

## MISSOURI RIVER BASIN TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD

**Water Body: Atchison County State Fishing Lake**  
**Water Quality Impairment: Eutrophication**  
**Bundled with Dissolved Oxygen and Aquatic Plants**

**Subbasin:** Independence-Sugar      **County:** Atchison  
**HUC 8:** 10240011      **HUC 11 (HUC 14):** 010 (050)  
**Drainage Area:** Approximately 3.3 square miles.  
**Conservation Pool:** Area = 75.5 acres, Maximum Depth = 10 meters  
**Designated Uses:** Secondary Contact Recreation; Expected Aquatic Life Support; Food Procurement  
**1998 303d Listing:** Table 4 - Water Quality Limited Lakes  
**Impaired Use:** All uses are impaired to a degree by eutrophication

**Water Quality Standard: Nutrients - Narrative:** The introduction of plant nutrients into streams, lakes, or wetlands from artificial sources shall be controlled to prevent the accelerated succession or replacement of aquatic biota or the production of undesirable quantities or kinds of aquatic life. (KAR 28-16-28e(c)(2)(B)).

The introduction of plant nutrients into surface waters designated for primary or secondary contact recreational use shall be controlled to prevent the development of objectionable concentrations of algae or algal by-products or nuisance growths of submersed, floating, or emergent aquatic vegetation. (KAR 28-16-28e(c)(7)(A)).

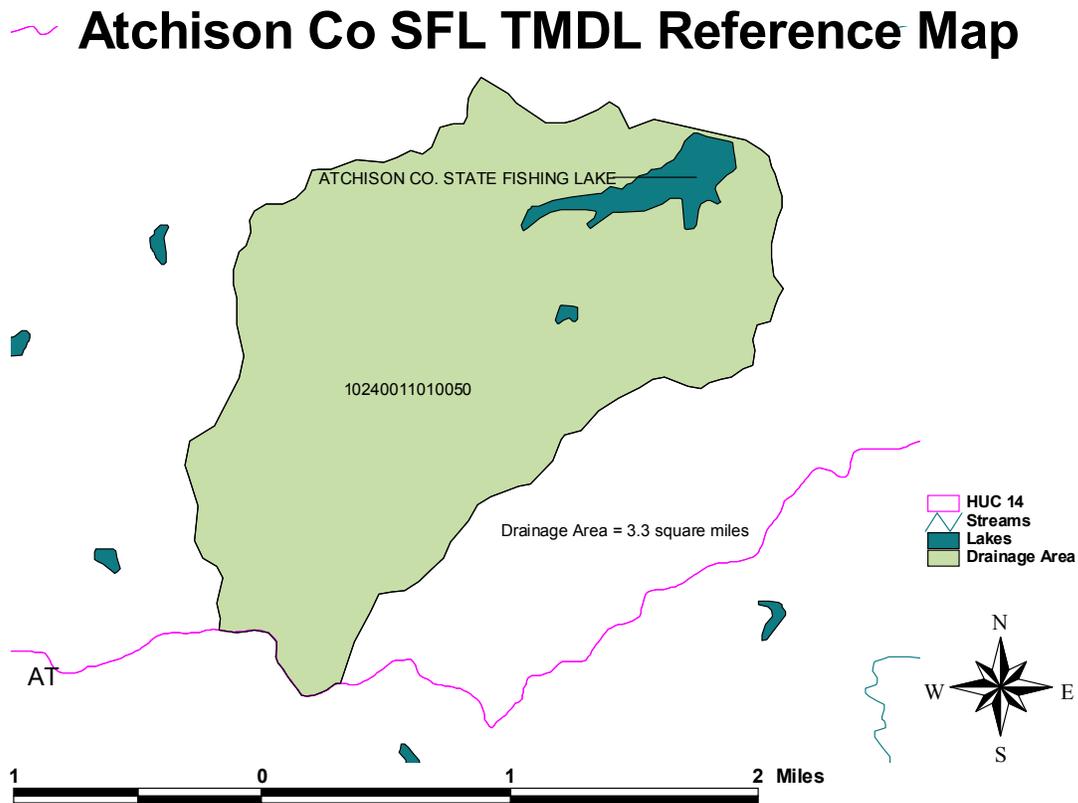
Dissolved Oxygen: 5 mg/L (KAR 28-16-28e(c)(2)(A))

