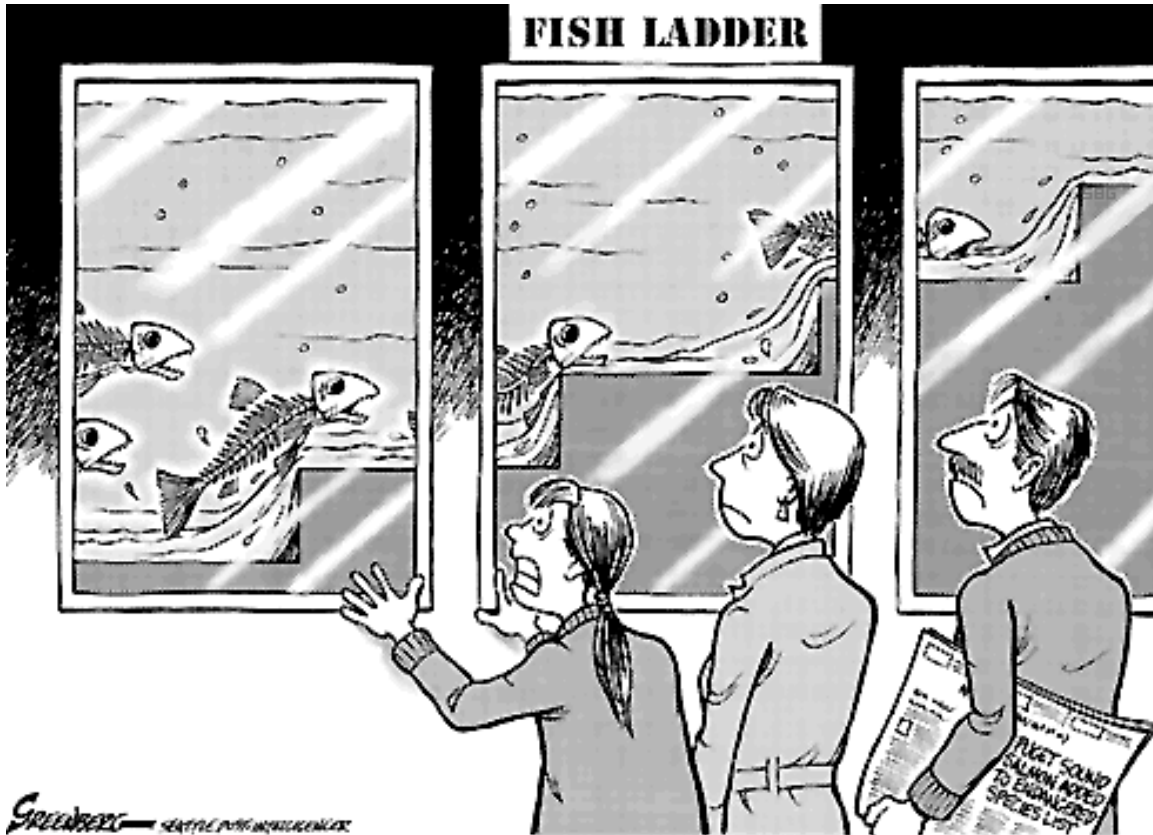


## What the HELL is a TMDL? (And why should I care?)



**To comply with the Clean Water Act**, the mainstem Klamath River TMDL sets pollution limits for temperature, nutrients and toxic algae, requires more dissolved oxygen in the water, and creates a cleanup plan. The cleanup plan identifies polluters and allocates pollution limits to each polluter.

Strong water quality standards in the mainstem Klamath River TMDL can lead to a fishable, swimmable river again.

## Speak Up For A Fishable, Swimmable Klamath River

While the TMDL draft is a technical document, it should be steered by the people who stand to gain the most from clean water or lose the most from pollution--that's us, and only we can tell the water board how we use the river, what water quality is like where we live, and what our vision for a clean, healthy Klamath River looks like.

If you can, please attend a public hearing at 6 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 8 in Orleans** or **Thursday, July 9 in Klamath** to tell the water board your story and speak up for a cleaner, colder Klamath River. Bring your friends, your family and your neighbors.

### Here's what to support:

- **Aggressive nutrient and temperature pollution reduction requirements and minimum dissolved oxygen levels** grounded in fish health needs and backed by **an enforceable action plan and implementation schedule**. Our cultures, our fish, and our commercial fishing industry can't wait!
- **Zero tolerance on toxic algae pollution**--the bad news about microcystis areuginosa and its toxic releases of microcystin just keeps piling up. Microcystin is a known liver poison and tumor promoter that bio-accumulates in people, pets, fish and mussels exposed to Klamath River water. This year the water board determined that the science supports listing the river from Iron Gate dam to Weitchpec for toxic algae pollution. And now new research suggests there may be a link between microcystin and Lou Gherigg's disease, a nervous system disorder.
- **Thermal refugia buffer zones to protect streams used by cold-water fish**--the Karuk and Yurok Tribes, as well as NGOs such as the Mid Klamath Watershed Council and Salmon River Restoration Council have conducted studies showing the value of cold-water refuge for salmonids, and have documented that mainstem habitat may be as important as the icy tributaries to the Klamath.
- **Restrictions on suction dredge mining** to protect water quality and meet TMDL water quality objectives.

### Here's what to ask for:

- More explicit **planning for the likely event of dam removal** on the mainstem Klamath River and stricter pollution load limits in the mean time to comply with the Clean Water Act statement that citizens are entitled to fishable, swimmable water bodies.

- A written way of **holding polluters accountable** for discharges and mitigation measures. Polluters cannot (and should not) be expected to regulate themselves.
- Strong, frequent and fully funded **monitoring requirements**.
- A statement that **TMDL compliance will be required in writing in all issued water quality permits**.
- **Stricter limits on livestock management, and especially grazing**. Cows should be kept out of the Klamath, and the water board should impose tougher regulations on livestock management. These regulations should reduce impacts to water quality from cow feed, fecal matter, erosion caused by grazing and loss of riparian vegetation due to grazing.
- A requirement that the **Lost River discharges into the mainstem Klamath River, especially at Straits Drain, will be required to comply with the mainstem TMDL**. Nothing in the Klamath settlement should exempt water users from complying with federal and state water quality standards.
- **Expansion and restoration of Lower Klamath Lake wetlands** looked at and employed specifically as a tool in the implementation plan to filter out pollutants and meet water quality objectives in the TMDL.