

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

# Safe Yield Workgroup

Meeting #2





9:00- Welcome

- 9:10- Work Group Topic and Goal- Operating Assumptions
- **9:20-** Overview of Permit vs Registration (Rob Devlin)
- **9:35-** DNR Comments (Alex Pellett/ Scott Harder)
- 9:50- Alt SY Evaluations (Median–MIF, Mean-MIF) Edisto Example 10:10-Percentile Alt SY
- 10:25-Break
- 10:35-Open Discussion/ Alternatives from Group
- **11:45**-Agenda for SY Meeting #3
- 12:00- Adjourn



# Workgroup Timeline

January 21Workgroup Kick OffFebruary 18Evaluation of Alternative CalculationsMarch 17Evaluation of Alternative CalculationsApril 14Discussion-Wrap Up

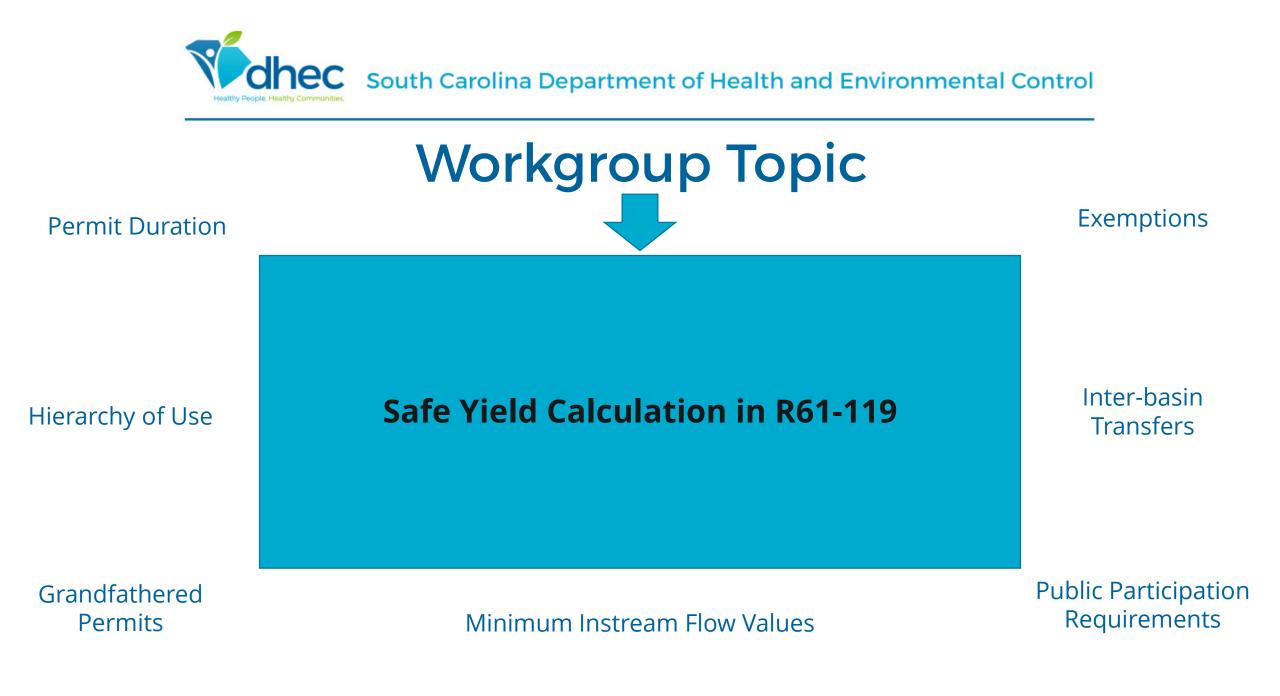
May 15 Summary Report



# Goal

To evaluate how safe yield is currently calculated and to examine possible alternative calculations that the Department should consider.

\* Any changes to the Safe Yield Calculation would require a regulation change (Separate Process)





# Workgroup Assumptions

- Changes to the SY calculation may cause stream segments to become over allocated
- No SY calculation can guarantee MIF will be present 100% of the time
- Changes to the SY formula will not impact existing permitted users or registrations



# How will alternatives be evaluated?

- Is it allowable under current law?
- Is it scalable to Statewide Permitting Process?
- Is calculation protective of the resource (while still allowing for use of the resource) across varied stream types?
- Can the evaluation be done given the Departmental resources?



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

## New Permits, Grandfathered Permits and Registrations

Rob Devlin



# Water Quantity Programs

- Capacity Use Program
  - Since the 1970s
  - Issue permits in designated areas of the coastal plain over 3 million gallons in any month (100,000 gallons per day)
- Surface Water Withdrawal Permitting
  - Since June 2012
  - Issue permits statewide if over 3 million gallons in any month
- Water Use Reporting
  - All registered and permitted groundwater and surface water withdrawers report their annual water use to the department
  - We compile this information and produce water use reports, which are available on our website for public use



### Types of Surface Water Withdrawers

Existing Surface Water Withdrawer New Surface Water Withdrawer

Agricultural Withdrawer



## Surface Water Regulation: R.61-119

- Came into effect June 22, 2012
- Grandfathered in existing users: agricultural and permitted
- Both required to be registered or permitted if use 3 million or more gallons of water in any given month and must report use every month



### Surface Water Withdrawals

- Legislation was approved in 2010, effective January 1, 2011
- Regulation implementing the Act effective June 2012
- Initial (Grandfather) permits 197
- New permits 7 (3 PWS and 4 Golf Course)
- Initial Agricultural Registrations 90
- New Agricultural Registrations 13



### **Agricultural Registration**

- Registration rather than a permit, but report their water use
- Safe yield or "legally available water" is the amount that can be permitted for withdrawal



# **Agricultural Registration**

- New or Expanding Agricultural Withdrawals
- 1. A proposed withdrawer must request its anticipated withdrawal quantity or increase on a form to the Department
- 2. Safe Yield will be determined at the point of withdrawal, if the withdrawal is within the safe yield, it will be considered registered
- 3. If the withdrawal is not within the safe yield, the registrant may modify it's request to a reduced withdrawal quantity that is within the Safe Yield



## New or Expanding Surface Water Withdrawer

- Permit criteria for New or Expanding Surface Water Withdrawal Permit
- 1. Withdrawals will be evaluated for reasonableness
- 2. Withdrawals will be subject to minimum instream flow (20, 30, 40 percent of mean annual daily flow)
- 3. Safe Yield will be calculated at the point of withdrawal
- 4. Safe Yield shall be considered one factor, should withdrawals in excess of the safe yield be permitted, additional contingency planning shall be required
- 5. New surface water withdrawals must be Public Noticed for 30 days (mandatory Public Hearing for IBT)



	Existing Surface Water Withdrawer	Agricultural Withdrawer	New or ExpandingSurface Water Withdrawer
Permit Duration	Minimum 30 years not to exceed 50	Registrations never expire	Minimum 20 years not to exceed 50
Registered or Permitted Withdrawal Amount	Based on Greater of Historical Use or Intake Capacity	Based on Historical Use or Requester Use	Based on Reasonable Use Criteria
Public Notice	No	No	Yes 30 day Public Notice
Minimum Instream Flow Requirements	Subject only to Operation and Contingency Plan	Not subject to Minimum Instream Flow	Must meet Minimum Instream Flow (20, 30, 40)
Reasonableness Criteria for withdrawal	No	No	Yes



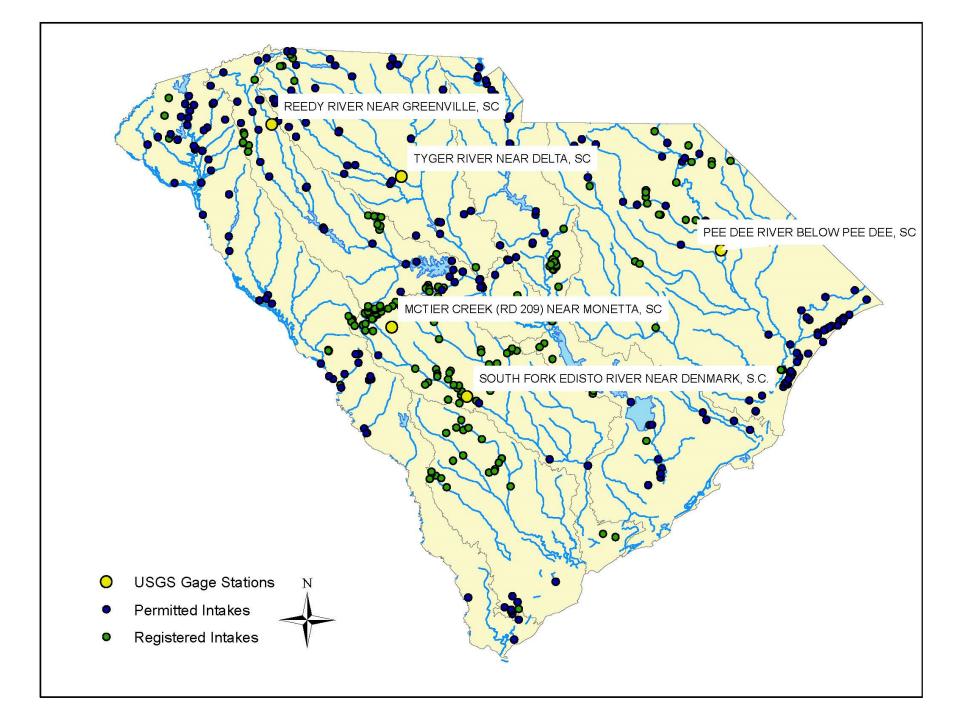
New or Expanding Surface Water Withdrawals				
Agricultural Registration	Withdrawal on River	Withdrawal on Reservoir (FERC)		
Conduct Safe Yield Analysis	Conduct Safe Yield Analysis	Request FERC or ACOE approval		
If within Safe Yield and Adjusted Safe Yield , approve registration	If within Safe Yield and Adjusted Safe Yield, conduct Minimum Instream Flow	Public Notice Permit		
	Use Flow model to analyze historical 20,30,40 flow	Issue Permit		
	Review type and size of supplemental water source or contingency plan (Water Supply uses Drought Plan)			
	Determine if withdrawal will adversely impact current withdrawers			
	Public Notice Permit			
	Issue Permit			



	Existing Surface Water Withdrawer	New or Expanding Surface Water Withdrawer	Agricultural Withdrawer
Minimum Instream Flow Requirements (20, 30, 40)	Subject only to Operation and Contingency Plan	Must meet Minimum Instream Flow (20, 30, 40)	Not subject to Minimum Instream Flow
Operation and Contingency Plan	Only address appropriate industry standards for water Conservation	Contingency plan must discontinue water withdrawals from surface water that results in a decrease in flow	Not subject to operation and contingency plans
Operation and Contingency Plan for Public Water System	Public Water Systems must follow their Drought Plan	Public Water Systems must follow their Drought Plan	