## 2. CURRENT WATER QUALITY CONDITION AND DESIRED ENDPOINT

**Level of Eutrophication:** Hypereutrophic, Trophic State Index = 67.70 (1987 Survey)  
Fully Eutrophic, Trophic State Index = 56.25 (1997 Survey)

**Monitoring Sites:** Station 012601 in Atchison County SFL. (Figure 1)

Figure 1



**Period of Record Used:** Two surveys from 1987 to 1997.

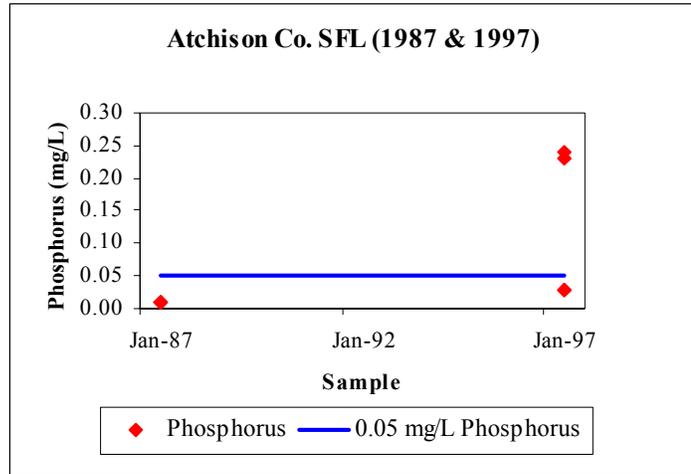
**Current Condition:**

At the time of the 1987 survey, Atchison County SFL had elevated chlorophyll a concentrations averaging 44.1 ppb. This relates to a Trophic State Index of 67.70, indicating hypereutrophic conditions. The 1997 survey reflects a different condition; the chlorophyll a concentration averaged 13.7 ppb which is below the desired endpoint of 20 ppb for the Secondary Contact Recreation designated use.

The Trophic State Index is derived from the chlorophyll a concentration. Trophic state assessments of potential algal productivity were made based on chlorophyll a concentrations, nutrient levels and values of the Carlson Trophic State Index (TSI). Generally, some degree of eutrophic conditions is seen with chlorophyll a concentrations over 7 ug/l and hypereutrophy occurs at levels over 30 ug/L. The Carlson TSI, derives from the chlorophyll concentrations and scales the trophic state as follows:

**Figure 2**

- 1. Oligotrophic TSI < 40
- 2. Mesotrophic TSI: 40 - 49.99
- 3. Slightly Eutrophic TSI: 50 - 54.99
- 4. Fully Eutrophic TSI: 55 - 59.99
- 5. Very Eutrophic TSI: 60 - 63.99
- 6. Hypereutrophic TSI: ≥ 64



Total phosphorus, ammonia, nitrate, and nitrite were not detected in the 1987 survey. Based on the high chlorophyll a concentrations that year, this data is suspect. In 1997, the total phosphorus concentrations are high, averaging 132.5 ppb (Figure 2). The samples taken at the

surface were below 50 ppb; the total phosphorus samples taken at the bottom of the lake were elevated. The chlorophyll a to total phosphorus yield is low because of the abundance of aquatic plants in the lake. The total nitrogen to total phosphorus ratio is 12.9, indicating that phosphorus is the limiting factor.

