


Ohio River 305b Coordinators Workgroup Report

208 TEC Meeting, June 16–17, 2015

Meeting at ORSANCO June 9–10

- ▶ Primary purpose to agree on assessment methodologies for 2016 Ohio River 305b Report.
 - ▶ All 6 mainstem states participated.
 - ▶ General agreement achieved, however recognizing that there would be some differences.
 - ▶ Utilize Weight-Of-Evidence Approach as appropriate.
 - ▶ Assessments based on data from 2010–2014.
 - ▶ Keep “Partial Support” category.
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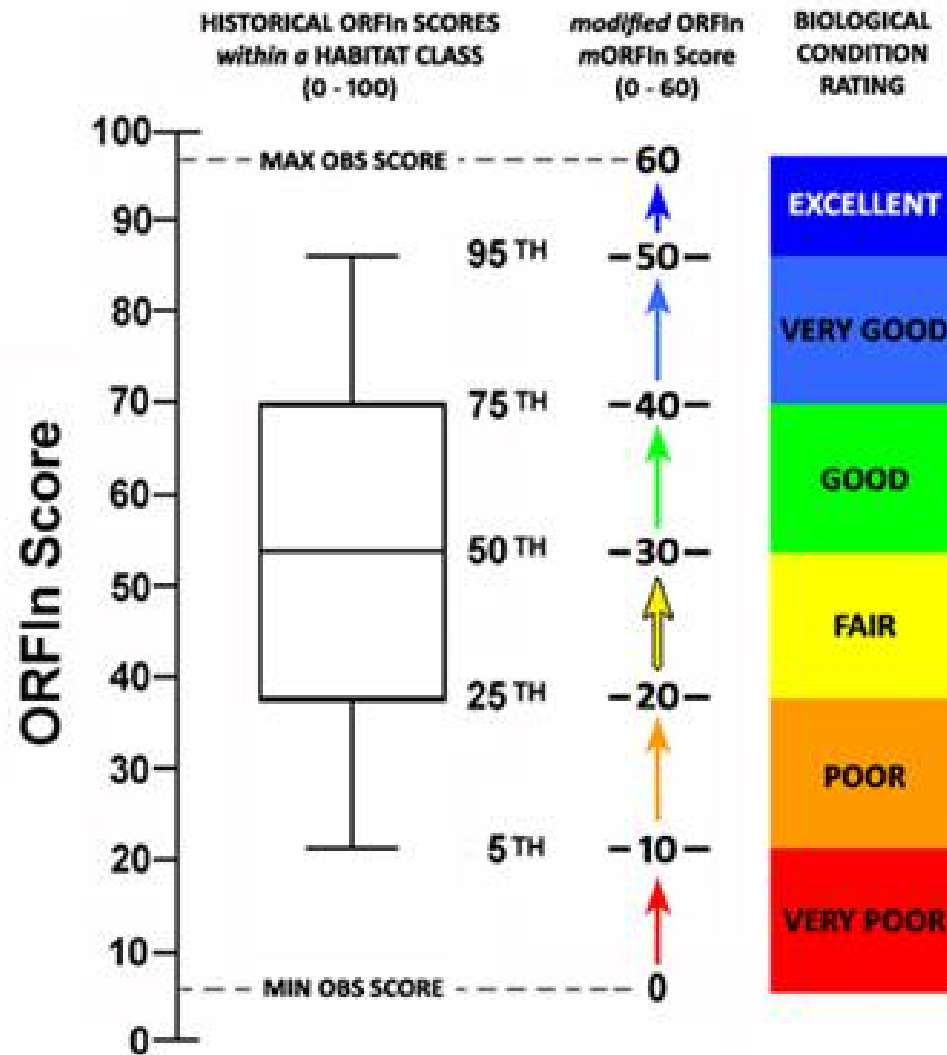
Aquatic Life Use Assessment

- ▶ Physical (DO & temp), chemical & biological data used in assessment.
- ▶ Complete coverage of river every 5 years for 2 biological indicators, direct measure of use.
 - Fish & bugs (macroinvertebrates).
- ▶ Utilize WOE approach where biological assessments trump physical/chemical data.
 - Exceedances of Iron, DO, temp.


ALUS (cont.)

- ▶ Full Support
 - Both indices fair or better.
- ▶ Partial Support
 - One bio index poor but not very poor; other index fair or better.
- ▶ Non Support
 - One bio index very poor or both bio indices poor.
- ▶ Note: “Bio Index” refers to an average score from 15 sites in one pool. Biological Subcommittee believes an average score of poor indicates significant issues with biological communities.

Biological Index



Public Water Supply

- ▶ Water Quality Data and Public Water Supply MCL Compliance Data.
 - ▶ Partial Support
 - One or more pollutants exceed criteria $>10\%$, OR Finished Water MCL violation (attributable to source water conditions).
 - ▶ Non Support
 - One or more pollutants exceed criteria $> 10\%$, AND corresponding MCL violation (attributable to source water conditions).
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Contact Recreation

- ▶ Utilize most stringent state bacteria monthly geometric mean criteria.
- ▶ Huge historical assessment covering most of the river will remain.
- ▶ New data only for six large CSO communities.
- ▶ Partial Support
 - 11–25% exceedance rate
- ▶ Non Support
 - >25% exceedance rate.
- ▶ Need for update to historical data/assessment, particularly due to LTCP implementation.

Fish Consumption

- ▶ PCBs and dioxin historical assessments based on high volume water sampling will remain -- “Not Supporting for entire river.
- ▶ Mercury – Weight of evidence approach where tissue data trumps water data.
- ▶ Utilize a “consumption-weighted pool average” approach for fish tissue methylmercury data.
- ▶ Partial Support
 - If methylmercury consumption-weighted pool avg > 0.3 mg/kg criterion.
- ▶ Non Support
 - If methylmercury fish tissue criterion exceeded and >10% water samples exceed 0.012 ug/L total mercury criterion.

Call for External Data

- ▶ Put out a call on our website in July for data from external entities.
- ▶ Utilize our new policy on use of external data.