

quality standards for the December sampling event. Sampling point WRT2 on reach GAR031102030804 was dry during each December sampling attempt.

Lowndes County has not identified any point sources within the drainage areas that can be attributed to the widespread exceedances. Based on the limited data collected to date, it is the opinion of Lowndes County that the cause of the exceedances is from natural conditions.

Dissolved Oxygen (DO)

DO levels in Cat Creek at the Highway 122 bridge near the Lowndes County-Berrien County line were below 4.0 mg/L for most of the sampling period. Water flow conditions at the bridge were almost stagnant. The channel at this point is wide and shallow with low flow velocities. As the stream flows southward, water velocity and depth transition into more defined streambank conditions. There were three sampling events at the Highway 122 bridge for which DO levels exceeded 4.0. In all three cases, the sampling events were preceded by rainfall events in excess of 1.0". DO levels begin to increase and were at or near compliance levels +/- 2.7 miles downstream at the Cat Creek Bridge with the exception of early June and one sampling event in August. May and June of 2022 experienced below average precipitation levels with a 37% and 12% drop respectively resulting in below normal water velocity and depth for this period.

Low Level Mercury

Low level mercury levels were well below acute standards at all sampling points. Chronic standards were exceeded at the following locations for the indicated sampling events:

- Alapaha River at the Old State Rd Boat Ramp for September
- Withlacoochee River at the Hwy 122 Bridge for September
- Withlacoochee River at the Staten Rd Bridge for September
- Withlacoochee River at the Hwy 133 Bridge for September
- Withlacoochee River at the Hwy 84 Bridge for September
- Withlacoochee River at the Knights Ferry Rd Boat Ramp for September
- Withlacoochee River at the Madison Hwy Bridge for September

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Lead

Sampling results for 2022 indicate all samples to be below the detectable limit at all points sampled for lead.

BMP ASSESSMENT

Based on the data assessment above, Lowndes County does not propose implementation of any additional BMPs at this time.

