



Alaska's 2014/16 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report Public Workshop/Meeting

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Water

Cindy Gilder

January 2018



Public Meeting/Workshop

- ✓ No Public Testimony
- ✓ <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/.aspx>
- ✓ Questions & Comments at the end of presentation
- ✓ In person and teleconference participants
- ✓ Please state name/organization
- ✓ Teleconference Courtesy
 - Please put phone on mute
 - Please do not put on hold (we get music)



Introducing the DEC Team

- Cindy Gilder, Section Manager, Non-Point Source
- Laura Eldred, Mat-Su and Western AK
- Drew Grant, Overall Integrated Report Coordinator
- Chandra McGee, Northern AK
- Gretchen Pikul, Southeast
- Jeanne Swartz, Anchorage and Kenai
- Tom Turner, Lean Facilitator



What We Will Cover

- ✓ Clean Water Act
- ✓ DEC's Integrated Report Process
- ✓ Proposed Waterbody Categories
- ✓ Improving Water Quality
- ✓ How to Make Public Comments



Federal Clean Water Act

- Congress requires that states:
 - Report on the health of all waters in the state every 2 years
 - Identify waters not meeting State water quality standards
- Integrated Report (or the Integrated Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Report)





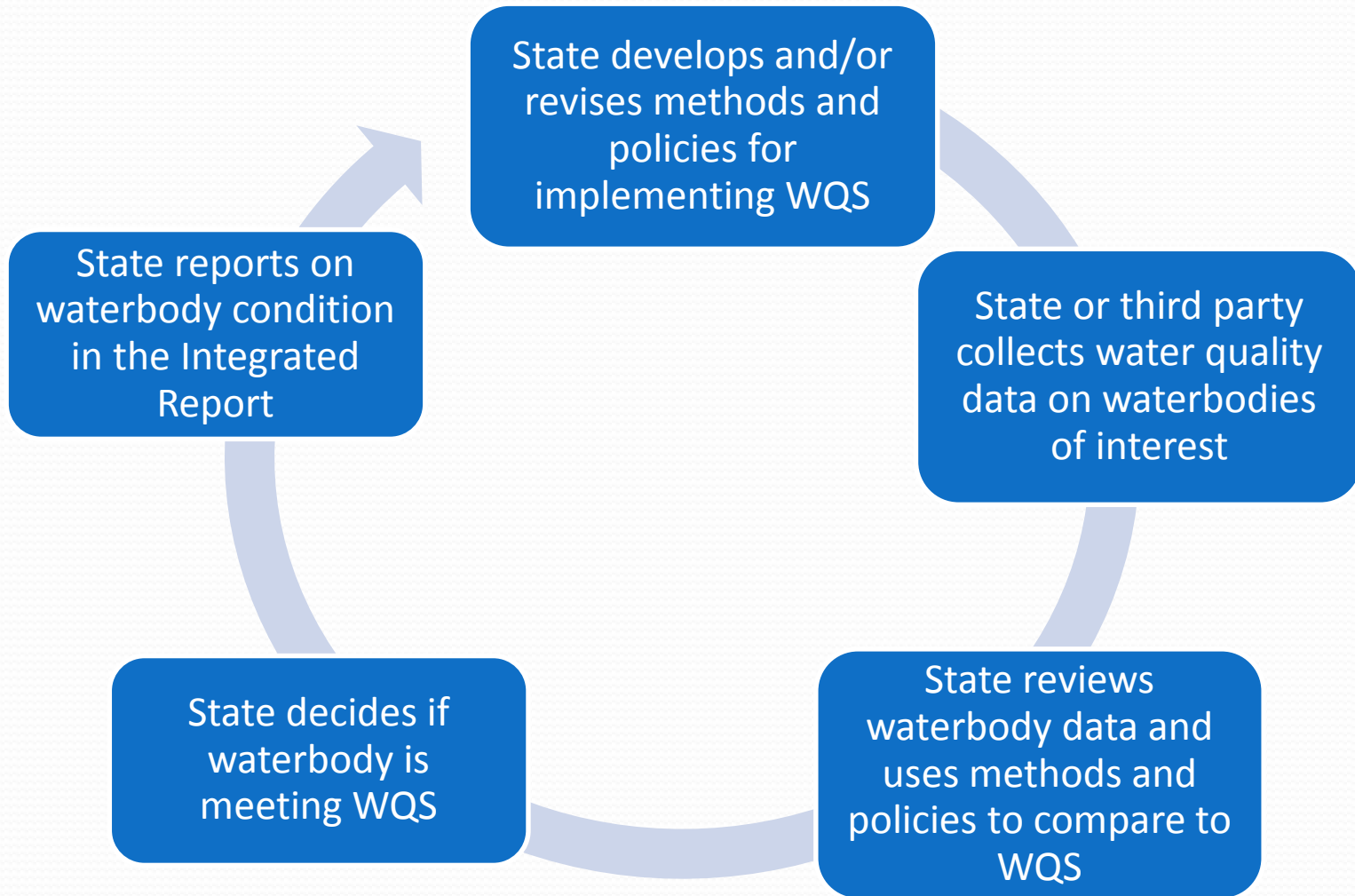
Clean Water Act

Water Quality Standards

- The state adopts water quality standards
- Water quality standards are the basis for reviewing water quality data
- Includes public process to periodically review water quality standards



Water Quality Assessment Process





What is the Integrated Report?

