GEORGIA
WATER PLANNING

Regional Water Plan

COASTAL GEORGIA

JUNE 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

Appendices

Supplemental Documents

The following supplemental materials have been developed in support of the Coastal Georgia Regional Water Plan and are available electronically at https://waterplanning.georgia.gov/forecasting and https://waterplanning.georgia.gov/coastal-georgia-region-technical-information

- Energy Sector Demand Forecast Technical Memorandum
- Industrial Water Demand Forecasting Technical Memorandum
- Municipal Water Demand and Wastewater Flow Forecasting Methods Report
- Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum
- Gap Analysis Technical Memorandum

Acknowledgments

The Coastal Georgia Council should be acknowledged for contributing significant amounts of time and talent toward the development of the Regional Water Plan. Since the inception of the 2011 Regional Water Plan, members have participated in council meetings, subcommittee meetings, conference calls, and report development and review. The members (current and previous) of the Coastal Georgia Council include:

Name	City	County
Fred G. Blitch	Statesboro	Bulloch
Chris Blocker	Port Wentworth	Chatham
Michael F. Browning	Brunswick	Glynn
Jason Buelterman	Tybee Island	Chatham
E. James Burnsed	Richmond Hill	Bryan
Robert H. Byrd, Jr.	Pooler	Chatham
Kay W. Cantrell	St. Simons	Glynn
Van H. Collins	Statesboro	Bulloch
Eddie W. Deloach	Savannah	Chatham
Ken Durand	Brunswick	Glynn
Tom Edenfield (Alternate)	Savannah	Chatham
Forrest Floyd	Guyton	Effingham
Russ Foulke	Richmond Hill	Bryan
John F. Godbee, Jr.	Brooklet	Bulloch
William H. Gross	Kingsland	Camden
William K. Guthrie (Alternate)	Savannah	Chatham
Hugh “Bubba” Hodge	Darien	McIntosh
Don Hogan	St. Simons Island	Glynn
Jay Kaufman	Brunswick	Glynn
Kenneth R. Lee	Rincon	Effingham
Michelle L. Liotta (Vice Chair)	Rincon	Effingham
Heath Lloyd	Guyton	Effingham
Reginald S. Loper	Springfield	Effingham
Jim McGowan	Townsend	McIntosh
Randal E. Morris	White Oak	Camden
Johnny Murphy	Richmond Hill	Bryan
Brian Nease	Rincon	Effingham
Phil Odom	Hinesville	Liberty
Pete Peterson	Guyton	Effingham
John L. Sawyer	Rincon	Effingham
Shirley Sessions	Tybee Island	Chatham
Bobby H. Smith	Ludowici	Long
Mark V. Smith	Savannah	Chatham

Name	City	County
David S. Stevens	Darien	McIntosh
James Thomas, Jr.	Hinesville	Liberty
Benjamin Thompson (Chair)	Statesboro	Bulloch
James Vaughn, Jr.	Savannah	Chatham
Roger A. Weaver	Kingsland	Camden
Randy Weitman	Savannah	Chatham
Representative Ron Stephens (Ex-Officio)		
Senator William T. Ligon, Jr. (Ex-Officio)		

The Coastal Georgia Council would like to thank Shayne Wood with CDM Smith and Reid Jackson of Georgia EPD for providing the planning and technical guidance toward the development of this Plan.

Acronyms

AAD-MGD	Annual Average Day in million gallons per day
ASR	Aquifer Storage and Recovery
ASWS	Additional/Alternate Surface Water Supply
BEAM	Basin Environmental Assessment Model
BMP	best management practice
cfs	cubic feet per second
CRD	Coastal Resources Division
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWCS	Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
CWSRF	Clean Water State Revolving Fund
DCA	Department of Community Affairs
DCAR	Data Collection/Additional Research
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DO	dissolved oxygen
DWSRF	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
EDU	Educational Needs
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPD	Environmental Protection Division
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEFA	Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
Georgia DOA	Georgia Department of Agriculture
GFC	Georgia Forestry Commission
gpcd	gallons per capita per day
GSWCC	Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission

GW	groundwater
GWPPC	Georgia Water Planning & Policy Center
I/I	inflow and infiltration
IGWPC	Industrial Groundwater Permit Capacity
IWWPC	Industrial Wastewater Permit Capacity
LAS	land application system
LDA	local drainage area
M	million
MG	million gallons
MGD	million gallons per day
MGWPC	Municipal Groundwater Permit Capacity
MNGWPD	Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MWWPC	Municipal Wastewater Permit Capacity
N/A	not applicable
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	non-point source
NPSA	Agricultural Best Management Practices
NPSF	Forestry Best Management Practices
NPSR	Rural Best Management Practices
NPSU	Urban Best Management Practices
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NUT	nutrients
O.C.G.A.	Official Code of Georgia Annotated
OCP	Ordinance and Code Policy
OPB	Office of State Planning and Budget

OSSMS	on-site sewage management systems
PIP	Public Involvement Plan
PS	point source
PSDO	Point Sources – Dissolved Oxygen
mi^2	square miles
SW	surface water
SWAP	State Wildlife Action Plan
TMDL	total maximum daily load
UGA	University of Georgia
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WC	water conservation
WCIP	Water Conservation Implementation Plan
WPCP	Water Pollution Control Plant
WRD	Wildlife Resources Division
WWTP	wastewater treatment plant

Conversion of Units (Water Flow and Volume) Used in Plan (values rounded)

1 cubic foot = 7.48 gallons

1 cubic foot per second = 0.646 million gallons per day or 646,272 gallons per day

1 million gallons per day = 1.55 cubic feet per second

1 million gallons = 3.069 acre-feet (1 acre-foot is enough water to cover a football field with about 9 inches of water)

1 cubic foot per second = 1.98 acre-feet per day

1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons

1 acre-foot = 0.326 million gallons

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

Introduction and Overview of the Coastal Georgia Region

Of all of Georgia's natural resources, none is more important to the future of our State than water. Over the last several decades, Georgia continues to be one of the fastest growing states in the nation. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, between 2010 and 2020, Georgia ranked fifth in total population gain (1.02 million new residents) and 12th in percentage increase in population (10.6%). During a portion of this same period, our State also experienced critical areas of severe drought. Georgia's growth and economic prosperity are vitally linked to our water resources.

As our State has grown, the management and value of water resources has also changed. Ensuring a bright future for our State requires thoughtful planning and wise use of our water resources. The water planning process began in 2008, when the State of Georgia's leadership authorized a comprehensive state-wide water planning process to help address these challenges and take a forward look at how our State is expected to grow and use water through 2060. The Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council (Coastal Council) was established in February 2009 as part of this state-wide process. The Coastal Council completed the initial Regional Water Plan in 2011, and in 2017 the Coastal Council updated the Regional Water Plan. This current update builds upon the original 2011 Regional Water Plan and 2017 update.

Water Resource Trends and Key Findings for the Coastal Georgia Region

The Coastal Georgia Region includes nine counties in southeast Georgia. Over the next 40 years, the population of the region is projected to grow by approximately 298,000 residents from approximately 715,000 in 2020 to 1.0 million residents by 2060.

Key economic drivers in the region include port, industry, business, tourism, trade, government facilities, and transportation, especially associated with the Brunswick and Savannah Harbors and Interstate 95. Energy production, manufacturing and silviculture are also significant to the region. Agriculture production occurs across the region, especially in the northern portion. Water supplies, wastewater treatment, and related infrastructure will need to be developed and maintained to support these economic drivers. Management of water resources to sustain the unique coastal environment is an important goal of the region.

Groundwater, mainly from the Floridan aquifer, is needed to meet about 65% of the municipal, industrial, and agricultural needs, with the municipal and industrial uses being the dominant demand sectors. Surface water is needed to meet about 35% of these needs, with municipal and industrial uses as the dominant demand sectors.

Water resource challenges in the region include:

- *Salt water intrusion concerns in the Savannah-Hilton Head area and in the Brunswick area in Glynn County.*
- *Water quality challenges associated with low dissolved oxygen in some portions of the region, most notably the Savannah River Harbor. As a result of the TMDL/5R stakeholder process, the Savannah Harbor was reclassified to Category 5R.*
- *A potential need for improved wastewater treatment within the Ogeechee, Altamaha, and St. Marys River basins.*

Management practices are needed to address these challenges including: water conservation; refining planning information; alternate sources of supply in areas where groundwater or surface water availability may be limited; maximizing use of existing aquifer; consideration of aquifer storage and recovery; improving/ upgrading wastewater treatment; and addressing non-point sources of pollution.

The Coastal Council is one of 11 planning regions charged with developing Regional Water Plans and encompasses nine counties in the southeast portion of Georgia (shown in Figure ES-1).

Figure ES-1 Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council

Georgia has ample water resources, with 14 major river systems and multiple groundwater aquifer systems. These waters are shared natural resources; streams and rivers run through many political jurisdictions. Rainfall that occurs in one region of Georgia may replenish the aquifers used by communities many miles away. And, while ample water in Georgia is available, it is not an unlimited resource. It must be carefully managed to meet long-term water needs. Since water resources vary greatly across the State, water supply planning on a regional and local level is the most effective way to ensure that current and future water resource needs are met.

The Coastal Georgia Region encompasses several major population centers, including Savannah, Statesboro, Hinesville, St. Marys, Kingsland and Brunswick. The population of the region is expected to grow from approximately 715,000 in 2020 to approximately 1.0 million residents by 2060. In the metropolitan Savannah area, in the northeast portion of the region, Chatham, Effingham and Bryan Counties are forecasted to grow by approximately 200,000 residents, or 50%, from 2020 through 2060 (Georgia's Office of Planning and Budget, 2020). These population centers, along with smaller cities and towns in the region, require reliable water supplies and sufficient wastewater treatment to meet their growing needs. In addition, the region has thriving industrial and commercial sectors as well as a vibrant agricultural base, especially in the northern portion of the region.

Key economic drivers in the Coastal Georgia Region include industry; U.S. Government facilities including Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfields, Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center; and the Coastal Region's key transportation corridor, which includes the ports of Savannah and Brunswick and Interstate 95. Additionally, the important economic sectors in the region include paper, food and chemical industries, manufacturing, silviculture, tourism, trade, transportation, utilities, commercial and recreational fishing, education

and health services, and leisure and hospitality among others. For example, during the Plan update process, Georgia's Governor announced plans for the development of an industrial "mega-site" in Bryan County, expected to require an additional 9.5 million gallons per day for industrial water use (over the next 10- to 25-years).[1]

Wetlands and forested lands are major land covers in the region along with urban/suburban development and agricultural lands. This is the only region in Georgia that contains seashore, barrier islands, and nine major estuaries. Estuaries within the coastal marshlands are an important ecosystem. A significant portion of the Atlantic seaboard's salt marshes and thousands of acres of rare tidal freshwater wetlands are located within the Coastal Georgia Region. Shrimp, oysters, clams, and various species of freshwater and saltwater fish provide a vibrant and significant recreational and commercial resource, both ecologically and economically.

Establishing a Water Resource Vision for the Coastal Georgia Region

A foundational part of the water planning process was the development of a vision for the region that describes the economic, population, environmental, and water use conditions that are desired for the region. On September 24, 2009, the Coastal Council adopted the following Vision for the region.

> *"The Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council seeks to conserve and manage our water resources in order to sustain and enhance our unique coastal environment and economy of Coastal Georgia."*

On November 17, 2009, the Coastal Council identified six goals to complement the Vision. These goals can be found in Section 1 of the Regional Water Plan.

Overview of Water Resources and Use in the Coastal Georgia Region

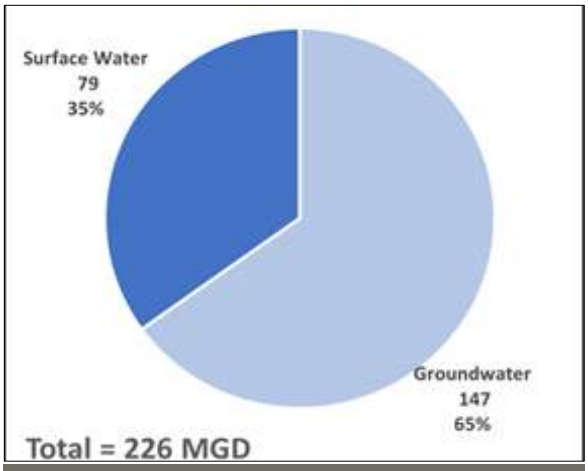
Surface Water

The Coastal Georgia Region includes the lower portion of five major river basins, listed from north to south: Savannah, Ogeechee, Altamaha, Satilla, and St. Marys Rivers. Water is supplied in the Coastal Georgia Region by a combination of surface water and groundwater. As shown in Figure ES-2, surface water provided 35% of the water supply within the region in 2020. Based on water use trends and forecast information through 2060, the majority of the industrial, municipal, energy, and agricultural surface water use in the region is projected to come from the Savannah River (91%) and Ogeechee River (8%). This information is based on the assumption that future use will follow current practices and trends. However, as described in more detail below, additional surface water use is one option for addressing concerns associated with saltwater intrusion into the Upper Floridan Aquifer, so this usage may increase.

[1] Council Meeting minutes, September 14, 2022.

Groundwater

Groundwater is estimated to meet about 65% of the region's water supply needs. Based on 2020 groundwater withdrawal data, approximately 96% of groundwater in the region is supplied from the Floridan aquifer, which is one of the most productive groundwater aquifers in the United States.

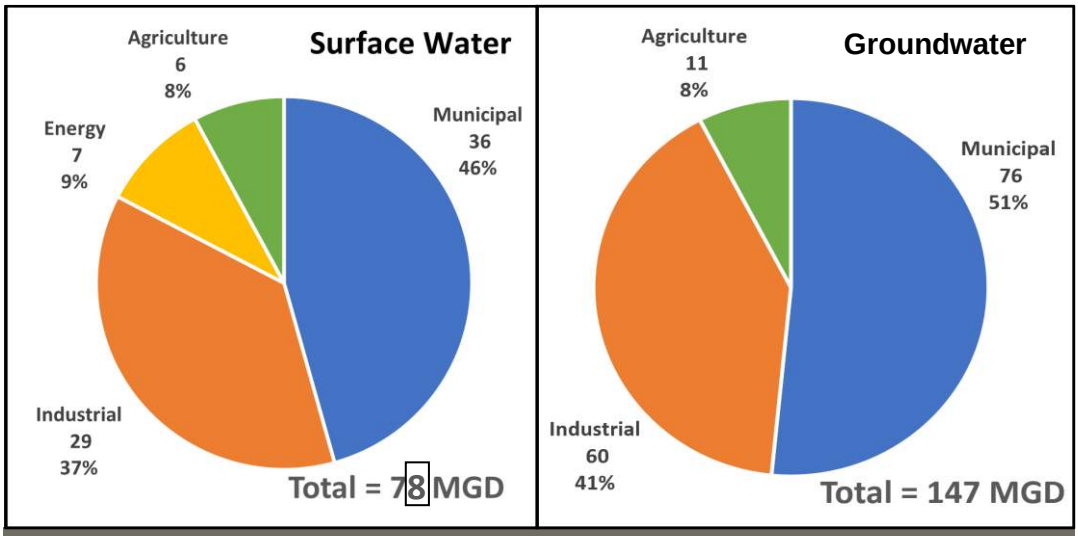


Data Source: EPD Withdrawal data.

Figure ES-2 2020 Water Supply by Source

Water and Wastewater Needs in the Coastal Georgia Region – A Closer Look

Figure ES-3 presents the 2020 surface water and groundwater use by sector in the Coastal Georgia Region. About 46% of surface water withdrawals in the region are for the municipal sector and 37% are for the industrial sector. About 147 MGD of groundwater is used to supply the municipal (51%), industrial (41%), agricultural, and energy water use sectors.

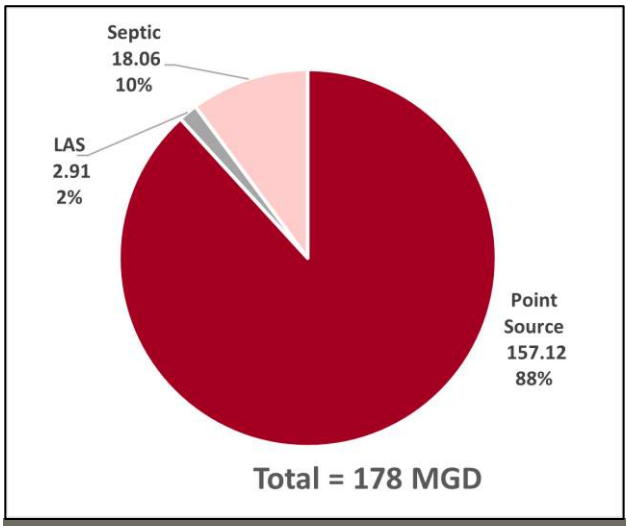


Data Source: EPD permit data.

Figure ES-3 2020 Water Use by Category

Wastewater treatment types/values representing past trends and forecasted use in the region are shown in Figure ES-4. According to the Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecast developed for the Regional Water Plan (CDM Smith, 2022) and USGS energy withdrawal data for 2010, 88% of treated wastewater in the region is disposed of as a municipal/industrial point

source discharge (41.2%), or to a land application system (2%). The remaining wastewater is treated by on-site sewage treatment (septic) systems (10%).

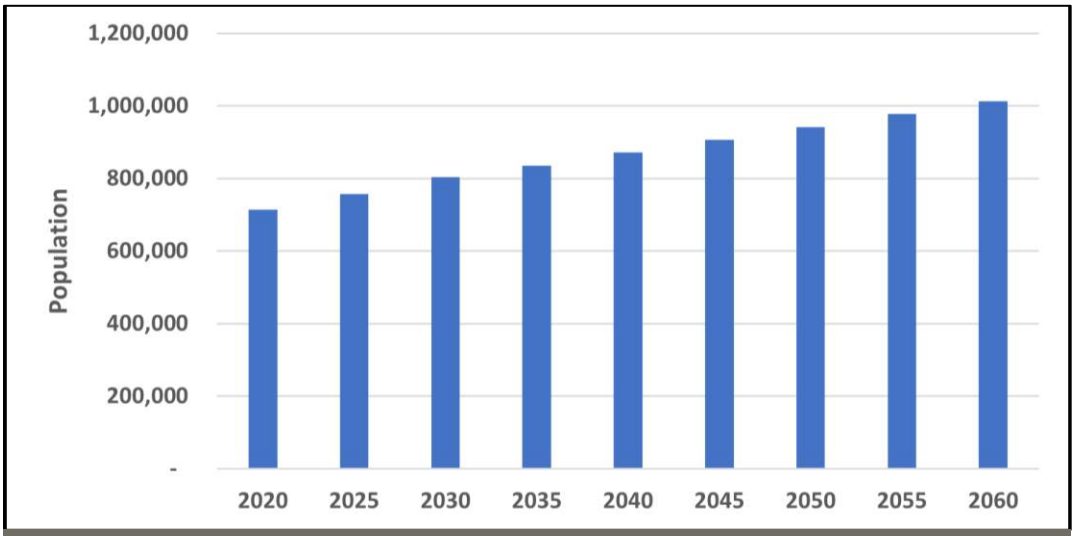


Data Sources: EPD Permit data.

Figure ES-4 2020 Wastewater and Return Flows

Coastal Georgia Forecasted Water Resource Needs from the Year 2020 to 2060

Municipal water and wastewater forecasts are closely tied to population projections for the counties within the Coastal Georgia Region. The population projections were developed by the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and are shown in Figure ES-5. Overall, the region's water supply needs are expected to grow by 7% (17 MGD) in demand from 2020 through 2060. Wastewater flows are expected to grow by 19% (34 MGD) from 2020 through 2060.



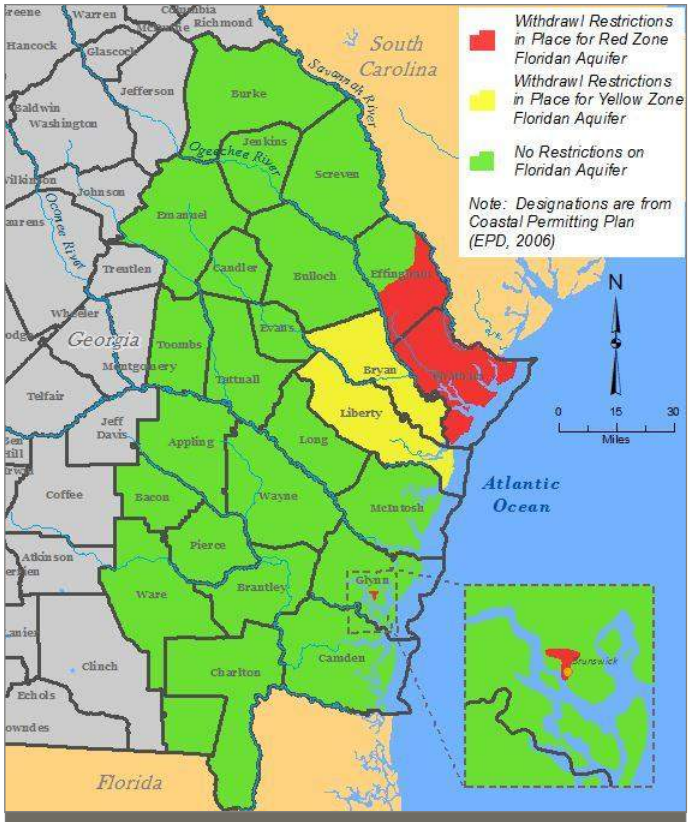
Sources: Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2020.

Figure ES-5 Coastal Georgia Region Population Projections (2020-2060)

Comparison of Available Resource Capacity to Future Water Resource Needs

Groundwater Availability

Groundwater from the Floridan aquifer is a vital resource for the Coastal Georgia Region. Several groundwater modeling tools were developed as part of the water planning process to estimate the amount of water that can be sustainably pumped from select regional aquifers, including the Floridan; also referred to as sustainable yield. Overall, the results from the Groundwater Availability Assessment (EPD, May 2017) indicate that the sustainable yield for the modeled portions of the regional aquifer(s) is greater than the forecasted demands. However, groundwater pumping or withdrawals in coastal regions can lead to saltwater intrusion or the movement of saline waters into freshwater aquifers. As shown in Figure ES-6, 24 counties in southeast Georgia are subject to the Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Permitting Plan for Managing Salt Water Intrusion (Coastal Permitting Plan) (https://epd.georgia.gov/coastal-water-study). As a result of concerns over saltwater intrusion, the Coastal Permitting Plan placed restrictions on groundwater withdrawals from the Floridan aquifer in this region, which included significant permit reductions for permit holders in Chatham, Bryan, Liberty and parts of Effingham County. A second Red Zone was designated for a small portion of Glynn County in Brunswick, commonly referred to as the "T-shaped Plume." The results of a variety of studies on saltwater intrusion for this region, and discussions regarding potential solutions, resulted in bi-state agreements between Georgia and South Carolina to better manage the use of groundwater in the region to limit the impacts of saltwater intrusion.



Source: Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Permitting Plan for Managing Salt Water Intrusion.

Figure ES-6 Coastal Georgia Sub-regions

To accommodate both the regional planning process and bi-state agreements, the Coastal Council developed a flexible and adaptive approach for meeting regional groundwater needs. As

described below, a variety of water supply strategies, also called management practices, were developed for the region. Additional detail will be needed for some management practices before final recommendations can be determined or implemented, for example on-going research associated with aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) and the potential use of the Cretaceous Aquifer as an alternative groundwater supply for areas such as Tybee Island.

Surface Water Availability

Surface water is also an important resource used to meet current and future needs of the Coastal Georgia Region. In order to analyze whether there is sufficient surface water to meet both off-stream uses of water and instream flow needs, a Surface Water Availability Resource Assessment model was developed by EPD and used in the state water planning process.

The Surface Water Availability Resource Assessment (EPD, 2023b) includes results from modeling projected surface water demands in 2060. This assessment shows no potential surface water challenges (i.e., times when there is insufficient water to meet off-stream demands and also meet low flow thresholds to support instream uses) in the region.

The projected surface water use increases for the counties within the Coastal Georgia Region are shown in Table ES-1. Agricultural, municipal, industrial and energy surface water demands are presented for the Coastal Georgia Region. Although there are no current projected challenges at the model nodes, development of additional surface water to meet projected needs may need to be done in a manner that does not cause potential challenges.

Table ES-1 2060 Increased Annual Average Surface Water Demand by County

County	Withdrawal Type	Change in Surface Water Demand by 2060 (MGD)
Bulloch	Agriculture	1.25
Chatham	Municipal	2.11
Effingham	Energy	4.45
	Agriculture	0.05
Long	Agriculture	0.14

Source: Coastal Georgia Demand Forecast Technical Memorandum; CDM Smith, 2022.

Assessment of Water Quality Conditions

The Water Quality (Assimilative Capacity) Resource Assessment drew upon water quality modeling tools to estimate the ability of streams and estuaries to assimilate pollutants under current and future conditions. Modeling was focused on instream dissolved oxygen (DO) and incorporated all industrial wastewater facilities operating at their full permitted discharge levels (flow and effluent discharge limits as of 2019). The results show the modeled effects of oxygen-demanding compounds in wastewater and other factors on instream DO levels. It is important to note that an exceedance of DO assimilative capacity on a stream segment could be the result of a point source discharge, non-point source loading, or a naturally low instream DO condition.

Reaches within the Coastal Georgia Region that have exceeded their full assimilative capacity under the current conditions assessment include:

- Taylors Creek and Canoochee River in the Ogeechee Basin;
- Beards Creek, Doctors Creek and Jones Creek in the Altamaha Basin; and
- The main stem of the St. Marys River in the St. Marys Basin.

Table ES-2 shows the status of river reaches throughout the planning region at permitted capacity.

Table ES-2 Permitted Assimilative Capacity for DO in Coastal Georgia Region

Basin	Available Assimilative Capacity (Total Mileage)							
	Very Good (≥1.0 mg/L)	Good (0.5 to <1.0 mg/L)	Moderate (0.2 to <0.5 mg/L)	Limited (>0.0 to <0.2 mg/L)	None or Exceeded (<0.0 mg/L)[1]	At Assimilative Capacity (0.0 mg/L)	Un-modeled	Modeled River Miles in Region
Altamaha	16	10	5	19	18	12	0	80
Ogeechee	28	53	130	88	35	0	35	369
Satilla	0	0	33	1	0	0	0	34
Savannah	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
St Marys	0	0	0	4	16	0	0	20

Source: GIS Files from the Dissolved Oxygen Assimilative Capacity Resource Assessment Report; EPD, 2023a.
Note:
[1] "Exceeded" refers to reaches where the modeled DO falls below the water quality standard.

Under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, a total maximum daily load (TMDL) must be developed for waters that do not meet their designated uses. A TMDL represents the maximum pollutant loading that a water body can assimilate and continue meeting its designated use (i.e., not exceeding State water quality standards). A water body is deemed to be impaired if it does not meet the applicable criteria for a particular pollutant; consequently, TMDLs are required to be established for these waters to establish a plan for reducing the concentrations of the exceeding parameters in order to comply with State water quality standards.

For the Coastal Region, there are 99 impaired stream reaches (total impaired length of 756 miles) and 4 impaired sounds. TMDLs have been completed for 79 of the impaired stream reaches and 3 impaired sounds. The majority of impairments are due to low dissolved oxygen and fecal coliform.

With concurrence from EPA, stakeholders including Georgia EPD, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), EPA, and the Savannah River/Harbor Discharger Group initiated a 5R process and through that process collaboratively developed, in lieu of a TMDL, an alternative watershed restoration plan to meet applicable water quality standards for the Savannah River and Harbor. Following development of this 5R plan, and reclassification of the Savannah Harbor to Category 5R on the 2014 305(b)/303(d) list, the EPA withdrew the original dissolved oxygen TMDL for the Savannah River and Harbor in favor of the alternative restoration approach outlined in the 5R plan. The intent is to remove the Savannah Harbor from subcategory 5R once the alternative restoration plan has been implemented to meet applicable water quality standards.

Identifying Water Management Practices to Address Water Resource Challenges and Future Needs

The comparison of the Resource Assessments and forecasted demands identified the region's likely resource challenges and demonstrated the necessity for region and resource specific water management practices. In selecting the actions needed (i.e., water management practices), the Coastal Council considered practices identified in existing plans, the Region's Vision and Goals, and coordinated with local governments and water providers as well as neighboring Councils that share these water resources.

The Coastal Council developed a management practice strategy based on the best data and modeling results available. The Council recognizes that as data are refined and modeling results improve—including water and wastewater projections and Resource Assessments—the resulting future needs and challenges may change. Therefore, the Council has prioritized short-term management practices to address challenges with the understanding that more complex

Summary of Resource Assessment Results

Management Practices should be developed and implemented to address water resource shortfalls as determined by the three Resource Assessments.

Groundwater: Overall, results indicate that the sustainable yield for the modeled portions of the regional aquifer(s) is greater than the forecasted demands. However, groundwater pumping in certain areas of the Coastal Region can lead to saltwater intrusion. Groundwater supplies in these areas are limited due to quality characteristics.

Surface Water Quantity: There are sufficient surface water supplies throughout the Coastal Region. Although there are no current projected challenges at the model nodes, development of additional surface water to meet projected needs may need to be done in a manner that does not cause potential challenges.

Surface Water Quality: There are three basins in which certain river reaches exceed DO assimilative capacity:

- *Taylors Creek and Canoochee River in the Ogeechee Basin;*
- *Beards Creek, Doctors Creek and Jones Creek in the Altamaha Basin; and*
- *The main stem of the St. Marys River in the St. Marys Basin.*

management practices may be required in the future. These short-term management practices are presented in Table ES-3 and Table ES-4.

Table ES-3 Short-Term Water Quantity Management Practices (0 – 10 Years)

Utilize surface water and groundwater sources within the available resource capacities
For Red and Yellow Zones in Chatham, Liberty, Bryan and parts of Effingham County, management practices include a range of options including: ▪ Replacing groundwater with surface water ▪ Replacing Red Zone groundwater withdrawals with groundwater withdrawals outside the Red and Yellow zones ▪ Continue study of potential for aquifer storage and recovery ▪ Optimization of all aquifers and continued monitoring and modeling to assess ongoing aquifer management practices ▪ Water reuse ▪ For the Red Zone “T-shaped plume” near Brunswick, avoid additional pumping in the area of the “T-shaped plume”
Water conservation
Data collection and research to confirm the frequency, duration, severity, and drivers of surface water challenges (forecast methodology assumptions and Resource Assessment modeling)
Evaluate and ensure that future surface water permit conditions do not contribute to low flow concerns
Encourage sustainable groundwater use as a preferred supply in regions with surface water low flow concerns and adequate groundwater supply
Identify incentives and a process to sustainably replace a portion of existing surface water use with groundwater use to address low flow concerns
Evaluate the potential to use existing storage to address low flow concerns
Education to reduce surficial aquifer groundwater use impacts to 7Q10 low flow concerns

Table ES-4 Short-Term Water Quality Management Practices (0 – 10 Years)

Point Sources: ▪ Support and fund current permitting and waste load allocation process to improve treatment of wastewater and increase treatment capacity ▪ Data collection and research to confirm discharge volumes and waste concentrations as well as receiving stream flows and chemistry
Non-point Sources: ▪ Data collection to confirm source of pollutants and causes; encourage stormwater ordinances, septic system maintenance, and coordinated planning ▪ Ensure funding and support for Best Management Practices programs by local and state programs, including urban/suburban, rural, forestry, and agricultural Best Management Practices
Non-point Source Existing Impairments: ▪ Total maximum daily load listed streams: Improve data on source of pollutant and length of impairment; Identify opportunities to leverage funds and implement non-point source Best Management Practices

The Coastal Council’s efforts in developing management practices were significantly informed and guided by the scale and complexity of the bi-state discussions regarding saltwater intrusion in the Hilton Head Island region of South Carolina, and by the 2015 Georgia stakeholder process for implementing additional groundwater withdrawal reductions in the Red and Yellow Zones. An

additional significant bi-state issue informing the council discussions was the 5R process involving NPDES permitted wastewater treatment facilities from both Georgia and South Carolina. This long-term process resulted in EPA approval of the 5R plan, EPA withdrawal of the original dissolved oxygen TMDL, and has allowed both states to move forward with receiving NPDES permit applications and issuing permits for municipal and industrial facilities on the main stem of the river and harbor, and those tributary to the main stem. The Coastal Council has provided a "tool box" of management practices, that augment and align with these on-going strategies and implementation plans. In addition, results and recommendations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study (a cost-share study with Georgia, South Carolina, and The Nature Conservancy), as well as other planning needs that may be identified through South Carolina's water planning process, will need to be evaluated and considered in future iterations of the Coastal Council Regional Water Plan. The Coastal Council intends to revisit this Plan to evaluate any substantial new information that may emerge to determine if modification of the Plan is warranted. Council expects that a formal decision to continue the Council will be made in the near future to facilitate accomplishing this objective. Members of the Coastal Council have invested significant time and expertise into the planning process and wish to capitalize on the expertise gained by the Council to continue providing leadership towards the advancement of the Council's stated vision and goals.