## **SCDNR Comments**

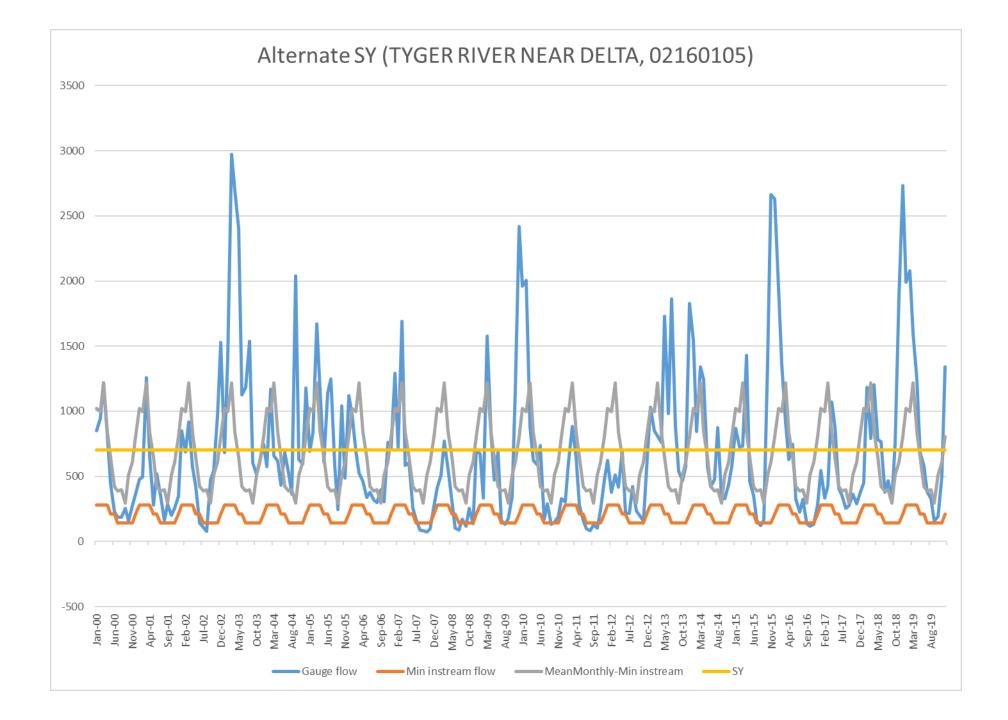


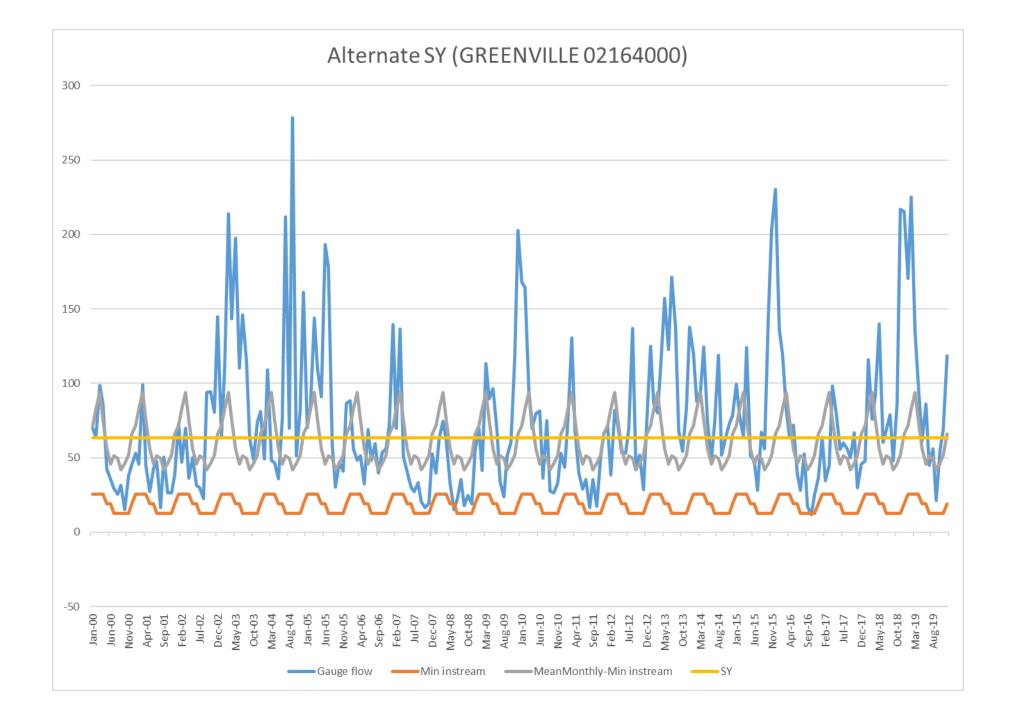


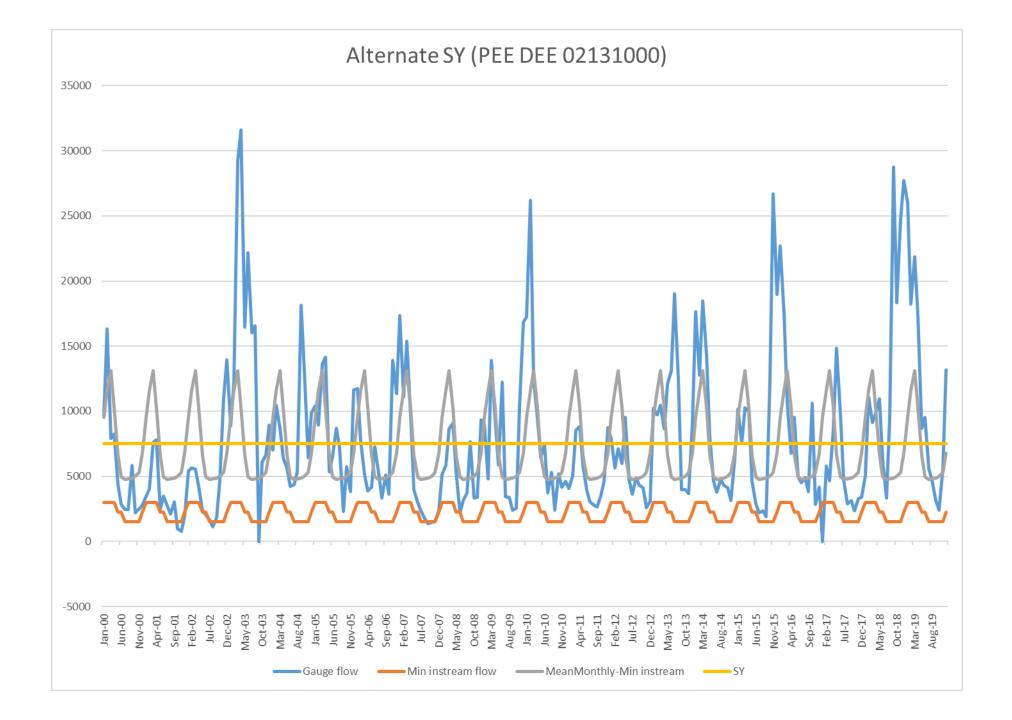
### South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

