

Recovery Potential Metrics **Summary Form**

Indicator Name: APPLICABLE REGULATION

Type: Social Context

Rationale/Relevance to Recovery Potential: As many restoration actions are voluntary, particularly nonpoint source control actions, the applicability of a regulatory requirement that adds greater certainty to actions that may partially or fully restore an impairment increases the prospects of recovery. Formal enforceable mechanisms not only improve the likelihood of pollution reduction directly, but also may encourage restoration partners and other restoration efforts affecting the same waterbody, in the knowledge that at least some progress will be made. One easily assessed example includes point source permitting, but several other state or federal regulatory links may influence impaired waters.

How Measured: Data availability varies according to the regulation, but the link to enforceable point source controls is one well documented regulatory connection. Assessing this metric may be done as simply as distinguishing impaired waters that are nonpoint only from waters with some or all point sources, and this can be drawn from available GIS coverage of listed waters or TMDLs. Specific states or areas may have other regulations (e.g. riparian zone protections, conservation zoning) that may be directly mapped or can be extracted through mapping.

Data Source: EPA's ATTAINS data system (See: <http://www.epa.gov/waters/data/downloads.html>) geo-spatial data on 303(d) listed waters includes point source information subject to enforceable permits as attribute data. Data available from the Assessment TMDL Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) (See: <http://www.epa.gov/waters/ir/>) contains information on 303(d)-listed waters by state and by semi-annual reporting cycle. Online via state or EPA websites (see also http://www.epa.gov/waters/tmdl/expert_query.html) identify impaired waters and waters with completed TMDLs as point source only, nonpoint source only, or mixed. Coastal information is available through NOAA's Legislative Atlas (See: <http://csc-s-maps-q.csc.noaa.gov/legislativeatlas/index.html>). For further regulatory information, the EPA has compiled a list of regulations by environmental topic (See: <http://www.epa.gov/regulations/envtopics/index.html>). Zoning maps are typically available from county and state sources.

Indicator Status (check one or more)

- Developmental concept.
 Plausible relationship to recovery.
 Single documentation in literature or practice.
 Multiple documentation in literature or practice.
 Quantification.

Comments: Operational, should be customized at the state level to reflect the locally applicable regulatory connections

Examples from Supporting Literature (abbrev. citations and points made):

- (Leach and Pelkey 2001) themes relating to watershed partnership success include [note that **bolded ones** are spatially representable for recovery screening with existing data while others are usually not available as spatially explicit data]: **funding, broad and inclusive membership**, committed participants, **effective leadership**, bottom-up leadership vs balanced among levels, trust, low or moderate conflict (vs none),