Eighty percent of Atchison County SFL is covered with aquatic plants. Nuisance growth of aquatic plants (for recreation use) is defined as greater than 70% cover. According to the 1997 survey, the macrophyte community (submersed and floating-leaved aquatic plants) consists of the following:

% Species Cover	Scientific Name	Common Name
80%	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Coontail
40%	<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>	Pondweed
70%	<i>Potamogeton foliosus</i>	Pondweed
40%	<i>Najas guadalupensis</i>	Water Naiad
20%	<i>Potamogeton sp.</i>	Pondweed

(Due to the overlap in species cover, the percent of community composition does not equal 100%). Although the aquatic plant cover does interfere with the secondary contact recreation use, the aquatic plants benefit the lake. If the aquatic plants were removed, then the algae would become more of a nuisance.

Station Number	Date	Depth (feet)	Dissolved Oxygen
12601	8/3/87	0.00	8.90
12601	8/3/87	1.64	8.90
12601	8/3/87	3.28	9.20
12601	8/3/87	6.56	8.40
12601	8/3/87	9.84	<b>1.60</b>
12601	8/3/87	13.12	<b>0.80</b>
12601	8/3/87	16.40	<b>0.60</b>
12601	8/3/87	19.68	<b>0.60</b>
12601	8/3/87	22.96	<b>0.60</b>
12601	7/9/97	0.00	9.40
12601	7/9/97	1.64	9.70
12601	7/9/97	3.28	9.70
12601	7/9/97	6.56	9.20
12601	7/9/97	9.84	<b>3.60</b>
12601	7/9/97	13.12	<b>0.00</b>
12601	7/9/97	16.40	<b>0.00</b>
12601	7/9/97	19.68	<b>0.00</b>
12601	7/9/97	22.96	<b>0.00</b>
12601	7/9/97	26.24	<b>0.00</b>
12601	7/9/97	29.52	<b>0.00</b>
12601	7/9/97	32.80	<b>0.00</b>

Decomposition of plant material has lowered the dissolved oxygen concentrations in the lake. The dissolved oxygen concentrations decreased with increased depth. (See above table). At the surface, the average concentration was 9.2 mg/L, a sufficient amount of dissolved oxygen for aquatic life support. However, towards the middle of the lake, the concentration approaches zero mg/L.

**Interim Endpoints of Water Quality (Implied Load Capacity) at Atchison County SFL over 2005 - 2009:**

The desired endpoint will be summer chlorophyll a concentrations at or below 20 ug/l, corresponding to a trophic state of eutrophic conditions by 2009. Reducing the phosphorus load will keep the aquatic plant community from reaching nuisance levels (>70% aquatic plant cover) while still keeping the algal population in check. The reduction in the number of aquatic plants should result in sufficient dissolved oxygen concentrations for aquatic life (> 5 mg/L) and a healthy aquatic plant community (30 - 40% cover of aquatic plants). Refined endpoints will be developed in 2005 to reflect additional sampling and artificial source assessment and confirmation of impaired status of the lake.

**3. SOURCE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT**

**Land Use:** The watershed around Atchison County SFL has a moderate potential for nonpoint source pollutants. An annual phosphorus load of 9,367.4 pounds per year is necessary to correspond to the concentrations seen in the lake.