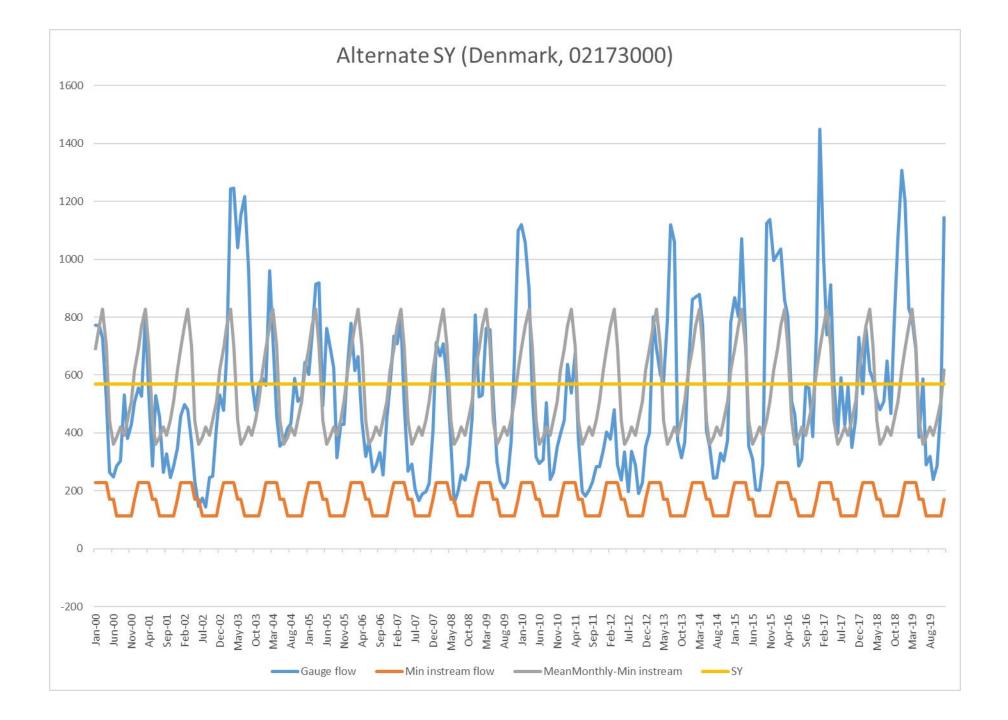
# **SY Alternative**

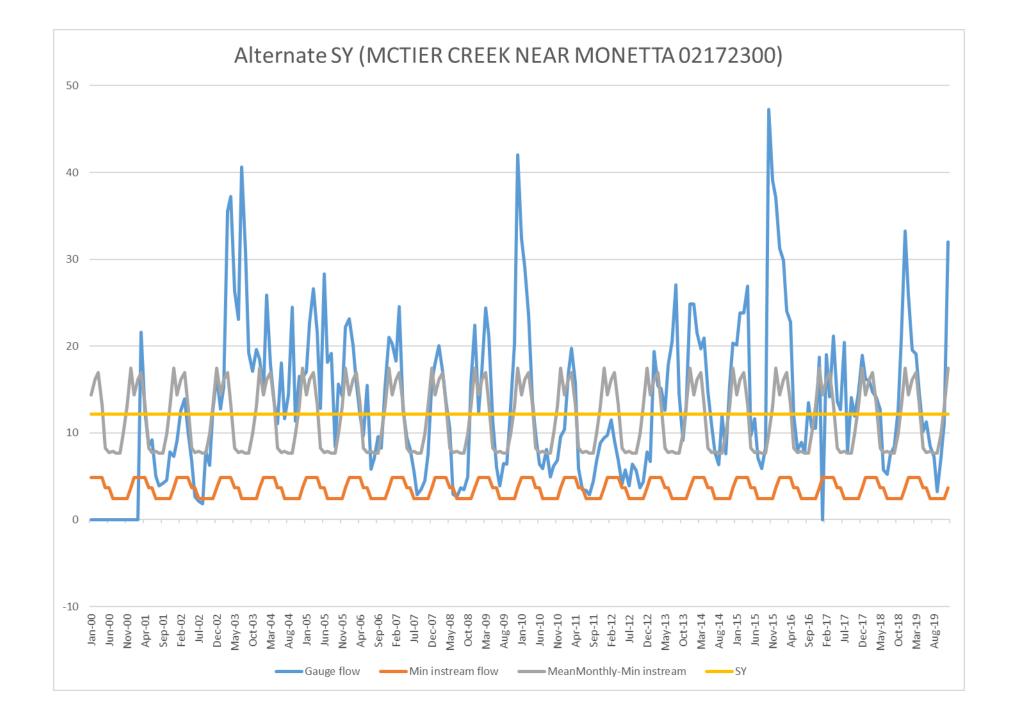
Monthly Mean – MIF



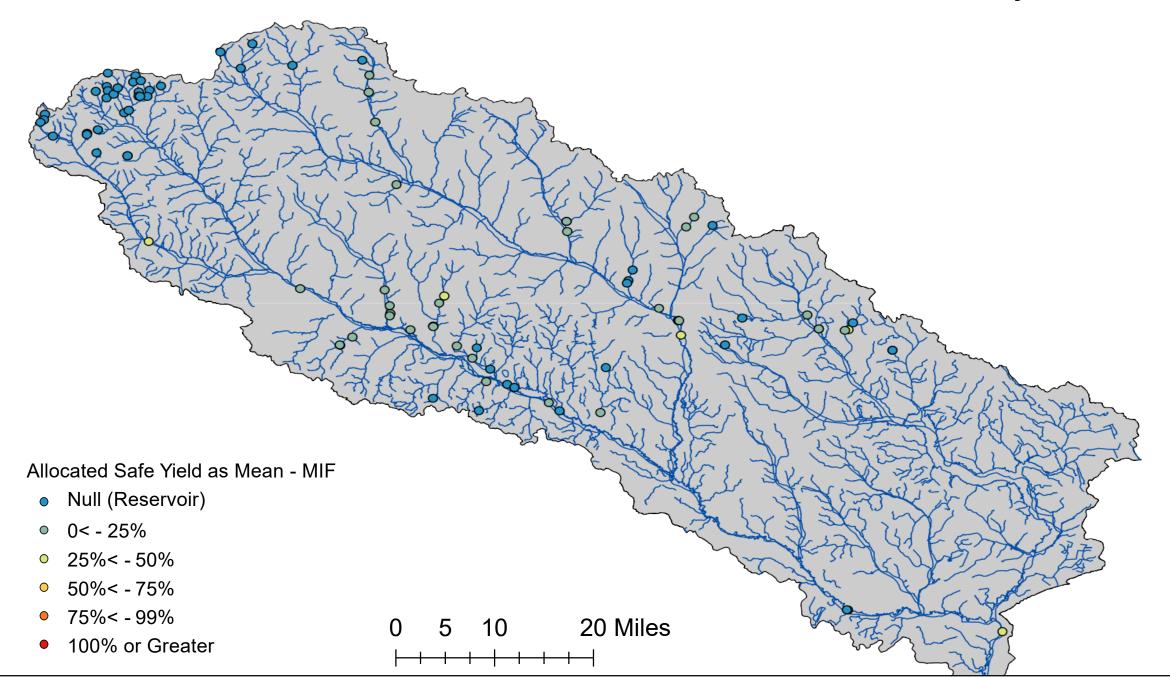




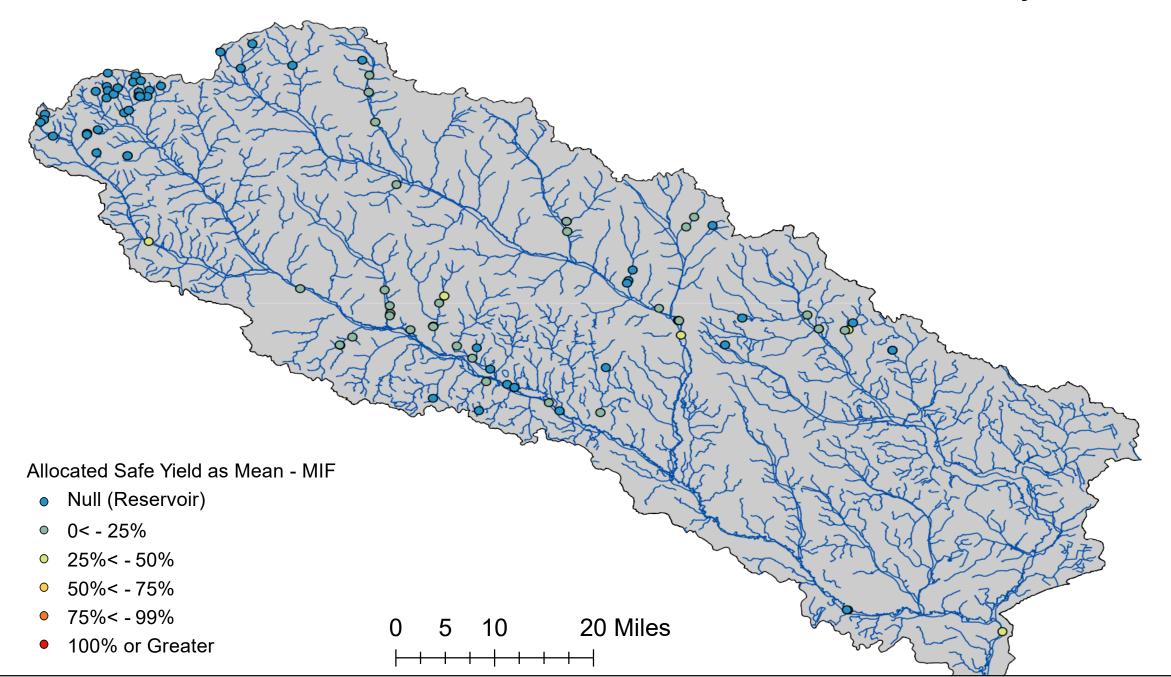




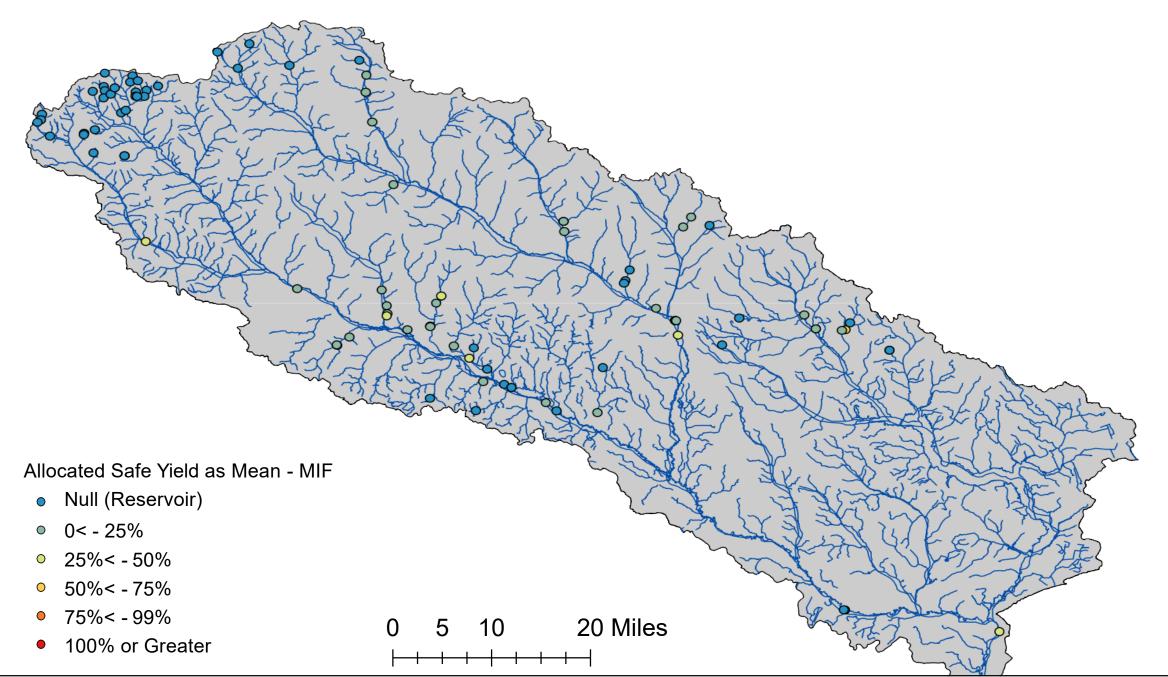
### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for January



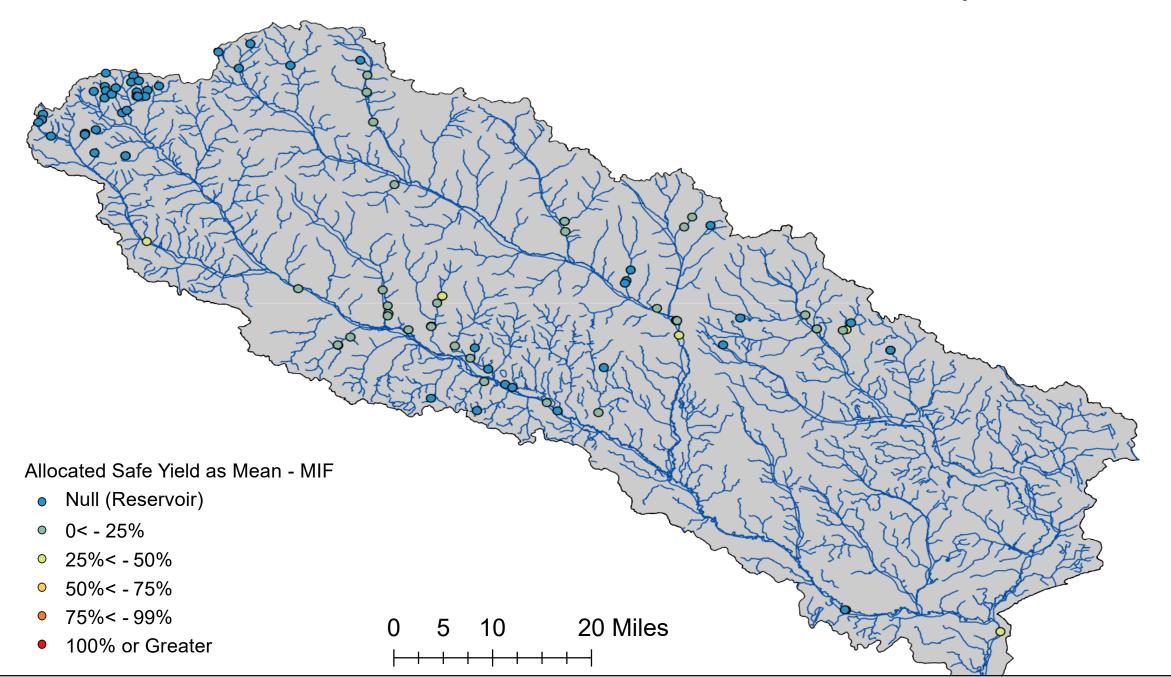
### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for February



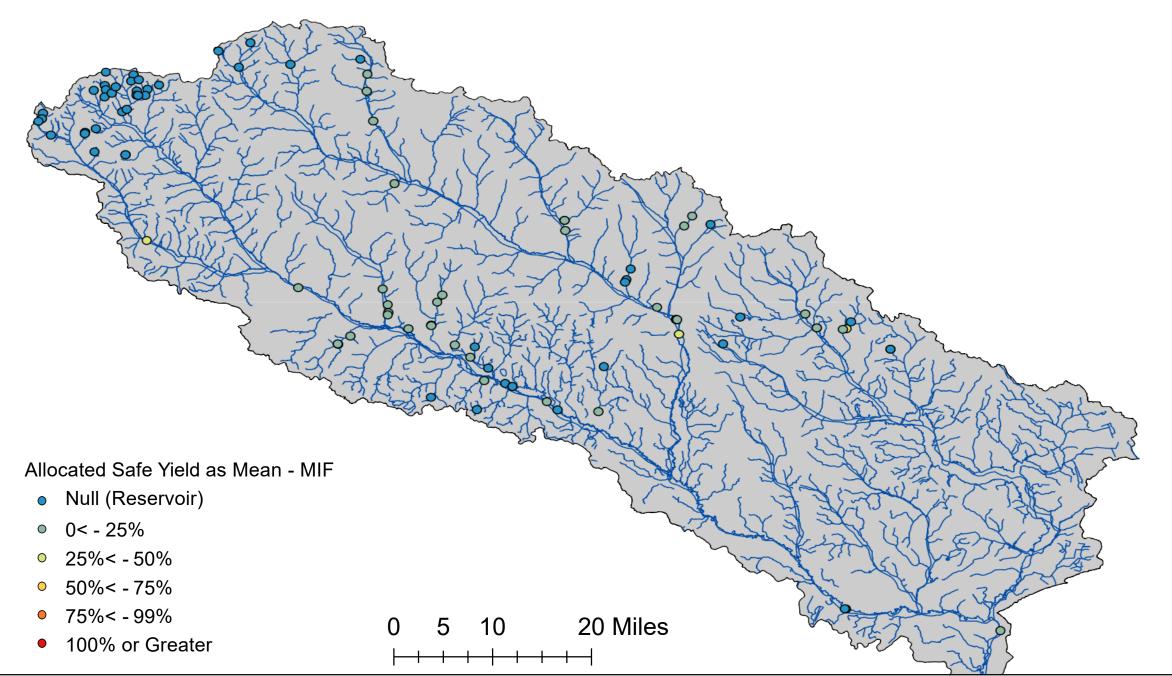
### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for March



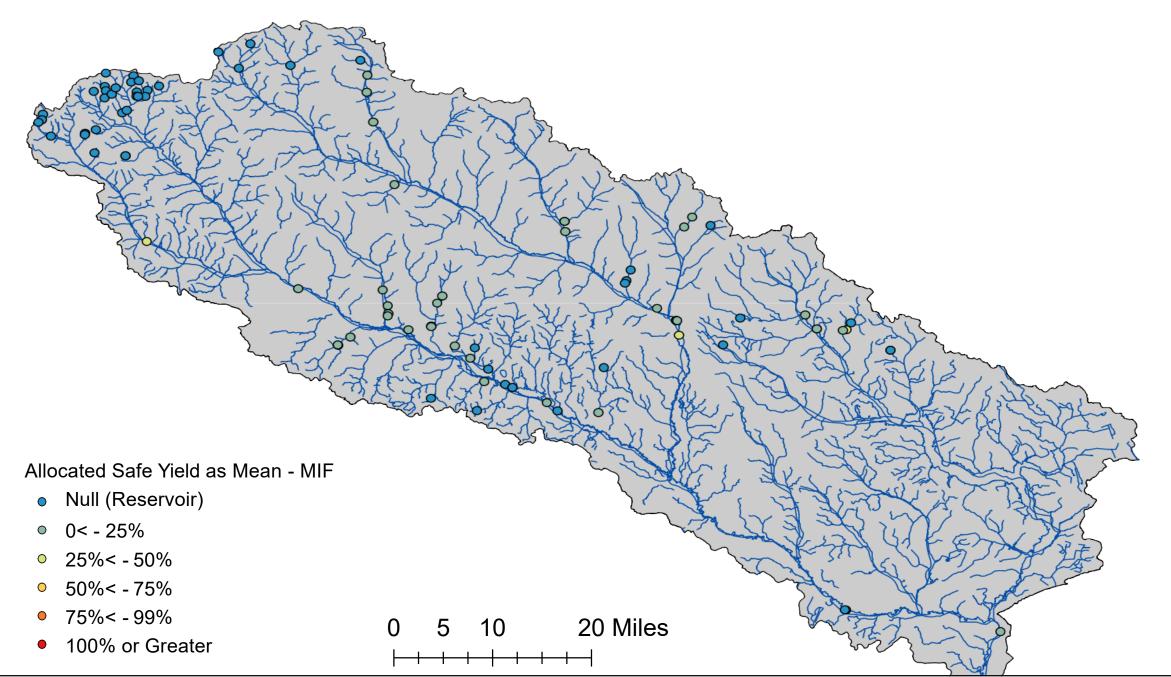
### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for April



