

Specifically, EPA has determined that new and revised human health criteria (HHC) are needed to protect against adverse human health effects related to pollutants in Florida's surface waters. As explained further below, this Determination is based on information indicating that Florida's current HHC do not protect the State's designated uses and that additional HHC are needed for certain priority toxic pollutants for which Florida currently lacks any HHC.

20. The Administrator's Determination concludes:

Florida's existing HHC for 40 priority toxic pollutants do not reflect the latest scientific knowledge, including a FCR [Fish Consumption Rate] that is representative of the fish consumption patterns of Florida residents. In addition, Florida has no HHC for 37 priority toxic pollutants where available information indicates that those priority toxic pollutants are discharged or are present in the State's waters and could reasonably be expected to interfere with applicable designated uses.

Accordingly, EPA is determining, pursuant to CWA Section 303(c)(4)(B) and 40 CFR 131.22(b), that new HHC are needed for 37 priority toxic pollutants and revised HHC are needed for 40 priority toxic pollutants to meet the requirements of the CWA for Florida (see appendix).

21. On February 27, 2023, the Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection responded to the Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency that "the Department fully supports EPA's current plan to promulgate updated [Human Health Criteria] for Florida, which the Department can then