The Coastal Council believes the Regional Water Plan should be reviewed in defined increments in the future, such as every 5 years to evaluate how the implemented management practices are performing toward addressing challenges and meeting forecasted needs and what additional measures might be required. If the selected management practices have not sufficiently closed the challenges identified by the Resource Assessments, then additional management practices should be selected and implemented. The selected management practices will over time address identified challenges and meet future uses when combined with practices for all shared resource regions. The Council further believes that triggering events might cause the need for the plan to be revisited at a smaller time increment. These triggering events could include items such as a large water using industry moving into the region, significant changes in regulatory policy, and results of the bi-state negotiations that alter the findings of the Regional Water Plan.

Implementing Water Management Practices

The Coastal Council supports the concept of regional water resource planning with a focus on planning Councils composed of local governments, water users, water providers, industry, business and affected stakeholders. Local representatives are typically most familiar with local water resource issues and needs. The State has a vital role providing technical support, guidance, and funding to support locally focused water resource planning.

Implementation of the Coastal Georgia Regional Water Plan will be primarily by various water users and wastewater utilities in the region. The most cost-effective and more readily implemented management practices will be prioritized for short-term implementation via an incremental and adaptive approach as shown in Figure ES-7. If resource needs are not met and/or challenges are not addressed, then more complex management practices will be pursued. Future

planning efforts should confirm current assumptions and make necessary revisions and/or improvements to the conclusions reached during this round of planning.

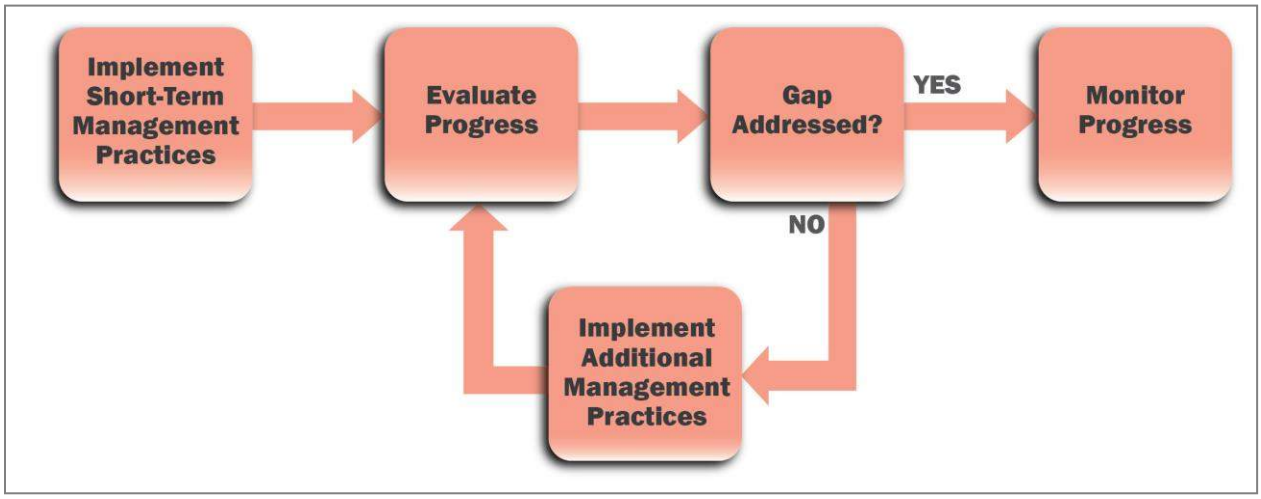


Figure ES-7 Implementation of Management Practices

Implementation Considerations and Benchmarks – Helping Ensure Progress toward Meeting Future Needs

Effective implementation of the Regional Water Plan will require the availability of sufficient funding in the form of loans, and in some cases, possibly grants. In addition, many of the proposed management practices require ongoing coordination with affected stakeholders/water users and collaboration to help ensure successful solutions are identified and implemented. Finally, in many cases, monitoring progress toward addressing future needs will require improved data and information on the current actions and management practices that are already in place.

To assess progress toward meeting regional needs, the Coastal Council identified several benchmarks that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Regional Water Plan. The benchmarks are shown in Section 8 of the Regional Water Plan and include both the activities that should be accomplished and the measurement tools that can be used to assess progress. In the Coastal Georgia Region, there are several issues that may require the development of regional solutions and the benchmarks were developed with this information in mind.

The Coastal Council supports the concept of regional water planning led by local representatives. The Council members wish to express their gratitude to Governor Brian Kemp, Lieutenant Governor Geoff Duncan, and Speaker of the House David Ralston for their nomination to the Coastal Council. The Regional Water Plan provides a recommended path forward to help achieve social, economic, and environmental prosperity for the region. The Council members are grateful for the opportunity to serve the region and State and wish to remain involved in facilitating attainment of the Regional Water Plan benchmarks and making necessary revision to the Plan either through the Coastal Georgia Regional Commission or other avenues.

SECTION 1

Introduction

Section 1 Introduction

Summary

The Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council, established in February 2009 under the State Water Plan, has adopted a Vision and Goals for prioritizing water resource use and management within the region.

These guiding principles were used to identify and select water management practices that best address the needs and resource conditions of the Coastal Georgia Region.

Georgia continues to be one of the fastest growing states in the nation. According to the 2020 Census, Georgia is the eighth most populous state in the country and ranks fifth in the nation for total population (numerical) growth. Couple that with critical areas of severe drought in the mid-2000s and more extreme weather patterns, there is increased competition for water supplies, and changing perspectives on how the State of Georgia uses and values water. Based on these factors, Georgia recognizes the challenges of managing our valuable water resources and the need for state and regional planning. In response to these challenges, the State of Georgia has continued to support regional water planning and made great strides in plan implementation for more than two decades.

The water planning process began in 2008 when the State Water Council submitted the *Georgia Comprehensive State-wide Water Plan* (State Water Plan) to the Georgia General Assembly and the water planning process was approved. The purpose of the State Water Plan is to guide Georgia in managing water resources in a sustainable manner to support the State's economy, protect public health and natural systems, and to enhance the quality of life for all our citizens. The State Water Plan identifies state-wide policies, provides planning guidance, and establishes a planning process for completion of Regional Water Development and Conservation Plans (Regional Water Plans). The Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council (Coastal Council) was formed to help guide the completion of the original (2011) Regional Water Plan and updates are required every five years. The Coastal Council is composed of membership based on a nomination and appointment process by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House.

The Coastal Georgia Regional Water Plan was first completed and adopted in 2011. During the 2017 plan update process, this document was updated from the original 2011 Regional Water Plan for the Coastal Georgia Region based on updated regional water demand forecasts, updated resource assessment modeling, evaluation of potential challenges in water availability and water quality. The 2017 plan update included a review and update (as applicable) of the management practices, as recommended by the Coastal Council to address future water resource management needs. This current update builds upon the original 2011 Regional Water Plan and 2017 update. A table is provided in Appendix A that identifies the portions of the plan that have been updated and provides a short explanation for why the update was made (for instance, a change in circumstance in the region, or an update to the technical work such as new methodologies and/or updated projections or forecast).

1.1 The Significance of Water Resources in Georgia

Of all Georgia's natural resources, none is more important to the future of our State than water. Georgia has ample water resources, with 14 major river systems and multiple groundwater aquifer systems. These waters are shared natural resources as streams and rivers run through many political jurisdictions. Rainfall that occurs in one region of Georgia may replenish the aquifers used by communities many miles away. And, while water in Georgia is abundant, it is not an unlimited resource. It must be carefully managed to meet long-term water needs.

Since water resources and their uses vary greatly across the State, selection and implementation of management practices on a regional and local level are the most effective ways to ensure that current and future needs for water supply and water quality are met. Therefore, the State Water Plan calls for the preparation of 10 Regional Water Plans. The eleventh regional water planning district, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD, also known as "the District"), was created by State law in 2001 and had existing plans in place. Figure 1-1 illustrates the 11 council boundaries.

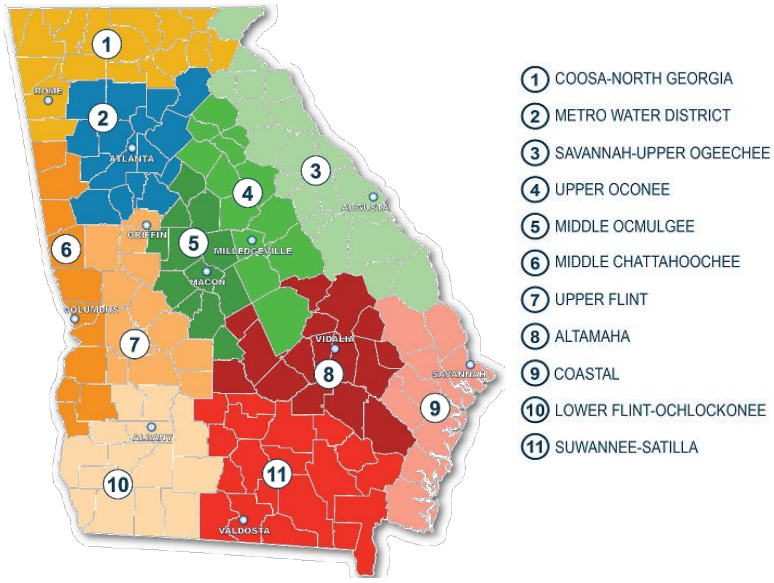


Figure 1-1 Regional Water Planning Councils

This Regional Water Plan prepared and updated by the Coastal Council describes the current and projected water resource needs of the region and summarizes regionally appropriate management strategies (also referred to as water management practices) to be employed in Georgia's Coastal Water Planning Region over the next 35 years to help meet these needs.

1.2 State and Regional Water Planning Process

The State Water Plan calls for the preparation of Regional Water Plans designed to manage water resources in a sustainable manner through 2050. The original (2011) Regional Water Plan was prepared following a consensus-based planning process illustrated in Figure 1-2. As detailed in the Coastal Council's Memorandum of Agreement with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and Department of Community Affairs (DCA) as well as the Council's Public Involvement Plan (PIP), the process required and benefited from input of other regional water planning councils, local governments, and the public. For this plan update, a similar approach was followed including a review of the vision and goals, updates to the water and

wastewater demands, updates to the resource assessments, and a re-evaluation of potential water resource challenges associated with comparing the water resource assessments versus the water resource demands. Public/local government input and coordination with other regional water planning councils also informed the plan update.

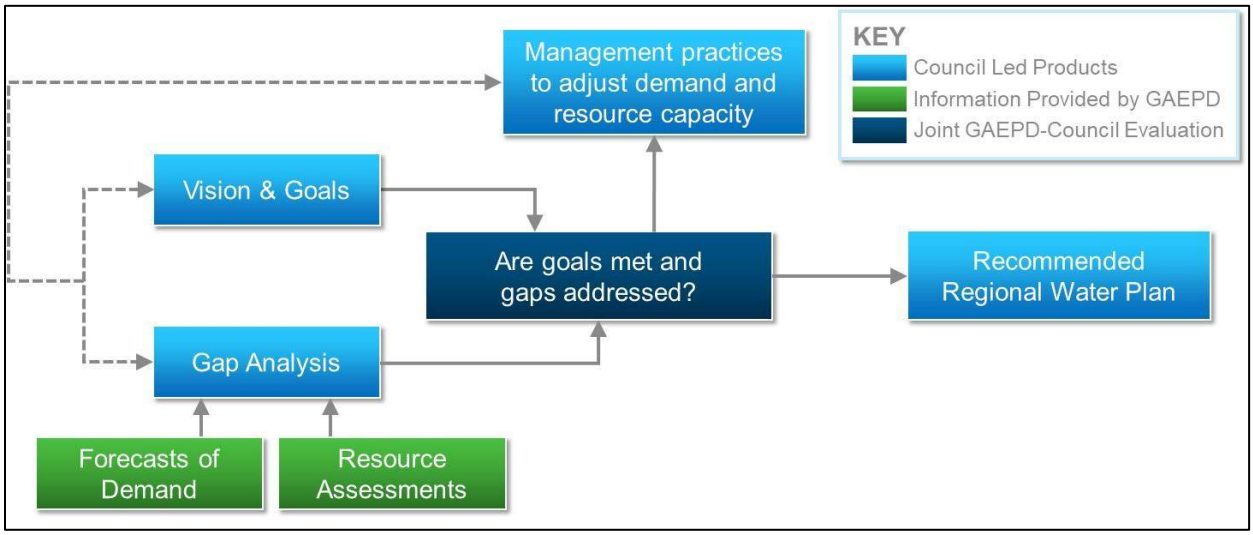


Figure 1-2 State Water Planning Process

1.3 The Coastal Georgia Water Planning Region Visions and Goals

Following the process established in the State Water Plan, the Coastal Council was established in February 2009. The Coastal Council has 30 members, which includes 3 alternates and 2 Ex-Officio members. Figure 1-3 provides an overview of the Coastal Region and the residential locations of the Coastal Council members.

Figure 1-3 Location of Coastal Georgia Council Members

To develop the original (2011) Regional Water Plan, the Coastal Council met collectively for the first time on March 13, 2009 at a kickoff meeting for the 10 regional water planning councils. The meeting focused on: providing an orientation to the water planning process; a

preliminary overview of Georgia's water resources; and establishing an understanding of the schedule for completing the Regional Water Plan, the Council's meeting schedule, and requirements. As part of this update, the Coastal Council met over a series of meetings from 2021 through early 2023 to revise and update each of the sections of the plan, as appropriate.

Developing the Region's Council Procedures

Initially, the planning process focused on establishing the Coastal Council leadership along with operating procedures and rules for conducting meetings. The operating procedures and rules were appended to the Memorandum of Agreement that was executed between the Coastal Council, EPD, and DCA. The Memorandum of Agreement was unanimously approved by the Coastal Council and executed on June 25, 2009.

In support of the Memorandum of Agreement, the Coastal Council formed six subcommittees to provide planning guidance during various development stages of the development of the original (2011) Regional Water Plan. The subcommittees consisted of the following: Vision and Goals, Municipal Water and Wastewater Forecasting, Public Involvement Plan, Plan Drafting (Table of Contents), Plan Drafting (Report), and Management Practices.

Developing Regional Vision and Goals

A major element of Georgia's state and regional water planning process is the identification of the Vision and Goals that describe the economic, population, environmental, and water use conditions desired for each region. The Vision and Goals described below summarize the Coastal Council's priorities for water resource use and management. This information is used to help guide the identification and selection of water management practices for the Coastal Georgia Region and to communicate these priorities and values to other regions of the State.

Vision Statement (As established September 24, 2009)

"The Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council seeks to conserve and manage our water resources in order to sustain and enhance our unique coastal environment and economy of Coastal Georgia."

Goals (as established November 17, 2009)

The Coastal Council identified eight goals for the region, shown in Figure 1-4. It is important to note that the goals summarized below are not presented in order of priority, but rather were assigned a number to identify specific goals addressed as part of the water management practice selection process (Section 6).

More information regarding the region's Vision and Goals is available on the Council's website.

Figure 1-4 Goals for the Coastal Georgia Region

The Coastal Council's Public Involvement Plan

A foundational principle of the Georgia water planning process is an emphasis on public and stakeholder participation and coordination among multiple interests. The Coastal Council developed a Public Involvement Plan to help guide and implement an inclusive planning process. The Public Involvement Plan was adopted by the Coastal Council on November 17, 2009.

Outreach to the public, local governments, water providers, and users was accomplished by e-mail correspondence, direct communication, and updates provided by Council members at local government and other interest group meetings. Opportunity for public and local government comment was provided at each Council meeting.

This page intentionally left blank.

SECTION 2

The Coastal Georgia Water Planning Region

Section 2 The Coastal Georgia Water Planning Region

2.1 History and Geography

Georgia's Lower Coastal Plain, an environmental region of the Coastal Plain Province, contains some of the State's most well-known geographic features. The State's lowest elevations have the highest percent of wetlands, bottom lands, and hardwood swamps. In addition, there are several subregions, or physiographic districts, based on topography, geology, soil, flora, fauna, and other factors. The most notable of these districts are the Barrier Island Sequence, which includes historic seashore and present day coastline.

2.1.1 Surface Water Resources

The Coastal Georgia Region covers the lower portion of five major river basins, listed from north to south: Savannah, Ogeechee, Altamaha, Satilla, and St. Marys. All rivers contained in these basins discharge to the Atlantic Ocean after flowing through coastal marshlands.

Figure 2-1 provides an overview of the surface water resources in the Coastal Region. Carp, shrimp, oysters, clams, and various species of fish provide a vibrant and significant recreational and commercial resource, both ecologically and economically.

In 2019, the seafood industry in Georgia generated approximately $3.3 billion in sales, $725 million in income, and $1.2 billion in value added impacts. Estuaries within the coastal marshlands are also important ecosystems. A significant portion of the Atlantic seaboard's salt marshes and thousands of acres of rare tidal freshwater wetlands are located within the Coastal Georgia Region.

Summary

The Coastal Georgia Water Planning Region encompasses nine counties in the southeast coastal portion of Georgia and is bordered by South Carolina and Florida. Predominant land cover in the region includes forest, wetland, and urban areas.

Major surface water resources in the region include the Savannah, Ogeechee, Altamaha, Satilla, and St. Marys Rivers, which provide significant recreational and economic benefits to the area.

The Floridan Aquifer, one of the most productive aquifers in the United States, is the primary source of groundwater in the region.

The regional domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, thermoelectric power, and recreational water uses are vital to the region's economy and quality of life.

The Savannah River is 350 miles long and has a drainage area of approximately 10,577 square miles (mi^2), 55% of which lies in Georgia (EPD, 2007) and the remainder in North and South Carolina. The headwaters begin in the Blue Ridge Mountains in northeast Georgia and across the state borders in North and South Carolina. The largest off-stream water use is power generation, including two power facilities located within the Coastal Georgia Region. The Savannah River Basin is home to 108 species of fish and supports significant wetlands areas in the southern part of the basin. The Savannah River discharges to the Atlantic Ocean near the Port of Savannah, which is a major shipping port for the eastern United States.

Figure 2-1 Surface Water Resources, Counties, and Major Cities

The Ogeechee River is 245 miles long and has a drainage area of approximately 5,540 mi^2 between the Altamaha and Savannah River Basins (EPD, 2007). The main tributary in this basin is the Canoochee River, which flows through extensive river swamps in the Coastal Plain before joining the Ogeechee River. Fishing and swimming are popular along both rivers. The Ogeechee basin is home to 59 species of fish, including large numbers of catfish and sunfish. The Ogeechee River supports Georgia's largest commercial American shad harvest. In addition, the Wildlife Resources Division raises bass at the Richmond Hill Hatchery in Bryan County for stocking streams across Georgia.

The Altamaha River, located between the Ogeechee and Satilla River Basins, is 137 miles long and has a drainage area of approximately 14,000 mi^2, including the upstream drainage area of the Ocmulgee River and Oconee River (EPD, 2003). There is some commercial navigation in the lower Altamaha River near the Intracoastal Waterway. The Altamaha River is known for its extremely rich biological diversity and supports 11 imperiled mussel species and at least 120 species of rare or endangered plants and animals (Nature Conservancy, 2007).

The Satilla River is 200 miles long and has a drainage area of approximately 3,940 mi^2 between the Altamaha and Suwannee River Basins (EPD, 2007). The Satilla River is a blackwater stream consisting of tannins and other natural leachates, which cause the river to have a darkly stained appearance. Power generation has been a significant off-stream water use in the basin, including a power plant in Turtle Creek, near Brunswick (Plant McManus) that was retired in 2015. During dry periods, many smaller streams within the basin have virtually no flow. Diversity of fish species within the Satilla River is limited by extreme variations in flows and the relatively homogenous habitat present through most of the river. However, the river does support major fisheries for redbreast sunfish and catfish.

The St. Marys River is 90 miles long and has a drainage area of approximately 1,300 mi^2, 59% of which lies in Georgia (EPD, 2007) and the remainder in Florida. The St. Marys River is also a blackwater stream and flows north and east, forming the border between southeast Georgia and northeast Florida. This river is well-known for its near-natural conditions. Large families of sunfish, minnows and catfish can be found in the St. Marys River in addition to various coastal and riparian species that inhabit the marshlands.

2.1.2 Groundwater Resources

Groundwater is a very important resource for the Coastal Georgia Region. Figure 2-2 depicts the major aquifers of Georgia. Three aquifers beneath the Coastal Georgia region are the surficial aquifer, Brunswick aquifer, and the Floridan aquifer. The thickness of the surficial aquifer is typically less than 50 feet and consists mostly of beds of unconsolidated sand and shell. The Brunswick aquifer occurs between the surficial and Floridan aquifers. The thickness of the aquifer ranges from less than 100 to 200 feet. The Brunswick aquifer is commonly utilized as an alternate water source to the Floridan aquifer within the Coastal Georgia Region. Groundwater levels in the lower unit of the Brunswick aquifer typically respond to pumping from the Floridan aquifer.

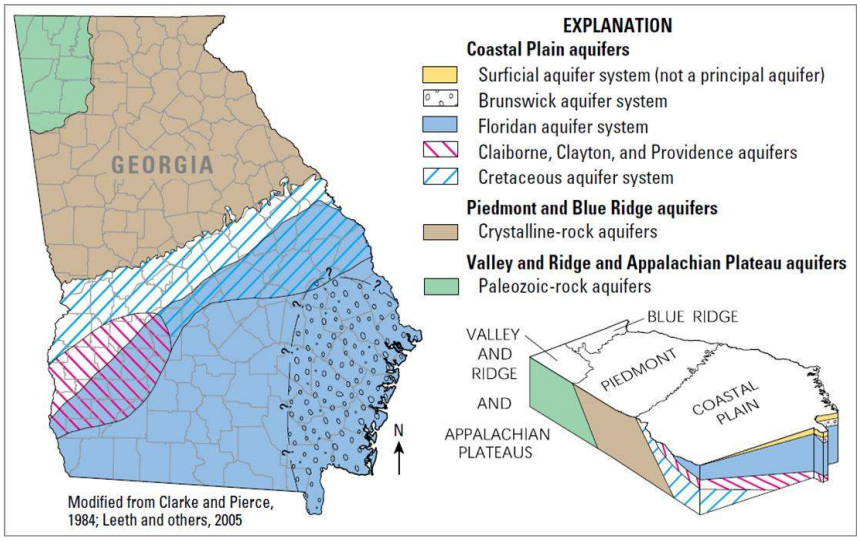


Figure 2-2 Major Georgia Aquifers

Based on 2019 groundwater withdrawal data provided by Georgia EPD, nearly all of groundwater supplied in the region is from the Floridan aquifer system, which is one of the most productive aquifers in the United States. The Floridan aquifer is primarily comprised of limestone, dolostone, and calcareous sand. The aquifer is generally confined, but at its northern extent there are unconfined and semi-confined zones. The Floridan aquifer increases in thickness eastward across the state and is approximately 400 feet thick in Glynn County. The aquifer is very productive, with typical well yields of 1,000-5,000 gallons per minute. However, high volumes of pumping of groundwater aquifers in coastal regions can lead to saltwater intrusion or the movement of saline waters into freshwater aquifers. Due to concerns over saltwater intrusion, there are localized restrictions on groundwater withdrawals in the Coastal Region as discussed in Section 3.2.3.

2.1.3 Climate

A review of available data for the region from the Southeast Regional Climate Center indicates that the climate is temperate with mild winters and hot summers. Average maximum temperatures are about 92°F in July and average minimum temperatures are near 40°F in January. The area receives abundant rainfall, approximately 46-51 inches per year, with the greatest rainfall occurring during July and August inland and in September along the coast. The driest month in the region is November. Snowfall is rare and historical averages for the region are 0.1 inch near the coast to 0.3 inch further inland.

2.2 Characteristics of Region

The Coastal Council's planning boundaries encompass nine counties in the southeast portion of Georgia with a projected 2020 population of 714,839 (U.S. Census, 2020). The counties and major towns and cities are shown in Figure 2-1. Effingham and Chatham Counties are bordered to the north by the Savannah River and South Carolina, and Camden County is bordered to the south by Florida. The major population centers in the region include Savannah, Statesboro, Hinesville, St. Marys, and Brunswick.

A summary of 2015 land cover distribution is shown in Figure 2-3, based on data obtained from the University of Georgia Natural Resources Spatial Analysis. The top two land covers in the Coastal Georgia Region are wetlands and forests, which cover 39% and 27% of the planning region, respectively. The term wetland refers to land cover and does not infer a regulatory determination. Agriculture accounts for 8% of the land cover and urban development accounts for only 8% of the land cover within the Coastal Georgia Region. The remaining land cover (18%) consists of water and open spaces. Based on the inventory of Georgia's irrigated cropland developed as part of the agricultural demand assessment in 2020, cotton peanuts, and corn account for the majority of crops irrigated in the Coastal Region.

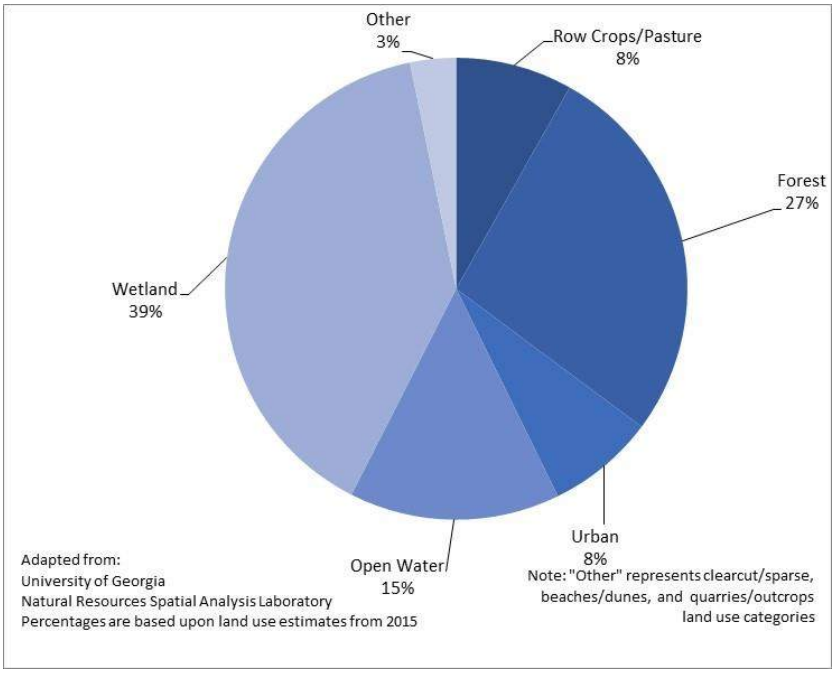


Figure 2-3 Land Cover Distribution

The dominant economic drivers in the region are the Georgia Ports Authority (Ports of Savannah and Brunswick) and the U.S. Government, including Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfields, Kings Bay Naval

Submarine Base, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Additionally, the dominant economic sectors in the region include tourism, manufacturing, silviculture, trade, transportation, utilities, education and health services, and leisure and hospitality.

The region includes four colleges and universities within the University System of Georgia: Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus, Savannah State University in Savannah, and the College of Coastal Georgia in Brunswick. The Georgia Institute of Technology's Savannah campus offers professional development/continuing education. The Savannah College of Art and Design offers four-year programs and the Technical College System of Georgia offers programs at the Ogeechee Technical College in Statesboro and Savannah Technical College. The Coastal Pines Technical College also serves citizens from the Coastal Region. In addition to county jails, there are four correctional facilities that are important employers and water users in the Coastal Region, including: Bulloch County Correctional Institution, Coastal State Prison and Coastal State Transitional Center in Chatham County, and Effingham County Correctional Institution.

2.3 Local Policy Context

2.3.1 Regional Commissions

Regional Commissions are agencies of local governments and representatives from the private sector that facilitate coordinated and comprehensive planning at the local and regional levels. Regional Commissions often assist their membership with conformity to minimum standards and procedures and serve as liaisons with state and federal agencies. There are 12 Regional Commissions in Georgia. The Coastal Regional Commission covers the same counties as the Coastal Council with the exception of Screven County.

In July 2009, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs required the Regional Commissions to adopt, maintain, and implement a Regional Plan (DCA Rule 110-12-6). The Coastal Regional Commission's Regional Plan provides guidance to regional and local business leaders, local governments, state and federal agencies, and citizens to promote quality growth in region. It is a vision of the future for the region and includes quality community based objectives related to water resources such as water supply, wastewater, and stormwater management. A key component is the establishment of "performance standards," which are actions, activities, or programs a local government can implement or participate in that will advance their efforts to meet the vision of the Regional Plan. The Coastal Regional Commission's Regional Plan defines two achievement thresholds (Minimum and Excellence), which are attained by implementing the performance standards. Local governments are required to achieve the Minimum Standard to maintain their Qualified Local Government status, which qualifies them for certain state funding. By achieving the Excellence Standard, a local government may be eligible for special incentives. The Coastal Regional Commission's Regional Plan is currently being updated and is available in draft format.

This page intentionally left blank.

SECTION 3

Water Resources of the Coastal Georgia Region

Section 3 Water Resources of the Coastal Georgia Region

3.1 Current Major Water Use in Region

As a general overview and to provide background, major water use and water returns are summarized for the Coastal Georgia Region based on data compiled by USGS in the report 'Water Use in Georgia by County for 2015 and Water-Use Trends, 1985-2015'.[2] In 2015, water supply in the Coastal Georgia Region totaled approximately 381 million gallons per day (MGD) and was comprised of 35% groundwater and 65% surface water, as shown in Figure 3-1. A total of 248 MGD was withdrawn from surface waters in the region to supply the energy, industrial, municipal, and agricultural sectors as shown in Figure 3-2. Figure 3-3 shows that about 133 MGD of groundwater withdrawn were predominantly used to supply industrial (44%) and municipal uses (50%), while self-supply, agricultural, and energy made up the remaining uses. About 97% of groundwater withdrawals are from the Floridan aquifer. Wastewater flows in the region are shown in Figure 3-4. 178 MGD is returned to surface water; 60% from industries, 39% from municipal sources, and 1% from energy generation. No surface water was returned from agricultural sources.

Summary

In 2015, surface water and groundwater withdrawal in the region totaled approximately 381 MGD to accommodate municipal, industrial, agricultural, and energy demands.

The majority of wastewater in the region is disposed of as a point source discharge from municipal, industrial, and energy uses.

The availability of surface water to meet current uses varies across the region. However, all of the region has sufficient surface water supplies.

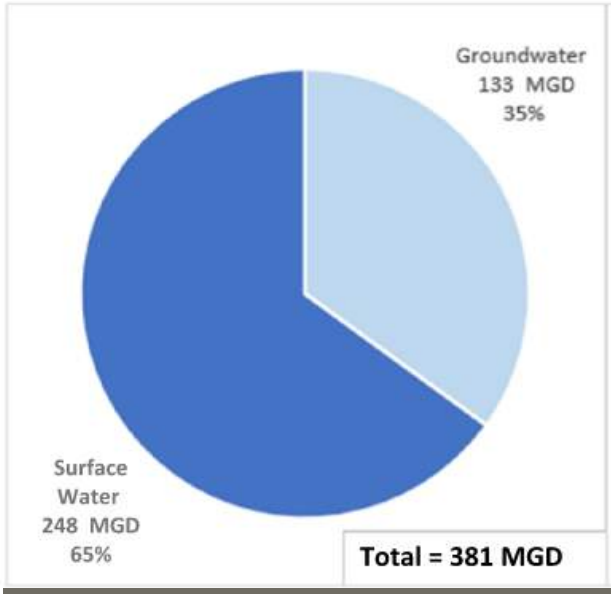
Regionally, for the modeled portions of the aquifer(s), there is sufficient groundwater to meet current needs; however, pumping restrictions have been locally implemented in some areas in response to effects from salt water intrusion.