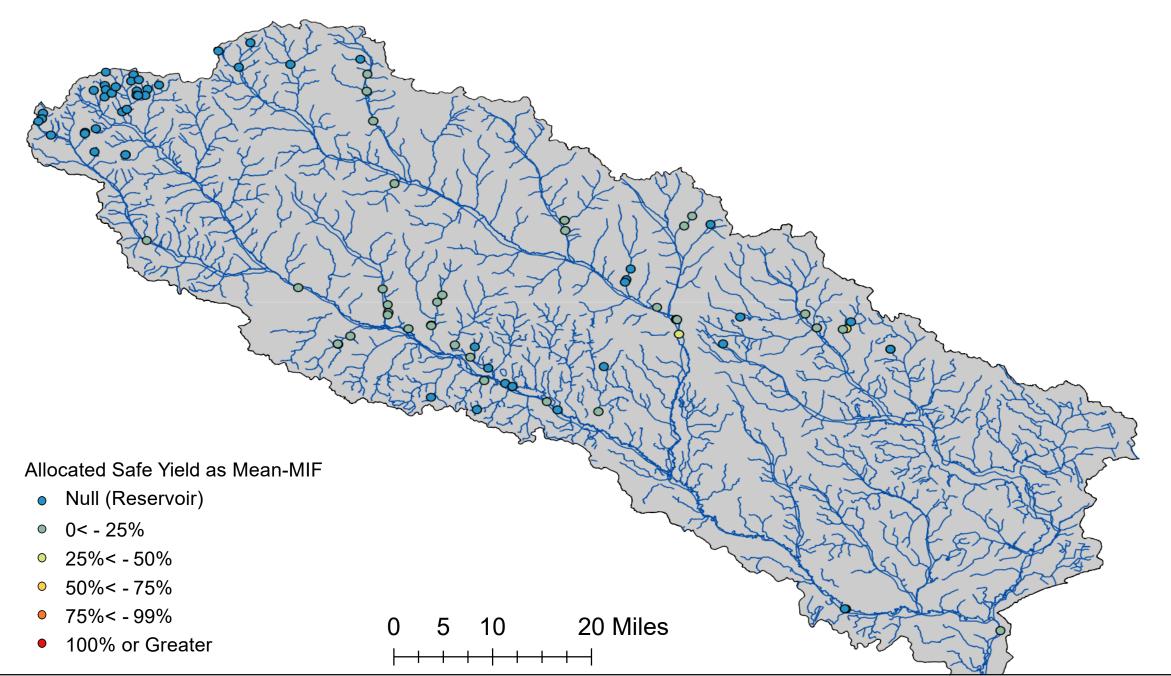
### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for May



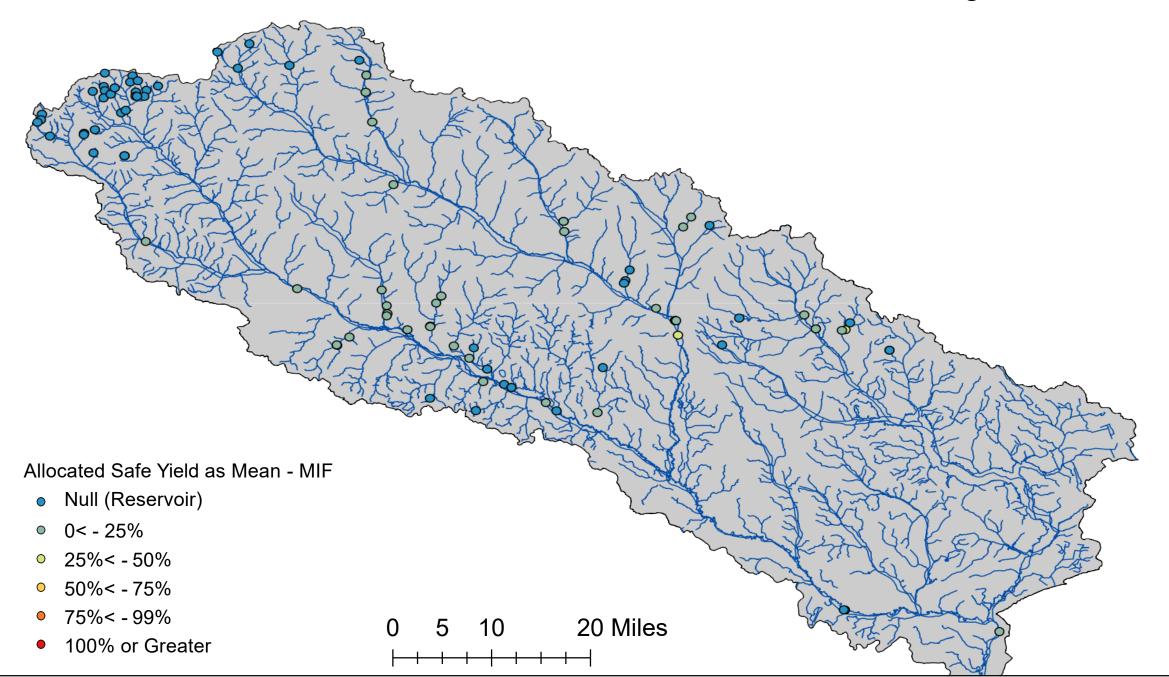
### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for June



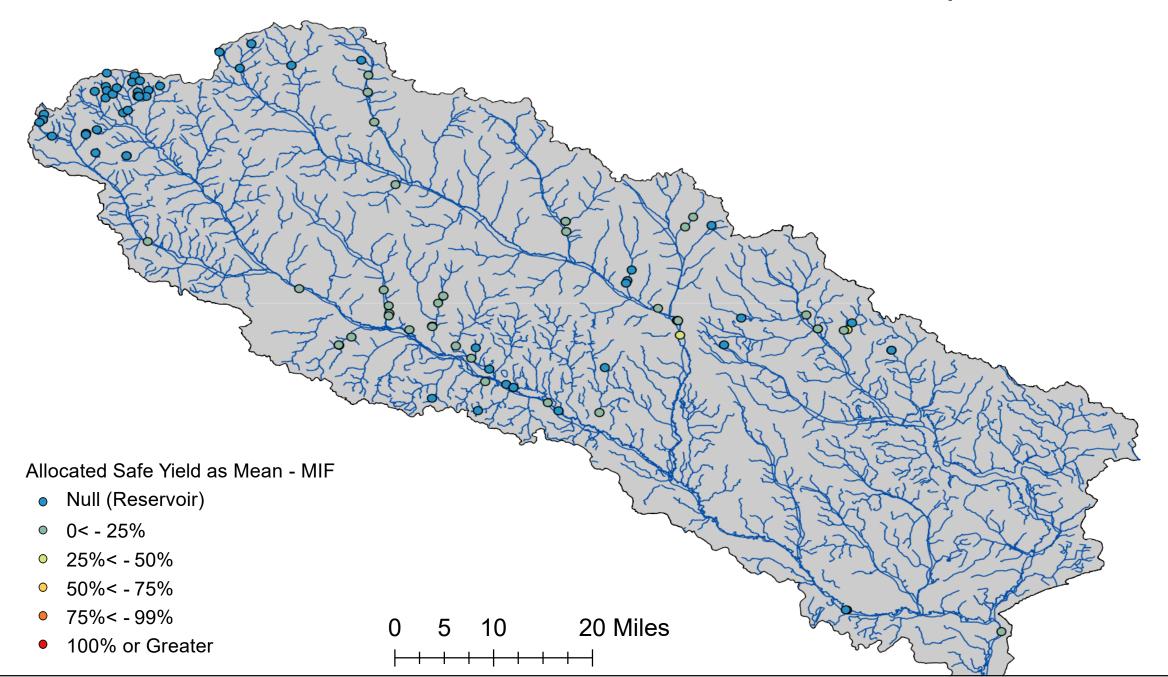
### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for July



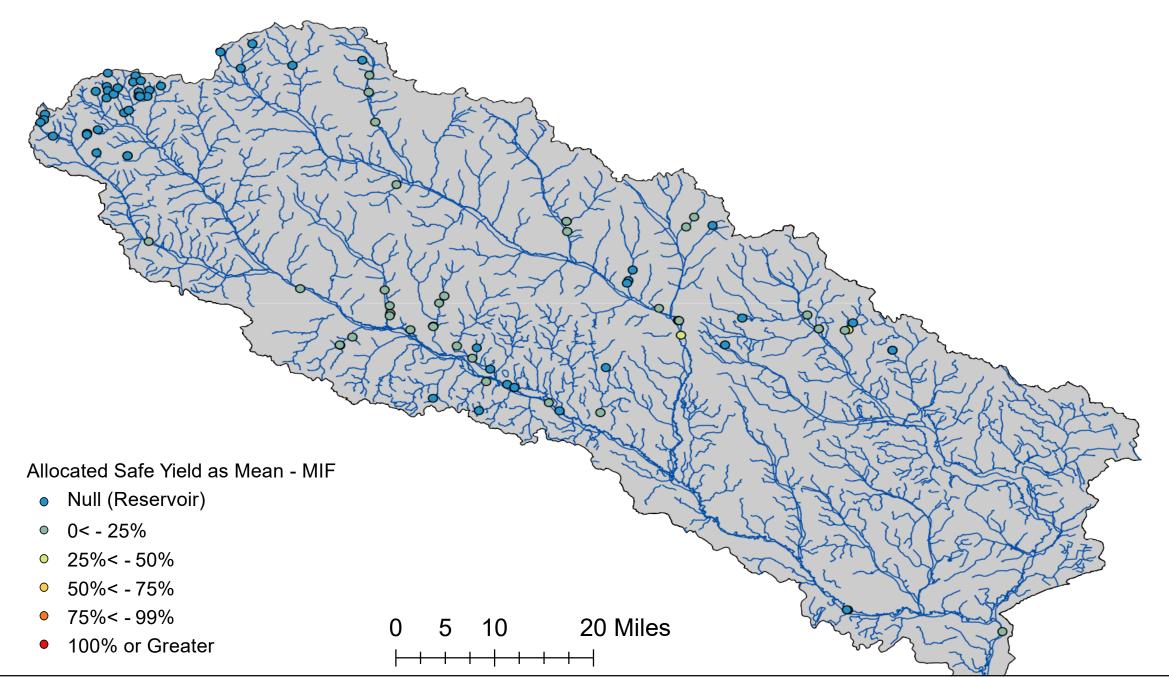
### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for August



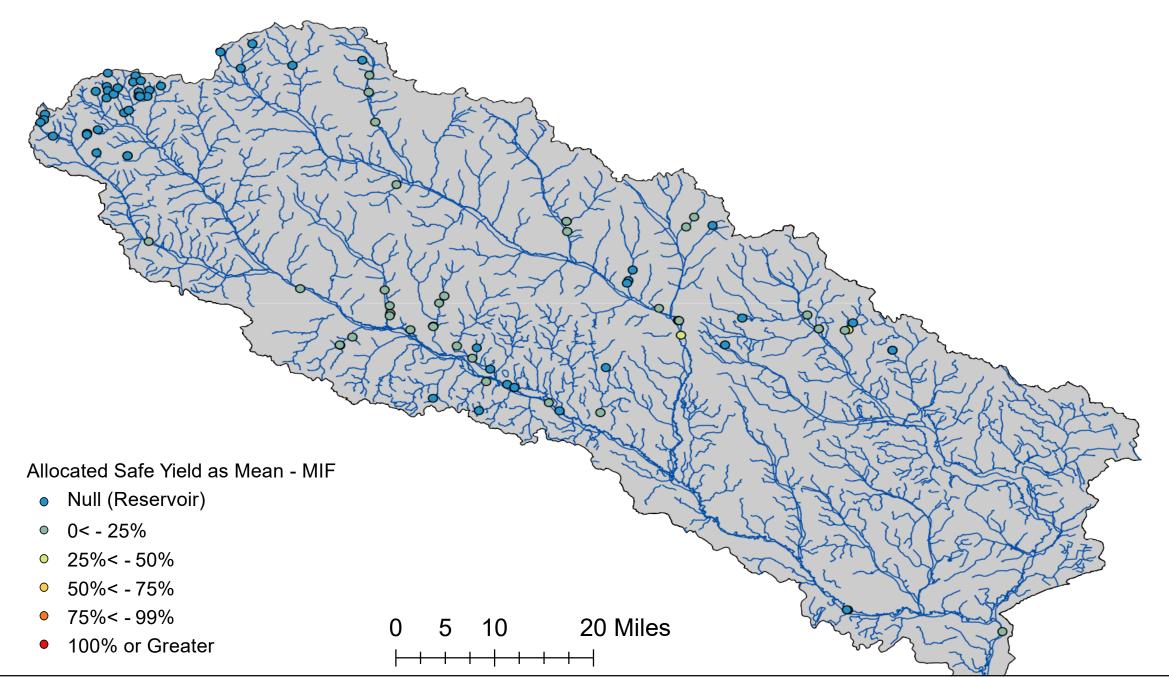
### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for September



