result, body contact with water and ingestion of water is infrequent or insignificant"*
  - B) Will need a site-specific water quality objective to protect the LREC-1 use
- 7) **Variances may be authorized consistent with federal regulations (40 CFR 131.14)**