

**ALASKA CLEAN WATER ACTIONS
POLICY
RE-RANKING CRITERIA**

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this document is to provide the criteria and/or describe the situations where previously ranked waterbodies should be re-ranked. It shall be used by State of Alaska staff involved in the ranking and re-ranking of waterbodies under the Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA).

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Dividing lines between High, Medium and Lower Priority

Score	DEC & DNR	F&G
High	>15	>19
Medium	10 to 14	14 to 19
Lower	<10	<14

- B. Waived: not an issue, uncertain how to classify, no authority over waterbody
C. Not Scored/Not Ranked: Waterbody that has not yet been evaluated by one or more agencies.

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES

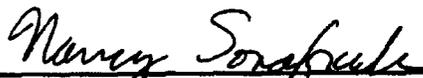
- A. All waterbodies to be re-considered on a 10-year cycle, from the last time ranked.
- B. At a minimum, a waterbody with a rank of medium or higher should undergo re-ranking consideration every 3-5 years from its last ranking.
- C. Re-scoring can be done by an agency, as necessary, from its unique perspective, through the online ACWA system. It can also be done more formally, on a periodic basis, through a joint consultation with other resource agencies. It can also be done independently. Presumably re-ranking would be used where a substantial list of waters is identified as suitable for re-ranking or an emergency condition exists. If an agency independently re-ranks a waterbody, they will send a courtesy notification to the other agencies. Notification will continue until such time as the database can automatically send notification.
- D. A qualitative guideline will continue to be used for ranking and re-ranking consideration based upon new information that comes forward associated with a ranked waterbody.
- E. The following situations will automatically trigger re-ranking:

Re-ranking criteria

- Any time new information comes to light, such as a change in instream flow, industrial or public water use or an anadromous stream catalog change;
 - Whenever there is a change in water quality impairment status (on/off 303(d) list); and
 - Any time new information becomes available that would clearly change the overall category (i.e., high, medium, low) of the ranking.
- F. Waters ranked as "high" and subsequently re-ranked as medium or below may continue to be eligible for funding until projects are completed.

IV. PROCESS

- A. At minimum, on an annual basis, members of the Water Experts Group (WEG) or their designee will meet to discuss water bodies which require ranking/re-ranking. The meeting(s) will likely occur in the 1st and 2nd quarter of the fiscal year. DEC will serve as the lead for establishing the meeting(s) including distribution of an agenda.
- B. Additional meetings can be scheduled when more than five (5) water bodies require ranking or an unusual or urgent situation occurs regarding waters. Confirmation that an unusual situation is occurring is required by 2 agency members.
- C. On an annual basis, DEC will post the final rank list on their ACWA web site. The WEG will strive to have the list published by Jan. 1st of each year. If agreement as to the final disposition of a water body cannot be reached, it shall be noted.
- D. Should ranking methodology change, ranking dates will be noted and re-ranking will occur according to the already established schedule.



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5/5/08

Date



Gary Prokosch, Chief of Water Resources
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June 3, 2008

Date



James M. Ferguson, Statewide Hydropower
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6-4-08

Date