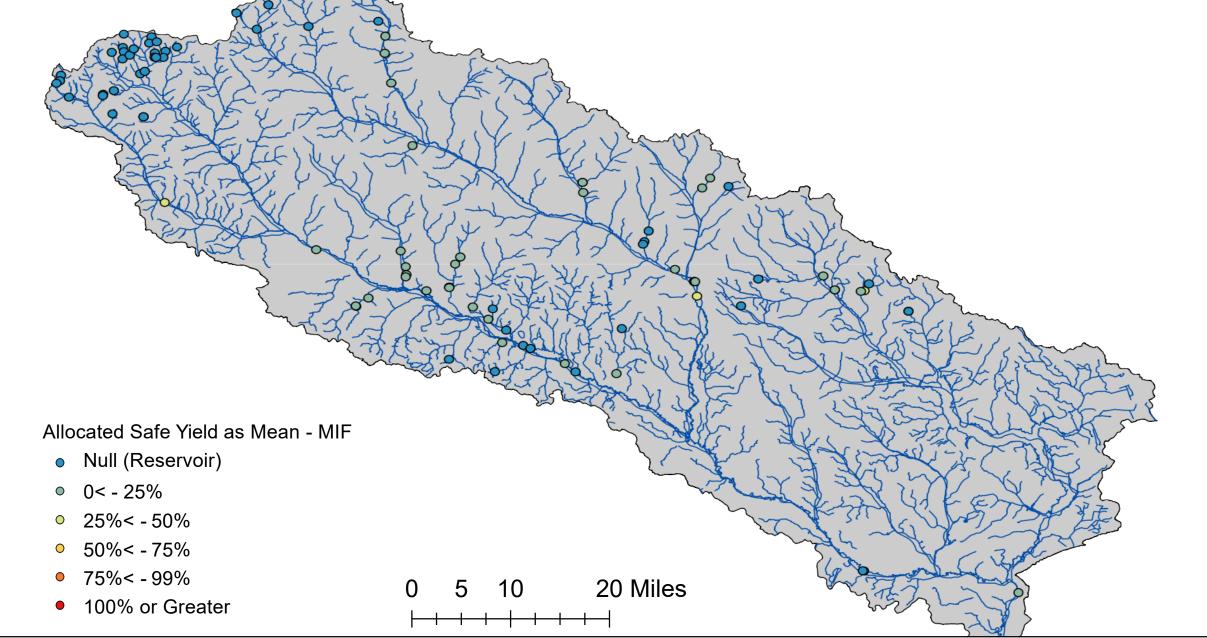
### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for October



#### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for November



Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Mean - MIF for December

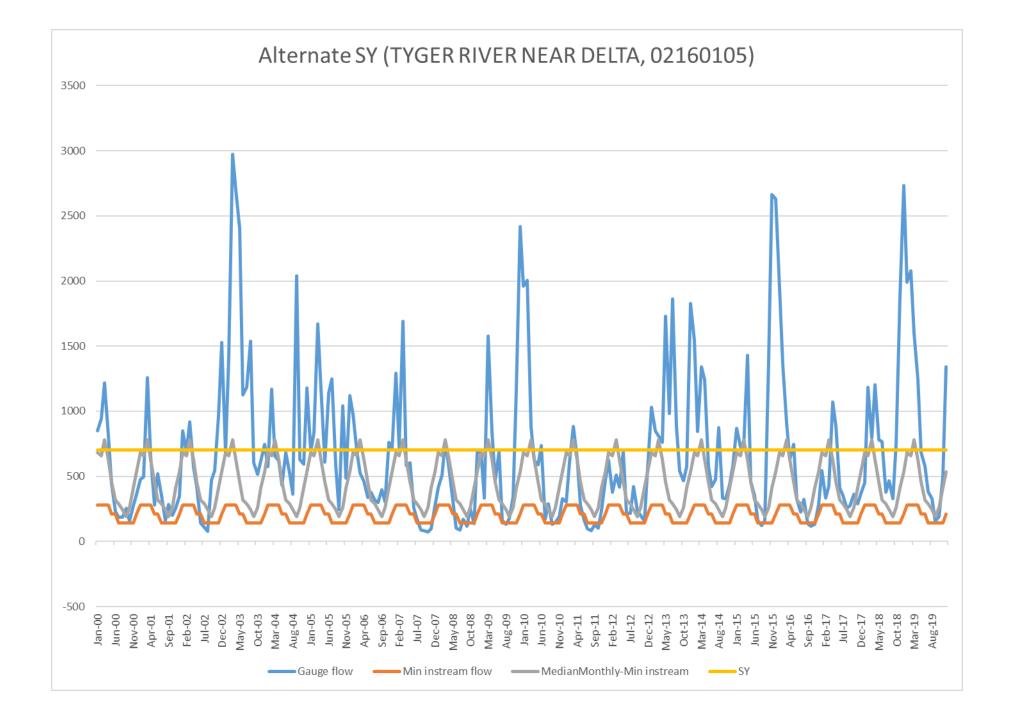


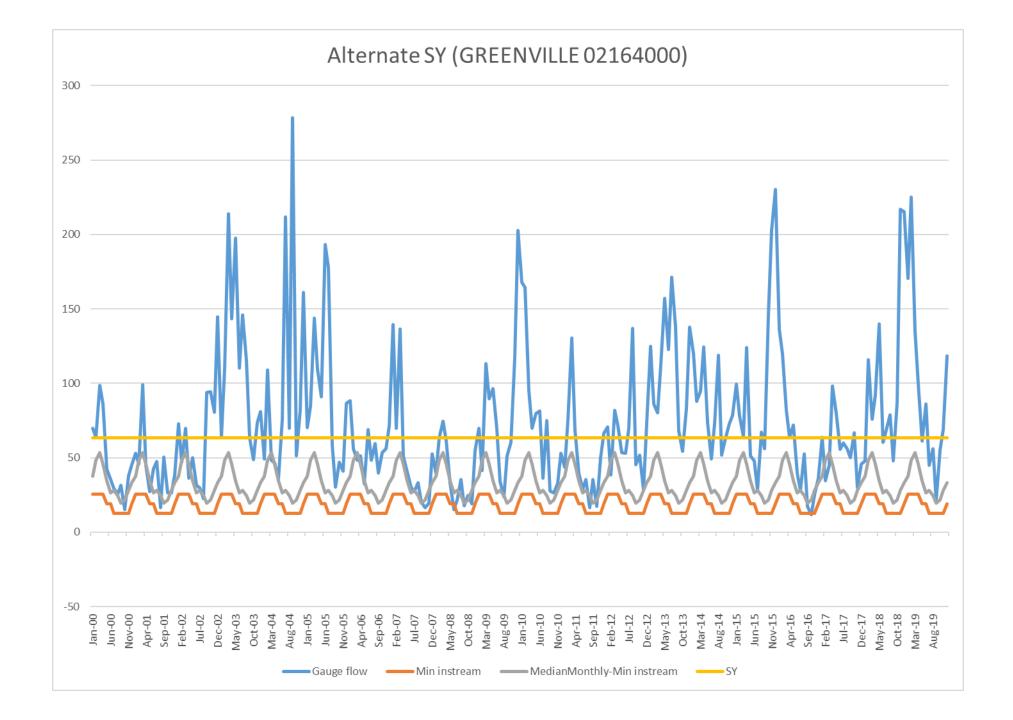


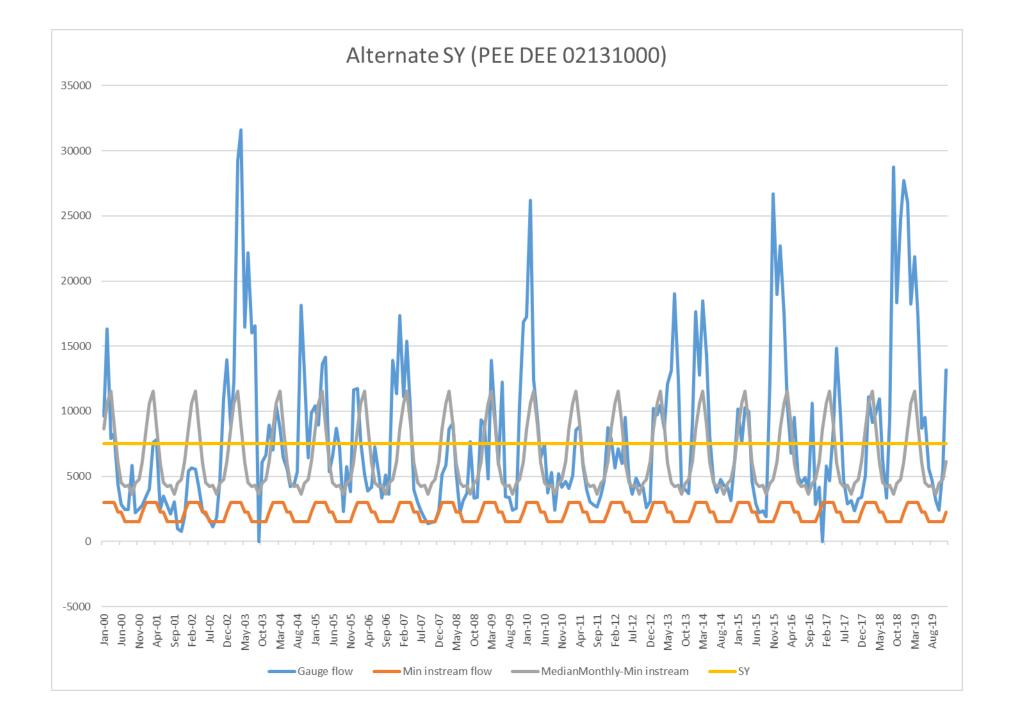
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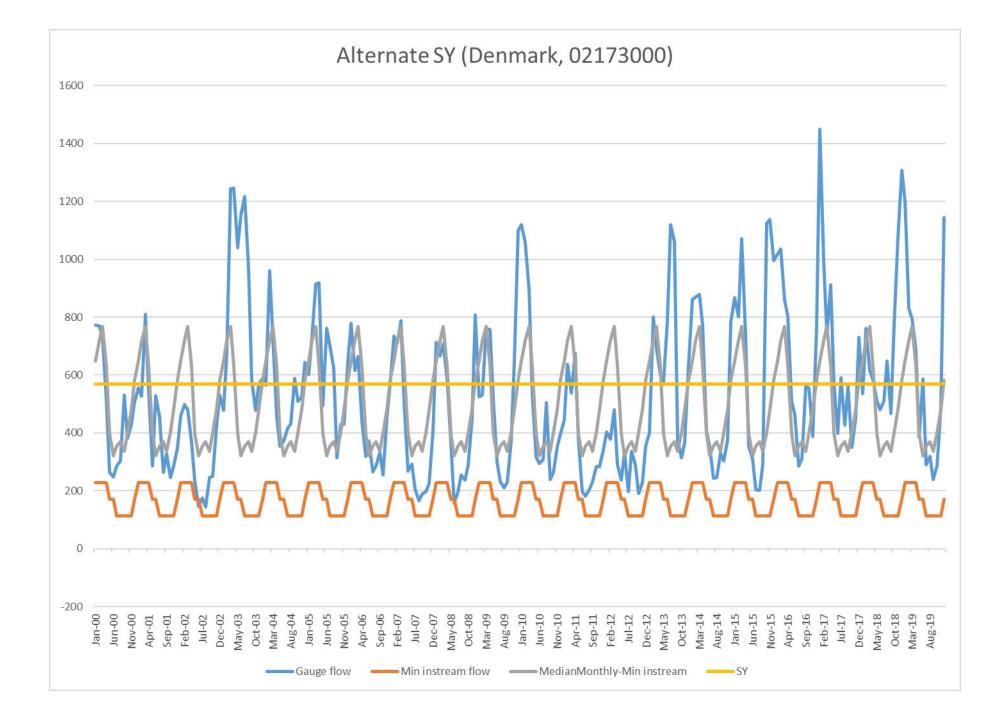
### **SY Alternative**