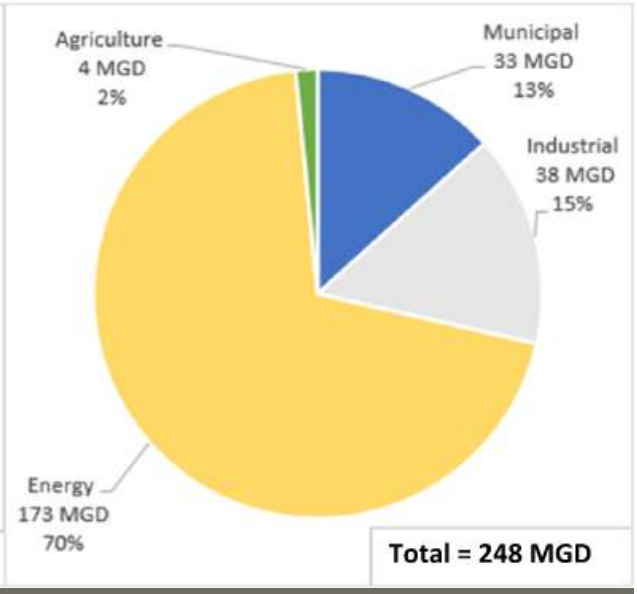
Under current conditions, there are several locations in the region where dissolved oxygen levels may be insufficient to assimilate wastewater discharges.

Water quality in several river reaches and water bodies does not meet the designated use for the resource. The majority of these occurrences are associated with low dissolved oxygen and fecal coliform.

The estuaries, tidal rivers, salt water and brackish marshes, and inshore marine waters are unique resources to the eastern seaboard and are not found in any other regions of Georgia.

[2] Please note that the USGS estimates are not as current as the forecast baseline presented in Section 4, and the methods of estimation are also not the same. The USGS 2015 estimates are reported here because they provide an overview of use in the region that is generally comparable to other regions of the state and the nation.

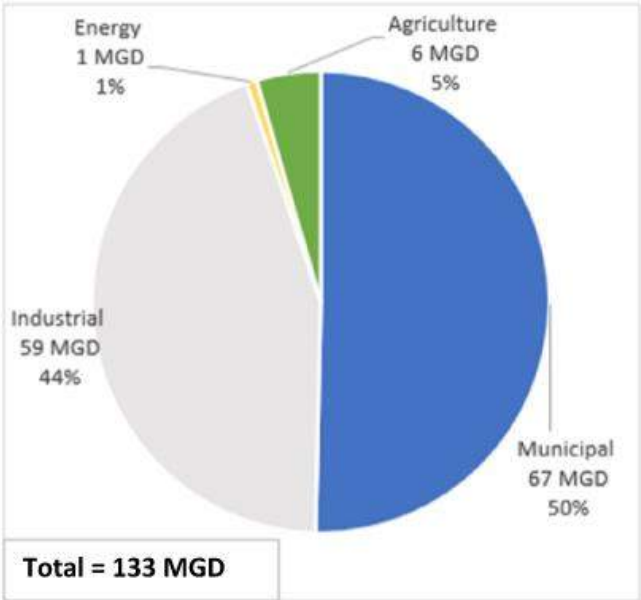


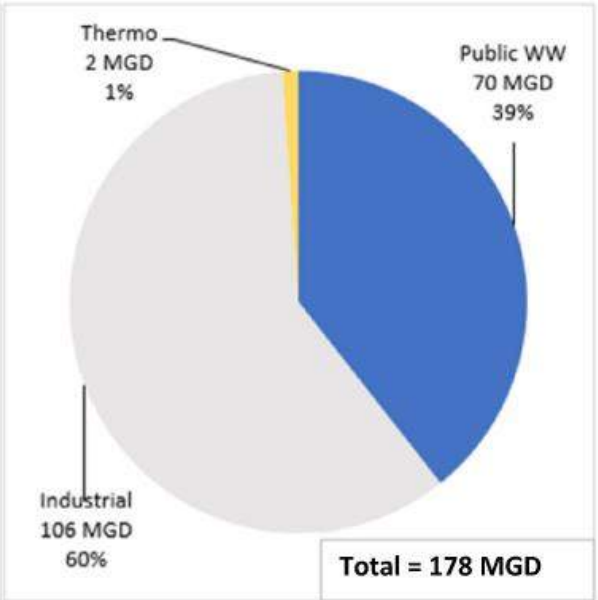


Data Source: USGS Water Use in Georgia 2015.

Figure 3-1 2015 Water Supply by Source

Figure 3-2 2015 Surface Water Supply by Sector





Data Source: USGS Water Use in Georgia 2015.

Figure 3-3 2015 Groundwater Supply by Sector

Figure 3-4 2015 Surface Water Returns by Sector

3.2 Current Conditions Resource Assessments

EPD developed three Resource Assessments to evaluate surface water quality, surface water availability, and groundwater availability throughout the State. These assessments analyzed the capacity of water resources to meet demands for water supply and wastewater discharge without causing unacceptable local or regional impacts according to metrics established by EPD. The assessments were completed on a resource basis (river basins and aquifers). The results of the Baseline Resource Assessments are summarized herein as they relate to the Coastal Georgia Region. As described in more detail below, the term "challenge" is used to indicate when the current or future use of water has been identified as potentially causing unacceptable impacts.

3.2.1 Current Surface Water Quality (Assimilative Capacity)

The Surface Water Quality (Assimilative Capacity) Resource Assessment (EPD, 2017 and 2023a) estimates the capacity of Georgia's surface waters to assimilate pollutants without unacceptable degradation of water quality. The term assimilative capacity refers to the ability of a water body to naturally assimilate pollutants via chemical and biological processes without harming aquatic life or humans who come in contact with the water. A water body can be overloaded and violations of water quality standards may result. Water quality standards define the uses of a water body and set pollutant limits to protect those uses. The Assimilative Capacity Resource Assessment evaluated the capacity of surface waters to process pollutants without violating water quality standards. The current (also referred to as baseline) assimilative capacity results focus on dissolved oxygen (DO), nutrients in some areas of the State (specifically nitrogen and phosphorus), and chlorophyll-a (a parameter that is closely tied to lake water quality). The assessments evaluate the impact of current wastewater and stormwater discharges with current withdrawals, land use, and meteorological conditions.

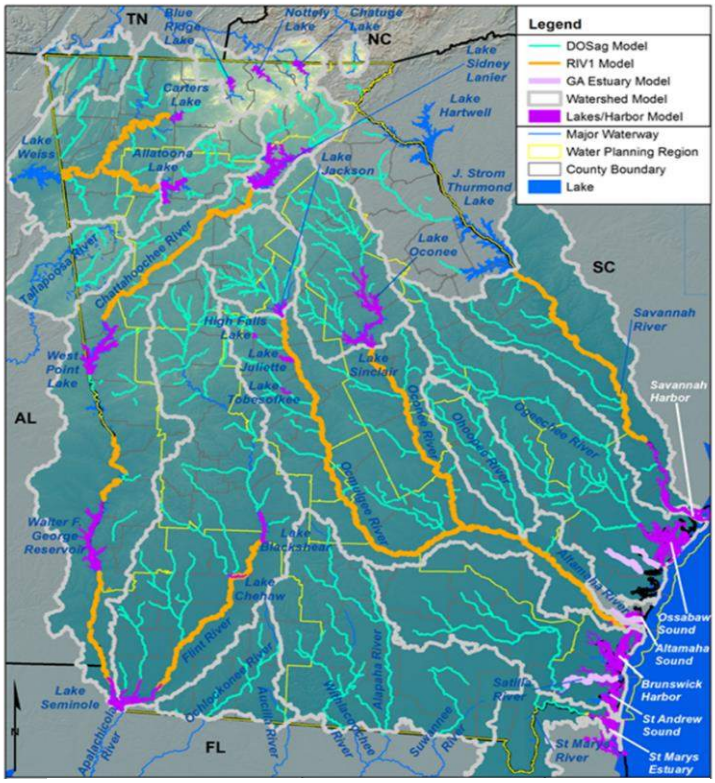


Figure 3-5 Assimilative Capacity Models

Assimilative Capacity Modeling (Dissolved Oxygen)

One measure of the capacity of a stream to maintain its health and the health of the aquatic species living therein is the amount of residual DO in the waters of the stream. As shown in Figure 3-5, DO modeling was performed by EPD for each reach that has upstream wastewater dischargers (light blue segments). Each segment

was classified as exceeding DO capacity, meeting DO capacity, or having available DO capacity. The results of the current DO modeling are presented in Table 3-1 and in Figure 3-6.

Table 3-1 Assimilative Capacity for DO in Coastal Georgia Planning Council (under current permit conditions)

Basin	Available Assimilative Capacity (Total Mileage)							Modeled River Miles in the Council Area
	Very Good (≥1.0 mg/L)	Good (0.5 to <1.0 mg/L)	Moderate (0.2 to <0.5 mg/L)	Limited (>0.0 to <0.2 mg/L)	None or Exceeded (<0.0 mg/L)	At Capacity (0.0 mg/L)	Un-modeled	
Altamaha	16	10	5	19	18	12	0	80
Ogeechee	28	53	130	88	35	0	35	369
Satilla	0	0	33	1	0	0	0	34
Savannah	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
St Marys	0	0	0	4	16	0	0	21

Source: GIS Files from the Dissolved Oxygen Assimilative Capacity Resource Assessment Report; EPD, 2023a.
Notes: Since the 2017 update, additional stream segments were modeled for the Ogeechee Basin and unmodeled stream segments were removed from the Savannah Basin.

The current assimilative capacity results represent municipal and industrial wastewater facilities operating at their full permitted discharge levels (flow and effluent discharge limits as of 2019). It should be noted that most permit holders do not operate at their full permitted capacity. When reviewing the figures, the following points should be kept in mind: segments shown that exceed assimilative capacity may result from a number of factors including: point and/or non-point sources of pollutants; modeling assumptions regarding wastewater discharge, stream flow and temperature; and naturally low DO conditions in the receiving stream. When model results show DO assimilative capacity as exceeded, a potential "challenge" exists between the amount of pollutants discharged and the ability of the receiving stream to assimilate the pollutants. These points were considered when developing recommended strategies to address water quality needs in the region.

Nutrient Modeling

In addition to Assimilative Capacity modeling for DO, EPD completed nutrient (total nitrogen and total phosphorus) modeling. The location of the watershed model boundaries, and lakes, harbors and estuaries model locations are shown in Figure 3-6. There are currently no nutrient standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorus, but these standards may be developed within this region following a public stakeholder process(es). The nutrient modeling evaluates contribution of nutrients from upstream watersheds to downstream watersheds that discharge in the rivers and streams during the wet years. The Coastal Council proactively identified several non-point source best management practices (BMPs) that can be used to help reduce nutrient loading and this information can be found in Section 6.

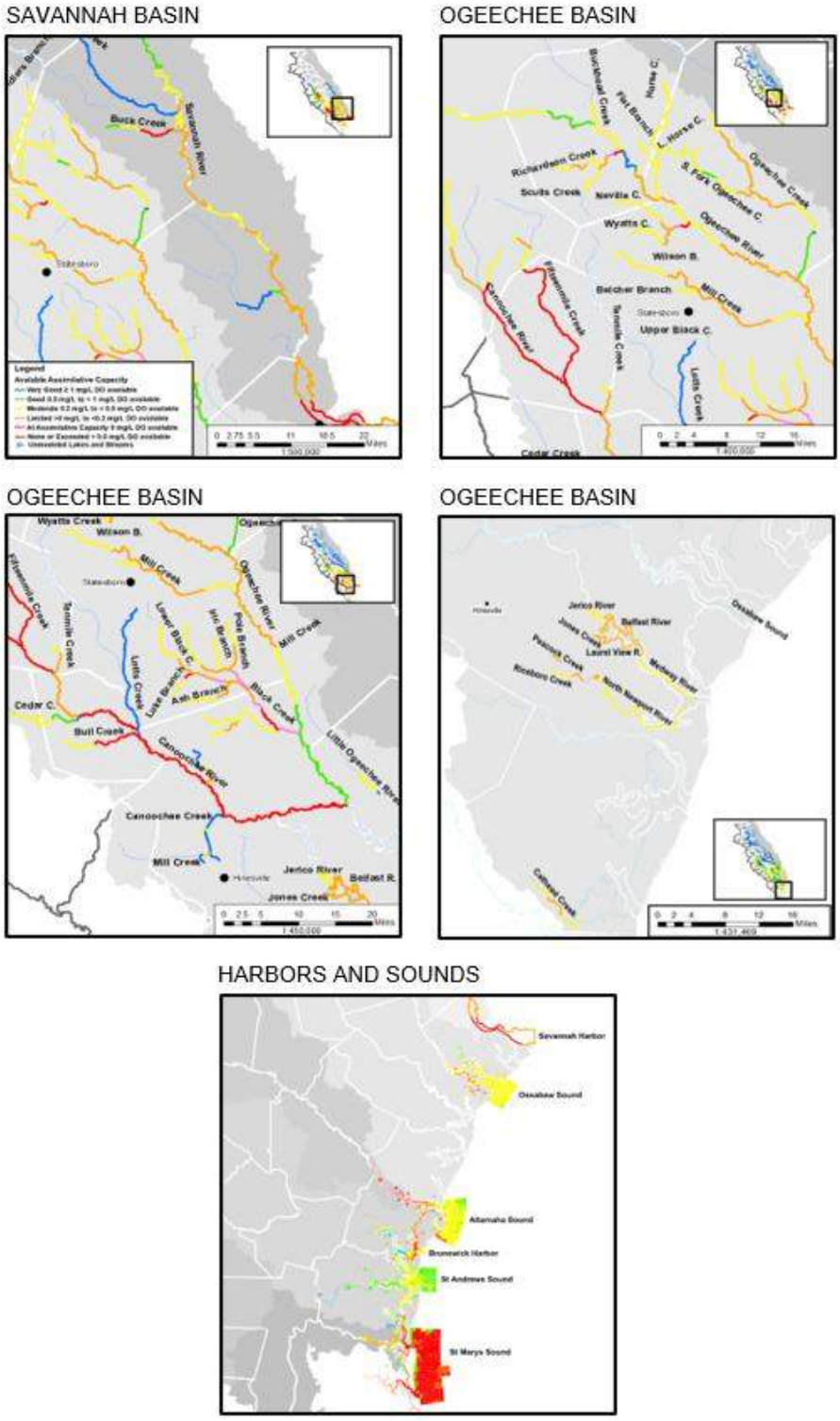


Figure 3-6 Results of Assimilative Capacity Assessment – DO Under Current Permit Conditions

3.2.2 Surface Water Availability

The Surface Water Availability Resource Assessment (EPD, 2023b) estimated the availability of surface water to meet current and future municipal, industrial, agricultural, and thermoelectric power water needs as well as the needs of instream and downstream users. The assessment evaluated the impact of water consumption (withdrawals from a water body that are not returned to that water body) on stream flows at certain locations in each river basin. Modeled stream flows were compared with a flow regime based on low flow thresholds (from state policy) selected as indicators of the potential for water consumption to impact instream uses such as fishing, boating, and aquatic life habitat.

Since the original 2011 Regional Water Plan and 2017 update, EPD developed new surface water availability models. The Basin Environmental Assessment Model (BEAM) simulates flow impairment throughout the river basin. This model enables the assessment of river basin resources at spatial scales much finer than the previous models and explicitly represents permitted water withdrawal intakes, water supply reservoirs, refilling pump stations, federal reservoirs, private power generating reservoirs, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitted discharging facilities, and long-term USGS gages as nodes or junctions in BEAM. All permitted water withdrawal facilities are incorporated in the BEAM models as junctions where hydrologic information is available.

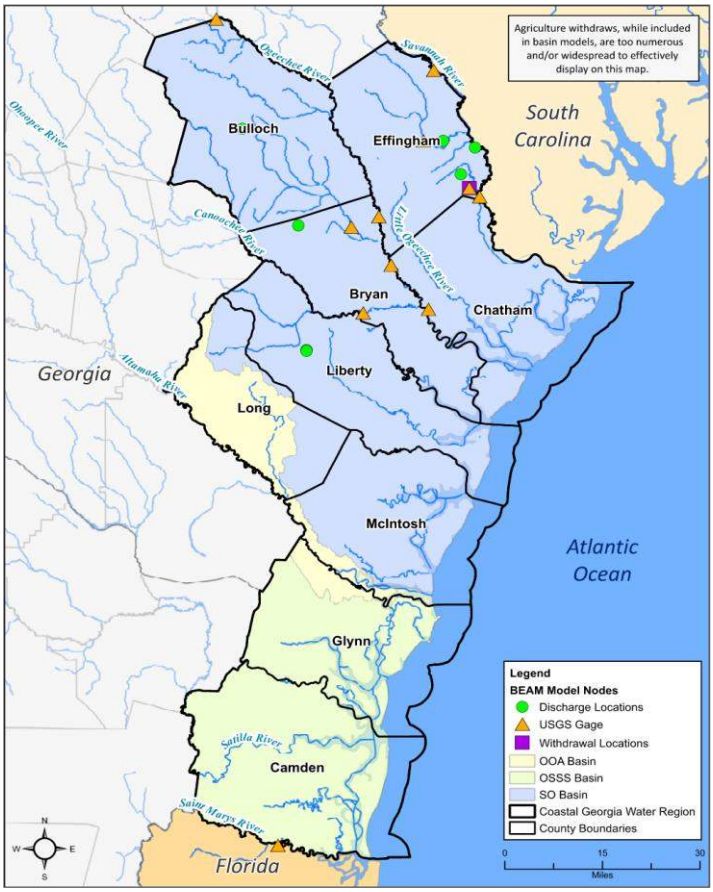


Figure 3-7 BEAM Model Nodes

As shown in Figure 3-7, the model contains a more detailed node type representation that takes into account the various types of inputs and outputs throughout the system. The USGS gage nodes are locations along a river where there is a long-term record of river flow measurements. At each node, the surface water availability models applied the average 2010 – 2018 water supply needs (i.e., withdrawal and discharges) and authorized reservoir operations to stream flows from 1939 to 2018. With information on sequences of inflow, water demand of current or future conditions, permit conditions on instream flow protection, permit limitations, and prescribed reservoir operations, resulting surface water flows can be simulated and “potential challenges” revealed. At nodes with potential challenges, during certain low

flow periods, there is not sufficient surface water to meet current off-stream demands and also meet the targets for support of instream uses. In the Coastal Georgia Region and surrounding area, no potential surface water challenges exist under current conditions.

It should be noted that due to the utilization of BEAM in resource assessment modeling, some of the previous approaches in expressing potential issues at the planning nodes become obsolete. The resource issues identified previously are now replaced by these new resource assessment results. For example, the exhaustion of storage within a reach or the breaching of instream minimum flow requirements as a way of showing a "potential resource challenge" at the planning node representing that reach was previously used. With the new modeling platform, there are now specific facilities for that assessment in lieu of planning nodes. For example, where there is a shortage identified in meeting water demand at a specific surface water withdrawal facility, that is now referred to as a water supply challenge under the new modeling approach.

3.2.3 Current Groundwater Availability

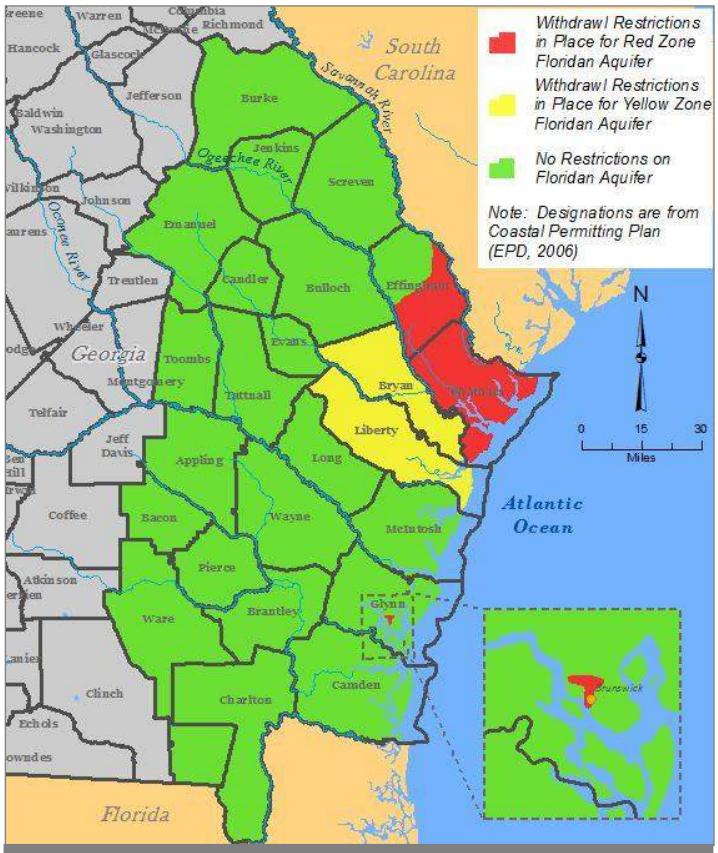
The Groundwater Availability Resource Assessment (EPD, 2010 and 2017) evaluates the amount of water that can be withdrawn from specific areas of the Floridan aquifer without reaching specific thresholds of local or regional impacts. This assessment identified the sustainable yield, or a range of groundwater volumes that can be withdrawn without causing adverse impacts (such as 30-feet drawdown between pumping wells that limits use of neighboring wells, reducing groundwater stream baseflow, continual declines in groundwater levels, and increase in saline water intrusion). The results reflect modeled aquifer responses to specific baseline conditions and specific pumping scenarios.

EPD prioritized the aquifers based on the characteristics of the aquifer, evidence of negative effects, aquifer availability, anticipated use, and other considerations. If negative impacts occur or are expected to occur, then a groundwater "challenge" exists.

Groundwater from the Floridan aquifer is a vital resource for the Coastal Georgia Region. In 2010, groundwater was relied upon to meet about 35% of the water use in the region (USGS, 2019). Overall, the results from the Groundwater Availability Resource Assessment indicate that on a regional basis, for the modeled portions of the prioritized aquifers, there is sufficient groundwater supply to meet forecasted demands in some portions of the region. However, significant localized issues exist as described below.

High levels of groundwater pumping or withdrawals in coastal regions can lead to salt water intrusion or the movement of saline waters into freshwater aquifers. As shown in Figure 3-8, 24 counties in southeast Georgia are subject to the Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Permitting Plan for Managing Salt Water Intrusion, June 2006 (Coastal Permitting Plan). The Coastal Permitting Plan specifies that no additional withdrawals beyond current allowable levels be permitted from the Floridan aquifer in all of Chatham County, the southern portion of Effingham County, and a small portion of Glynn County near Brunswick due to concerns regarding salt water intrusion. Both Bryan and Liberty Counties are also subject to the Coastal Permitting Plan, and there are limitations on how much additional Floridan aquifer withdrawals may be allowed in these counties. The remaining counties that are subject to the Coastal Permitting Plan do not have

pumping restrictions, but do have water conservation requirements related to groundwater withdrawals.



Source: Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Permitting Plan for Managing Salt Water Intrusion.

Figure 3-8 Sub-regions Associated with the Coastal Permitting Plan

In the Coastal Region, the groundwater model developed for the Coastal Sound Science Initiative (CSSI) was used to evaluate Floridan aquifer conditions in Chatham, Effingham, Bryan, and Liberty Counties. The results from the CSSI model indicate that the historic groundwater withdrawals in both Savannah and Hilton Head areas have contributed toward the inland movement of saltwater plumes. These plumes would continue to exist well into the future even if all groundwater withdrawals were eliminated. Modeling results show that increases/decreases in pumping from the Floridan aquifer in or near the Savannah/Hilton Head areas will change the potentiometric gradient in these areas and thus change saltwater intrusion velocities. Simulations were done to determine the sustainable yield of the Floridan aquifer in these areas without causing inland movement of the saltwater plume toward the Savannah area. The sustainable yield of the aquifer varies depending upon where the withdrawals take place. Any withdrawal above 1.7 MGD in the Hilton Head area and above 10.3 MGD in the Savannah area causes movement of saltwater

plume towards the Savannah area. Without any withdrawals from the Hilton Head and Savanah areas, the sustainable yield of Yellow Zone (Bryan and Liberty counties) is 34.9 MGD.

The Coastal Plain Groundwater Model developed for the state-wide Resource Assessment was used in other portions of the Coastal Region to evaluate sustainable yields of the Floridan aquifer. Sustainable yield estimates were not completed in Glynn, Camden, and the majority of McIntosh Counties and the above four counties since these areas are east of the boundary of the Coastal Plain Groundwater Model.

3.3 Current Ecosystem Conditions and Instream Uses

The rivers and estuaries of coastal Georgia support a diversity of fish and wildlife, and many of the amphibians, fish, mammals, mollusks, and reptiles living here depend on coastal rivers and estuaries for part or all of their lifecycle. Coastal riverine systems and processes provide the wide variety of habitats—alluvial rivers and swamps, bottomland hardwood forests, brackish and salt water marshes, canebreaks, estuarine and inshore marine waters, open-water ponds and lakes, tidal rivers, and freshwater tidal marshes—that allow the area to support a rich complex of plants and animals.

The coastal area contains a unique combination of fresh, brackish, and salt water environments. The area is defined by barrier islands, sand beaches, open Atlantic Ocean, and there are 9 major estuaries including 350,000 acres of salt marsh and 150,000 acres of open water. Shipping channels are maintained in three estuaries – the lower Savannah River, St. Simons, and Cumberland. Otherwise, the remainder are very similar in depth, size and other physical characteristics as they were at the time of European settlements of Georgia.

An estuary is a semi-enclosed body of water, which has a free connection with the sea and within which sea water is measurably diluted with fresh water. Without the fresh water input, such areas in Georgia would be salt water lagoons or bays. A key characteristic of an estuary is salinity, which can be highly variable depending on the location within the estuary and the estuary itself. Sources of freshwater in estuaries include: freshwater river discharges, industrial and municipal discharges of groundwater after use and treatment, and upwelling of groundwater through geologic features. Estuarine environments support a diversity of life, both aquatic and terrestrial, unparalleled in other portions of the State. Hundreds of species of animals and plants exist because of the unique mixing of salt water and fresh water. If the fresh water were removed, the diversity would change immensely from what is found today. Maintaining fresh water inputs to Georgia's estuaries is vital for maintaining a unique coastal environment, which provides a myriad of social and economic benefits, as well as invaluable ecological services to the citizens of Georgia. (Personal Communication Spud Woodward, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources).

The coastal area also provides numerous recreational and commercial opportunities for Georgians; with over 1.29 million resident anglers, fishing is the most popular wildlife-related activity in Georgia (DNR-WRD 2006). Some of the most sought-after freshwater sport fish in the region include largemouth bass, striped bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, channel

catfish, and chain pickerel. In support of these and other fisheries, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) operates Richmond Hill Fish Hatchery, located in the Coastal Region. This facility produces many freshwater species but is most noted for producing the majority of the striped bass and all of the hybrid striped bass that are stocked throughout the state. The stocking of these two species supports fisheries in reservoirs and rivers that would not otherwise be able to maintain those fisheries. DNR also manages 10 Wildlife Management Areas in the region and maintains several public boat ramps that provide public access to coastal rivers for fishing, hunting, boating, and other recreational activities.

In addition to the freshwater resources associated with coastal rivers, many of the ocean species in the area utilize the river systems either directly, by inhabiting the brackish estuarine areas during some life stage, or indirectly, by feeding on organisms that are directly dependent on these areas. Important salt water sport fish in the coastal area include red drum, spotted sea trout, flounder, black drum, tripletail, and sheepshead. Salt water commercial fisheries are also important in the Coastal Region and include shrimp, crab, and eel. Georgia's coastal rivers also provide important riverine habitat for several anadromous fish, including American shad, hickory shad, Atlantic sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon, and striped bass. Anadromous fish migrate from the ocean or estuaries into rivers to spawn.

The 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (formerly the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy) identified 120 high-priority animals that inhabit the southern Coastal Plain ecoregion (more information is available at georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan). In addition, there were 26 high-priority habitats identified in the southern Coastal Plain ecoregion (State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), 2015) (for more information on high-priority waters and protected species in the region please go to georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan).

Several rivers and river corridors in the Coastal Plain have been identified as ecologically important including the Altamaha, Savannah, and Ogeechee Rivers. In the southern Coastal Plain ecoregion, conservation lands make up 17% of the land area (SWAP, 2015).

Impaired Water Bodies

Under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), a total maximum daily load (TMDL) must be developed for waters that do not meet their designated uses. A TMDL represents the maximum pollutant load that a water body can assimilate and still continue to meet its designated use (i.e., not exceed state water quality standards). A water body is deemed to be impaired if it does not meet the applicable criteria for a particular pollutant; consequently, TMDLs are required to be established for these waters to reduce the concentrations of the exceeding parameters in order to comply with state water quality standards. For the Coastal Region, there are 99 impaired stream reaches (total impaired length of 756 miles) and 4 impaired sounds (total impaired area of 15,360 acres).

Of the impaired reaches in the region (note that a reach may be impaired for more than one parameter):

- 37% are impaired for Fecal Coliform
- 32% are impaired for low dissolved oxygen
- 31% are impaired for trophic-weighted residual mercury in fish tissue
- 18% are impaired for trophic-weighted residual PCB's in fish tissue
- 11% are impaired for Shell Fishing Ban
- 11% are impaired for trophic-weighted residual thallium in fish tissue
- 7% are impaired for Enterococci
- 6% are impaired for Selenium
- 6% are impaired for trophic-weighted residual antimony in fish tissue
- 6% are impaired for trophic-weighted residual arsenic in fish tissue
- 5% are impaired for trophic-weighted residual toxaphene in fish tissue
- 4% are impaired for Biological (Fish Community)
- 3% are impaired for copper
- 2% are impaired for trophic-weighted residual dieldrin in fish tissue
- 2% are impaired for trophic-weighted residual heptachlor epoxide in fish tissue
- 2% are impaired for Ammonia Toxicity

The sounds in the region are impaired for low dissolved oxygen, selenium, trophic-weighted residual mercury and thallium in fish tissue. TMDLs have been completed for 79 impaired stream reaches and 3 impaired sounds as shown in Figure 3-9. A full list of impaired waters can be found on the EPD website. This list is updated every 2 years by EPD; the above information is based upon the 2022 list.

With concurrence from EPA, stakeholders including Georgia EPD, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), EPA, and the Savannah River/Harbor Discharger Group initiated a 5R process and through that process collaboratively developed, in lieu of a TMDL, an alternative watershed restoration plan to meet applicable water quality standards for the Savannah River and Harbor. Following development of this 5R plan, and reclassification of the Savannah Harbor to Category 5R on the 2014 305(b)/303(d) list, the EPA withdrew the original dissolved oxygen TMDL for the Savannah River and Harbor in favor of the alternative restoration approach outlined in the 5R plan. The intent is to remove the Savannah Harbor from subcategory 5R once the alternative restoration plan has been implemented to meet applicable water quality standards.