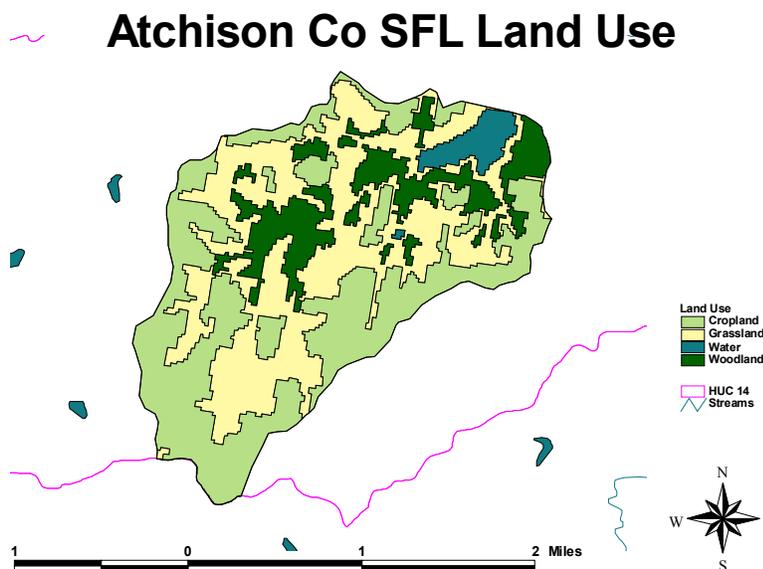
The primary source of phosphorus within Atchison County SFL is probably runoff from agricultural lands where phosphorus has been applied. Land use coverage analysis indicates that 41.0% of the watershed is cropland (Figure 3). In 1999, 16,916 tons of fertilizer were sold in Atchison County. Since the watershed takes up approximately 0.78% of Atchison County, 132 tons of fertilizer were bought and potentially used with the watershed.

**Figure 3**

Phosphorus from animal waste is a secondary contributing factor. Forty-one percent of land around the lake is grassland; the grazing density of livestock is moderate.

**Background Levels:**

Fifteen percent of land in the watershed is woodland; leaf litter may be contributing to the nutrient loading. The nutrient recycling, atmospheric deposition, and geological formations (i.e., soil and bedrock) may contribute to phosphorus loads.



**4. ALLOCATION OF POLLUTANT REDUCTION RESPONSIBILITY**

Phosphorus is the limiting nutrient in Atchison County SFL and allocated under this TMDL. The general inventory of sources within the drainage does provide guidance as to areas of load reduction.

**Point Sources:** A current Wasteload Allocation of zero is established by this TMDL because of the lack of point sources in the watershed. Should future point sources be proposed in the watershed and discharge into the impaired segments, the current Wasteload allocation will be revised by adjusting current load allocations to account for the presence and impact of these new point source dischargers.

**Nonpoint Sources:** Water quality violations are predominantly due to nonpoint source pollutants. Background levels may be attributed to nutrient recycling and leaf litter. The assessment suggests that cropland and animal waste contribute to the elevated total phosphorus concentrations in the lake. Generally a Load Allocation of 2,828.8 pounds of total phosphorus per year, leading to a 66.4% reduction, is necessary to reach the endpoint.

**Defined Margin of Safety:** The margin of safety provides some hedge against the uncertainty of variable annual total phosphorus loads and the chlorophyll a, dissolved oxygen, and aquatic plant endpoints. Therefore, the margin of safety will be 314.3 pounds of total phosphorus per year taken from the load capacity subtracted to compensate for the lack of knowledge about the relationship between the allocated loadings and the resulting water quality.

**State Water Plan Implementation Priority:** Because more data is needed to determine the trophic state of the lake, the Atchison County SFL TMDL will be a Low Priority for implementation.

**Unified Watershed Assessment Priority Ranking:** This watershed lies within the Independence-Sugar (HUC 8: 10240011) with a priority ranking of 25 (Medium Priority for restoration).

**Priority HUC 11s:** The watershed is within HUC 11 (010).

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION

### Desired Implementation Activities

There is a good potential for reducing pollutant loads to this lake through the use of best management practices. Some of the recommended agricultural practices are as follows:

1. Implement soil sampling to recommend appropriate fertilizer applications on cropland.
2. Maintain conservation tillage and contour farming to minimize cropland erosion.
3. Install grass buffer strips along streams.
4. Reduce activities within riparian areas.
5. Implement nutrient management plans to manage manure application to land.

### Implementation Programs Guidance

Until the 2006 assessment of the continuation of monitoring is made, no direction can be made to those implementation programs.

**Time Frame for Implementation:** Continued monitoring over the years from 2001 to 2005.

**Targeted Participants:** Primary participants for implementation will be agricultural producers within the drainage of the lake. A detailed assessment of sources will be conducted by KDHE over 2002-2005.