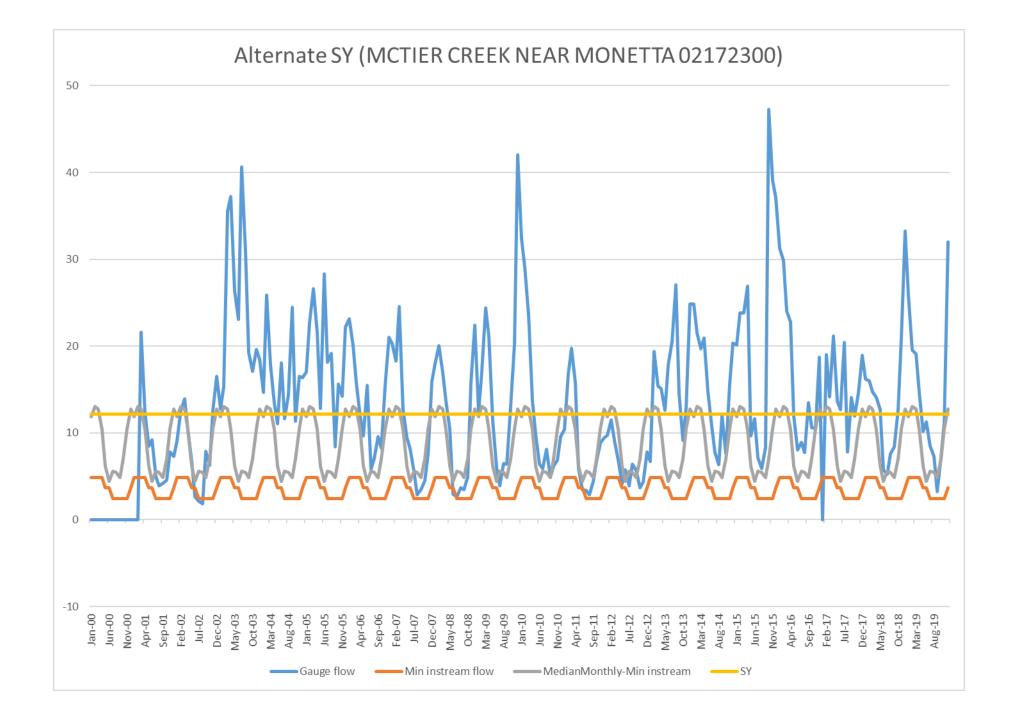
Monthly Median – MIF

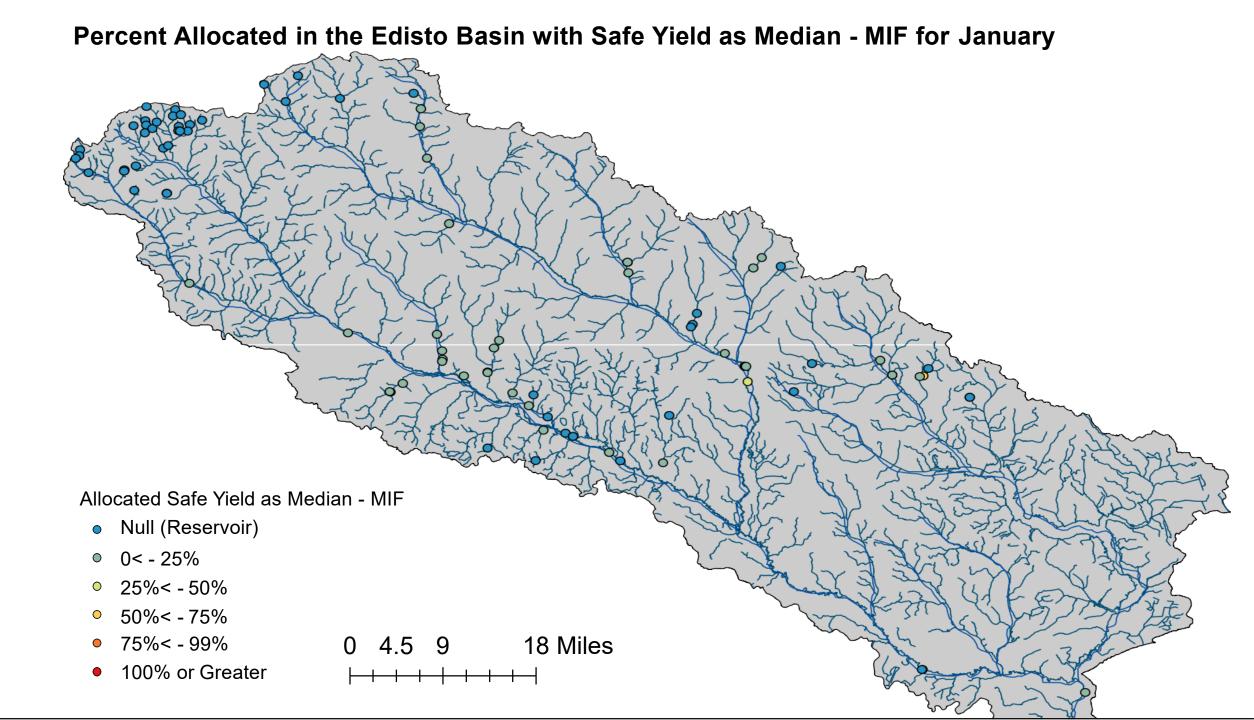


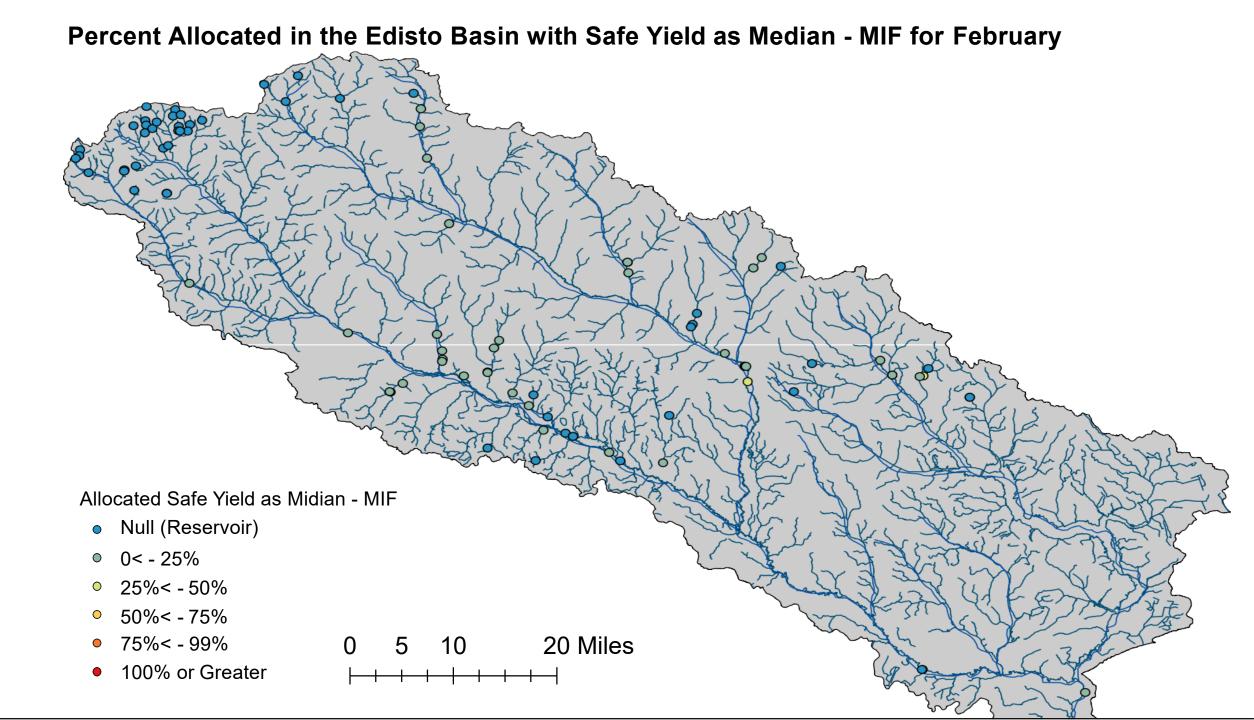


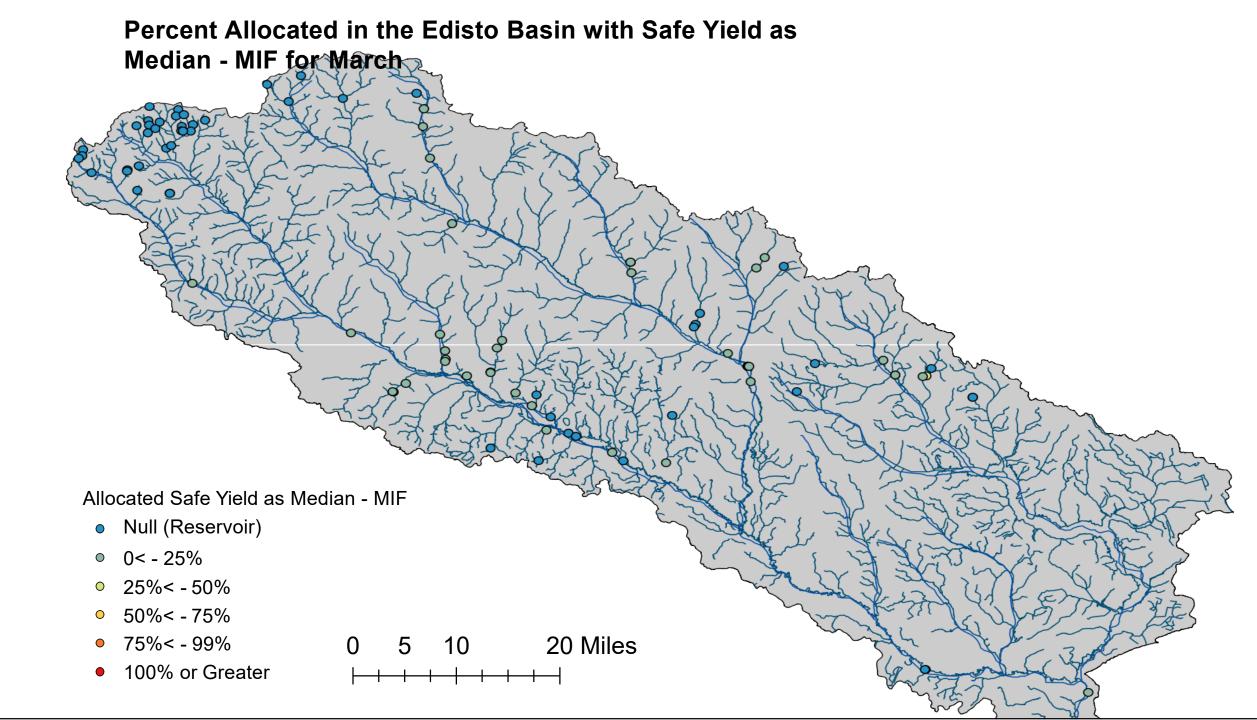


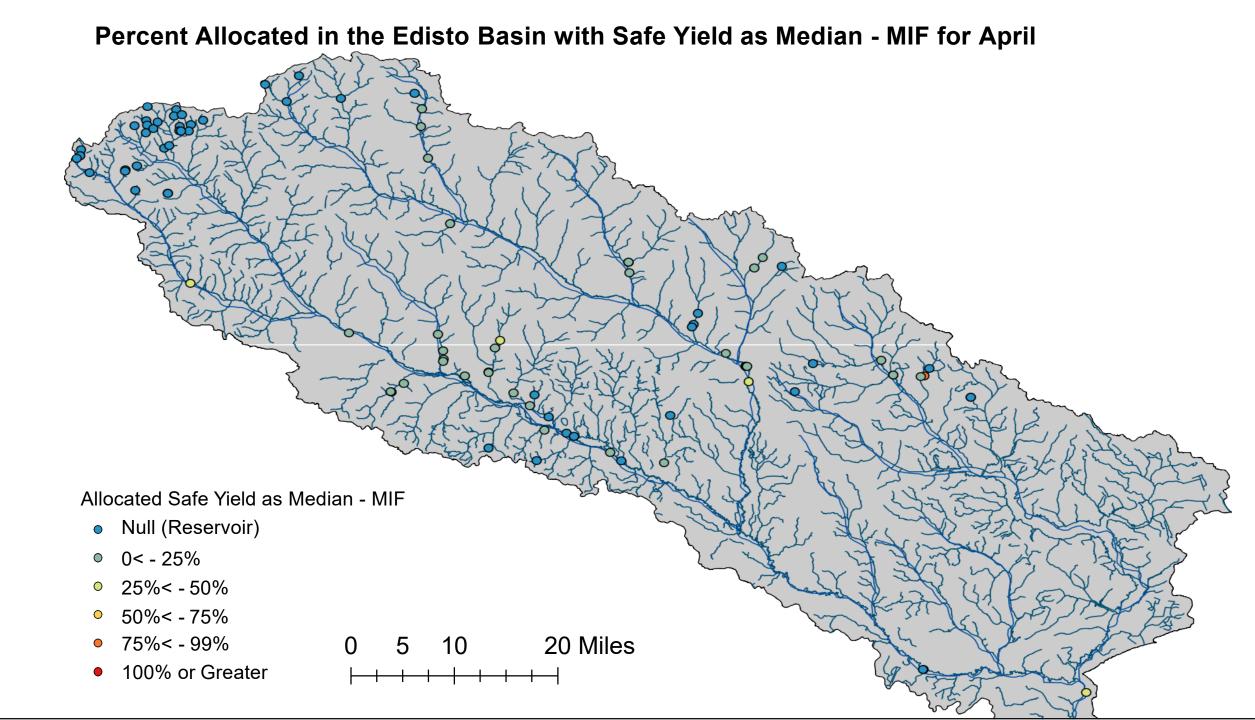


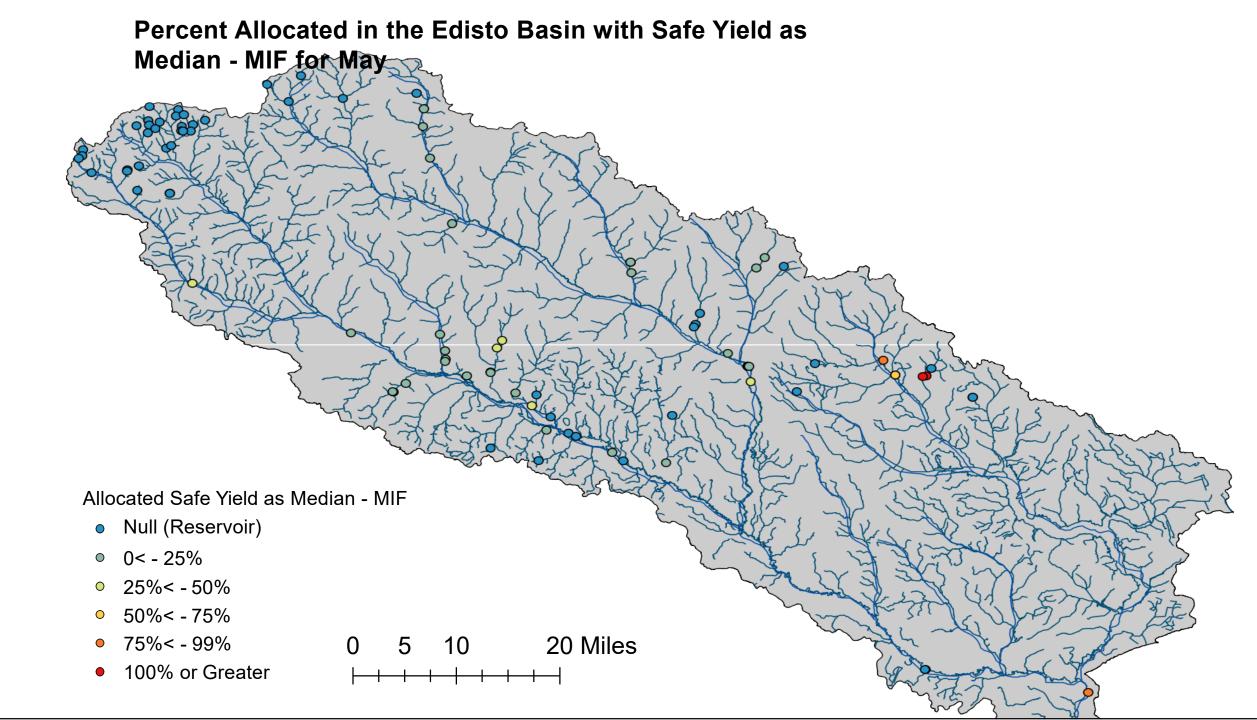