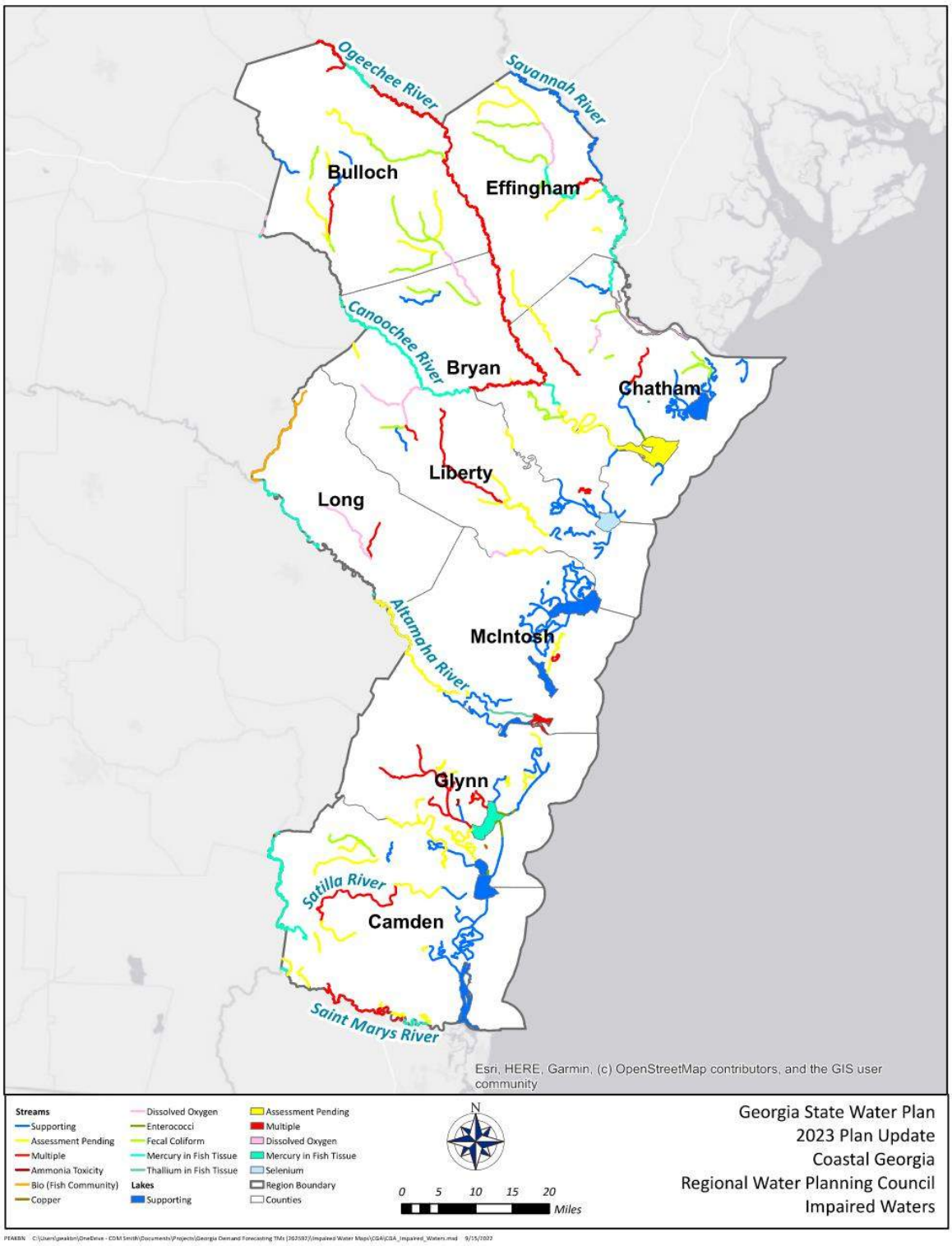


Figure 3-9 Coastal Georgia Region Impaired Waters

SECTION 4

Forecasting Future Water Resource Needs

Section 4 Forecasting Future Water Resource Needs

Summary

Over the planning horizon, the population of the region is projected to increase by 20%, increasing the demands for surface water and groundwater and increasing the quantity of wastewater generated.

Total water withdrawals by municipal, industrial, agricultural, and energy sectors are forecasted to increase by 13 percent (32 MGD) from 2020 to 2060.

Total wastewater flows are projected to increase by 19 percent (34 MGD) over the same period.

Water and wastewater demand forecasts, along with the Resource Assessments (Section 3), form the foundation for water planning in the Coastal Georgia Region and serve as the basis for the selection of water management practices (Sections 6 and 7). The tables and graphics in this section present the regional water and wastewater forecasts from 2020 through 2060 for four water use sectors: municipal, industrial, agriculture, and thermoelectric generation.

During the regional planning process, the majority of Council members identified the following objectives for the forecast process:

- Ensure accurate data, and
- Ensure that data are not used to establish regional or local mandates.

Central to these objectives is the overarching goal to develop consistent and comparable sets of data. This means that select data sets (common year for data inputs and comprehensive coverage of the State) in many cases have broader coverage of the State but may not be as precise as local provider data. During development of the Regional Water Plan, there was a concerted effort to strike a balance between broad coverage and local data. This was accomplished by using consistent data collection on a regional basis modified as appropriate with local provider input. These data and resulting forecasts are not always applicable between regions or between providers within the region due to local/region specific differences.

The methodology to forecast water and wastewater demands is based primarily on the assumption that there will be a continuation of existing trends and practices. It does not make a determination regarding the efficiency or inefficiency of forecasted demands, only that they are expected to occur given current trends. Initial forecasting does not take into account management practices, including water conservation (other than passive conservation as described in more detail below) that may be adopted by Regional Water Planning Councils to reduce the expected magnitude of demand (see Sections 6-8 for additional details on water conservation and other management practices). Additionally, this forecasting effort does not change EPD requirements related to individual permitting decisions but represents a forecast for regional water planning that will help guide permitting and funding decisions.

4.1 Municipal Forecasts

Municipal water includes water supplied to residences, commercial businesses, and small industries (water use by higher water using industries are forecasted separately and those major industrial sectors are identified in Section 4.2). Residential water uses include water for normal household purposes: cooking, bathing, and clothes washing, among others. Commercial water uses include water used by hotels, restaurants, retail stores, and office buildings, among others. Municipal water demands may be served by public water systems, private water systems, or self-supplied by the user (such as individual wells.)

Population Projections

Municipal water and wastewater forecasts are closely tied to the population projections for the counties within the Coastal Region. The population projections were developed by the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), which is charged in State law (O.C.G.A. § 45-12-171) with the responsibility for preparing, maintaining, and furnishing official demographic data for the State. The population projections by county, as published by OPB in October 2019, are shown in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 OPB 2019 Population Projections by County

County	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	Difference (2020-2060)	% Increase (2020-2060)
Bryan	39,137	44,300	47,361	49,194	49,755	10,618	27%
Bulloch	79,467	86,066	83,487	78,905	75,322	(4,145)	-5%
Camden	53,924	55,715	56,272	56,512	56,948	3,024	6%
Chatham	292,176	313,387	328,655	344,151	363,173	70,997	24%
Effingham	64,026	72,294	76,579	77,957	77,734	13,708	21%
Glynn	86,047	93,084	99,312	106,185	114,913	28,866	34%
Liberty	61,904	62,286	61,727	61,485	61,018	(886)	-1%
Long	19,915	25,096	31,324	38,558	47,328	27,413	138%
McIntosh	14,567	14,707	13,394	11,784	10,633	(3,934)	-27%
Total	**711,163**	**766,935**	**798,111**	**824,731**	**856,824**	**145,661**	**20%**

Source: Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2019.

Municipal Water Forecasts

The municipal water forecasts were calculated by multiplying a per capita water use rate by the population served. Per capita water use rates are different for public water systems in comparison to self-supplied water use; therefore, demands are calculated separately and then summed together. The publicly-supplied water use rate was determined for each county within the region. The self-supply per capita demand is estimated at 100 (gpcd). The publicly-supplied per capita water demand is generally higher than self-supplied due to several factors including commercial and transient/tourism water use that is provided by public water suppliers.

To support this Plan update, EPD reviewed water loss audit data and the estimated population served reported by permitted municipal water systems from the years 2015 through 2018. A weighted average was then calculated using the data for the public-supplied municipal demand in each County. The self-supplied per capita values remained unchanged.

The municipal water use rates for the Coastal Georgia Region were further adjusted based on two plumbing code changes that mandate new water saving lavatory fixtures. The National Energy Policy Act of 1992 reduced the maximum toilet flush volume from 3.5 to 1.6 gallons per flush for all toilets available in the U.S. starting in 1994. The Georgia Water Stewardship Act of 2010 reduces the maximum flush volume to 1.28 gallons per flush for all new toilets installed in Georgia after July 1, 2012. As new homes are constructed and less efficient toilets are replaced within existing housing stock, the water use rate is reduced over time. Additional information on plumbing code efficiency adjustments and rationale for per capita water use is available in the Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum (CDM Smith, 2022).

Upon review of the municipal water demand forecast, the Council decided that it would be appropriate to:

1. Use the available OPB 2020 population projections in lieu of the OPB 2019 projections
2. Use a regional average of 113 gpcd value for the public supplied forecast for each county
3. Shift the service area populations for residences served by Water Utility Management from self-supplied to publicly-supplied in each county

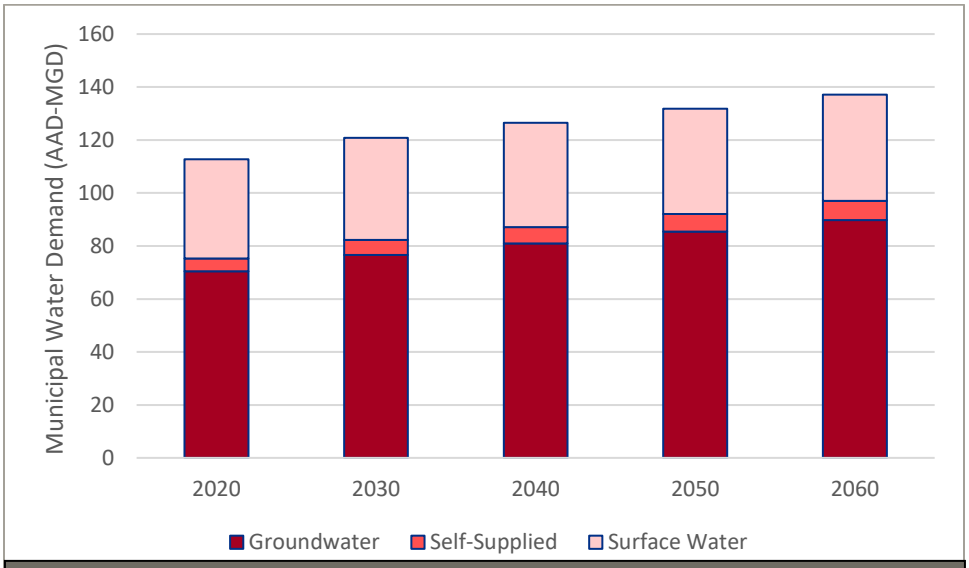
Thus, the municipal water demand forecast presented here is different from the forecast shown in the Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum. The change in population from the OPB 2019 series to the OPB 2020 series also applies to the municipal wastewater forecast.

Table 4-2 OPB 2020 Population Projections by County

County	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	Difference (2020-2060)	% Increase (2020-2060)
Bryan	40,443	51,025	61,808	73,657	85,920	45,477	112%
Bulloch	80,592	93,233	105,549	118,064	132,128	51,536	64%
Camden	54,975	59,056	62,037	64,216	66,311	11,336	21%
Chatham	290,550	315,524	335,211	350,796	366,403	75,853	26%
Effingham	65,869	85,054	103,498	123,250	144,621	78,752	120%
Glynn	86,002	96,110	98,151	102,445	105,468	19,466	23%
Liberty	61,771	62,286	61,727	61,485	61,018	-753	-1%
Long	19,846	23,327	26,607	28,956	31,228	11,382	57%
McIntosh	14,585	17,234	17,361	18,097	19,231	4,646	32%
Total	**714,633**	**802,849**	**871,949**	**940,966**	**1,012,328**	297,695	42%

Source: Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2020.

Total regional municipal water demands are shown in Figure 4-1 for the Coastal Georgia Region. In addition, this figure shows the demands by public water systems (by source) and self-supply users. In the Coastal Georgia Region, public water demands and self-supply demands are satisfied by utilizing groundwater as the main source for withdrawals. To a lesser extent, surface water is also utilized to meet public water demands. The data illustrated in Figure 4-1 includes 31 MGD of surface water supplied to industrial customers in Chatham County.



Source: Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum (2022).
Note: Values represent forecasted annual average demand (AAD) in million gallons per day (MGD).

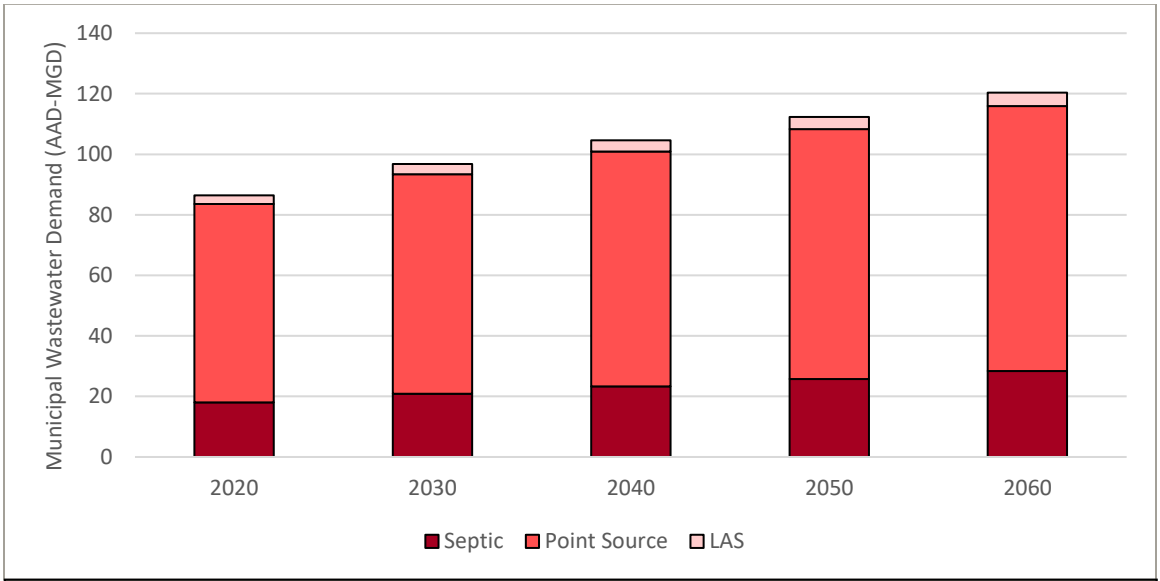
Figure 4-1 Total Municipal Water Use Forecast (in AAD-MGD)

Municipal Wastewater Forecasts

Municipal wastewater may be treated by centralized treatment plants or onsite sanitary sewage (septic) systems. Wastewater effluent flow from centralized treatment plants is either discharged as a point source to a receiving water body or delivered to a land application system (LAS). EPD permit data as well as feedback from municipal suppliers were used to determine volume of discharge from centralized treatment and the ratio of point discharge to land application system for each county.

U.S. Census data on the percent of households with septic systems were obtained by county. For planning purposes, it was assumed that households with septic systems use 75 gallons per capita per day and that 80 percent of this water use was disposed of via septic system. The estimated septic flow was based on the county population from the updated (2020) OPB population projections for each planning year (2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, and 2060).

Reported centralized wastewater flows from 2019 EPD permits, including point discharges and LAS, were adjusted over time by the change in county population projections. The ratio of point discharge to LAS remained the same for the future years. Municipal wastewater forecasts are shown in Figure 4-2.



Source: Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum (2022).
Note: Values represent forecasted annual average demand (AAD) in million gallons per day (MGD).

Figure 4-2 Total Municipal Wastewater Generation Forecast (in AAD-MGD)

4.2 Industrial Forecasts

Industrial forecasts show the future need from the major water using industries including: food processing, manufacturing, paper and forestry products, and mining. Industries require water for processes, sanitation, cooling, and other purposes, in addition to domestic (employee) water use.

Some industries, such as poultry processors, operate under strict U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines that require water use to maintain sanitary conditions within the facilities. Water need (i.e., the total water requirements of an industry, or the water withdrawals) was previously based on either production or employment, depending on the available information. The current industrial water need was determined through permit information and representative input from each industrial sub-sector (paper and forestry products, food processing, manufacturing, and mining).

Advisory Group Review Process

EPD identified experts throughout the State of Georgia to form an industrial stakeholder advisory group representing the state's thirteen largest industrial sectors. Through the advisory group's review of the previous methodology, it was determined that employment projections were no longer a valid basis for estimating future industrial water requirements as increased automation has reduced the number of employees per unit of production. The advisory group subsequently formed sub-sector advisory groups to review water trends and investigate a variety of considerations for paper and forestry products, food processing, manufacturing, and mining industry sectors. Both common and sector-specific conclusions were determined.

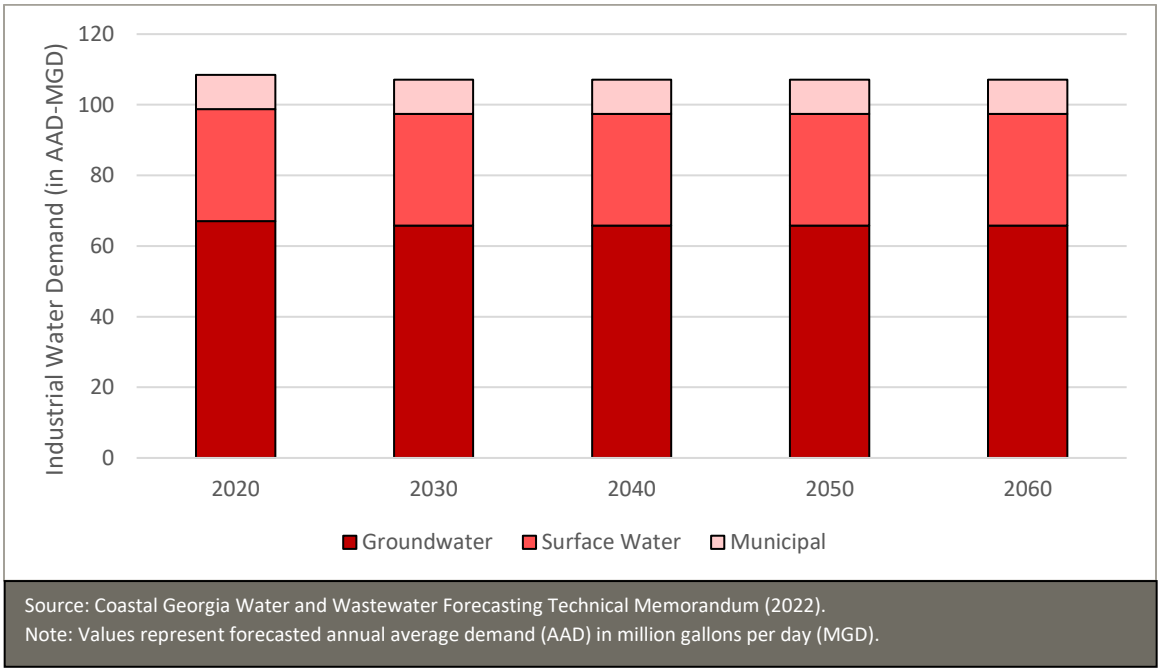
Industrial Water Forecasts

In addition to sub-sector advisory group feedback, confidential trade association surveys were collected for additional input. This information was used in conjunction with municipal water purchases and facility withdrawal permit information to develop the water withdrawals forecast by county and sub-sector. The average water withdrawal from 2010 to 2019 for the majority of industrial facilities was used as the basis for projected water use. Figure 4-3 shows the industrial water and wastewater forecast over the planning period. Water withdrawals are assumed to remain constant over time for all sub-sectors except for a slight decrease after 2020 in water demand for the paper industry.

The Coastal Council gathered information about potential new industries from their local county's economic development authorities and asked for the Coastal Regional Commission to identify existing and potential industrial sites within the region as well as potential new industry types and future water needs.

Discussions with the Coastal Regional Commission revealed that the locations of existing and near-term industrial sites are well established but predicting the type of industry that may locate there as well as that future industry's water demand are more elusive. However, the Coastal Regional Commission foresees future industry growth in the region occurring in four main categories: energy, aerospace, general manufacturing, and warehouse distribution. The Coastal Council is aware that near-term new industrial development in Bryan County will increase the industrial water demand forecast, with the current estimate for this increase being about 9.5 MGD (Council meeting minutes November 15, 2022). Therefore, this amount has been added to the industrial water demand forecast described in the Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum and is included in Figure 4-3. The new industrial complex is

expected to use 4 MGD of groundwater from Bryan County, 3.25 MGD of groundwater from Bulloch County, and 2.5 MGD of surface water from Effingham County. Similarly, 3 MGD of point discharge, a current estimate for the Bryan County industrial development, has been added to the industrial wastewater discharge.



Source: Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum (2022).
Note: Values represent forecasted annual average demand (AAD) in million gallons per day (MGD).

Figure 4-3 Total Industrial Water Forecast (in AAD-MGD)

Industrial Wastewater Forecasts

Similar to the industrial water forecast, the industrial wastewater forecast is estimated using facility discharge permit information from 2015 to 2019. Trade association surveys also reported industrial discharges, however, the information was limited to 2019 data in some cases. It should be noted that some facility types (i.e., mining) may recycle stormwater discharges causing an increase in overall discharges but a decrease in water withdrawal. Discharges are assumed to remain constant over time for all sub-sectors.

Once the industrial wastewater flows were estimated, the flows were separated between point discharges and land application based on EPD permit data. This allows the planning regions to account for flows discharging to surface water bodies. No LAS is part of the projected industrial wastewater forecasts in Coastal Georgia. Thus, all the industrial wastewater discharges are by point discharge. As noted above, 3 MGD of point discharge has been added to the industrial wastewater discharge for the new industrial development in Bryan County bringing the regional total to 90.7 MGD of industrial discharge.

4.3 Agricultural Forecasts

The agricultural water use forecasts include irrigation demands for both crop and non-crop uses (including livestock, nurseries, and golf courses). Golf courses with withdrawal permits are included with crop water use although the acreage is small. Golf courses without permits may be included with nurseries. The crop forecasts, developed by the Georgia Water Planning & Policy Center at Albany State University (GWPPC), with support from the University of Georgia's (UGA) College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences for 2020 through 2060, provide a range of irrigation water use from dry to wet climate conditions based on the acres irrigated for each crop. Table 4-3 lists a drier-than-normal year crop irrigation forecast for each county.

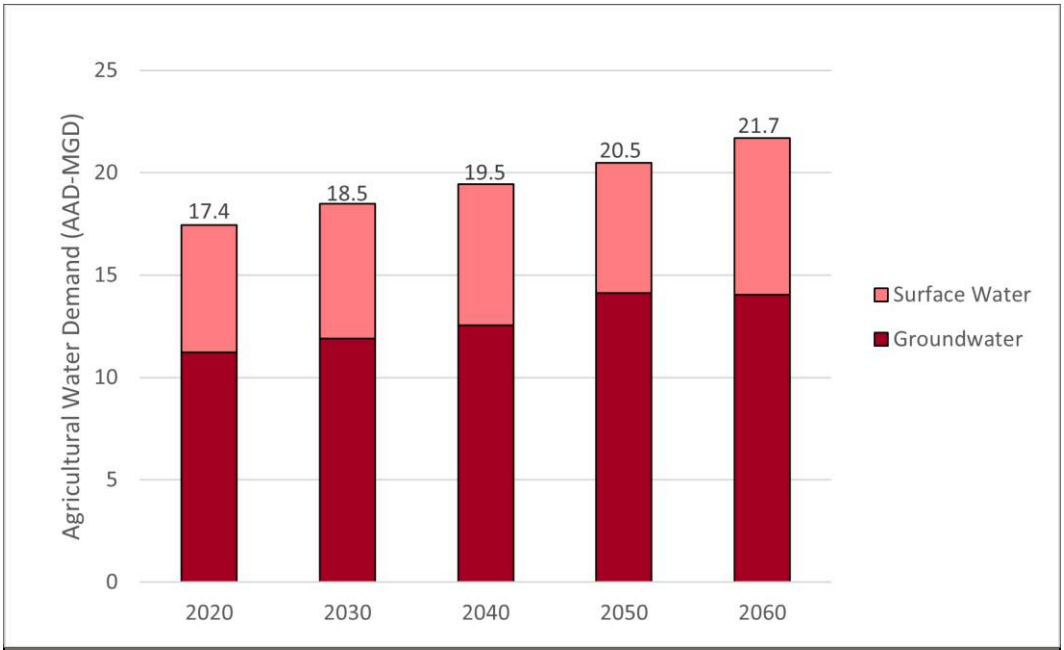
Table 4-3 Agricultural Water Forecast by County (in AAD-MGD)

County	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	% Change
Bryan	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0%
Bulloch	13.6	14.5	15.3	16.3	17.3	27%
Camden	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0%
Chatham	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	0%
Effingham	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	19%
Glynn	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0%
Liberty	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	4%
Long	0.63	0.68	0.71	0.75	0.79	25%
McIntosh	0.24	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.26	10%
Total	**17.4**	**18.5**	**19.5**	**20.5**	**21.7**	**24%**

Source: Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum (2022).
Notes: Crop demands represent dry year conditions, in which 75% of years had more rainfall and 25% of years had less. Agricultural withdrawals (crop and non-crop) are supplied by groundwater and surface water.
AAD-MGD: average annual demand represented as million gallons per day.

Non-crop (including non-permitted) agricultural water demands were identified with the assistance of industry associations. Similar to crop irrigation, forecasts for nursery and greenhouse water use were also developed for a range of climate conditions over the planning period. For planning purposes, the drier-than-normal nurseries/greenhouse forecasts are presented in Table 4-2. For golf courses, livestock production, and nurseries, estimates of current water use were developed, but future forecasts were not developed due to lack of available data. Current water demands were held constant throughout the planning period for these water use sectors.

Figure 4-4 shows the regional agricultural demands by source of supply. The Coastal Georgia Region as a whole is expected to see a 24% increase in agricultural water demand by 2060. Bulloch County has the highest agricultural water forecast in the region with average daily demand of 13.6 MGD in 2020 with a 27% increase by 2060. All other counties have forecasted demand less than 2.7 MGD over the planning period. As shown in Figure 4-4, the majority of the agricultural withdrawals (over 65%) are supplied by groundwater and the remainder by surface water.



Source: Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum (2022).
Note: Values represent forecasted annual average demand (AAD) in million gallons per day (MGD).

Figure 4-4 Total Agricultural Water Use Forecast (in AAD-MGD)

4.4 Water for Thermoelectric Power Forecasts

Thermoelectric water withdrawal and consumption demands were developed for the State of Georgia based on forecasted power generation needs and assumptions regarding future energy generation processes. Full details of the state-wide energy sector water demand forecast can be found in the memorandum, "Energy Sector Water Demand Forecast" (2020).

Thermoelectric water demands for the Coastal Georgia Region are shown in Table 4-4. Energy facilities within the Coastal Georgia Region include: Effingham County Power Project, Plant McIntosh and Plant Boulevard. Plant McManus and Plant Wentworth have both been retired since the previous (2017) update. The forecast analysis covers both water withdrawal requirements and water consumption associated with energy generation. Information related to water withdrawals is an important consideration in planning for the water needed for energy production. However, water consumption is the more important element when assessing future resources because a large volume of water is typically returned to the environment following the energy production process.

Table 4-4 Thermoelectric Water Demand Forecasts (in AAD-MGD)

Category	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
Existing and Planned Facilities' Withdrawals	8.0	8.0	10.4	11.5	12.6
Existing and Planned Facilities' Consumption	7.0	7.0	9.2	10.1	11.1

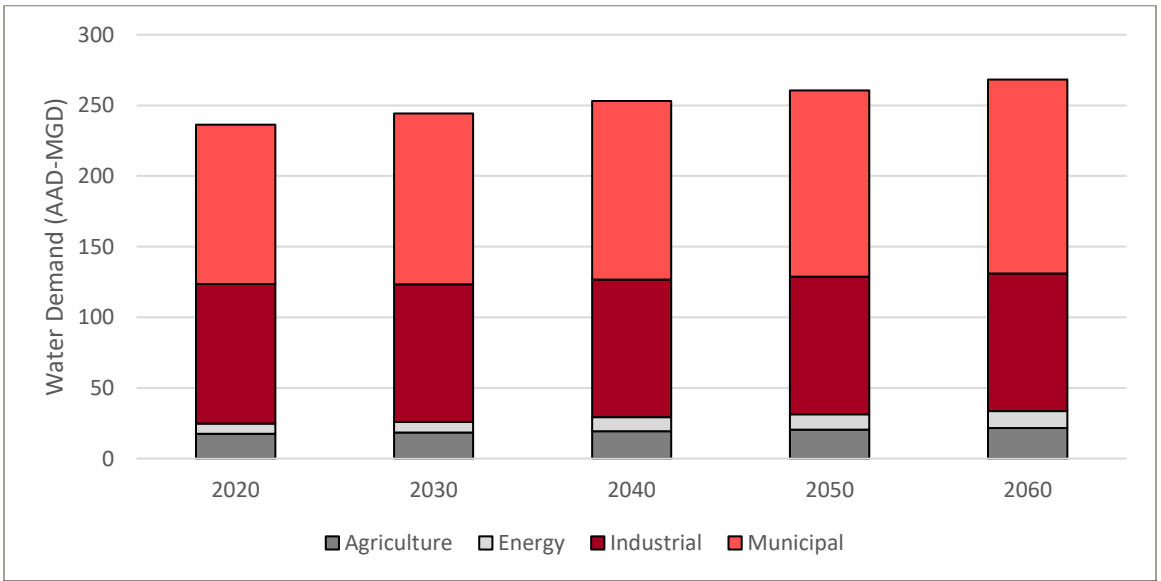
Source: Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum; (2022).

Within the previous statewide analysis, the generating capacity of the existing and planned facilities was not able to meet the projected statewide power needs through 2050 and additional generating capacity was assumed to be developed beyond 2020. The Coastal Georgia Region had assumed a portion of this future generation could occur in their region. In the updated analysis, it was determined that planned generation levels will be sufficient enough to meet the expected need up to 2036. Because coal-fired generation is expected to decline and expire by 2040, renewable and natural gas-fired facilities will be increased to generate the additional energy required to meet the expected demand. The thermoelectric facilities in the region are assumed to provide steady power generation throughout the planning horizon.

4.5 Total Water Demand Forecasts

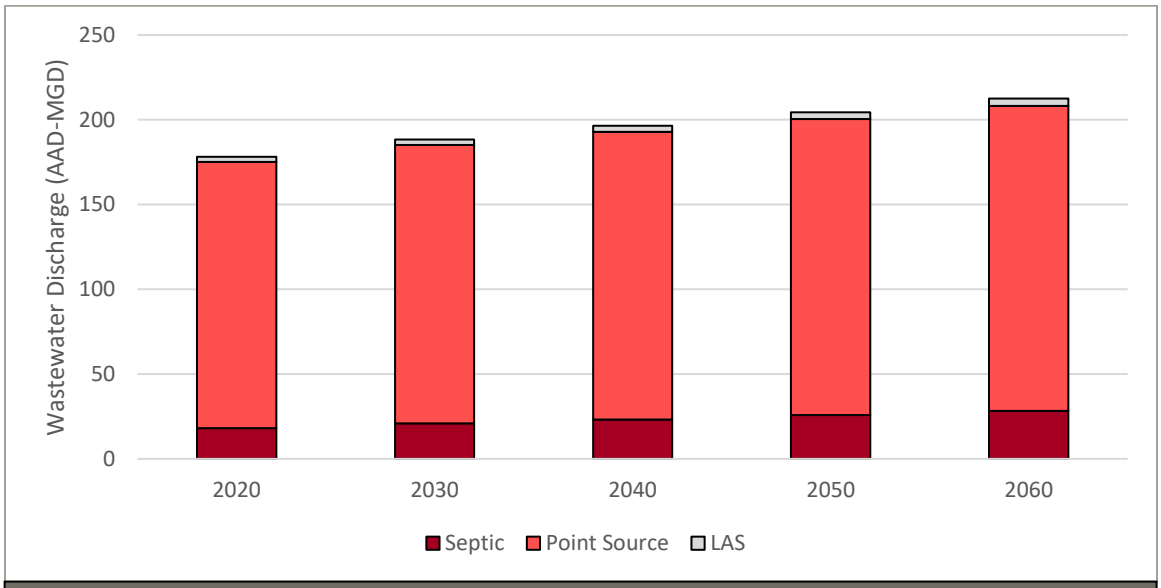
Total water demand forecasts for the Coastal Georgia Region are summarized in Figure 4-5. This figure presents the forecasts for municipal, industrial, agricultural, and thermoelectric power. Overall, the region is expected to grow by 13% (32 MGD) in water demand from 2020 through 2060.

