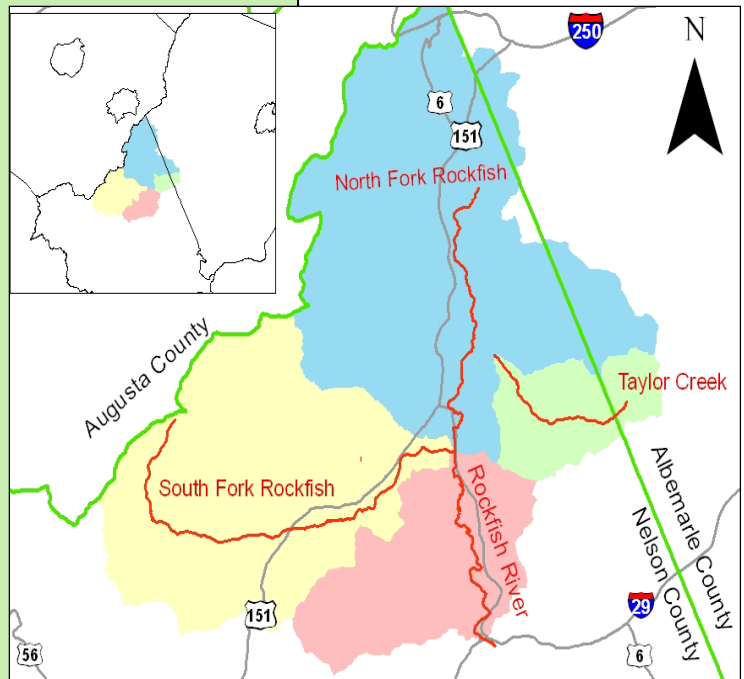


# FACT SHEET

## Public Meeting on Water Quality in the Rockfish River January 19, 2011 at 7:00pm

### What's wrong with these streams?

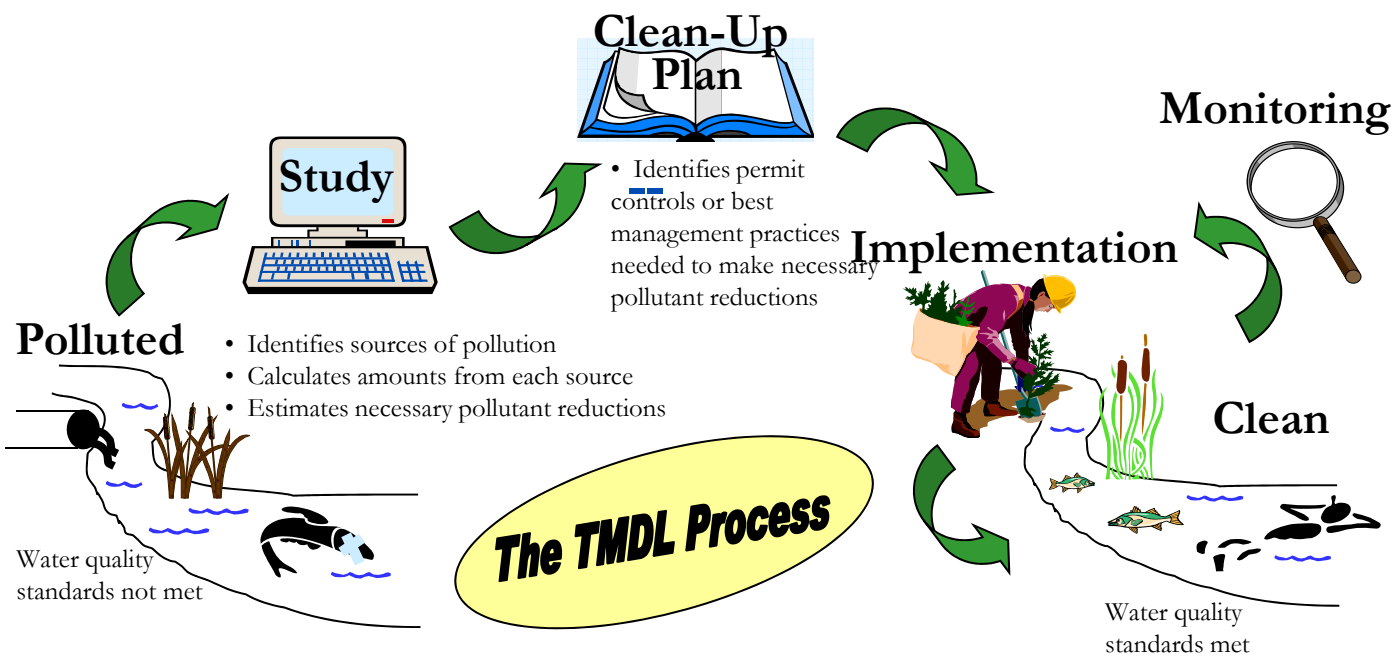
- The North Fork Rockfish, South Fork Rockfish, the mainstem Rockfish, and Taylor Creek do not meet Virginia's water quality standards.
- By law, all streams and rivers in the Commonwealth should be healthy or "fishable" and safe for human contact or "swimmable".
- North Fork, South Fork and the mainstem of the Rockfish River all have too much bacteria, which is a human health risk. Also, based on biological monitoring by the state, Taylor Creek does not host a healthy and diverse population of organisms living on or near the bottom of the streams.



### What is Being Done to Address this Problem?

**T**<sub>total</sub>  
**M**<sub>aximum</sub>  
**D**<sub>aily</sub>  
**L**<sub>oad</sub>

- The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is beginning a study of these streams to investigate the bacteria and aquatic life impairments. This study will identify the various sources of pollution, estimate the amount coming from each source, and figure out how much each source would have to decrease to meet water quality standards.
- After the study, a plan will be developed to clean up the Rockfish River and its tributaries. This plan will be developed at the local level and will list best management practices that can be used to meet the necessary reductions identified in the study.
- The study and the plan to clean up the stream are called a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) and a TMDL Implementation Plan.



## How can you make a difference?

### Public Input Is Essential to the TMDL Process and Everyone is Welcome to Participate!

- Be involved in the process – Attend the public meetings to learn more about water quality in these streams.
- Serve on a Committee – At the first public meeting there will be an opportunity to volunteer to serve on a Local Steering Committee. This committee will provide input to DEQ throughout the study to make sure that technical aspects of the study are accurate as well as acceptable to the community.
- Doing your part – Learn more about how small actions – like only fertilizing your lawn once a year, picking up after your pet, fencing cattle out of streams, maintaining septic systems and planting trees along streams – can make a BIG difference.

#### For More Information Contact:

**Tara Sieber**  
 Regional TMDL Coordinator  
 DEQ  
 P.O. Box 3000  
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
[Tara.Sieber@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Tara.Sieber@deq.virginia.gov)  
 (540)574-7870  
[www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl)

#### How does this plan interact with Chesapeake Bay Clean-up Efforts?

The Bay TMDL is designed to restore the Chesapeake Bay to its former condition and limits **nutrients** and **sediment**. Local efforts here in Nelson County and around the Commonwealth are based on local water quality goals and modeling. Many times, the local and Bay-wide objectives are the same.

Of course, all water quality improvement practices that help local streams will also help the Bay – **we all live downstream!**