

sources are typically associated with discharges from outfalls and/or agricultural drains.

The second approach was to estimate the total pollutant emission from each basin by calculating the load contained in water exiting the basin at its downstream end based on in-stream flows and water quality data. The loads calculated using the two approaches are not directly comparable because some of the pollutants discharged to waterways in a basin may be stored in sediments, reservoirs and biota, or transformed into other substances as a consequence of chemical reactions and biological activity. However, they do provide a means to check for order-of-magnitude reasonableness.

or derived from the waterway e.g. precipitation for agric etc

municipal and industrial wastewater discharges are less affected by weather. The same may be true for waste loads in agricultural subsurface drainage, which probably depend more on irrigation rates than precipitation.

subsurface is still greatly affected by precipitation.

Because the data available to characterize contaminant loads isare limited, it was they were not separately compiled for different meteorological conditions. Ideally, loads should be separately estimated for wet, normal, dry, and very dry years. Instead, data from different years, representing different meteorological conditions, were compiled to produce a single annual load estimate. that may approximate "typical" conditions. Thus, they are not truly representative of actual conditions.

perhaps true, but it's stated it's yearly diminishing year by year. estimate order of magnitude

Limitations

Because of the many assumptions and simplifications involved in the load estimates, the results need to are only order-of-magnitudes estimates and they should be used with caution. Moreover, informational gaps precluded making estimates for all sources, including many that are considered to be major. The more important assumptions and simplifications are noted below.

Seasonality of loadings

Most contaminant emissions vary seasonally. The initial load estimates contained in this report were made on an annual basis. If the available data allows, later refinements may be made to the load estimates to account for seasonality. In cases where pollutant effects are seasonal, seasonal loads may be a more appropriate indicator than annual loads.

such an order of magnitude estimate is not particularly meaningful

Year-to-year variations

Most contaminant sources are affected by meteorological conditions. For example, the total annual contaminant loads from agricultural and urban runoff depend on the volume of runoff, which can vary widely from year-to-year. Similarly, annual mine drainage loads are similarly weather-dependent. Waste loads associated with

Background loads

The load estimates do not attempt to account for background loads. Many substances regarded as contaminants occur at low concentrations in waters not influenced by human activities. This is the case for metals and trace elements, salts, naturally-occurring organic substances and plant nutrients. This does not apply to synthetic organics, including pesticides.