Total wastewater forecasts for the Coastal Georgia Region are summarized in Figure 4-6. This figure presents the forecasts by the anticipated disposal system type: point discharge, LAS, or discharge into a septic system. Overall, the region is expected to grow by 19% (34 MGD) in wastewater flows from 2020 through 2060.



Source: Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum (2022).
Note: Values represent forecasted annual average demand (AAD) in million gallons per day (MGD).

Figure 4-5 Water Demand Forecast per Sector with Energy Withdrawal (in AAD-MGD)



Source: Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum (2022).
Note: Values represent forecasted annual average demand (AAD) in million gallons per day (MGD).

Figure 4-6 Total Wastewater Forecast (in AAD-MGD)

This page intentionally left blank.

SECTION 5

Comparison of Available Resource Capacity and Future Needs

Section 5 Comparison of Available Resource Capacity and Future Needs

Summary

Regionally, for the modeled portions of the prioritized aquifers, there is sufficient groundwater to meet forecasted needs over the planning horizon; however, meeting the increase in demands in areas where groundwater supplies may be limited due to salt water intrusion is a significant challenge.

The outcomes from the Bi-state Stakeholder process regarding salt water intrusion will need to be considered in determining groundwater use in some portions of the region.

Forecasted surface water demands within the region are not predicted to exceed the available resource.

Water quality conditions indicate the potential need for improved wastewater treatment within the Ogeechee, Altamaha, and St. Marys River basins. As a result of the TMDL/5R stakeholder process, the Savannah Harbor was reclassified to Category 5R. Non-point sources of pollution and existing water quality impairments will likely influence how future needs are met.

This Section compares the water and wastewater demand forecasts (Section 4), along with the Resource Assessments (Section 3), providing the basis for selecting water management practices (Sections 6 and 7). Areas where projected future demands exceed the estimated capacity of the resource have a challenge that will be addressed through water management practices. This Section summarizes the challenges and water supply needs for the Coastal Georgia Region.

5.1 Groundwater Availability Comparisons

Groundwater from the Floridan aquifer is a vital resource for the Coastal Georgia Region. Overall, the results from the Groundwater Availability Resource Assessment (EPD, March 2010) indicate that the estimated range of sustainable yield for the modeled portions (Bulloch, Long, portions of Bryan and Liberty, and the southwestern portion of McIntosh Counties) of the prioritized regional aquifer(s) is greater than the forecasted demands. However, significant localized issues exist as described below.

As shown in Figure 3-8, all of Chatham County, the southern portion of Effingham County, and a small portion of Glynn County near Brunswick (“T” shaped plume) are located in a Red Zone and are subject to groundwater withdrawal restrictions per the Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Permitting Plan for Managing Saltwater Intrusion (Coastal Permitting Plan; EPD, 2006). Future water supply needs in these areas will need to come from sources other than new permits or increases to existing groundwater permits from the Floridan aquifer. As shown in Figure 5-1, projected Floridan aquifer demands within the Chatham/Effingham Red Zone are expected to exceed permitted withdrawal limits. Current permitted withdrawal limits within the Chatham/Effingham Red Zone are planned to decrease in 2025 as shown by the red line in Figure 5-1 (down to approximately 47.7 MGD). Following 2025, the permitted withdrawal limits are assumed to stay consistent for the purpose of the analysis. Future withdrawals in the Savannah area should consider the potential for saltwater plume movement towards Savannah. The results from the CSSI model indicate that any withdrawal above 10.3 MGD in the Savannah area causes movement of saltwater plume towards the Savannah area.

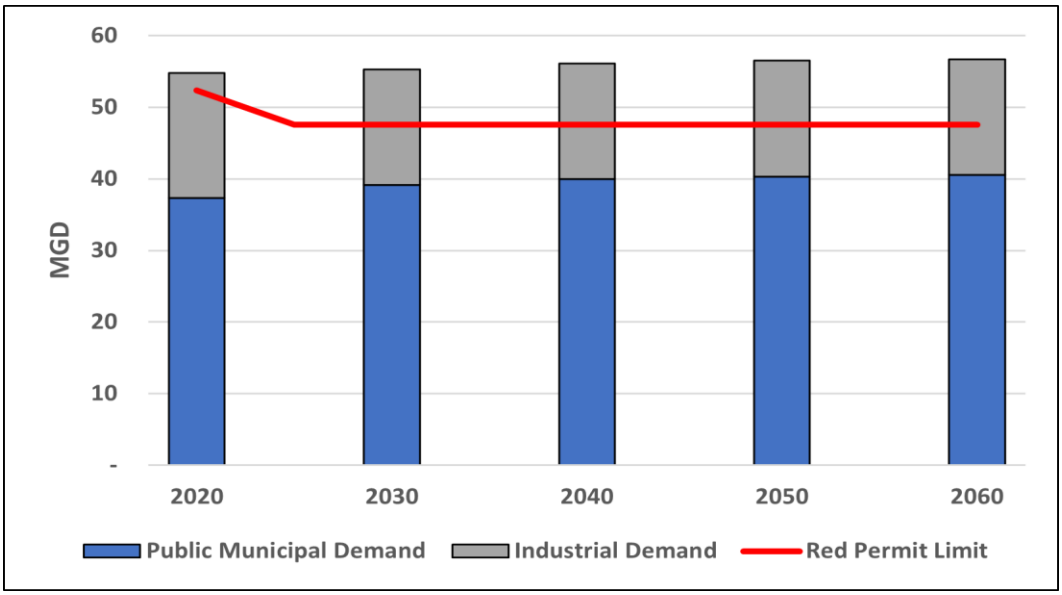


Figure 5-1 Red Zone Floridan Aquifer Permits vs. Projected Demand

Furthermore, Bryan and Liberty Counties are located in a Yellow Zone where there is also uncertainty regarding how much additional withdrawal of groundwater from the Floridan aquifer may occur in the future. This decision and potential solutions regarding saltwater intrusion are also part of ongoing bi-state discussions between Georgia and South Carolina. Figure 5-2 shows the assigned permits and future projected demand within the Yellow Zone. The groundwater demand through 2060 is projected to remain below the permitted withdrawal as represented by the yellow line in Figure 5-2. Following 2025, the permitted withdrawal limits are assumed to stay consistent for the purpose of the analysis. The results from the CSSI model indicate that up to 34.9 MGD could be withdrawn from the Floridan aquifer in the Yellow Zone (Bryan and Liberty counties) without causing movement of saltwater plume towards Savannah, if there were no withdrawals taking place in Savannah and Hilton Head areas.

There are currently no anticipated regional groundwater resource challenges expected over the 40-year planning horizon in Bulloch, Camden, Long, and southwestern McIntosh Counties. However, localized challenges could occur if well densities and/or withdrawal rates result in exceedance of sustainable yield metrics. Sustainable yield data were not developed for Glynn, Camden, and the remaining portion of McIntosh Counties. In addition, Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham, and Long Counties may need additional permitted capacity (or additional sources) if future demand for groundwater exceeds permitted groundwater withdrawal limits. The comparison of existing groundwater permitted capacity to forecasted future demand in Coastal Georgia is shown in Table 5-1. This table includes groundwater permitted withdrawals and demands from both the Floridan and Brunswick aquifers. Please note that sufficient capacity at the county level does not preclude localized municipal permit capacity shortages. Local water providers in counties with large demand forecasts should review their permitting needs.

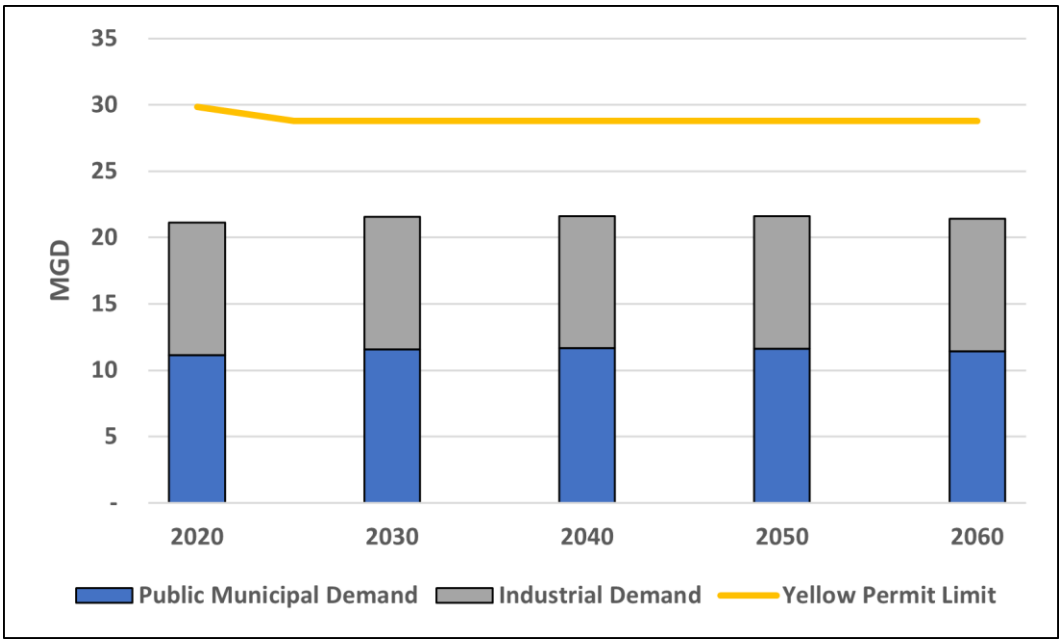


Figure 5-2 Yellow Zone Floridan Aquifer Permits vs. Projected Demand

Table 5-1 2060 Forecasted Groundwater Demands vs. Permitted Capacity

County	Municipal			Industrial		
	2060 Publicly-Supplied Demand Forecast (AAD – MGD)	Municipal Groundwater Permitted Yearly Average (MGD)	Municipal Permitted Capacity Need in 2060 (MGD)	2060 Industrial Demand Forecast (AAD – MGD)	Existing Industrial Groundwater Permitted Yearly Average (MGD)	Industrial Permitted Capacity Need in 2060 (MGD)
Bryan[1]	7.1	6.3	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bulloch	8.3	7.1	1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Camden	4.3	12.9	None	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chatham[1]	28.8	28.3	0.4	17.9	21.4	None
Effingham[1]	17.3	4.4	12.9	0.8	1.7	None
Glynn	10.3	22.5	None	32.4	58.7	None
Liberty[1]	6.1	12.3	None	10.0	12.0	None
Long	2.0	0.6	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
McIntosh	1.2	2.8	None	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Coastal Georgia Demand Forecast Technical Memorandum; CDM, 2022 and Council adjustments to municipal demand (see Section 4).

[1] Counties in the Chatham/Effingham Red Zone or Yellow Zone have planned permitted withdrawal reductions through 2025 for Floridan aquifer permits, challenges are based on these more restrictive values.

5.2 Surface Water Availability Comparisons

The Surface Water Availability Resource Assessment (EPD, 2023b) includes results from modeling projected surface water demands in 2060. The modeling tools currently used to assess surface water availability were described in Section 3. This assessment shows no potential surface water challenges (i.e., times when there is insufficient water to meet off-stream demands and also meet low flow thresholds to support instream uses) in the region. The locations of the model nodes within the planning region are shown in Figure 5-3.

It should be noted that due to the utilization of BEAM in resource assessment modeling, some of the previous approaches in expressing potential issues at the planning nodes have become obsolete. The resource issues identified previously are now replaced by these new resource assessment results (higher level of site-specific detail). For example, the exhaustion of storage within a reach or the breaching of instream minimum flow requirements as a way of showing a "potential resource challenge" at the planning node representing that reach was previously used. With the new modeling platform, there are now specific facilities for that assessment in lieu of the previously used planning nodes that summarized results without site specific detail. For example, where there is shortage identified in meeting water demand at a specific surface water withdrawal facility, that is now referred to as a water supply challenge under the new modeling approach.

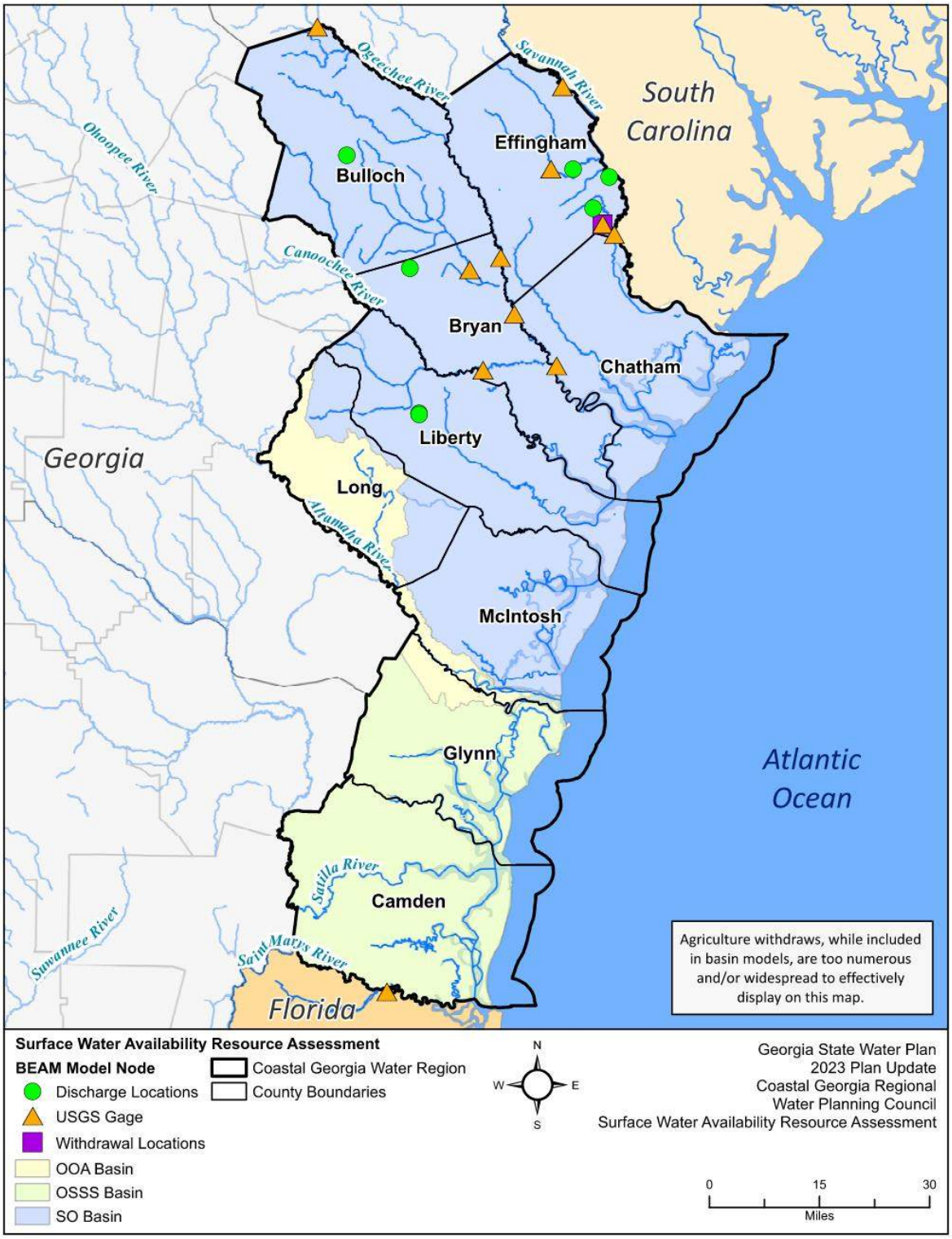


Figure 5-3 BEAM Model Nodes

The projected surface water use increases for the counties within the Coastal Georgia Region are shown in Table 5-2. Agricultural, municipal, industrial and energy surface water demands are presented for the Coastal Georgia Region. Although there are no current modeled challenges at the model nodes, development of additional surface water to meet projected needs may need to be done in a manner that does not cause potential challenges.

Table 5-2 2060 Increased Annual Average Surface Water Demand by County

County	Withdrawal Type	Change in Surface Water Demand by 2060 (MGD)
Bulloch	Agriculture	1.25
Chatham	Municipal	2.11
Effingham	Energy	4.45
	Agriculture	0.05
Long	Agriculture	0.14

Source: Coastal Georgia Demand Forecast Technical Memorandum; CDM Smith, 2022.

5.3 Surface Water Quality Comparisons (Assimilative Capacity)

This section summarizes the results of the Water Quality (Assimilative Capacity) Resource Assessment modeling when all municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities operate at permit conditions, and provides a comparison of existing wastewater permitted capacity to the projected 2060 wastewater forecast flows. A discussion on non-point source pollution is also included.

5.3.1 Future Treatment Capacity Needs

Existing municipal and industrial wastewater permitted capacities were compared to projected 2060 wastewater flows to estimate future treatment capacity needs by county. This analysis was done for both point sources and land application systems (LAS) that are permitted under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or state LAS permits. As shown in Table 5-3, Bryan, Bulloch, Liberty, and McIntosh are projected to have infrastructure needs by 2060. It should be noted that the comparison in Table 5-3 was completed at the county level and localized shortages in treatment capacity may exist.

Table 5-3 2060 Wastewater Forecast versus Existing Permitted Capacity (MGD)

County	Point Source (PS)			Land Application Systems (LAS)		
	2060 Forecast[1]	Permitted Capacity	2060 Surplus or Challenge (-)	2060 Forecast[1]	Permitted Capacity	2060 Surplus or Challenge (-)
Bryan	3.36	3.00	(0.36)	0.81	0.44	(0.37)
Bulloch	15.39	10.00	(5.39)	0.15	0.10	(0.05)
Camden	6.35	7.58	1.23	0.94	1.73	0.79
Chatham	45.42	51.16	5.74	1.00	1.31	0.31
Effingham	1.98	3.50	1.52	1.19	1.42	0.23
Glynn	13.67	20.05	6.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
Liberty	0.71	0.54	(0.17)	0.32	0.71	0.39
Long	0.24	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
McIntosh	0.40	0.63	0.23	0.01	0.00	(0.01)
Total	**87.51**	**96.70**	**9.19**	**4.42**	**5.71**	**1.29**

Source: Coastal Georgia Demand Forecast Technical Memorandum; CDM, 2022.
[1] Includes industrial wastewater expected to be treated at municipal facilities.

5.3.2 Assimilative Capacity Assessments

The Water Quality (Assimilative Capacity) Resource Assessment drew upon water quality modeling tools to estimate the ability of streams and estuaries to assimilate pollutants under current and future conditions. Modeling was focused on instream dissolved oxygen (DO) and incorporated all industrial wastewater facilities operating at their full permitted discharge levels (flow and effluent discharge limits as of 2019). The results of the DO modeling at current permitted conditions are presented in Table 5-4 and in Figure 5-4 for the Coastal Region, which includes portions of the Savannah, Ogeechee, Altamaha, St. Marys and Satilla River basins. The results show the modeled effects of oxygen-demanding compounds in wastewater and other factors on instream DO levels. A stream segment with “none or exceeded” available assimilative capacity (denoted as red lines in Figure 5-4) have estimated instream DO levels that are at or below the DO water quality criteria and therefore indicate conditions of no available assimilative capacity or exceeded assimilative capacity. It is important to note that an exceedance of DO assimilative capacity on a stream segment could be the result of a point source discharge, non-point source loading, or a naturally low instream DO condition. Reaches within the Coastal Georgia Region that have exceeded their full assimilative capacity under the current conditions assessment include:

- Taylors Creek and Canoochee River in the Ogeechee Basin;
- Beards Creek, Doctors Creek and Jones Creek in the Altamaha Basin; and
- The main stem of the St. Marys River in the St. Marys Basin.

Table 5-4 Permitted Assimilative Capacity for DO in Coastal Georgia Region

Basin	Available Assimilative Capacity (Total Mileage)							
	Very Good (≥1.0 mg/L)	Good (0.5 to <1.0 mg/L)	Moderate (0.2 to <0.5 mg/L)	Limited (>0.0 to <0.2 mg/L)	None or Exceeded (<0.0 mg/L)	At Assimilative Capacity (0.0 mg/L)	Un-modeled	Modeled Miles in Council Region
Altamaha	16	10	5	19	18	12	0	80
Ogeechee	28	53	130	88	35	0	35	369
Satilla	0	0	33	1	0	0	0	34
Savannah	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
St Marys	0	0	0	4	16	0	0	20

Source: GIS Files from the Dissolved Oxygen Assimilative Capacity Resource Assessment Report; EPD, 2023a.
Note: Since the 2017 update, additional stream segments were modeled for the Ogeechee Basin and unmodeled stream segments were removed from the Savannah Basin. The analysis was conducted for the Coastal Georgia Region and the modeled miles includes rivers, streams and creeks.

Based on the results shown in Figure 5-4, EPD also conducted modeling under future conditions. In order to address areas of limited or no assimilative capacity for DO, EPD incorporated some assumptions regarding future (2060) permitted flows and modifications to permit effluent limits. Since EPD cannot issue permits that will violate water quality standards, EPD will continue to evaluate and modify future permit requests and adjust permit limits to avoid potential DO violations. Figure 5-5 shows the assimilative capacity at assumed future (2060) permitted flows and effluent limits. More information regarding the type of assumptions made under future conditions modeling is provided in the Dissolved Oxygen Assimilative Capacity Resource Assessment Report (EPD, 2023a).

Finally, under current (baseline) and future conditions (2060) the Coastal Council recognizes the importance of managing both point source and non-point sources, which may impact water quality in the Brunswick Harbor estuary and all significant estuary resources of coastal Georgia.

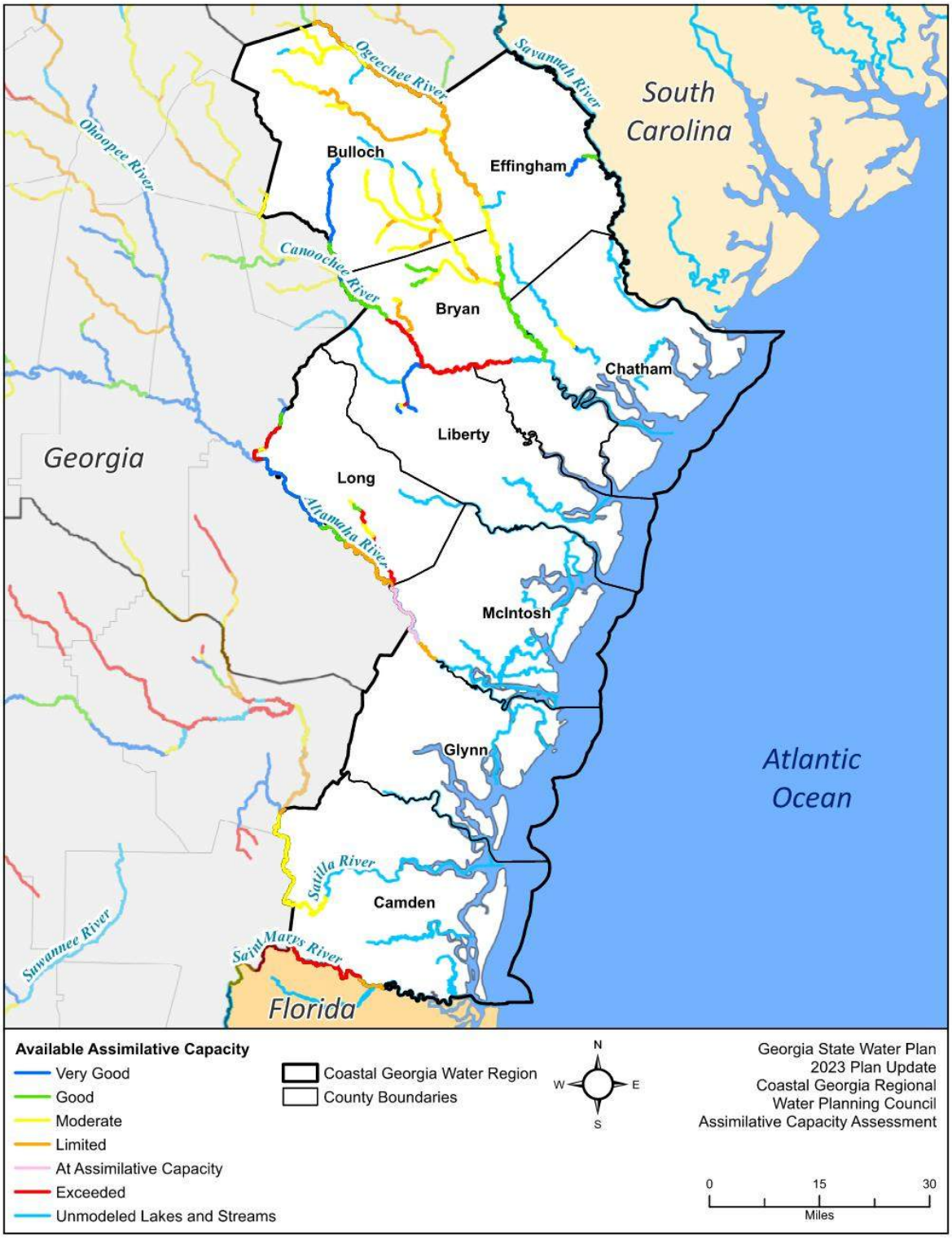


Figure 5-4 Results of Assimilative Capacity Assessment – DO at Currently Permitted Conditions

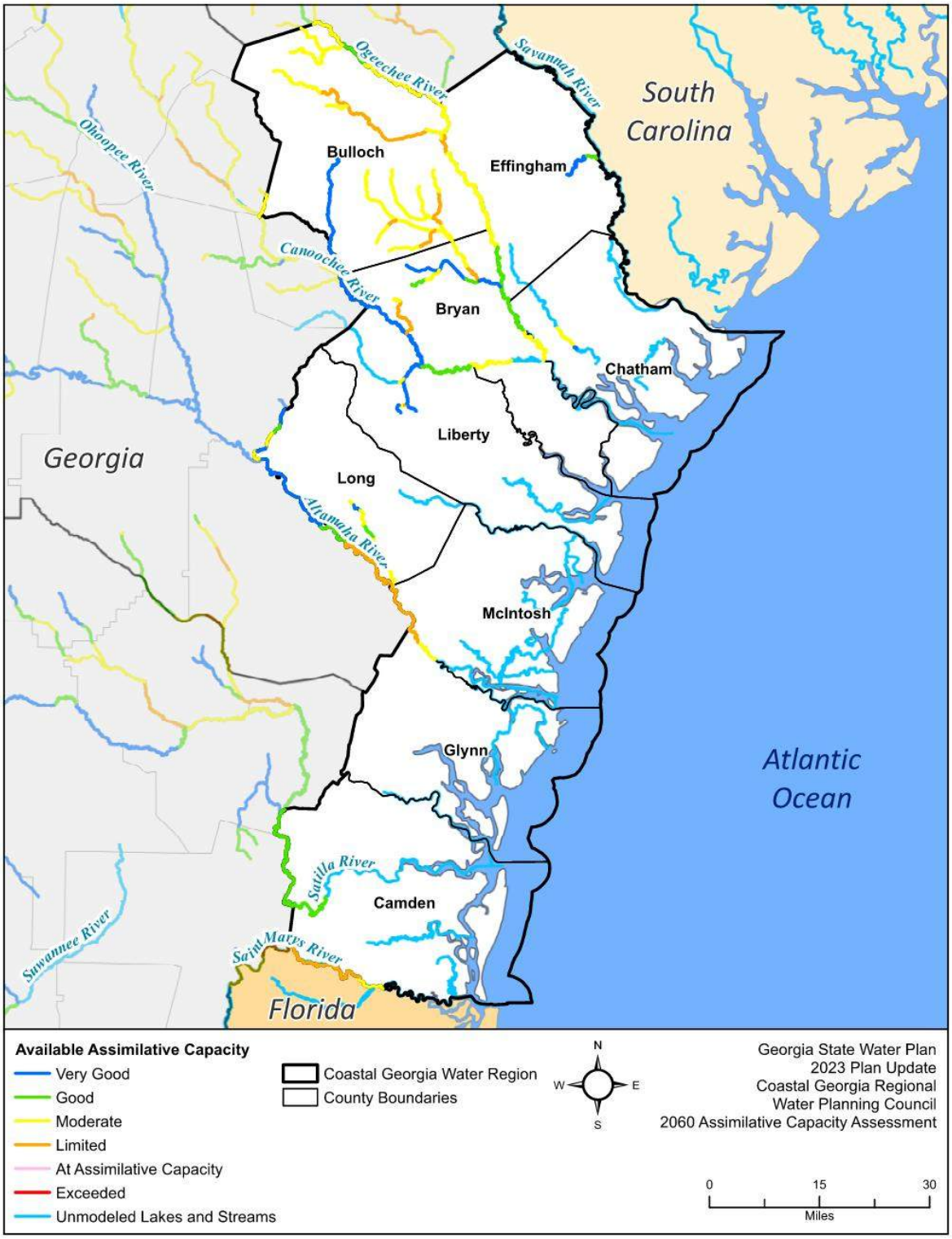


Figure 5-5 Results of Assimilative Capacity Assessment – DO at Future 2060 Permitted Conditions

With concurrence from EPA, stakeholders including Georgia EPD, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), EPA, and the Savannah River/Harbor Discharger Group initiated a 5R process and through that process collaboratively developed, in lieu of a TMDL, an alternative watershed restoration plan to meet applicable water quality standards for the Savannah River and Harbor. Following development of this 5R plan, and reclassification of the Savannah Harbor to Category 5R on the 2014 305(b)/303(d) list, the EPA withdrew the original dissolved oxygen TMDL for the Savannah River and Harbor in favor of the alternative restoration approach outlined in the 5R plan. The intent is to remove the Savannah Harbor from subcategory 5R once the alternative restoration plan has been implemented to meet applicable water quality standards.

5.3.3 Non-Point Source Pollution

Non-point source pollution accounts for the majority of surface water impairments in the region according to the 2022 303(d) list of Rivers, Streams, Lakes, and Reservoirs published by EPD (see discussion in Section 3). Non-point source pollution can occur as a result of human activities, including urban development, agriculture, and silviculture, and as a result of non-human influences such as wildlife and naturally-occurring nutrients. An important component of any non-point source management program is identifying those pollutant sources that are resulting from human activities.

An analysis of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) that may occur due to point sources and nonpoint sources in watersheds was conducted. The goal was to identify nutrient loading rates from different portions of the watersheds under various hydrologic conditions and evaluate them in relation to corresponding land uses and potential non-point source contributions. Results of watershed nutrient modeling identify portions of the watersheds where there are higher concentrations of nutrients (total nitrogen and total phosphorus) in stormwater runoff than other parts of the watershed.

There are currently no nutrient standards in place for the Coastal Georgia Region, so there is no absolute threshold against which these nutrient loadings are compared. Rather, the nutrient model results are beneficial for relative comparisons to target areas where implementation of non-point source control management practices will have the greatest benefit. More detail regarding the nutrient model results is available in the Synopsis Report – Water Quality (Assimilative Capacity) Resource Assessment (EPD, 2017). Nutrient and non-point source control management practices specific to land uses within the Coastal Georgia Region are discussed in Section 6.

5.4 Summary of Potential Water Resources Issues

This section summarizes the potential water resources issues in the Coastal Georgia Region. These potential water resources issues are the basis for the recommended management practices in Section 6. Table 5-5 summarizes the potential water resource issues and permitted capacity needs in the Coastal Georgia Region by County.

- Over the planning horizon, forecasted surface water demands within the region are not projected to exceed the available resources in the region.
- Regionally, there is sufficient groundwater to meet forecasted needs over the planning horizon.
- Water quality conditions indicate the potential need for improved wastewater treatment within the Altamaha, Ogeechee and St. Marys River basins.
- Addressing non-point sources of pollution and existing water quality impairments will be a part of addressing the region's future needs.

Table 5-5 Summary of Potential Water Resource Issues by County

County	Municipal Water Permitted Capacity Need	Counties with Modeled Surface Water Challenges	Municipal Wastewater Permitted Capacity Need	Water Quality – DO Assimilative Capacity Issues
Source	*Table 5-1*	*Figure 5-3*	*Table 5-3*	*Figure 5-4*
Bryan	Yes		Yes	Yes
Bulloch	Yes			
Camden				Yes
Chatham	Yes			
Effingham	Yes			
Glynn				
Liberty			Yes	Yes
Long	Yes			Yes
McIntosh			Yes	

Notes: "Yes" indicates a predicted challenge in the indicated county. Permitted capacity need is based on the comparison of permitted municipal capacity versus 2060 forecasted demand.