**Milestone for 2006:** The year 2006 marks the midpoint of the ten-year implementation window for the watershed. At that point in time, sampled data from Atchison County SFL will be reexamined to confirm the impaired status of the lake. Should the case of impairment remain, source assessment, allocation and implementation activities will ensue.

**Delivery Agents:** Depending upon confirmation of impairment and assessment of probable sources, the primary delivery agents for program participation will be the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

**Reasonable Assurances:**

**Authorities:** The following authorities may be used to direct activities in the watershed to reduce pollutants.

1. K.S.A. 65-171d empowers the Secretary of KDHE to prevent water pollution and to protect the beneficial uses of the waters of the state through required treatment of sewage and established water quality standards and to require permits by persons having a potential to discharge pollutants into the waters of the state.
2. K.S.A. 2-1915 empowers the State Conservation Commission to develop programs to assist the protection, conservation and management of soil and water resources in the state, including riparian areas.
3. K.S.A. 75-5657 empowers the State Conservation Commission to provide financial assistance for local project work plans developed to control nonpoint source pollution.
4. K.S.A. 82a-901, et seq. empowers the Kansas Water Office to develop a state water plan directing the protection and maintenance of surface water quality for the waters of the state.
5. K.S.A. 82a-951 creates the State Water Plan Fund to finance the implementation of the *Kansas Water Plan*.
6. The *Kansas Water Plan* and the Missouri Basin Plan provide the guidance to state agencies to coordinate programs intent on protecting water quality and to target those programs to geographic areas of the state for high priority in implementation.

**Funding:** The State Water Plan Fund annually generates \$16-18 million and is the primary funding mechanism for implementing water quality protection and pollutant reduction activities in the state through the *Kansas Water Plan*. The state water planning process, overseen by the Kansas Water Office, coordinates and directs programs and funding toward watersheds and water resources of highest priority. Typically, the state allocates at least 50% of the fund to programs supporting water quality protection. This watershed and its TMDL are a Low Priority consideration and should not receive funding until after 2006.

**Effectiveness:** Effectiveness of corrective actions will depend upon the sources which contribute to the impairment at the lake.

## 6. MONITORING

Further sampling and evaluation should occur once before 2005. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is planning to survey the lake in 2001.

## 7. FEEDBACK

**Public Meeting:** A public meeting to discuss TMDLs in the Missouri Basin was held February 28, 2001 in Atchison. An active Internet Web site was established at <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/tmdl/> to convey information to the public on the general establishment of TMDLs and specific TMDLs for the Missouri Basin.

**Public Hearing:** A Public Hearing on the TMDLs of the Missouri Basin was held in Hiawatha on May 29, 2001.

**Basin Advisory Committee:** The Missouri Basin Advisory Committee met to discuss the TMDLs in the basin on October 4, 2000, February 28 and May 29, 2001.

**Milestone Evaluation:** In 2006, evaluation will be made as to the degree of impairment which has occurred within the drainage and current condition of Atchison County SFL. Subsequent decisions will be made regarding implementation approach and follow up of additional implementation.

**Consideration for 303d Delisting:** The lake will be evaluated for delisting under Section 303(d), based on the monitoring data over the period 2005-2009. Therefore, the decision for delisting will come about in the preparation of the 2010 303(d) list. Should modifications be made to the applicable water quality criteria during the ten-year implementation period, consideration for delisting, desired endpoints of this TMDL and implementation activities may be adjusted accordingly.

**Incorporation into Continuing Planning Process, Water Quality Management Plan and the Kansas Water Planning Process:** Under the current version of the Continuing Planning Process, the next anticipated revision will come in 2002 which will emphasize revision of the Water Quality Management Plan. At that time, incorporation of this TMDL will be made into both documents. Recommendations of this TMDL will be considered in *Kansas Water Plan* implementation decisions under the State Water Planning Process for Fiscal Years 2002-2006.

## **Bibliography**

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