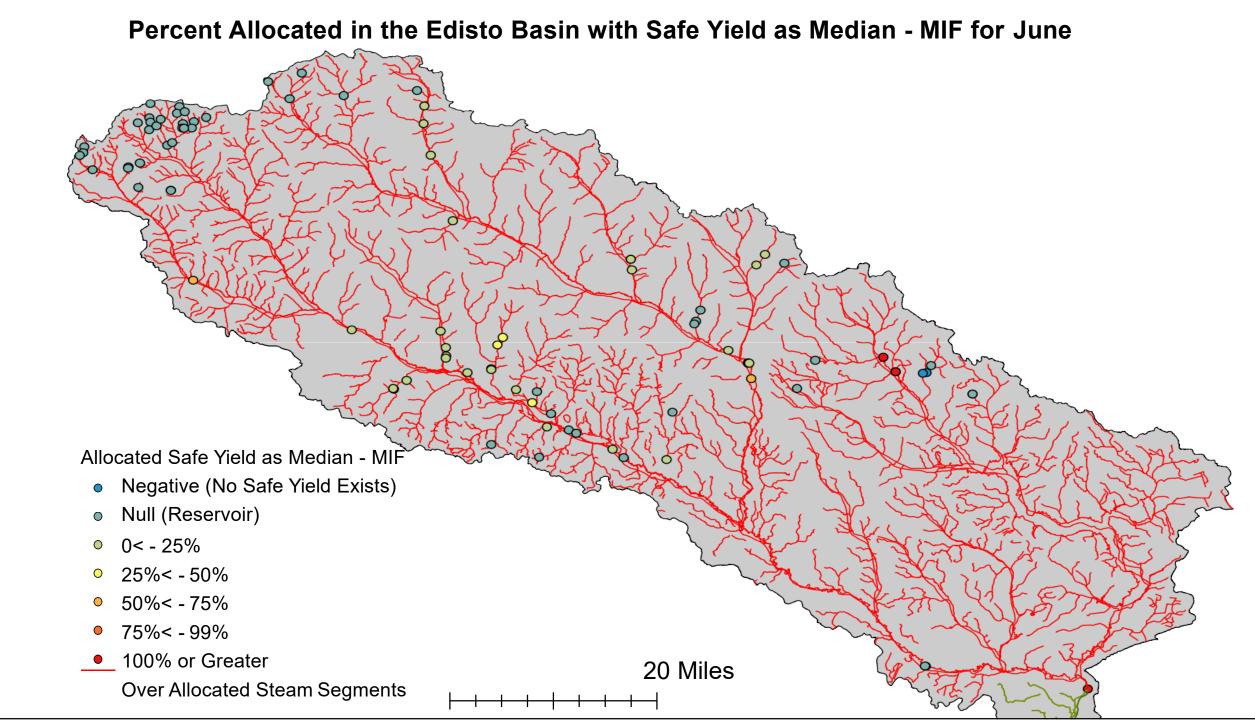




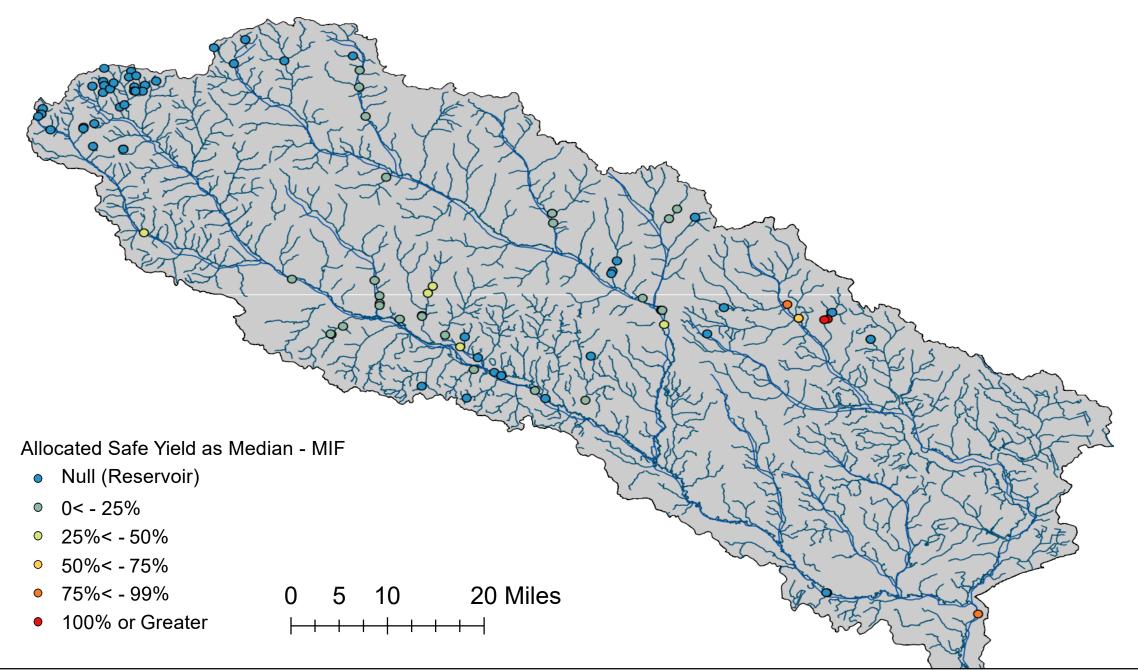




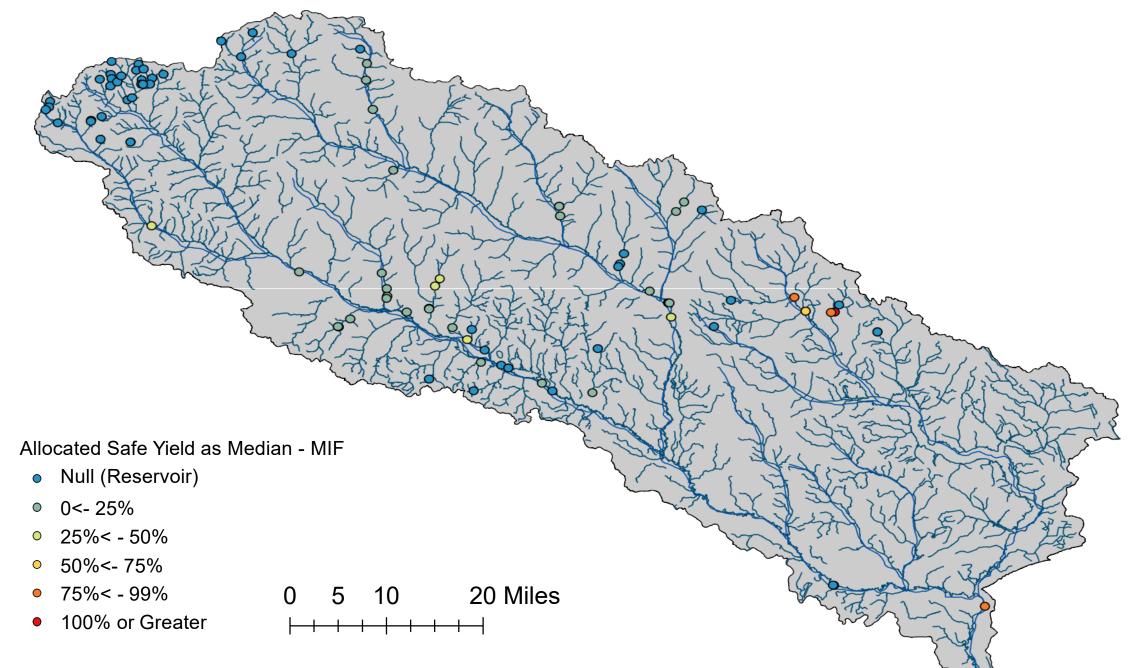




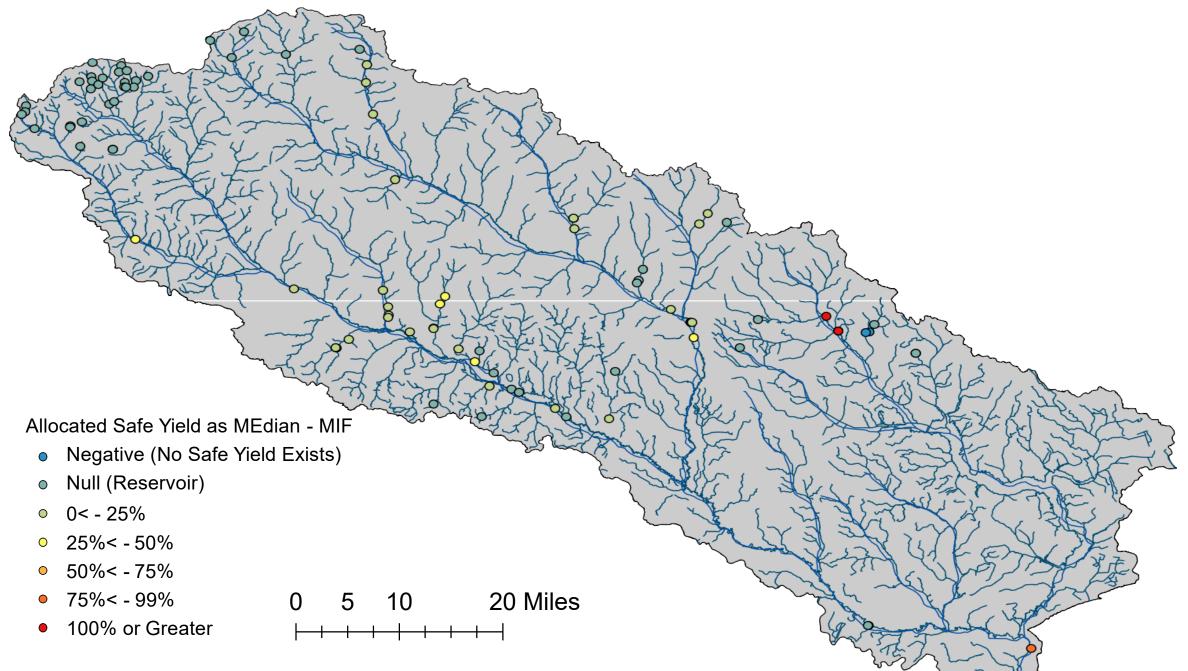
#### Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Median - MIF for July