SECTION 6

Addressing Water Needs and Regional Goals

Section 6 Addressing Water Needs and Regional Goals

This Section presents the Coastal Council's water management practices selected to address resource shortfalls or challenges identified and described in Section 5, and/or to meet the Council's Vision and Goals described in Section 1.

Summary

The Coastal Council selected management practices to help address surface water low flow conditions.

A variety of management practices have been identified to address current and future groundwater use in areas that are affecting salt water intrusion into the Floridan aquifer.

Water quality management practices focus on addressing dissolved oxygen conditions at select locations and best management practices to address non-point sources of pollution and help reduce nutrient sources.

Additional water and wastewater permit capacity, data collection, and new/upgraded infrastructure will be needed to address existing and/or future uses.

6.1 Identifying Water Management Practices

The comparison of Resource Assessments and forecasted demands presented in Section 5 identifies the region's likely resource shortfalls or potential challenges and demonstrates the necessity for region and resource specific water management practices. In cases where shortfalls or challenges appear to be unlikely, the Council identified needs (e.g., facility/infrastructure needs and practices, programmatic practices, etc.) and corresponding management practices that are aligned with the region's Vision and Goals. In selecting the actions needed (i.e., water management practices), the Council considered practices identified in existing plans, the region's Vision and Goals, and coordinated with local governments and water providers as well as neighboring Councils who share these water resources.

6.1.1 Review of Existing Plans and Practices

The Council conducted a comprehensive review of existing local and regional water management plans and relevant related documents to frame the selection of management practices. The types of plans/studies that were reviewed to support identification and selection of management practices for the Coastal Georgia Region consisted of the following:

- Best Management Practices (forestry, agriculture, and stormwater management)
- Comprehensive Work Plans (local and regional scale)
- EPD databases (permitted withdrawals, planned projects, and proposed reservoirs)
- Regional infrastructure and permitting plans
- State-wide guidance documents (conservation, cost, and water planning)
- TMDL evaluations
- Water quality studies, including watershed protection plans (basin, watershed, and local scale)

When possible, successful management practices already planned for and/or in use in the Coastal Georgia Region formed the basis for the water management practices selected by the Council.

6.2 Selected Water Management Practices for the Coastal Georgia Region

Table 6-1 summarizes the Coastal Council's selected management practices by source of supply for the relevant demand sector(s), including permitted municipal and industrial water and wastewater capacity, water quality assimilative capacity (dissolved oxygen) challenges, current water quality impairments, and nutrient considerations for the associated watersheds. The table summarizes general information regarding management practices needed to meet forecasted needs, and more detailed information on management practices needed to address potential challenge between available resources and forecasted needs. The Coastal Council reviewed a number of existing local and regional water management plans and related documents during the original development and selection of management practices. A detailed list of plans and documents that were considered can be found in the Coastal Georgia Plans Reviewed in Selecting Management Practices Technical Memorandum (CDM, 2011).

During the original water plan development that was completed in 2011, the Coastal Council's efforts in developing management practices were significantly informed and guided by the scale and complexity of the groundwater resource issues evaluated through the Bi-state Salt Water Intrusion Stakeholder Process in the Savannah/Hilton Head Region, and the Savannah River Harbor TMDL/5R Stakeholder Process. During the 2023 plan update process, the Coastal Council reviewed the management practices to ensure they were in alignment with developments related to these activities, and others that have unfolded over the past 5 years, including:

- The December 2015 revisions that were made by EPD to the Coastal Groundwater Withdrawal permits resulting in reductions to annual withdrawal limits from the Floridan aquifer for M&I users of the Red Zone (Chatham/Effingham Counties) and the Yellow Zone (Bryan and Liberty Counties) in 2020 and 2025
- Subcategory 5R Documentation for Point Source Dissolved Oxygen Impaired Waters in the Savannah River Basin, Georgia and South Carolina. Final Savannah Harbor Restoration Plan (dated November 10, 2015)
- The Georgia Coastal Nonpoint Source Plan, which establishes a portfolio of non-regulatory best management practices for addressing nonpoint source pollution in Coastal Georgia.
- The University of Georgia River Basin Center's comprehensive manual titled, Wastewater Management in Coastal Georgia (January 2017)

Table 6-1 Management Practices Selected for the Coastal Georgia Region

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
Action Needed - Water Conservation (WC) - Address current and future challenges and meet water needs by efficient water use. The Coastal Council supports the 25 water conservation goals contained in the March 2010 Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP), and supports collecting water use data according to demand sector (residential, commercial, and industrial).			
WC-1 Tier 1 and Tier 2 Measures for Municipal and Industrial Users	Help meet current and forecasted municipal and industrial surface water and groundwater supply needs throughout the region	Municipal and Industrial water uses - encourage implementation and adherence to Tier 1 and 2 water conservation measures established in existing and future rulemaking processes and plans (WCIP procedures, Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Permitting Plan to Control Salt Water Intrusion (Coastal Permitting Plan), June 2006, Georgia Water Stewardship Act of 2010 and 2015 rules for public water systems to improve water supply efficiency through water loss audit and water loss control programs (391-3-33)) by local governments/utilities. Council also recommends that local governments consider requiring rain/moisture sensor shut-off devices for irrigation systems in new construction.	1-3
WC-2 Tier 3 and Tier 4 Measures for Municipal and Industrial Users in the Red and Yellow Zones	Help meet current and forecasted municipal and industrial groundwater water supply needs/challenges in the Red and Yellow Zones	Municipal and Industrial groundwater uses - The following Tier 3 and 4 municipal and industrial water conservation practices, established in the Coastal Permitting Plan, June 2006, and are supported by Council. ▪ Maximize use of recycled or reclaimed water with an emphasis placed on identifying industrial users and implementing reclaimed water for outdoor irrigation in municipal and industrial settings ▪ Adopt water conservation education programs that emphasize the value of conserving water and educate the public on salt water intrusion and how their actions and behavior towards conservation can contribute to better management of the aquifer ▪ For Golf Courses: 1) conduct reclaimed water feasibility study and 2) comply with Best Management Practices MOA by Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Assoc./EPD, May 2004. Council also recommends that local governments consider requiring rain/moisture sensor shut-off devices for irrigation systems in new construction.	1-3

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
Address current and future challenges and needs by efficient water use – Agricultural Tier 3 Conservation Practices[2]			
WC-3 Audits	▪ Help meet current and future agricultural ground and surface water supply challenges/needs throughout the region ▪ Help meet current and forecasted agricultural groundwater use in the Chatham/Effingham Red Zone and the Yellow Zone	Conduct irrigation audits	1,2,4
WC-4 Metering		Meter irrigation systems	1,2,4
WC-5 Inspections	▪ Help address surface water challenges on Ogeechee River and Canoochee River	Inspect pipes and plumbing to control water loss	1,2,4
WC-6 Minimize High-Pressure Systems		Minimize or eliminate the use of high-pressure spray guns on fixed and traveler systems where feasible	1,2,4
WC-7 Efficient Planting Methods		Utilize cropping and crop rotation methods that promote efficiency	1,2,4,5
Address current and future challenges and needs by efficient water use – Agricultural Tier 4 Conservation Practices[2]			
WC-8 Conservation Tillage	▪ Help meet current and future agricultural ground and surface water supply challenges/needs throughout the region ▪ Help meet current and forecasted agricultural groundwater use in the ▪ Chatham/Effingham Red Zone and the Yellow zone	Practice conservation tillage	1,2,4
WC-9 Control Loss		Control water loss	1,2,4
WC-10 End-Gun Shutoffs		Install end-gun shutoff with pivots	1,2,4
WC-11 Low Pressure Systems		Install low pressure irrigation systems where feasible (soil-specific)	1,2,4

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
WC-12 Application Efficiency Technologies	▪ Help address surface water challenges on Ogeechee River and Canoochee River	Encourage and improve use of soil moisture sensors, evapotranspiration sensors, or crop water use model(s) to time cycles	1,2,5
Action Needed - Additional/Alternate Sources to Present Groundwater Source(s) (AAGS)[1]. Note – future groundwater use in Glynn County near Brunswick can be met by drilling groundwater wells outside the hydrologic boundaries that induce upward movement of salt water from a deeper geologic unit in the area of the "T" shaped salt water plume.			
AAGS-1 Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration	Help meet current and forecasted municipal and industrial groundwater use in the Red and Yellow Zones	Multi-jurisdictional groundwater development and/or management in multi-county areas outside Red and Yellow zones. This should also include participation by the Coastal Council to assist with developing a Chatham/Effingham Red Zone Water Supply Management Plan. This initiative began in January 2017 and is being led by the Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC). The final report was published in 2018 and can be found online at this link: https://www.gardencity-ga.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/2273/636552698422770000	1-3
AAGS-2 Increase Surface Water Supplies		Develop/utilize additional surface water supplies to meet multi-sector uses (i.e., City of Savannah Industrial and Domestic Plant or other sources)	1-5
AAGS-3 Additional Reservoir Storage		Increase surface water storage (reservoirs)	1-5
AAGS-4 Study Aquifer Storage and Recovery in Addressing Challenges		Conduct research to determine the feasibility (technical, financial, legal, political), role, and potential benefits and limitations of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) in critical challenge areas and/or recharge of surficial and other aquifers	1,5
AAGS-5 Surface Water Storage in Aquifers		Increase surface water storage (ASR); feasibility based on outcome of AAGS-4. More information on ASR can be found on EPD's web site here: https://epd.georgia.gov/rules-laws-enforcement/existing-rules-and-corresponding-laws/regulation-aquifer-storage-and	1-3,5

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
AAGS-6 Additional Aquifer Use	Help meet current and forecasted municipal and industrial groundwater use in the Red and Yellow Zones	Optimize the use of additional regional and local aquifers	1-3
AAGS-7 Reuse		Implement water reuse	1-5
AAGS-8 Determine Desalination Feasibility	Help meet current and forecasted municipal and industrial groundwater use in the Red and Yellow Zones (Note: This option is pending feasibility of other options)	Desalination - consider feasibility of removal of salt from ocean water and distribution of water to help meet water needs in challenge areas	1,5
AAGS-9 Determine Reverse Osmosis Feasibility	Help meet current and forecasted municipal and industrial groundwater use in the Red and Yellow Zones (Note: These options are pending feasibility of other options)	Reverse Osmosis treatment of brackish water - consider feasibility of additional treatment at source of supply through treatment of brackish surface water and distribution of water to help meet water needs in challenge areas	1,5
AAGS-10 Inter-basin Transfers		Inter-basin transfers from within the region or collaborating regions to meet regional water needs and benefit both the areas from which the transferred water is withdrawn and the area receiving the water	1, 3, 4
AAGS-11 Monitor Aquifer and additional Modeled Simulations	Groundwater monitoring and modeling to verify challenges and aquifer conditions	Monitoring actual aquifer levels and conducting additional modeling to optimize aquifer use/management to better delineate the timing and quantity of the projected challenges	1-3
Action Needed - Institutional (I) Practice(s)[1] to Help Meet Water Needs in Groundwater			
I-1 Cross-Jurisdictional Groundwater Coordination Group	Coordinate and optimize water development and distribution for both groundwater and surface water municipal and industrial uses	Formation of a multi-jurisdictional groundwater use and development "Group" to coordinate groundwater development, infrastructure development/use, and optimize yield and sustainability	1-3,5

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
Action Needed - Address Current and Future Surface Water Use Data Collection/Additional Research (DCAR) to confirm frequency, duration, and severity of agriculturally-driven shortages to 7Q10* low flow conditions *Note: 7Q10 refers to the 1 in 10 year 7 day monthly low flow condition			
DCAR-1 Agricultural Consumption Data	Improve understanding and quantification of agricultural water use as they relate to potential surface water challenges on the Ogeechee River	Acquire additional data/information on agricultural consumptive use to confirm or refine if agricultural consumption is less than 100% consumptive. Conduct "modeling scenario analysis to bracket a reasonable range of consumption" with Resource Assessment models with "new" information on consumptive use to assess effect on surface water challenge.	5
DCAR-2 Source of Supply Data to Refine Forecasts	Improve understanding and quantification of agricultural water use as they relate to potential surface water challenges on the Ogeechee River	Refine surface water agricultural forecasts and Resource Assessment models to improve data on source of supply and timing/operation of farm ponds	5
DCAR-3 Better Understand Demand and Impacts on Projected Challenges	Improve understanding and quantification of agricultural water use as they relate to potential surface water challenges on the Ogeechee River	Refine and improve surface water Resource Assessment and agricultural forecasts to address spatial and temporal hydrologic variations in relationship to forecasts, climate conditions, and other non-water use variables	5
DCAR-4 Improve Data Quality and Analysis	Obtain additional data and improved understanding of actual versus forecasted water use	Continue to fund, improve, and incorporate agricultural water use metering data and use this information in Regional Water Plan updates	5
DCAR-5 Irrigation Efficiency Education and Research	Improvement of surface water flows (Ogeechee River) via reduced surface water use while maintaining/improving crop yields	Collaborate/support research (University, State and Corporate) on improved irrigation efficiency measures and development of lower water use crops	5

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
DCAR-6 Understand Optimum Application Methods	Improvement of surface water flows (Ogeechee River) via reduced surface water use while maintaining/improving crop yields	Improve education and research on when and how much water is needed to maximize crop yield with efficient irrigation	5
DCAR-7 Minimize Groundwater Use Impacts to Surface Water	Improvement of surface water flows (Ogeechee River) in areas where ground and surface water are hydrologically connected and groundwater use impacts surface water flows	Promote management practices and educate stakeholders to minimize impacts to surface water associated with excessive pumping/use of aquifers that may impact surface water flows and estuary health	2,4
DCAR-8 Analyze Addressing Extreme Conditions	Cost effectively address surface water low flow conditions (Ogeechee River) while avoiding undue adverse impacts on water users and uses in the planning area	Conduct analysis of the socioeconomic benefits and cost in comparison to ecological benefits of addressing surface water challenges. Council discussion, and additional detail provided by EPD during the 2022 updates to the resource assessments, indicated the need to focus this Management Practice on the more frequent, smaller magnitude challenges, rather than the larger, longer duration challenges that would likely be managed through drought management measures.	5
DCAR-9 Study Potential Use of Aquifers to Address Challenges	Examine potential role and feasibility of storage of surface water to help meet municipal and industrial needs; especially in Red and Yellow Zones (possible alternate supply) and/or for use in improving surface water flows.	Conduct research to determine the feasibility and potential benefits and limitations of aquifer storage and recovery for confined aquifers; and determine the feasibility and potential benefits to recharge surficial aquifers to increase stream baseflow to address challenges	5
DCAR-10 Restoration Impact on Low Flow Conditions Analysis	Examine potential role of wetlands restoration and implementation considerations in addressing surface water low flow conditions	Conduct research and identify incentives to restore wetlands and other areas to determine if this practice can improve river flows during shortages to 7Q10 low flows	2,4,6

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
Action Needed - Address Current and Future Surface Water Use Additional/Alternate to Existing Surface Water Supply Sources (ASWS)			
ASWS-1 Consider Low Flow Conditions in Future Surface Water Permitting	Help ensure that future surface water use does not contribute to frequency and severity of low flow conditions within the Local Drainage Areas that contribute flow to the gauges	Future surface water uses - If surface water (ponds and withdrawals) is sought for future water supply (new permits), the Applicant and EPD should work collaboratively to demonstrate that future surface water uses will not contribute to frequency or magnitude of challenges[2]	1,2,4
ASWS-2 Incentives for Dry-Year Releases from Ponds	Help improve surface water flow on the Ogeechee River during low flow conditions	Future surface water uses - Utilizing incentives and collaborative partnerships, examine opportunities to optimize farm and other pond operations to obtain releases during challenge periods[2]	1,2,4,5
ASWS-3 Substitute Future Surface Water Use with Groundwater in Dry Years	Help improve surface water flow on the Ogeechee River during low flow conditions	Future surface water uses - Encourage use of groundwater within the estimated sustainable yield of the groundwater aquifer (outside) as an alternate source to surface water use during 7Q10 low flow conditions[2]	1,2,4
ASWS-4 Substitute Existing Surface Water Use with Groundwater in Dry Years	Help improve surface water flow on the Ogeechee River during low flow conditions	Existing surface water uses - Replace portion of existing surface water use with groundwater, within the estimated sustainable yield of the groundwater aquifer (outside Red and Yellow Zones) in times of shortage to 7Q10 low flow conditions, so long as use of groundwater sources does not impact surface water flow in other areas	1,2,4
ASWS-5 Opportunities and Incentives for Dry-Year Releases from Ponds		Existing surface water uses - Utilizing incentives and collaborative partnerships, identify opportunities to allow use of agricultural pond storage to augment river flows in times of shortage to 7Q10 low flow periods	1-4
ASWS-6 Ecological Restoration Incentive Program		Based on the outcome of research (DCAR-10 above), consider incentive based programs to restore wetlands and other areas if this practice can improve river flows during shortages to 7Q10 low flow periods	2,4,6
ASWS-7 Land Management Incentives		Incentive-based land use practices to help promote infiltration and aquifer recharge	2,6

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
ASWS-8 Incentives for Greater Wastewater Return Flows		Evaluate incentive-based programs to increase wastewater returns; modify land application systems, septic systems, and manage stormwater to improve return flows while maintaining water quality	1-3,6
ASWS-9 Multi-Region Reservoir		Possible joint non-main stem reservoir to serve multiple regions/regional council boundaries with Savannah-Upper Ogeechee and Oconee Councils	1-5
ASWS-10 Inter-Basin Transfers	Help improve surface water flow on the Ogeechee River during low flow conditions	Inter-basin transfers from within the region or collaborating regions that can address regional water needs and benefit both the areas from which the transferred water is withdrawn and the area receiving the water	1-3
Action Needed - Address Water Quality (Dissolved Oxygen Levels)			
Point Sources – Dissolved Oxygen (PSDO)			
PSDO-1 Collect Water Quality Data	Verification of Water Quality Resource Assessment Data and Assumptions to determine dissolved oxygen conditions (see Figure 5-3 for more information)	Data collection to confirm loading and/or receiving stream chemistry	5
PSDO-2 Point Discharge Relocation	Improve dissolved oxygen levels in receiving streams (see Figure 5-3 for more information)	Modification of wastewater discharge location. In areas without shortages to 7Q10 low flow conditions, identify feasibility to move discharge location to higher flow streams with greater assimilative capacity.	3,4
PSDO-3 Enhance Point Source Treatment		Upgrade/improve treatment to address low dissolved oxygen conditions in receiving streams. This could also include implementation of Speece cones (or similar technology). More information on this technology, as implemented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Savannah District) as part of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP), can be found at the link below: https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/Portals/61/docs/SHEP/Reports/GRR/4%20Oxygen%20Injection%20Design%20Report%20October%202010.pdf (Reference Section 4 from this link)	3,4

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
Action Needed - Address Wastewater Permit Capacity Needs/Challenges			
Municipal Wastewater Permit Capacity (MWWPC)			
MWWPC-1 Increase Wastewater Permit Capacity	Additional municipal wastewater treatment capacity may be needed in Bryan, Bulloch and Liberty counties	Expand or construct new facilities and/or obtain additional wastewater permit capacity to meet forecasted needs.[3] Planned municipal projects in Bryan, Bulloch and Liberty counties.	3,4
Industrial Wastewater Permit Capacity (IWWPC)			
IWWPC-1 Collect Additional Industrial Permit Data	Collect additional data where needed on industrial flow volumes and permit conditions to verify permitted versus forecasted needs	Obtain additional permit data regarding flow volumes and permit conditions for industrial wastewater facilities forecasted needs[4]	5
Action Needed - Address Water Withdrawal Permit Capacity Needs/Challenges			
Municipal Groundwater Withdrawal Permit Capacity (MGWPC)			
MGWPC-1 Increase Municipal Groundwater Permit Capacity	2060 municipal groundwater forecast exceeds existing permit capacity in Bulloch, Effingham, and Long counties	For Green Zone, obtain groundwater permit capacity and construct new or expanded facilities to meet forecasted need. For Red and Yellow Zones, consider alternate source of supply, if applicable[5].	3,4
Industrial Groundwater Permit Capacity (IGWPC)			
IGWPC-1 Increase Industrial Groundwater Permit Capacity	2060 industrial groundwater forecast is within permit limits in all counties	For Green Zone, obtain groundwater permit capacity. For the Chatham/Effingham Red Zone and the Yellow Zone, consider alternate source of supply. Construct new or expanded facilities to meet forecasted need.	3,4
The following Coastal Council management practices are programmatic in nature and are therefore described in general terms.			
Action Needed – Utilize Groundwater (GW) to meet Current and Future Needs			
GW-1 Develop and Practice Sustainable Groundwater Use	▪ For cities, counties, and utilities outside the Red and Yellow Zones, continue to sustainably provide and manage water from the Floridan aquifer and other significant aquifers in areas not impacting salt water intrusion, following EPD permitting protocol regarding leakage between aquifers ▪ Construct new or expanded facilities to meet forecasted need		1-3,5

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
GW-2 Promote Aquifer-Friendly Land Use Practices		▪ Encourage land use practices that sustain and protect aquifer recharge areas (both inside and outside the region) for the aquifers present in the region ▪ Counties and local governments should consider practices to promote infiltration and aquifer recharge	2,6
GW-3 Research and Analyze Sustainable Groundwater Management		▪ Continue to monitor and improve understanding of historic, current, and future trends in groundwater levels; use best available science when evaluating potential value and/or impact associated with aquifer storage and/or recovery of surface water ▪ Utilize sound science and continue to improve data and sustainably manage groundwater resources	5
Management Practices to Address Current and Future Surface Water (SW) Needs			
SW-1 Surface Water Use Within Available Capacity		▪ Continue to apply for permits to use surface water within the available surface water resource capacity	1,3-5
SW-2 Monitor and Evaluate Estuaries		▪ Monitor Atlantic slope river flow conditions to sustain estuary conditions	5
Management Practices to Address Water Quality Point Source Needs - Ammonia and Nutrients (PSAN) The University of Georgia River Basin Center's Comprehensive Manual: **Wastewater Management in Coastal Georgia** should also serve as a reference to further inform and guide implementation of these NPS Management Practices			
PSAN-1 Ammonia Limits		▪ Implementation of ammonia limits, where applicable (see Figure 5-4 for more information)	1,4,5
PSAN-2 Enhance Nutrient Treatment		▪ Improve/upgrade treatment for nutrients (phosphorus and/or nitrogen) (see Figure 5-4 for more information)	1,4
PSAN-3 Eliminate Illicit Discharges		▪ Identify and eliminate illicit discharges to surface waters	1,4

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
Management Practices to Address Water Quality Non-Point Source (NPS) Needs			
(Dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, nutrients, and other impairments) **The Coastal Non-point Source Pollution Management Program should also serve as a reference to further inform and guide implementation of these NPS Management Practices**			
NPS-1 Study Human Impacts on Water Quality		▪ Data collection/analysis to confirm if dissolved oxygen and/or E. Coli is human induced	4,5
NPS-2 Monitor and Address NPS Nutrient Loading		▪ Support efforts to monitor and determine sources of nutrient loading and other NPS impairments to waters of the State, and upon confirmation of source, develop specific management programs to address these needs	1,4-6
The following practices are selected by the Costal Council to encourage implementation by the applicable local or State program(s).			
Urban/Suburban Best Management Practices (NPSU)			
NPSU-1 Control Erosion		▪ Use soil erosion and sediment control measures	4,6
NPSU-2 Manage Stormwater Runoff		▪ Stormwater retention ponds, wetlands, swales, filter strips, and bank stabilization to manage runoff and help support river flows	2,4,6
NPSU-3 Increase Stormwater Infiltration		▪ Consider measures to promote increased infiltration of stormwater to reduce nutrient and other pollutant runoff	2,4,6
NPSU-4 Riparian Buffers		▪ Protect and maintain riparian buffers along urban streams	4,6
Rural Best Management Practices (NPSR)			
NPSR-1 Advocate Implementing Road Runoff BMPs		▪ Implement BMPs to control runoff from dirt roads by encouraging County implementation of BMPs identified in Georgia Resource Conservation and Development Council, “Georgia Better Back Roads – Field Manual”	4,6

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
Forestry Best Management Practices (NPSF)			
NPSF-1 Support Forestry Commission Water Quality Program		▪ Support Georgia Forestry Commission's (GFC) water quality program consisting of BMP development, education/outreach, implementation/compliance monitoring, and complaint resolution process https://gatrees.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BMP-Manual-2019-Web.pdf	4,6
NPSF-2 Improve BMP Compliance		▪ Improve BMP compliance through State-wide biennial BMP surveys and BMP assurance exams, Master Timber Harvester workshops, and continuing logger education	4-6
NPSF-3 Wetland and Forest Restoration Incentives and Support		▪ Incentives to restore wetlands and historically drained hardwood and other areas. Where applicable, support United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) incentive programs through the Farm Service Agency and NRCS to restore converted wetlands back to forested conditions.	4,6
Agricultural Best Management Practices for Crop and Pasture Lands (NPSA) - Support and encourage implementation of Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) BMP and Education Programs			
NPSA-1 Soil Erosion Reduction Measures		▪ Conservation tillage and cover crop	4,6
NPSA-2 Utilize Buffers		▪ Field buffers, riparian forested buffers, and strip cropping to control run-off and reduce erosion	4,6
NPSA-3 Livestock Management		▪ Livestock exclusions from direct contact with streams and rivers and vegetation buffers	4,6
NPSA-4 Manure Control		▪ Responsible manure storage and handling	4,6
NPSA-5 Wetland and Forest Restoration Incentives		▪ Incentives to restore wetlands and historically drained hardwood and other areas	4,6
Existing Impairments and Total Maximum Daily Load Listed Streams (TMDL)			
TMDL-1 Evaluate Impairment Sources		▪ Data collection and confirmation of sources to remove streams listed due to "natural sources"	4,5

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
TMDL-2 Analyze Impaired Segments and Sources	▪ Data collection to refine river/stream reach length for impaired waters; focus on longest reaches to refine location and potential sources of impairments		4,5
TMDL-3 Stormwater Management BMPs	▪ Stormwater Management: – Agricultural, Forestry, Rural, and Urban/Suburban Best Management Practices (BMPs) See *Above Non-Point Source for Details*		4,6
Nutrients – Satilla and Savannah River Nutrient (Phosphorus and Nitrogen) Watershed Models (NUT)			
NUT-1 Link Nutrient Loading With Current Land Use	▪ Align current land use with phosphorus and nitrogen loading data to help optimize effectiveness of management practice based on consideration of land uses and actual nutrient loading contribution to surface water resources (i.e., predominant land use is not necessarily the predominant source of nutrients) – Agricultural, Forestry, Rural, and Urban BMPs *See* Above *Non-Point Source for Details*		4,5
Management Practices to Address Future Educational Needs (EDU)			
EDU-1 Promote Conservation Programs	▪ Support Water Conservation Programs		2,5
EDU-2 Stormwater Education	▪ Support Stormwater Educational Programs		2,6
EDU-3 Septic System Maintenance Education	▪ Support Septic System Maintenance Programs ▪ Additional educational and outreach material available through Georgia Department of Public Health at http://dph.georgia.gov/wastewater-management		2,3
EDU-4 Forestry BMP Education	▪ Support GFC Forestry BMP and UGA-SFI Logger Education Programs		2,6

Management Practice Number	Issue(s) to be Addressed by Action(s)	Description/Definition of Action	Relationship of Action or Issue to Vision and Goals (Section 1.4)
Management Practices to Address Future Ordinance and Code Policy Needs (OCP)			
OCP-1 Engage Local Governments in Stormwater Issues		▪ Encourage local government to develop ordinances and standards to implement and/or update stormwater regulations. Possible resource documents include: Georgia Stormwater Management Manual, Coastal Stormwater Supplement, and Metro North Georgia Water Planning District Model Ordinance.	4,6
OCP-2 Green Space Opportunities and Incentives		▪ Identify opportunities for green space on incentive and voluntary basis	2,4
OCP-3 Promote Integrated Planning		▪ Encourage coordinated environmental planning (land use, water supply, stormwater, wastewater and compliance with the *Environmental Planning Criteria* developed pursuant to Part V of the Georgia Planning Act and in the Mountain and River Corridors Protection Act	1-6
OCP-4 Local Government Erosion Control Measures		▪ Encourage local governments to implement, inspect, and enforce Erosion and Sedimentation Control Measures	2,6
Shared Resources			
The Coastal Georgia Region will continue to coordinate and collaborate with its neighboring Councils to address potential shared water resource challenges. The Coastal Georgia Region will combine its management practices with Altamaha, Savannah-Upper Ogeechee and Suwannee-Satilla to address shared resource challenges related to surface water availability, groundwater availability, and surface water quality.			

Notes:

[1] The role/selection of specified practice in addressing current challenges and future forecasted needs in the challenge areas require additional data from the Bi-State Salt Water Intrusion Stakeholder Process between Georgia and South Carolina.

[2] For agricultural water users in the Coastal Region, focus management practice on surface water permit holders and new surface water permit requests in Bulloch, Bryan, Effingham, Chatham, and Long Counties; Ogeechee and Canoochee Rivers.

[3] Wastewater utilities should coordinate with EPD to obtain needed capacity. Regionally sufficient capacity exists; however, localized challenges may occur in Bryan, Bulloch, and Liberty Counties.

[4] Additional industrial wastewater capacity may be needed. EPD to update and refine discharge limit databases.

[5] Additional municipal groundwater permit capacity may be needed in Bulloch, Effingham, and Long Counties. Utilities in regions should evaluate long-term needs and, if needed, work with EPD to obtain additional permit capacity. Municipal groundwater forecast above existing permitted capacities in Bulloch, Effingham, and Long Counties should be evaluated for alternate source of supply in light of possible outcomes from the Bi-State Salt Water Intrusion Stakeholder Process between Georgia and South Carolina.

The Coastal Council considered a number of practices to address potential surface water availability challenges, ranging from agricultural conservation to one or more regional reservoirs. While reservoirs would provide multiple potential benefits, the flat topography of the region makes siting of regional reservoirs difficult, expensive, and may have associated impacts. The Coastal Council concluded that integrating practices, rather than using a single practice, would be more effective at addressing challenges and more economically feasible.

With this information in mind, Figure 6-1 illustrates the Coastal Council's recommended suite of groundwater and surface water availability management practices, which will be implemented via an incremental and adaptive approach. Those practices that are less costly and more readily implemented are prioritized for short-term implementation. If resource needs are not met and/or challenges are not addressed, then more costly and complex management practices will be pursued.

Figure 5-1 and Figure 5-2 summarize groundwater challenges in the Coastal Georgia Region (Chatham/Effingham Red Zone and Yellow Zones) associated with the limited permitted supply availability and increases in multi-sector water demands. These figures should be referenced to provide the geographic focus of the management practices in the Chatham/Effingham Red Zone and the Yellow Zone. Groundwater is primarily used by the municipal and industrial sectors in these designated zones.

The groundwater challenge in Chatham, Southeastern Effingham, Liberty, and Bryan Counties, the "T" shaped salt water plume area of Glynn County, and future uses will be addressed through a portfolio of options that include management practices such as additional conservation, alternate sources and the expanded use of reclaimed water.

Table 5-2 and Figure 5-3 previously both summarized the location and magnitude of potential challenges and should be referenced to provide the geographic focus of the management practices. Surface water consumption in the region is primarily associated with the municipal, industrial, agricultural, and thermoelectric demand sectors. The surface water availability potential challenges are primarily driven by upstream and regional agricultural irrigation usage. Therefore, the majority of the surface water supply management practices in Table 6-1 are intended to address groundwater and agricultural surface water use.