- Report card on the health of Alaska's waterbodies
- Congress requires report every 2 years
- Waters may change categories based on new data





Integrated Report Timeline

Call for data
August 2015



Data analysis &
agency
collaboration



Public comment
period
Occurring now



Respond to
public
comments



Submit final
report to EPA
Spring 2018



EPA approves &
reports to
Congress



Alaska's Integrated Report Status

- 2010 – Approved by EPA
- 2012 – Submitted to EPA, approval pending
- 2014/16
 - requested data from the public - 2015
 - completed analysis -2017
 - asking for public comment - *Where we are today*
- 2018 – moving to an electronic format
 - requested data from the public – May 2017
 - working on data analysis – in progress
 - public notice - tentative for early 2018



Integrated Report-5 categories:

- **Category 1** – all designated uses attained
- **Category 2** – some designated uses attained
- **Category 3** – insufficient information to determine status
- **Category 4** – one or more uses impaired, but does not need a restoration plan [or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)]
 - 4a – impaired waters with a restoration plan (TMDL)
 - 4b – impaired waters with other pollution controls
- **Category 5** (also known as 303(d) list) – one or more uses impaired needing a restoration plan (TMDL)



Alaska's Designated Uses

- **Water Supply**
 - Drinking, culinary, and food processing
 - Agriculture
 - Aquaculture
 - Industry
- **Recreation**
 - Contact
 - Secondary
- **Growth and Propagation of Fish, Shellfish, Other Aquatic Life, and Wildlife**





Category 1

All designated uses attained – meets everything

- Most of Alaska's waters fall here, but do not have the data to verify. No waters currently Category 1.





Category 2 – 18 waters

Some designated uses attained for some pollutants –
Some things ok

- Chatanika River
- Cottonwood Creek
- Kenai River
- Little Meadow Creek
- Meadow Creek
- Mosquito Lake
- Udagak Bay
- Wasilla Creek



Category 2- Improved Waters

Some designated uses attained for some pollutants

- Five unnamed Creeks near Sweetwater Lake & USFS 3030 Road
- Chena River
- Chena Slough
- Granite Creek
- Lakes Hood/Spenard
- Noyes Slough





Category 3

Insufficient information to determine if water quality standards are attained – not sure

- Includes approximately 325 waters
- Since 2012 most have not changed



Category 4a

Impaired but has an approved restoration plan (TMDL)

1. Goldstream Creek 2015 - *turbidity*
2. Slate Creek 2014 - *metals*
3. Cottonwood Creek 2015 - *fecal coliform bacteria*
4. Matanuska River 2017 - *debris*
5. Hawk Inlet 2017 - *metals*





Category 4b

Impaired with pollution controls other than restoration plan (TMDL)

- Little Susitna River: 8.5 miles for Petroleum Hydrocarbons
 - Board of Fish prohibits fishing from a boat with a 2-stroke motor (as of January 2017)





Category 5 (or 303(d) list)

Impaired (polluted) needs a restoration plan (TMDL)

1. Little Susitna River: 8.5 miles for Turbidity
2. Kenai River: 7.5 miles for Turbidity
3. Lake Lucille: 5.6 acres
 - 2 areas near stormwater discharge outfalls for Metals (Zinc and Lead) in lake bed sediment





How do impaired waters get healthy?

- Water quality recovery often takes time
 - Setting priorities and timeframes
- Identify if need:
 - additional water quality studies
 - engineering designs
- Develop & implement restoration plans (TMDLs)





How do impaired waters get healthy? (continued)

- Permitted discharges will be regulated to improve water quality
- DEC does not have authority to regulate pollution from numerous small sources (aka nonpoint source)
 - DEC works to fix nonpoint source pollution by collaborating with other organizations
- Waters re-evaluated every 2 years
 - Call for data
 - Evaluate new information
 - Issue a new Integrated Report



What happens next with the report?



1. DEC reviews comments and revises Integrated Report as needed
2. DEC submits Final 2014/2016 Integrated Report and Response to Comments to EPA
3. EPA approves or disapproves the Category 5 waters
4. EPA reports to Congress



Resources - web page

- A copy of this presentation
- Fact Sheets
 - Integrated Report
 - Kenai River
 - Little Susitna River
 - Lake Lucille
 - Turbidity
- Frequently Asked Questions (covers 2014/2016 Integrated Report, Kenai River, Little Susitna River)
- Water quality reports link



<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/.aspx>



How do I stay informed?

- Join the NPS Listserv
- <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/nonpoint-source-control/>





Public Comments

- Public comments must be received in writing:
 - E-mail
 - Fax
 - Letter
- No verbal comments
- Must be received and date stamped by:
5pm on January 29, 2018

Send comments to:

Drew Grant

DEC Division of Water

P.O. Box 111800

Juneau, AK 99801

Email:

drew.grant@alaska.gov

Fax: (907) 465-5177



Questions?
Thank you for your time!

**Deadline for written comments 5 pm
on January 29, 2018**