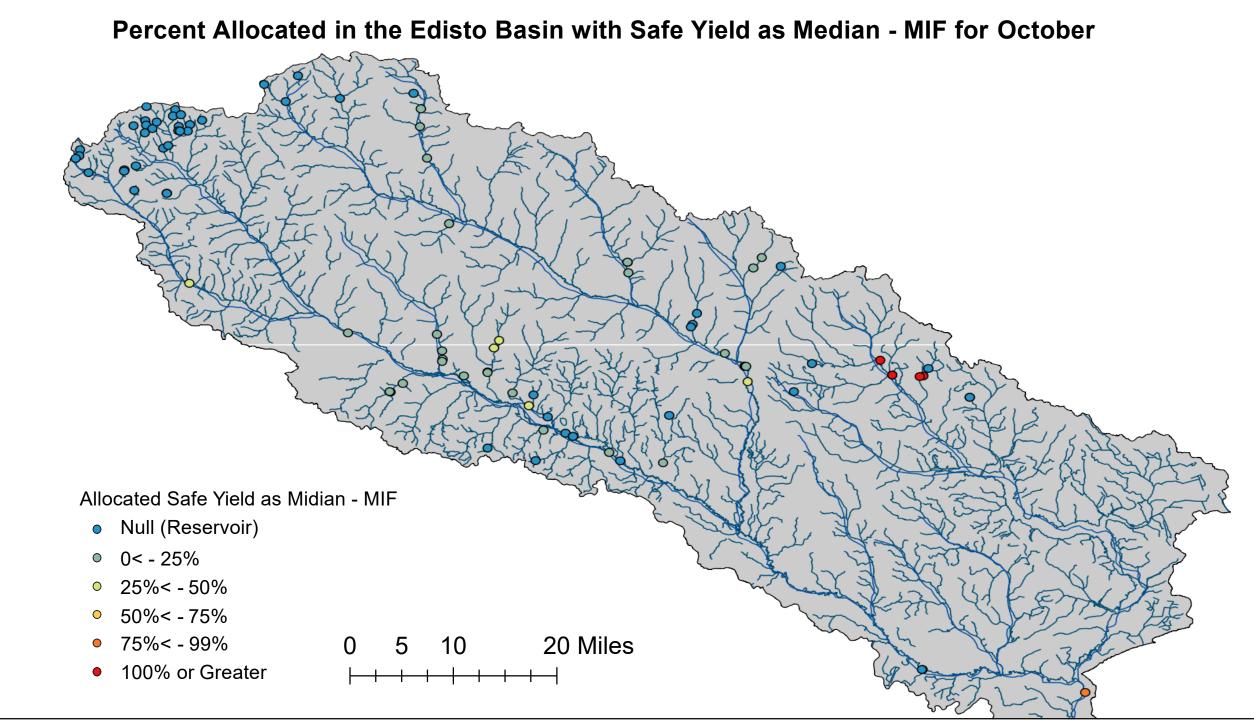


Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Median - MIF for August

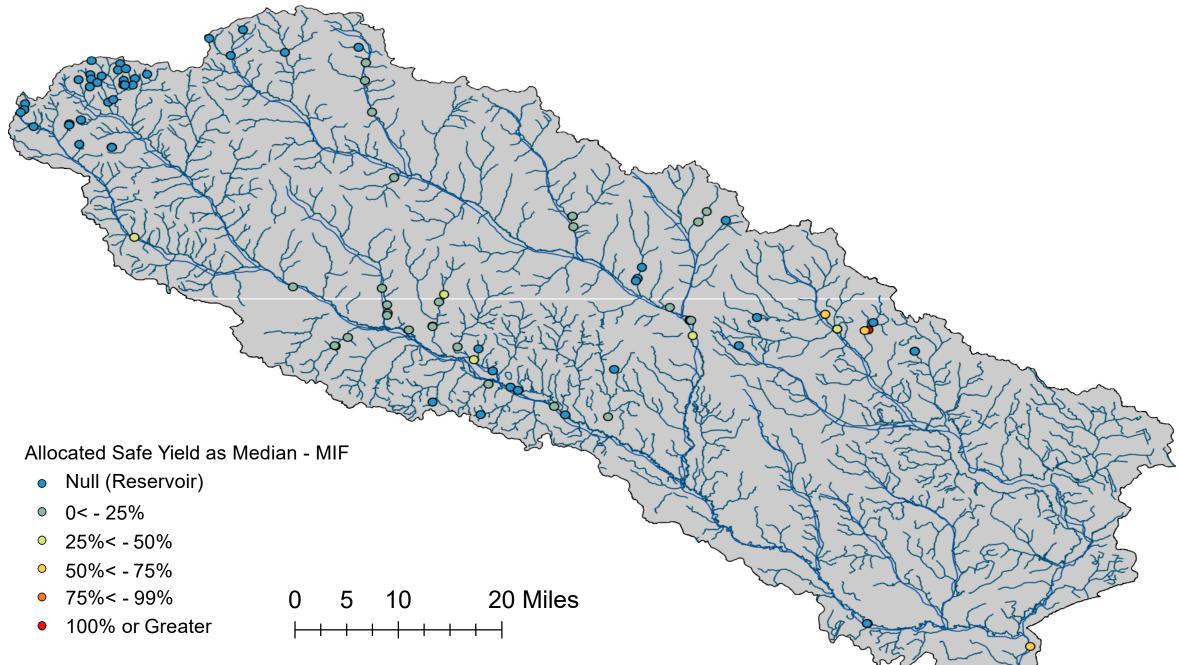


Percent Allocated in the Edisto Basin with Safe Yield as Median - MIF for September

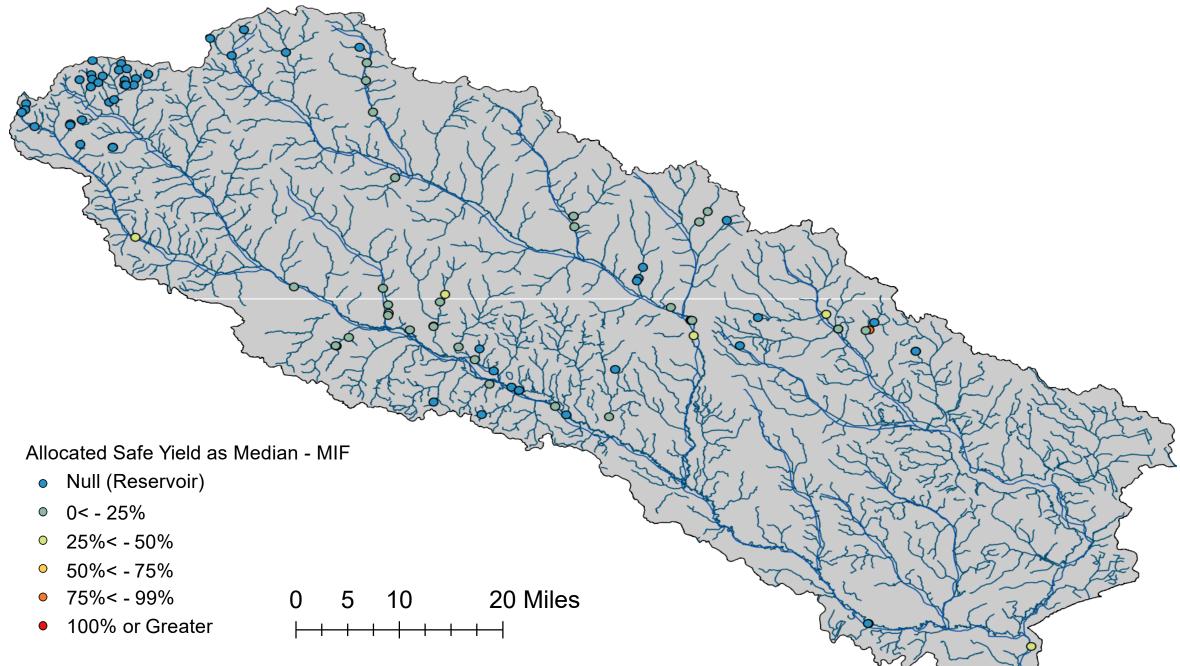














### **Possible Alternative SY Calculations**

- 60<sup>th</sup> Percentile- Minimum Instream Flow
- 80<sup>th</sup> Percentile- Minimum Instream Flow



### Discussion

What other criteria should be considered for alternative safe yield calculations?

Are there specific scenarios that should be considered?



### Meeting #3 (March 17<sup>th</sup>)

### Evaluate alternative calculations submitted by the work-group. (Please submit by March 2)

Other agenda items?



## **CONTACT US**

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#### **Stay Connected**









S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control



### "Safe yield"

means the amount of water available for withdrawal from a particular surface water source in excess of the minimum instream flow or minimum water level for that surface water source. Safe yield is determined by comparing the natural and artificial replenishment of the surface water to the existing or planned consumptive and nonconsumptive uses.



### Safe Yield

- The calculation of safe yield (legally available water for withdrawal) is the same for a permit or agricultural registration
- Applies only to the **point of withdrawal**, is **not** a basin value and does **not** apply upstream or downstream of the withdrawal point
- Is a **volume** of water that can be legally permitted for withdrawal, permits are issued in Millions of Gallons per Month
- Not to be confused with minimum instream flows
- Is a limit on what can be permitted for withdrawal and is adjusted to account for other users
- Drought Act (DNR) will rule in extreme water shortages



### "Minimum instream flow"

means the flow that provides an adequate supply of water at the surface water withdrawal point to maintain the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of the stream taking into account the needs of downstream users, recreation, and navigation and that flow is set at forty percent of the mean annual daily flow for the months of January, February, March, and April; thirty percent of the mean annual daily flow for the months of May, June, and December; and twenty percent of the mean annual daily flow for the months of July through November for surface water withdrawers as described in Section 49-4-150(A)(1).



For surface water withdrawal points located on a surface water segment downstream of and influenced by a licensed or otherwise flow controlled impoundment, "minimum instream flow" means the flow that provides an adequate supply of water at the surface water withdrawal point to maintain the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of the stream taking into account the needs of downstream users, recreation, and navigation and that flow is set in Section 49-4-150(A)(3).



### How is Safe Yield Calculated in R61-119?

- For withdrawals in a stream segment not influenced by a licensed or otherwise flow controlled impoundment
- For withdrawals located on a stream segment materially influenced by a licensed or otherwise flow controlled impoundment
- For withdrawals from a licensed or otherwise flow controlled impoundment
- For withdrawals from an impoundment that is not considered a licensed or otherwise flow controlled impoundment under this regulation



### For withdrawals in a stream segment not influenced by a licensed or otherwise flow controlled impoundment

the safe yield is calculated as the difference between the mean annual daily flow and twenty (20) percent of mean annual daily flow at the withdrawal point, taking into consideration natural and artificial replenishment of the surface water and affected downstream withdrawals.



### For withdrawals located on a stream segment materially influenced by a licensed or otherwise flow controlled impoundment

the safe yield is calculated as the difference between mean annual daily flow and the lowest designated flow in the license specified for normal conditions (non- drought), taking into consideration natural and artificial replenishment of the surface water and affected downstream withdrawals and natural attenuation of the stream flow between the licensed or otherwise flow controlled impoundment and the surface water withdrawal point.



# For withdrawals from a licensed or otherwise flow controlled impoundment

safe yield is calculated as the maximum amount that would not cause a reservoir water level to drop below its minimum water level or to be able to release the lowest minimum flow specified in the license for that impoundment as issued by the appropriate governmental agency.



### For withdrawals from an impoundment that is not considered a licensed or otherwise flow controlled impoundment under this regulation

the safe yield is calculated as the maximum amount that would not cause the impoundment water level to drop below its minimum water level as established by the Department with input from the applicant and the owner(s) and operator(s) of the impoundment consistent with E.3.i(C)(2) above.