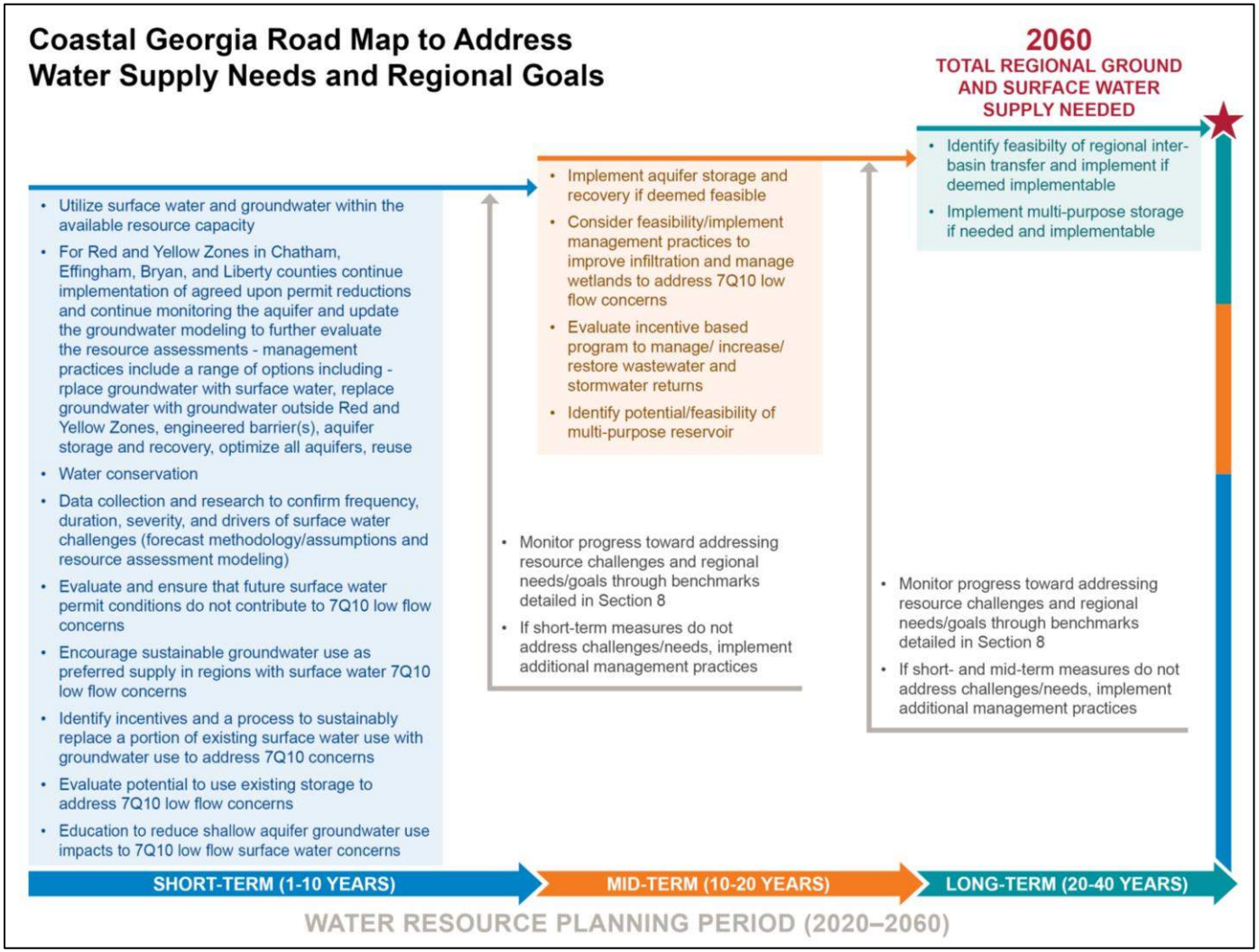


Figure 6-1 Recommended Surface Water and Groundwater Availability Management Practices in a Phased Approach

Potential surface water challenges in the region will be addressed by management practices including those that reduce net consumption, replace surface water use with groundwater use, improve data on frequency and magnitude of challenges, and assessing the impact of infrequent surface water challenges and the associated costs associated with these challenges, among others.

Figure 6-2 illustrates the Council's approach to water quality and Table 6-1 also includes the Coastal Council's recommended management practices to address water quality challenges, including watersheds with limited localized dissolved oxygen assimilative capacity and insufficient wastewater permit capacity. The Coastal Council addresses challenges by: identifying and recommending specific actions to add/improve infrastructure and improve flow and water quality conditions.

In addition to addressing challenges, the Coastal Council identified several management practice recommendations in Table 6-1 to address forecasted future uses. These recommendations include such practices as the additional sustainable development of groundwater and surface water in areas with sufficient water supply; management of other water quality issues such as non-point source runoff, nutrient loadings, and TMDLs in the region; and additional educational and ordinance practices. Maintaining suitable water quality in St. Marys Sound and all coastal estuaries can be achieved by local and regional implementation of both point source and non-point source management practices found in Table 6-1 including: PSDO-1 through PSDO-3; SW-2; PSAN-1 through PSAN-3; NPS-1 and NPS-2; NUT-1; non-point source best management practices for urban/suburban, rural, forestry, and agriculture; ordinance/code considerations; and educational programs. The selected management practices will over time address identified challenges and meet future uses when combined with practices for all shared resource regions.

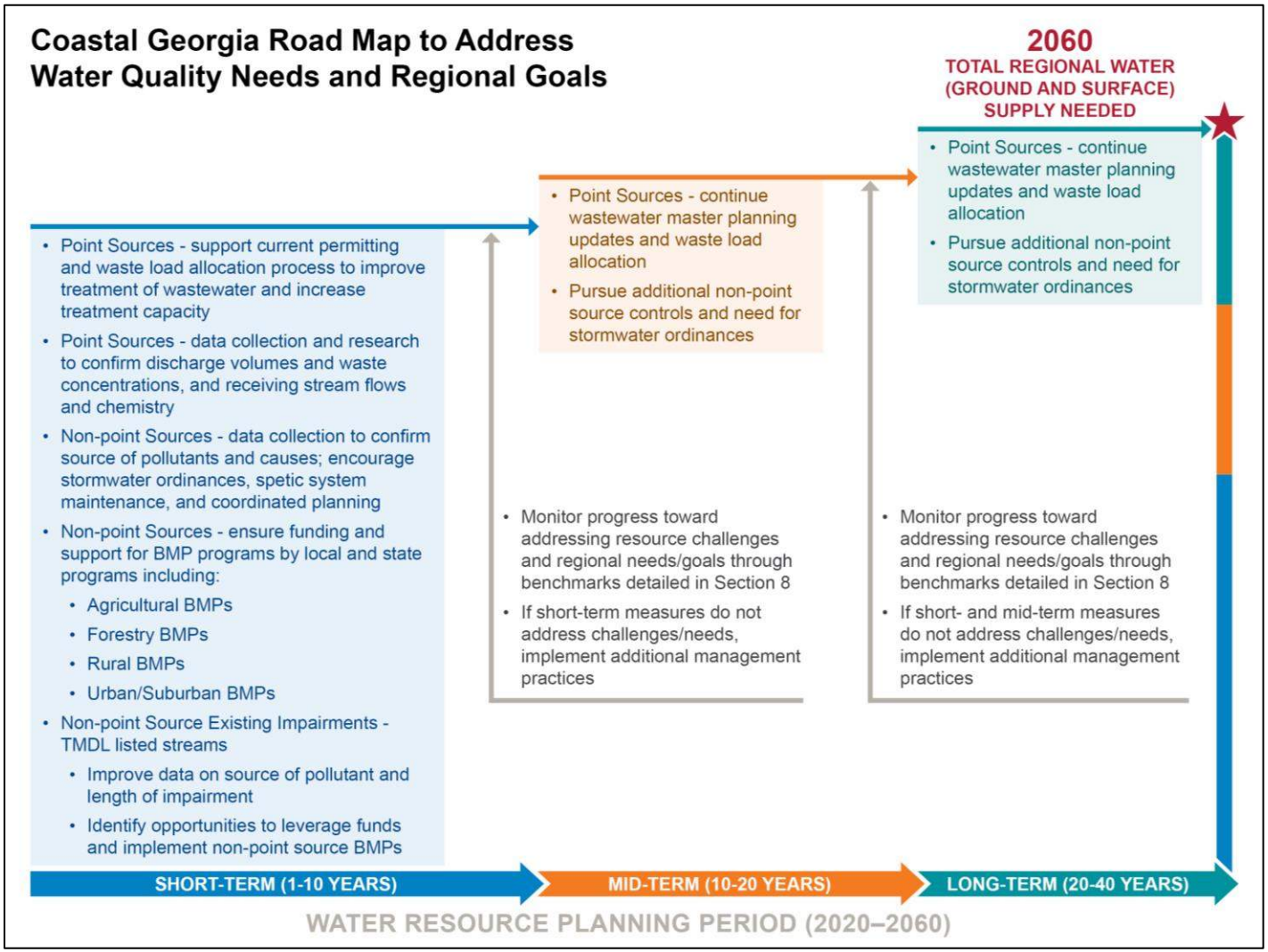


Figure 6-2 Recommended Surface Water Quality Management Practices in a Phased Approach

SECTION 7

Implementing Water Management Practices

Section 7 Implementing Water Management Practices

This Section presents the Coastal Georgia Council's estimated timeframes for the implementation of the water management practices identified in Section 6. Schedules for implementation, in addition to the early step(s) required to initiate implementation of a given practice, are presented for both short- and long-term actions. The Coastal Georgia Council has defined short-term as years 2025 to 2030 and long-term as 2030 to 2060. As the State Water Plan provides, this Plan will be primarily implemented by the various water users in the region; therefore, the Coastal Georgia Council has described the roles and responsibilities of the implementing parties as well as the fiscal implications of the practices.

Summary

Implementation of the Coastal Georgia Regional Water Plan will be primarily by various water users and wastewater utilities in the region. The most cost-effective and more readily implemented management practices will be prioritized for short-term implementation via an incremental and adaptive approach. If resource needs are not met and/or challenges are not addressed, then more complex management practices will be pursued.

As new information becomes available, it is important the Plan remain a living document and be updated to incorporate new findings.

The Coastal Council also emphasizes that the implementation of recommended management practices are predicated on a number of planning assumptions and/or may be impacted by unanticipated or currently unknown factors including: projected growth of population, industry, agricultural and energy needs; shared resources with surrounding regions; future identification/proposal of a significant upstream water resource project; data sets and assumptions related to water use, water withdrawals and returns; data regarding water quality and watershed models; rules and regulations regarding water resource use and management; and Resource Assessment tools for surface water availability, surface water quality, and groundwater availability. Consequently, significant changes or departures from these planning assumptions, forecasts, and Resource Assessment tools may require a modification of the recommended management practices, the implementation schedule, and/or the implementing entities/affected stakeholders. Future planning efforts should confirm current assumptions and make necessary revisions and/or improvements to the conclusions reached during this round of planning.

7.1 Implementation Schedule and Roles of Responsible Parties

Table 7-1 ties the resource shortfalls and the needs specified by the Council and the corresponding management practices detailed in Table 6-1 to the parties who will implement those practices. This table also describes the timeframe for implementation and the specific steps required for implementation.

Table 7-1 Implementation Schedule

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
Water Conservation (WC)[1]						
WC-1 Tier 1 and Tier 2 Measures for Municipal and Industrial Users	Current and future groundwater and surface water supply needs	Surface water and groundwater withdrawal (Municipal and Industrial)	Conduct outreach/ education/incentives to encourage implementation of conservation measures	Continue to implement water conservation practices through 01/2030	Verify conservation savings estimates	EPD, Georgia Municipal Association, Georgia Association of County Commissioners, and Water Providers in the Coastal Region
WC-2 Tier 3 and Tier 4 Measures for Municipal and Industrial Users in Red and Yellow Zones	Current and future groundwater supply needs/ challenges in the Red and Yellow Zones	Groundwater withdrawal (Municipal and Industrial)				
WC-3 through WC-12 Tier 3 and Tier 4 Measures for Agricultural Users	Current and future agricultural groundwater and surface water supply challenges/ needs	Surface water and groundwater withdrawal (Agricultural)				EPD, GSWCC, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and Agricultural water users in the Coastal Region

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
Additional/Alternate to Present Groundwater Source(s) in Challenge Areas (AAGS)[2]						
AAGS-1 Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration	Current and future groundwater use in the Red and Yellow Zones	Groundwater withdrawal (Municipal)	Continue discussions with multi-county, city, and key utilities	Continue to track and incorporate major findings from the Bi-state stakeholder group on salt water intrusion (by 01/2030)	N/A	Water Providers outside Red and Yellow Zones in proximity to demand locations[2]
AAGS-2 Increase Surface Water Supplies		Surface water withdrawal Public Water System	Coordinate with City of Savannah Industrial and Domestic Water Plant to utilize excess finished water as needed	Construct distribution infrastructure from City of Savannah Industrial and Domestic Water Treatment Plant to demand locations (by 01/2025)		Water Providers within Red and Yellow Zones, City of Savannah
AAGS-3 Additional Reservoir Storage			N/A	Conduct reservoir reconnaissance and feasibility evaluation (by 01/2025)	If feasible, construct reservoir, treatment plant, and distribution system to demand locations (by 01/2030)	Water Providers within and outside Red and Yellow Zones
AAGS-4 Study Aquifer Storage and Recovery in Addressing Challenges		N/A		Evaluate effectiveness and feasibility of aquifer storage and recovery/aquifer recharge (by 01/2025)	N/A	EPD, Georgia Legislature if evaluation shows effectiveness, feasibility, and need.

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
AAGS-5 Surface Water Storage in Aquifers	Current and future groundwater use in the Red and Yellow Zones	Underground Injection Public Water System	Pending favorable results from AAGS-4, perform desktop evaluation to identify and screen potential ASR well sites (by 01/2025)	Drill exploratory ASR wells to confirm feasibility at each site (by 01/2030)	Construct ASR wellfields and complete cycle testing to verify aquifer conditions and yield volumes (by 1/2040)	EPD, Water Providers within Red and Yellow Zones
AAGS-6 Additional Aquifer Use		Groundwater withdrawal (Municipal and Industrial)	Determine feasibility of utilizing alternative aquifers to the Floridan in supplying groundwater withdrawals (by 01/2025)	Install production wells in aquifers other than the Floridan aquifer and meet sustainable withdrawal rates (by 01/2030)	Continue to regularly update Groundwater Resource Assessment and sustainable yield criteria	EPD, Water Providers within and outside Red and Yellow Zones
AAGS-7 Reuse		General Wastewater	Continue to conduct reuse feasibility studies to determine potential customers and treatment needs (by 01/2025)	Construct treatment upgrades/new facilities and establish contractual agreements with reuse customer base (by 01/2030)	Continue treatment upgrades and seek new customers as additional capacity is provided (by 01/2060)	
AAGS-8 through AAGS-10 Desalination, Reverse Osmosis, and Inter-basin transfers		Options pending feasibility of other options				

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
AAGS-11 Monitor Aquifer and additional Modeled Simulations	Current and future groundwater use in the Red and Yellow Zones	Groundwater withdrawal (Municipal and Industrial)	Develop scope of work (6/2023-1/2024) and identify key partnering agencies	Implement monitoring plan, modeling (as applicable) and reporting on a yearly basis	Compile results in 5-year increments for use in subsequent updates to the Resource Assessments and Review and Revision of the Coastal Water Plan	EPD and potentially U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District given their responsibilities in implementing a Floridan aquifer monitoring program as part of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project
Institutional (I)[2]						
I-1 Cross-Jurisdictional Groundwater Coordination Group	Current and future groundwater use in the Red and Yellow Zones	Groundwater Withdrawal	Continue discussions with multi-county, city, and key utilities in support of a regional groundwater coordination group	Continue the collaboration and implementation actions of the regional groundwater coordination group	Continue to participate in regional groundwater coordination group, as available (by 01/2060)	EPD, Water Providers within and outside Red and Yellow Zones
Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates						
DCAR-1 through DCAR-6 Agricultural Data Collection and Irrigation Research	Current and future surface water use challenges	N/A	Develop scope of work 6/2012) and key partnering agencies (06/2012-01/2015)	Complete data collection, research, and evaluation by 01/2025 Incorporate data/findings in next Regional Water Plan revision	N/A	EPD, GSWCC, University of Georgia, Georgia Department of Agriculture (DOA)

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
DCAR-7 Minimize Groundwater Use Impacts to Surface Water						
DCAR-8 Analyze Addressing Extreme Conditions			Develop scope of work (06/2011-12/2011)			EPD
DCAR-9 Study Aquifer Potential to Address Challenges	Current and future surface water use challenges	N/A	Develop scope of work 12/2011) and key partnering agencies (01/2012-01/2015)	Complete data collection, research, and evaluation by 01/2025 Incorporate data/findings in next Regional Water Plan revision	N/A	EPD, GSWCC, University of Georgia, Georgia DOA
DCAR-10 Restoration Impact on Low Flow Conditions Analysis						EPD and other research agencies/entities; USDA and other agencies for funding and incentives
Additional and Alternatives to Existing Surface Water Supply Sources (ASWS)[1]						
ASWS-1[3] Consider Low Flow Conditions in Future Surface Water Permitting	Future surface water use challenges	Surface water withdrawal (Agricultural)	EPD to develop Data Needs and Guidance for Analysis Requirements Applicants to submit analysis from 2020-2025	GSWCC to collaborate with EPD, Georgia DOA, and current/future surface water users to develop application process and data needs to streamline application and review process (by 01/2025)	Determine if expedited or revised permitting process is warranted to allow for use of the resource and protection of critical low flows	EPD, GSWCC, Georgia DOA, and Agricultural surface water users in the Coastal Region for implementation

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
ASWS-2[3] Incentives for Dry-Year Releases from Ponds						
ASWS-3[3] Substitute Future Surface Water Use with Groundwater in Dry Years	Future surface water use challenges	Surface water withdrawal (Agricultural)	EPD to develop Data Needs and Guidance for Analysis Requirements Applicants to submit analysis from 2010-2015	GSWCC to collaborate with EPD, Georgia DOA, and current/future surface water users to develop application process and data needs to streamline application and review process (by 01/2025)	Determine if expedited or revised permitting process is warranted to allow for use of the resource and protection of critical low flows	EPD, GSWCC, Georgia DOA, and Agricultural surface water users in the Coastal Region for implementation
ASWS-4 Substitute Existing Surface Water Use with Groundwater in Dry Years	Current surface water use challenges	Surface water/ Groundwater withdrawal (Agricultural)	Develop strategy and work with potential participants/ impacted users to increase support for and implementation of strategy	Evaluate need and feasibility to conjunctively manage groundwater (outside Red and Yellow Zones) and surface water to address 7Q10 low flow conditions (by 01/2025)	N/A	
ASWS-5 Opportunities and Incentives for Dry-Year Releases from Ponds		Surface water withdrawal (Agricultural)		Examine opportunities to modify farm and other pond operations to obtain releases in to address challenges (by 01/2025)	Modify farm and other pond operations to obtain releases to address challenges (by 01/2035)	

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
ASWS-6 Ecological Restoration Incentive Program	Current and future surface water use challenges	Wetland Restoration	Encourage research to determine effectiveness and feasibility of restoring wetlands	Determine effectiveness and feasibility of restoring wetlands (by 01/2025)	Restore wetland characteristics (by 01/2035)	EPD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
ASWS-7 Land Management Incentives		Stormwater NPDES Discharge	Monitor land use changes and further delineate aquifer recharge areas	Determine effectiveness and feasibility of implementing practice (by 01/2025)	If deemed effective and feasible, implement practice based on status of addressing challenge (by 01/2030)	EPD, Municipalities and Water/Wastewater Utilities in the Coastal Region
ASWS-8 Incentives for Greater Wastewater Return Flows		Wastewater/ Stormwater NPDES Discharge, Sanitary Sewer Extension	N/A		Continue to monitor land use and hydrologic relationships	
ASWS-9 Multi-Region Reservoir		Surface water withdrawal	Address challenges	Based on rate of addressing challenges, consider reservoir reconnaissance/feasibility study (by 01/2025)	Construct joint regional reservoir and/or multiple new smaller reservoirs (and/or utilize existing reservoirs) (by 01/2035)	EPD, Water providers in the Coastal Region, other collaborating regions

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
ASWS-10 Inter-Basin Transfers	Current and future surface water use challenges	Surface water withdrawal	Address challenges	Based on rate of addressing challenges, consider inter-basin transfer reconnaissance/feasibility study (by 01/2030)	Construct infrastructure for inter-basin transfers, if feasible and needed (by 01/2060)	EPD, USACE, Water providers in the Coastal Region, other collaborating regions
Point Sources – Dissolved Oxygen (PSDO)						
PSDO-1 Collect Water Quality Data	Water quality challenges	General Wastewater	N/A	Collect data to confirm loading and/or receiving stream chemistry (by 01/2025)	N/A	EPD, Municipalities and/or wastewater utilities in the Coastal Region
PSDO-2 Point Discharge Relocation				Identify feasibility to move discharge location to higher flow streams with greater assimilative capacity (by 01/2025)	If feasible, and cost effective, relocate discharge location (by 01/2030)	
PSDO-3 Enhance Point Source Treatment			Confirm wastewater facilities to upgrade/improve treatment to address low dissolved oxygen conditions in receiving streams (by 01/2024)	Upgrade/improve treatment of identified wastewater facilities (by 01/2025)	Continue to upgrade/improve treatment of identified wastewater facilities (by 01/2045)	

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
Available Municipal Wastewater Permit Capacity (MWWPC)						
MWWPC-1 Increase Wastewater Permit Capacity	Wastewater permit capacity challenge (Bryan, Bulloch and Liberty counties)	Municipal Wastewater	N/A	Expand or construct new facilities and/or obtain additional wastewater permit capacity to meet forecasted needs (by 01/2030)	N/A	EPD, Municipal wastewater utilities in the Coastal Region
Available Industrial Wastewater Permit Capacity (IWWPC)4						
IWWPC-1 Increase Wastewater Permit Capacity	Wastewater permit capacity challenge	Industrial Wastewater	Obtain additional permit data on flow volumes and permit conditions for industrial wastewater facilities forecasted needs	Expand/construct new facilities and/or obtain additional wastewater permit capacity to meet forecasted needs (by 01/2030)	N/A	EPD, Industrial wastewater facilities in the Coastal Region
Available Municipal Groundwater Permit Capacity (MGWPC)						
MGWPC-1 Increase Municipal Groundwater Permit Capacity	Groundwater permit capacity challenge (Bulloch, Effingham and Long counties)	Groundwater Withdrawal (Municipal)	N/A	Evaluate short-term needs and, if needed, work with EPD to obtain additional permit capacity and/or alternate source of supply (by 01/2030)	Evaluate long-term needs and, if needed, work with EPD to obtain additional permit capacity (by 01/2060)	EPD, Municipal water utilities in the Coastal Region

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
Available Industrial Groundwater Permit Capacity (IGWPC)						
IGWPC-1 Increase Industrial Groundwater Permit Capacity	Groundwater permit capacity challenge	Groundwater Withdrawal (Industrial)	N/A	Evaluate short-term needs and, if needed, work with EPD to obtain additional permit capacity and/or alternate source of supply (by 01/2030)	Evaluate long-term needs and, if needed, work with EPD to obtain additional permit capacity (by 01/2060)	EPD, Industrial water facilities in the Coastal Region
Groundwater (GW)						
GW-1 Develop and Practice Sustainable Groundwater Use	Future groundwater needs in Green Zone	Groundwater Withdrawal (Municipal, Industrial, and Agricultural)	Verify sustainable yield metrics and consider relevant localized impacts (by 01/2025)	Provide guidance and implement sustainable groundwater withdrawal rates through 01/2030	Modify Resource Assessments and sustainable yield criteria, if necessary (by 01/2060)	EPD, Water Providers outside Red and Yellow Zones
GW-2 Promote Aquifer-Friendly Land Use Practices		N/A	Monitor land use changes and further delineate aquifer recharge areas (by 01/2025)	Encourage land use practices that sustain and protect aquifer recharge areas (by 01/2030)	Continue to monitor land use and hydrologic relationships	EPD, Municipalities in aquifer recharge areas (within and outside the Coastal Region)
GW-3 Research and Analyze Sustainable Groundwater Management			N/A	Continue to monitor and improve understanding of historic, current, and future trends in groundwater levels (by 01/2030)	N/A	EPD
Surface Water (SW)[1]						
SW-1 Surface Water Use Within Available Capacity	Current and future surface water use outside challenge areas	Surface water Withdrawal	Confirm non-challenge areas and available surface water resource capacity (by 01/2025)	Continue to apply for permits and use surface water in non-challenge areas within the available surface water resource capacity (by 01/2030)	Verify flow conditions and challenges	EPD, applicable federal agencies, and surface water users in Coastal Region

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
SW-2 Monitor and Evaluate Estuaries		N/A	Monitor Atlantic slope river flow conditions	Determine flow conditions that sustain estuary conditions (by 01/2030)	N/A	EPD, Coastal Resources Division, Wildlife Resources Division
Point Sources-Ammonia and Nutrients (PSAN)						
PSAN-1 Ammonia Limits	Water quality outside challenge areas	General Wastewater	Identify wastewater treatment facilities that would need to be upgraded and determine processes to implement	Improve/upgrade identified wastewater treatment facilities to comply with ammonia and nutrient limits (by 01/2030)	N/A	EPD, Wastewater facilities in the Coastal Region
PSAN-2 Enhance Nutrient Treatment						
PSAN-3 Eliminate Illicit Discharges			Identify options for treating illicit discharges to surface waters	Eliminate illicit discharges to surface waters (by 01/2030)		
Non-Point Sources (NPS) – Urban, Rural, Agricultural, and Forestry Uses						
NPS-1 Study Human Impacts on Water Quality	Water quality outside challenge areas	Stormwater (NPDES Discharges)	Collect data to determine dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, and nutrient sources	Confirm sources of loading and develop programs to address (by 01/2030)	N/A	EPD, Municipalities and Utilities within the Coastal Region
NPS-2 Monitor and Address NPS Nutrient Loading						

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
NPSU-1 through NPSU-4 Various Stormwater Management Practices Related to Urban Uses			Select best management practices needed for treating stormwater from urban uses	Implement a variety of stormwater best management practices related to urban uses (by 01/2025)		
NPSR-1 Advocate Implementing Road Runoff BMPs			Select best management practices needed for treating stormwater from rural uses	Implement a variety of stormwater best management practices related to dirt road maintenance (by 01/2025)		EPD, Counties (Public Works/Roads and Bridges Departments) within the Coastal Region, GDOT and GFC
NPSF-1 through NPSF-3 Various Stormwater Management Practices Related to Forestry Uses	Water quality outside challenge areas	Stormwater (NPDES Discharges)	Continue to support existing best management practices programs	Implement a variety of BMPs related to forestry and agricultural uses and continue monitoring of Forestry BMPs (by 01/2025)	N/A	Georgia Forestry Commission, and possibly county commissions
NPSA-1 through NPSA-5 Various Stormwater Management Practices Related to Agricultural Uses						GSWCC, Agricultural users within the Coastal Region

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
TMDL-1 through TMDL-3 Evaluate Impaired Segments and Sources			Collect data to confirm impairment and determine sources	Remove streams listed due to "natural sources" (by 01/2025) Refine river/stream reach length for impaired waters (by 01/2030)	Continue collecting data to monitor impairment sources; Support reassessment of stream segment classifications (by 01/2060)	EPD, Municipalities and Utilities within the Coastal Region
NUT-1 Link Nutrient Loading With Current Land Use	Water quality outside challenge areas	Stormwater (NPDES Discharges)	Align current land use with nutrient loading data to optimize management practice based on consideration of land uses and actual nutrient contribution to loading	Support research and development of tools such as the Southern Group of State Foresters and USFS Sediment Prediction modeling tool being developed by Auburn University (by 01/2030)	N/A	EPD, GSWCC, Georgia Forestry Commission, Municipalities and Utilities within the Coastal Region, and county commissions
Educational Practices (EDU)						
EDU-1 through EDU-4 Various Educational and Outreach Programs on Conservation/Water Quality	Education/ outreach support	N/A	Develop educational programs on water conservation, septic system maintenance, and stormwater management	Complete educational programs on water conservation, septic system maintenance, and stormwater management	Continue educational programs on water conservation, septic system maintenance, and stormwater management	EPD, State Agencies with WCIP responsibilities, Municipalities and Utilities within the Coastal Region

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Issues to be Addressed and Resource(s) Affected	Permittee Category of Responsible Parties (if applicable)	For All Actions: Initial Implementation Step(s) and Associated Date(s)	For Short-term Actions (2025-2030)	For Long-term Actions (2030-2060)	Responsible Parties
				Further Action to Complete Implementation and Associated Dates		
Ordinance and Code Policy Practices (OCP)						
OCP-1 through OCP-4 Stormwater Management through Ordinance/ Code Updates and Integrated Planning	Ordinances and code policies	N/A	Identify ordinances and standards to implement/update stormwater and land development (including green space and Erosion and Sedimentation Control Measures) Encourage coordinated environmental planning	Pass ordinances and develop standards on stormwater management and land development (by 01/2030) Conduct regional environmental planning (e.g., land use, water supply, stormwater, wastewater, etc.)	Continue to regulate stormwater management and land development actions consistent with ordinances and codes implemented	EPD, Regional Commissions, Municipalities and Utilities within the Coastal Region and county commissions

Notes:

[1] For agricultural water users in the Coastal Region, focus management practices on surface water permit holders and new surface water permit requests in Bulloch, Bryan, Effingham, Chatham, and Long Counties.

[2] The role/selection of specified practice in addressing current challenges and future forecasted needs in the challenge areas requires additional data from the Bi-State Salt Water Intrusion Stakeholder Process between Georgia and South Carolina.

[3] Possible areas include: Effingham, Bulloch, Evans, Tattnall, Long, McIntosh, Glynn, and Camden Counties [(Effingham, Chatham Red Zone); [Bryan, Liberty Yellow Zones)].

[4] Additional industrial wastewater capacity may be needed. EPD to update and refine discharge limit databases to confirm flow and quality assumptions.

7.2 Fiscal Implications of Selected Water Management Practices

The following subsections discuss planning level cost estimates for the water management practices selected by the Coastal Council and potential funding sources and options. Successful implementation of the Regional Water Plan is highly dependent on the ability of state and local governments, water providers, and utilities, to fund the needed implementation actions.

7.2.1 Planning Level Cost Estimates

Planning level cost estimates were previously prepared for each management practice using planning guidance documents, the knowledge base of previous state and utility planning efforts, and other sources of information. However, the planning level cost information has been removed for this plan update as the cost details are out of date. Planning level cost estimates will be re-visited in the future plan updates.

7.2.2 Funding Sources and Options

Several different funding sources and options will be used to secure funding for the different management practices outlined in this Plan including:

- The State Revolving Fund Program administrated by GEFA
- Other State of Georgia Funding Programs
- State and Federal Grants
- Water/Wastewater System Revenues
- State and local government incentive programs

Below is a list of some of the larger organizations and agencies that provide funding for the types of management practices recommended in this Plan. It is important to note that funding sources and opportunities change on a yearly basis.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Programs

The EPA provides grants to States, non-profits, and educational institutions to support high-quality research that will improve the scientific basis for decisions on national environmental issues and help the EPA to achieve its goals. The EPA provides research grants and graduate fellowships; supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed decisions that affect environmental quality; offers information for State and local governments and small businesses on financing environmental services and projects; and provides other financial assistance through programs such as the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), and the Brownfield Program. More information on the EPA can be accessed at: www.epa.gov.

The EPA offers the following grant programs:

- Continuing Program Grants
- Project Grants
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program
- Water Pollution Control Program
- Water Quality Cooperative Agreements Program
- Water Quality Management Planning Program
- Onsite Wastewater Management Planning Program
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program

Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)

The mission of EPD is to protect and restore Georgia's environment. EPD takes the lead in ensuring clean air, water and land. With their partners, EPD pursues a sustainable environment that provides a foundation for a vibrant economy and healthy communities. As a result of the Clean Water Act, each year the State of Georgia receives funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assist the State with addressing environmental issues. EPD offers the following grant programs:

- Section 319 (h) Grants
- Section 604 (b) Grants

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) Conservation Programs

The USDA-NRCS offers a number of funding opportunities as a result of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. This Act is landmark legislation for conservation funding and for focusing on environmental issues. The conservation provisions will assist farmers and ranchers in meeting environmental challenges on their land. This legislation simplifies existing programs and creates new programs to address high priority environmental and production goals. The USDA-NRCS offers the following funding options:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- Conservation of Private Grazing Land Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Resource Conservation and Development Program

7.3 Alignment with Other Plans

The Coastal Council's Plan and management practices selection process was based on identifying and supporting existing policy, planning, and projects. Local comprehensive plans, planned and/or permitted projects were relied upon in developing the Regional Water Plan. This approach is tailored to maintain consistency with, and to maximize support for, locally driven water resource management decisions. The Coastal Council did identify potential challenges associated with both the cost and technical issues that the region may face; especially regarding water and wastewater needs for both new and aging infrastructure. In addition, addressing existing surface and groundwater challenges must be accomplished in a manner that does not cause adverse impacts to local water users and local governments.

Water resource decisions in the Coastal Georgia Region are affected by regulatory process related to Savannah River water quality and bi-state discussions regarding the Savannah River and salt water intrusion in the Savannah/Hilton Head region. The outcome of these discussions and potential recommendations or other decisions will have important implications for the Regional Water Plan and will need to be incorporated and/or reconciled with the Regional Water Plan as this information becomes available.

The challenges of funding Plan recommendations and addressing future technical and regulatory issues is especially difficult for smaller towns and utilities, agricultural water uses, and small businesses that rely on natural resources. The successful implementation of the Regional Water Plan will be dependent on the principles of support and leadership by state agencies, in a collaborative setting, utilizing incentives and financial assistance to the extent possible.

7.4 Recommendations to the State

The Coastal Council supports the concept of regional water resource planning with a focus on planning Councils composed of local governments, water users, water providers, industry, business and affected stakeholders. Local representatives are typically most familiar with local water resource issues and needs. The State has a vital role providing technical support, guidance, and funding to support locally focused water resource planning.

The Coastal Council is sensitive to unintended consequences if Plan recommendations become mandates. The State must help balance Plan recommendations with assessing measurable progress toward Plan implementation. If additional rules or other administrative or regulatory actions are deemed necessary, the State should work with Councils to help ensure workable solutions.

The following specific recommendations to the State are provided to help aid in the successful implementation of the Plan.

Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)

- Consider "institutionalizing" planning. This would entail a long-term commitment of staff and funding to: monitor and support Plan recommendations; coordinate improved data collection, management and analysis; continue to develop and improve Resource Assessment tools; and help provide funding, permitting and technical support to address challenges and water resource needs.

- Support and facilitate the continued implementation of the Savannah Harbor 5R plan that was approved by EPA in 2016. EPD's assistance in coordinating, facilitating, and providing technical support during implementation of the 5R Plan is essential. The Coastal Council supports this process and has indicated that continued implementation of pollutant loading strategies (management practices) will continue to improve dissolved oxygen conditions in the lower Savannah River.

- Provide leadership, coordination, and technical support to continue stakeholder collaboration, coordination and implementation of management practices that will continue to improve the regional management of the Floridan aquifer, as outlined in this plan, and in conjunction with the Coastal Georgia Water & Wastewater Permitting Plan (CPP) that was updated in 2015. The Coastal Georgia Regional Water Plan provides recommended management practices that are in alignment with the CPP and that also continue to advance the adopted Vision and Goals of the Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council. A continued stakeholder process is encouraged, including on-going monitoring and reporting which are foundational to implementing a plan based on the principles of adaptive management. Consequently, EPD will also need to continue to serve as a "bridge" between the State water planning process and this stakeholder process.

- Work with EPD's Agricultural Water Metering Program, as well as other partners, including but not limited to, the University of Georgia and the Georgia Department of Agriculture to improve agricultural water use data collection and management. This effort would focus on refining source(s) of supply for multiple irrigation sources, continuing to assess data on crop water requirements, evaluating the effects of farm ponds on direct irrigation withdrawals and the hydrologic cycle, and further research on crop consumptive use. This data in turn should be coordinated with Resource Assessment tools to ensure accurate simulation of any challenges and assumptions.

- Support completion, maintenance and improvement of the *Agricultural Water Use Measurement Program*, which is aimed at cost effectively collecting agricultural water use data across the State, and integrating cooperative arrangements with the private sector and partnerships with other State agencies. This program is a vital component to helping the State and regions effectively manage and utilize water resources.

- Focus funding support and permitting assistance to projects and programs aimed at addressing challenge areas. Where possible, leverage federal funds to help support and expedite project implementation.

- Consider collaborative approaches to collecting more standardized water use data and improving data on water demands. This would include continued improvement and updating databases used in the planning process. It would also involve working with the Georgia Municipal Association, Georgia Association of County Commissioners, and other relevant stakeholders to improve water use information.

- Working with Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, examine opportunities to improve coordination among water providers and users and create incentives to maximize existing infrastructure and coordinated operations.

- Track, support, and participate in South Carolina water planning efforts. Successful planning in the Coastal Region and Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Region will benefit from constructive and collaborative engagement of South Carolina on issues associated with the current and future use of the Savannah River for both water supply and wastewater assimilation. Sustainable use and management of the Savannah River is critical to the social and economic future of both Georgia and South Carolina.

- Continue to engage in dialogue and data-sharing with the States of Florida and South Carolina regarding current and forecasted groundwater use. South Georgia, North Florida, and South Carolina rely on the Floridan aquifer to meet water supply needs and it is in EPD's best interest to include the most accurate available information on growth and groundwater use in both states in the Resource Assessment modeling.

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)

- Meeting forecasted water supply needs will require stable and flexible funding sources to assist water users and water and wastewater utilities in meeting forecasted needs. A stable GEFA financing source(s) should be maintained for necessary water supply, water and wastewater plant construction, and plant upgrades to address current and future challenges.

Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC)

- Continue to support and fund the GFC Forestry Best Management Practices Program. Providing education and incentives to control erosion and sedimentation will help the region prevent/address TMDL listed segments, reduce nutrient loadings, and support wetland areas. This will have the benefit of helping sustain baseflow conditions of streams and water quality.

Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC)

GSWCC should continue to provide leadership and locally focused efforts in the following programs:

- Continue education and outreach associated with *Urban Erosion and Sediment Control* program including certification of individuals involved in land disturbing activities and on-

site implementation of erosion, sedimentation, and pollution control plans. This will help address the water quality needs of the region.

- Continue education and outreach efforts to agricultural interests to inform farmers of available technologies and funding sources to make more efficient use of water resources without incurring hardship. Support Georgia Agricultural Conservation Incentive program, which provides funding support to help implement conservation practices. Funding for this program is essential to help implement conservation measures, especially in the regional watersheds where there are surface water challenges.

Office of State Planning and Budget (OPB)

- Obtain population census data and compare to population forecasts to track trends in the accuracy of population projections
- Revise population forecasts and support ongoing state-wide planning

Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

- Identify and encourage local governments to integrate Regional Plan management practices with land use and water quality/quantity nexuses into their comprehensive planning efforts.
- Continue to promote coordinated environmental planning

Georgia Department of Agriculture (DOA)

- Provide technical information and participate in needed studies to better characterize agricultural water uses and quantification of shortages to low flow conditions.
- Assist with outreach and education of agricultural uses to obtain greater understanding of surface water resource limitations, both quality and quantity, and to help improve the implementation rate of management practices. Assist EPD and other state agencies in coordinating with the Georgia Farm Bureau to accomplish the above goals.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources [Coastal Resources Division (CRD) and Wildlife Resources Division (WRD)]

- Continue to monitor resources and help sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources.
- Provide technical and ecosystem information to help support state water planning needs.

This page intentionally left blank.

SECTION 8

Monitoring and Reporting Progress

Section 8 Monitoring and Reporting Progress

Summary

The Coastal Council has identified several benchmarks and means to measure progress toward meeting regional needs and goals. In most cases, efforts will require significant coordination between affected water resource managers, and local and state government. Successful implementation will be dependent on adequate financing, leadership and support by State agencies, and collaboration by multiple stakeholders.

New and/or changing information, particularly regarding salt water intrusion issues and Savannah River Harbor water quality, will likely influence how the recommended practices are ultimately implemented.

The selected water management practices identified in Section 6 will be primarily implemented (as described in Section 7) by the various water users in the region, including local governments and others with the capacity to develop water infrastructure and apply for the required permits, grants, and loans.

8.1 Benchmarks

The benchmarks prepared by the Coastal Council and listed in Table 8-1 will be used to assess the effectiveness of this Plan's implementation and identify any required revisions. As detailed below, the Coastal Council selected both qualitative and quantitative benchmarks that will be used to assess whether the water management practices are addressing challenges over time and allowing the water planning region to meet its Vision and Goals. Effective implementation of the Plan will require the availability of sufficient funding in the form of loans, and in some cases, possibly grants. In addition, many of the proposed management practices require ongoing coordination with affected stakeholders/water users and collaboration to help ensure successful solutions are identified and implemented. Finally, in many cases monitoring progress toward addressing future needs will require improved data and information on the current actions and management practices that are already in place. The benchmarks will be used to evaluate the Regional Water Plan's effectiveness at the next 5-year Plan review and will require collection of information in the intervening years to better quantify and document resource conditions and progress to meeting regional needs and goals. The successful implementation of the Regional Water Plan will require both leadership and supporting roles by Georgia EPD, other state agencies, local government and water and wastewater utilities, as well as individual water users.

Table 8-1 Benchmarks for Water Management Plans

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Benchmark	Measurement Tools	Time Period
Groundwater quantity and all water use throughout the region - Surface water quantity			
WC-1 and WC-2 Tier 1 through Tier 4 Measures for Municipal and Industrial Users	▪ Maintain or reduce gallons per capita consistent with Tiers 1 and 2 conservation practices ▪ Applicable Tiers 3 and 4 municipal and industrial conservation practices implemented in groundwater challenge areas	Assess regional municipal and industrial water use rate trends and practices via periodic survey	2-5 years
WC-3 through WC-12 Tier 3 and Tier 4 Measures for Agricultural Users	Reduction in agricultural surface water withdrawals while maintaining agricultural production and reduction in surface water challenges	▪ Survey of agricultural conservation practices implementation rates and trends in water use by GSWCC ▪ Assess flow conditions using water use data and Resource Assessment tools (EPD)	2-5 years
Additional/Alternate to Present Groundwater Source(s) in Challenge Areas (AAGS) The role/selection of these management practices for addressing current challenges and future forecasted needs in the challenge areas requires additional data associated with on-going implementation of the Coastal Georgia Water & Wastewater Permitting Plan (CPP) that was updated in 2015. This also highlights the continued need for collaboration with Stakeholders from both Georgia and South Carolina			
AAGS-1 through AAGS-10, I-1 Variety of alternative water supply sources evaluated as options to groundwater pumping	▪ Verify that implementable management practices have emerged from stakeholder process ▪ Determine state, local government, and affected water provider support for management practice(s) ▪ Quantity of water supply yielded by management practice determined ▪ Implementation roles for cost sharing and infrastructure constructions identified ▪ Infrastructure needs identified (Joint operating and/or funding agreement or equivalent and implementation plan developed)	▪ Summary report completed from Bi-state discussion or equivalent ▪ Implementation recommendations report completed and necessary agreement completed	1-2 years 2-5 years

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Benchmark	Measurement Tools	Time Period
Address Current and Future Surface Water Use Challenges Data Collection/Additional Research (DCAR) to confirm frequency, duration, and severity of agriculturally-driven shortages to 7Q10 low flow conditions			
DCAR-1 through DCAR-10 Various Data Collection and Additional Irrigation and Restoration Research Practices	▪ Develop Plan of Study, obtain funding and stakeholder participation as needed ▪ Completion of work plans and study implementation and documentation of results ▪ Incorporate data and findings into forecasts, Resource Assessments, and Water Plan updates	▪ Survey or self-reporting of agencies/entities involved in studies ▪ Verify inputs and revisions to water planning tools	2-4 years 5 years
Address Current and Future Surface Water Use Challenges - Additional/Alternate to Existing Surface Water Supply Sources (ASWS)			
ASWS-1 Consider Low Flow Conditions in Future Surface Water Permitting	▪ Formation of stakeholder group and consensus reached on new surface water application process in challenge areas ▪ Application process and permit conditions developed	Status report from stakeholder group; Report out on usage of process and the number of permits issued with conditions	1-2 years 2-4 years
ASWS-2 Incentives for Dry-Year Releases from Ponds	Incentives identified and operating conditions as part of ASWS-1	Document and maintain volumetric accounting of participating storage facilities	2-5 years
ASWS-3 Substitute Future Surface Water Use with Groundwater in Dry Years	▪ Information and educational materials developed in conjunction with GSWCC and Georgia DOA to communicate details and goals of improving surface water flows ▪ Methods and incentives identified to increase implementation/participation	▪ Verify information and educational outreach via survey or direct agency reporting ▪ Monitor and track surface water versus groundwater permit applications	1-3 years 1-5 years
ASWS-4 Substitute Existing Surface Water Use with Groundwater in Dry Years	▪ Develop information and educational materials in conjunction with GSWCC and Georgia DOA to communicate issue and goals of improving surface water flows ▪ Identify methods and incentives to increase implementation/participation	Identify and monitor participation and conversion rates from surface water to groundwater	1-3 years 1-5 years

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Benchmark	Measurement Tools	Time Period
ASWS-5 Opportunities and Incentives for Dry-Year Releases from Ponds	▪ Completion of feasibility study ▪ Working with potential participants' opportunities and incentives identified	▪ Identification of largest storage facilities for potential participation in challenge areas ▪ Report summarizing opportunities and implementation	1-3 years 1-5 years
ASWS-6 through ASWS-10 Various land management, disposal, and water storage/transfer measures	▪ Feasibility studies completed (for short-term studies) ▪ Feasibility studies initiated (for long-term studies/actions)	Assess need based on short-term actions and feasibility studies (see Tables 6-1 and 7-1)	5 years
Address Water Quality (Dissolved Oxygen Levels) – Point Sources (PSDO)			
PSDO-1 Collect Water Quality Data	▪ Resource Assessment assumptions reviewed and, if necessary, new data collect efforts underway/completed ▪ New findings incorporated into updated Resource Assessment data sets	▪ EPD/agency summary report complete verifying assumptions and documentation of new data ▪ Incorporation of new findings and update Resource Assessment data	1-4 years
PSDO-2 Point Discharge Relocation	▪ Outreach activities to discharges completed and feasible options have been implemented by discharges ▪ EPD to conduct outreach and facilitate improved treatment in low dissolved oxygen reaches	Improved dissolved oxygen is verified in stream reaches by monitoring or discharger reporting	1-5 years
PSDO-3 Enhance Point Source Treatment			
Obtain Additional Municipal and Industrial Water and Wastewater Permit Capacity			
MWWPC-1, IWWPC-1, MGWPC-1, IGWPC-1 Expansion of Wastewater and Groundwater Permit Capacities to Address Challenge/Needs	▪ Outreach activities completed to water providers in high growth areas ▪ Need for additional permit capacity verified and improved data for discharges obtained	Monitor permit applications and verify that improved data collection for dischargers	5 years
Addressing Current and Future Groundwater Needs			
GW-1 Develop and Practice Sustainable Groundwater Use	Sufficient permitted capacity to meet forecasted needs; through timely submittal and processing of applications	Monitor permit applications and issuance	1-5 years

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Benchmark	Measurement Tools	Time Period
GW-2 Promote Aquifer-Friendly Land Use Practices	Counties and local governments consider practices to promote infiltration and aquifer recharge	Evaluate trends in impervious land cover in areas of aquifer recharge	5 years
GW-3 Research and Analyze Sustainable Groundwater Management	Sound science used to improve data and sustainably manage groundwater resources	Groundwater Resource Assessment updated	
Addressing Current and Future Surface Water Needs			
SW-1 Surface Water Use Within Available Capacity	Sufficient permit capacity exists to meet forecasted needs through timely submittal and processing of applications	Monitor permit applications and issuance	1-5 years
SW-2 Monitor and Evaluate Estuaries	Major water resources diversion/storage projects identified; Upstream actions that would significantly impact flow conditions assessed	Monitoring data collected in estuaries and river flow trend data collected and reviewed	5 years
Programmatic Practices for Water Quality – The following management practices are associated with the Vision and Goals of the Region and are described in general terms as they are either associated with existing state and local programs or are not yet at a point where implementation frameworks have been established by the State			
▪ Ammonia and Nutrients Point Sources ▪ Nutrient Non-point sources Satilla and Savannah Watershed Models ▪ Urban/Suburban, Rural, Forestry, and Agricultural Non-point source BMPs ▪ TMDL Listed Streams BMPs	▪ Additional assessments to align sources of contaminants (point and non-point sources) to water quality impairments and land use types ▪ Continue implementation and assessment of the effectiveness of existing state programs including GFC, GSWCC, 319 Water Quality initiatives, and local efforts to improve watershed protection and water quality improvements ▪ Background/natural levels of potential sources established	▪ Review and assessment of program and information ▪ Complete summaries of watershed conditions using Resource Assessment tools, improved data collection, and synthesis of state program data	1-5 years

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Benchmark	Measurement Tools	Time Period
Management Practices to Support Educational Needs			
Support education programs for: ▪ Water Conservation ▪ Stormwater Management ▪ Septic System Maintenance ▪ Logger Education ▪ Forestry BMPs	▪ Data used to identify where future program efforts will be most effective ▪ Funding for programs maintained or improved	Survey and summarize program effectiveness and success stories	1-5 years
Management Practices to Address Ordinance and Code Policy Needs			
▪ Encourage implementation and/or compliance with Stormwater ordinances and/or regulations ▪ Encourage improved conformance with *Environmental Planning Criteria* developed pursuant to Part V of the Georgia Planning Act ▪ Encourage local government to improved conformance with erosion and sediment control measures	▪ Select local governments surveyed to identify current knowledge base and recommended areas of improvement ▪ Improved education at state and local government conferences and workshops ▪ Enhanced awareness in Comprehensive Planning by local governments across region	Select follow-up survey of local governments to identify changes and success stories	1-5 years
Shared Resources			
Groundwater quality/quantity – Support Bi-state stakeholder process for salt water intrusion	▪ Implementable solutions identified ▪ Venue and implementation process/plan established and nexus to state planning completed	▪ Assess progress and summarize implementation recommendations from Bi-state stakeholders ▪ Develop implementation options	1 year 2-5 years
Combined management practice for surface water challenges Coastal Georgia, Altamaha, Savannah-Upper Ogeechee, Upper Oconee Water Planning Regions	Regional Council-specific management practices implemented	Evaluate project improvement of surface water flows using gauge data and Resource Assessment tools	1-5 years

Management Practice No. (See Table 6-1)	Benchmark	Measurement Tools	Time Period
Support on-going stakeholder process associated with implementation of the Savannah Harbor 5R plan approved by EPA in 2016	▪ Waste load allocation process developed for applicable dischargers ▪ Pollution control strategies developed	Summary of implementation recommendations and timelines for water quality improvements	1-5 years
Ongoing Planning coordination with South Carolina and Florida	▪ Outreach and coordination with states completed and water planning data collected ▪ Review Resource Assessment tools and make modification if warranted	▪ Report summarizing planning data ▪ Information needs and issues documentation	1-5 years 5 years

8.2 Plan Updates

Meeting current and future water needs will require periodic review and revision of Regional Water Plans. The State Water Plan and associated rules provide that each Regional Water Plan will be subject to review by the appropriate Regional Water Planning Council every 5 years and in accordance with this guidance provided by the Director, unless otherwise required by the Director for earlier review. These reviews and updates will allow an opportunity to adapt the Regional Water Plan based on changed circumstances and new information arising in the 5 years after EPD's adoption of these Plans. These benchmarks will guide EPD in the review of the Regional Water Plan.

The Regional Water Planning Councils appointed to prepare future Plan updates will have the opportunity to review the recommendations of past Plans against current available data to make a determination as to which management practices are still appropriate and which ones need to be revised or augmented to meet changing conditions. Future Councils will also have the ability to review the effectiveness of practices recommended in previous Plans against available benchmark data. This analysis will reveal which practices are effective and what adjustments are necessary to compensate for less effective practices.

8.3 Plan Amendments

The Coastal Council emphasizes that the recommendations in this Regional Water Plan are based on the best information available at the time the Plan was written. New information and issues that may impact the recommendations should be considered and incorporated into relevant implementation decisions and future Water Plan updates. Future planning efforts should confirm current assumptions and make necessary revisions and/or improvements to the conclusions reached during this phase of planning.

SECTION 9

Bibliography

Section 9 Bibliography

CDM. Water Supply Cost Estimation Study. Document prepared for the South Florida Water Management District. February 2007.

CDM. Groundwater Flow Modeling of the Coastal Plain Aquifer System of Georgia. Draft Report completed for EPD as part of State of Georgia Groundwater Resources Assessment. 2010.

CDM Smith. Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Forecasting Technical Memorandum. December 2022.

Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, Red Zone Water Supply Management Plan. January 2018 https://www.gardencity-ga.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/2273/636552698422770000

Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia, June 9, 2010. The Regional Plan of Coastal Georgia. June 9, 2010. www.crc.ga.gov/planning/Pages/planning_regional.aspx

Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center, Coastal Georgia Comprehensive Plan Agenda. November 12, 2008. www.crc.ga.gov/planning/Pages/planning_regional.aspx

Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia website. Retrieved August 3, 2010. www.crc.ga.gov/

Coastal Regional Commission's Coastal Georgia Economic Development website. Retrieved on July 20, 2010, www.thegeorgiacoast.crc.ga.gov/index.html

Cowie, G. and Davis, D. Georgia's State Water Plan. Retrieved on March 2, 2009. www.robinson.gsu.edu/ethics_pub/2009/cowie.pdf

Fisheries Economics of the United States. U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Fisheries, Silver Spring, Maryland. 2014

Georgia Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Plan. Georgia Water Council. January 8, 2008.

Georgia Department of Community Affairs Georgia County Snapshots website. Retrieved on July 21, 2010. www.dca.state.ga.us/CountySnapshotsNet/default.aspx

Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Regional Planning Rules "Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning." Chapter 110-12-6, et seq. www.dca.ga.gov/development/PlanningQualityGrowth/PAGES/Legal.asp#RegionalRules

Georgia Department of Corrections website Facility Search. Retrieved on July 21, 2010. www.dcor.state.ga.us/GDC/FacilityMap/jsp/FacQrybyCounty.jsp

Georgia Department of Economic Development. GeorgiaFacts website. Retrieved on July 21, 2010. www.georgiafacts.net

Georgia Department of Labor. LaborMarket Explorer and Local Area Profiles. Retrieved on July 21, 2010. www.explorer.dol.state.ga.us/mis/profiles.htm

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Assimilative Capacity Resource Assessment Scenario Report. Draft Report completed in cooperation with Tetra Tech. March 2011.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Development of Basin Environmental Assessment Models (BEAMs) for Georgia Surface Water Basins. May 2023b.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Dissolved Oxygen Assimilative Capacity Resource Assessment Report. 2023a.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Subcategory 5R Documentation for Point Source Dissolved Oxygen Impaired Water in the Savannah River Basin, Georgia and South Carolina. Final Savannah Harbor Restoration Plan (dated November 10, 2015). http://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/SavannahHarbor5R_Restoration_Plan_11_10_2015.pdf

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Synopsis Report Groundwater Availability Assessment. Report completed in cooperation with CDM. March 2010.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Synopsis Report Groundwater Availability Assessment Updates. Report completed in cooperation with CDM Smith. May 2017.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Synopsis Report Surface Water Availability Resource Assessment. Report completed in cooperation with ARCADIS. May 2017.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Synopsis Report Water Quality (Assimilative Capacity) Resource Assessment. Report completed in cooperation with TetraTech. May 2017.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Supplemental Guidance for Regional Planning Contractors: Water Management Practice Cost Comparison. March 2010 (Revised March 2011).

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Groundwater Flow Modeling of the Coastal Plain Aquifer System of Georgia. Draft Report completed by CDM for EPD as part of State of Georgia Groundwater Resources Assessment. December 2009.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. The State of Georgia's Environment, 2009.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Georgia's State Water Plan. Regional Water Planning Guidance. July 2009.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Georgia's Water Resources. A Blueprint for the Future. Draft Submission to the Water Council. June 28, 2007.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Permitting Plan for Managing Salt Water Intrusion. Updated June 2015.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Protection Division. Draft August 2003. Altamaha River Basin Management Plan 2003.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Wildlife Resources Division. A Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for Georgia. August 31, 2005.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Wildlife Resources Division. Fisheries Section Annual Report. 2006.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Wildlife Resources Division. State Wildlife Action Plan. Revised 2015. http://www.georgiawildlife.com/conservation/wildlife-action-plan

Georgia Forestry Commission, Water Quality Program. Georgia's Best Management Practices for Forestry. May 2009.
http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/resources/publications/BMPManualGA0609.pdf

Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. Population Projections 2019 Series. October 2019.

Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. Population Projections 2020 Series. 2020.

The Nature Conservancy. "The Altamaha River." 2007. https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML0707/ML070780677.pdf

North Carolina State University Department of Forestry. Costs of Forestry Best Management Practices in the South: A Review. Presentation from Forestry Best Management Practices Research Symposium, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2002.

Southeast Regional Climate Center. Climate summaries obtained for the following stations: Brooklet (ID 091266), Savannah Airport (ID 097847), Brunswick Airport (ID 091345), Fort Stewart (ID 093538), and Sapelo Island (ID 097808).

St. Johns River Water Management District. Water Supply Needs and Sources Assessment Alternative Water Supply Strategies Investigation, Water Supply and Wastewater Systems Component Cost Information.1997.

Sussex Conservation District. FY 2004 Sussex Conservation District Cover Crop Program Fact Sheet. Georgetown, Delaware. 2003.

The New Georgia Encyclopedia, Land Resources. www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-2123

Thomas, D.L. (ed.), Evans, R.O., Harrison, K.A., Hook, J.E., Privette, C.V., Segars, W.I., Smith, W.B., Tyson, A.W. 1998. Irrigation Conservation Practices

Appropriate for the Southeastern United States. Georgia Geologic Survey Project Report 32. Prepared in cooperation with Georgia DNR, EPD under Proposal No. ES61135FC1. Retrieved on November 20, 2010. www.nespal.org/SIRP/IWC/Report/conserv.rpt980728.pdf

University of Georgia, River Basin Center. Comprehensive Manual – Wastewater Management in Coastal Georgia. January 2017. https://researchweb8.wpengine.com/rivercenter/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2015/08/WEB_wastewater_mgmt_in_coastal_ga_jan2017.pdf

University System of Georgia, Map of USG Institutions. Retrieved on July 21, 2010. www.usg.edu/inst/map/

U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Costs of Urban Stormwater Control Practices – Preliminary Report. February 5, 2006.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Costs of Urban Stormwater Control. January 2002.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Water Use in Georgia by County for 2015 and Water-Use Trends 1985-2015. Open file report 2019-1086. https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20191086

APPENDIX A

Appendix A Summary of Edits and Updates 2022-2023 Review and Revisions

Section	Location	Change	Description
1	Section 1	Minor text updates	▪ The text was updated to reflect recent population trends and other minor wordsmithing throughout Section 1.
1	Figure 1-1	Updated	▪ Replaced original graphic with one that provides better clarity on Region and County boundaries.
1	Figure 1-2	Updated	▪ Replaced with more recent graphic on the water planning process.
1	Section 1.3.4 Goals	Updated	▪ Replaced written text with Figure 1-4 that outlines the Council's goals
2	Section 2.1.1	Minor text updates	▪ Updated fishing information ▪ Added text regarding biological resources
2	Section 2.2	Minor text updates	▪ Updated population values and irrigated acre information.
3	Section 3.1	Minor text updates	▪ Text on population and water use updated
3	Figures 3-1 to 3-4	Updated	▪ Updated with USGS 2015 data
3	Section 3.2	Minor text updates	▪ Updated word usage
3	Table 3-1	Updated	▪ Updated with current information
3	Figure 3-6	Updated	▪ Updated with current information
3	Section 3.2.2	Updated	▪ Updated with current information
3	Section 3.2.3	Updated	▪ Updated with current information
3	Section 3.3	Updated	▪ Updated with current information
4	Section 4	Minor text updates	▪ The text was updated for 2022.
4	Table 4-1	Updated	▪ Population projections were updated based on the most recent statewide population projections (Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2019).
4	Section 4.1 - Municipal Water Forecasts Section	Text additions	▪ Text was added to describe updated methodology utilized during the Plan update. ▪ Text added to describe Council modification of Municipal Water Demand Forecast
4	Table 4-2	New Table	▪ New table added with OPB 2020 population projections
4	Figure 4-1	Updated	▪ This figure was updated to reflect the revised municipal water forecasts. ▪ Text added

Section	Location	Change	Description
4	Section 4.1 - Municipal Wastewater Forecasts Section	Text revisions/updates	▪ The text was updated for the most recent information available.
4	Figure 4-2	Updated	▪ This figure was updated to reflect the revised municipal wastewater forecasts.
4	Section 4.2 - Advisory Group Review Process (Previously Employment Projections Section)	Updated	▪ The text was updated to reflect revised methodology
4	Section 4.2 - Industrial Water Forecasts Section	Updated	▪ The text was updated to reflect revised methodology
4	Table 4-2	Removed	▪ This table was removed to reflect the revised methodology.
4	Figure 4-3	Updated	▪ This figure was updated to include 2020 data.
4	Section 4.2 - Industrial Wastewater Forecasts Section	Updated	▪ The text was updated to reflect revised methodology
4	Section 4.3	Text Updates	▪ The text was updated to reflect the updated methodology for forecasting agricultural demands that were updated in 2020. ▪ The text was updated based on the most recent data.
4	Table 4-3	Updated	▪ This table was updated with the revised agricultural forecasts. ▪ Values quoted in surrounding text was also updated based on current information.
4	Figure 4-4	Updated	▪ This figure was updated to reflect the revised agricultural water use forecasts.
4	Section 4.4	Text revisions/updates	▪ The text was updated to reflect the updated energy forecast that was completed in 2020 and updates to the methodology.
4	Table 4-4	Updated	▪ The table was updated with the revised thermoelectric water forecasts.
4	Section 4.5	Minor text revisions/updates	▪ The text was updated based on the most recent data.
4	Figure 4-5	Updated	▪ This figure was updated with the revised water demand totals per sector.
4	Figure 4-6	Updated	▪ This figure was updated with the revised total wastewater flows.
5	Section 5.1	Minor text revisions/updates	▪ Updated word usage ▪ Updated text

Section	Location	Change	Description
5	Figure 5-1	Updated	▪ This figure was updated to reflect the revised forecast for Red Zone.
5	Figure 5-2	Updated	▪ This figure was updated to reflect the revised forecast for Yellow Zone.
5	Table 5-1	Updated	▪ This table was updated with the revised data.
5	Section 5.2	Updated	▪ Updated with results of analysis.
5	Figure 5-3	Updated	▪ This figure was updated to reflect the revised analysis.
5	Table 5-2	Updated	▪ This table was updated to reflect the revised analysis.
5	Section 5.3	Updated	▪ Updated with results of analysis.
5	Table 5-3	Updated	▪ This table was updated to reflect the revised analysis.
5	Table 5-4	Updated	▪ This table was updated to reflect the revised analysis.
5	Figure 5-4	Updated	▪ This figure was updated to reflect the revised analysis.
5	Figure 5-5	Updated	▪ This figure was updated to reflect the revised analysis.
5	Section 5.4	Updated	▪ Updated with results of analysis.
5	Table 5-5	Updated	▪ This table was updated to reflect the revised analysis.
6	Section 6.1	Minor text revisions	▪ Updated word usage
6	Section 6.2	Minor text revisions	▪ Updated word usage
6	Table 6-1	Minor text revisions	▪ Updated word usage ▪ Minor text revisions
6	Figure 6-1	Minor text revisions	▪ Minor text revisions
6	Figure 6-2	Minor text revisions	▪ Minor text revisions
7	Section 7.1	Minor text revisions	▪ Minor text revisions
7	Table 7-1	Minor text revisions	▪ Updated word usage ▪ Minor text revisions
7	Section 7.2	Minor text revisions	▪ Minor text revisions
7	Section 7.2.1	Updated	▪ Noted that planning level cost estimates are out-of-date, deleted, and will be updated in future plan updates.
7	Section 7.3	Minor text revisions	▪ Updated word usage

Section	Location	Change	Description
7	Section 7.4	Minor text revisions	▪ Updated word usage
8	Section 8.1	Minor text revisions	▪ Updated word usage
8	Table 8-1	Minor text revisions	▪ Updated word usage
9	Section 9	Updated	▪ Updated references in Bibliography