Integrated Report

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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FACT SHEET

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has issued the final 2014/2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report. DEC is required to report on the condition of Alaska's waters according to the federal Clean Water Act (CWA).

What is the Integrated Report?
The Integrated Report categorizes waterbodies in Alaska to meet the reporting requirements for the Section 305(b) report and Section 303(d) list of impaired waters, in accordance with federal Clean Water Act. The Integrated Report helps the State prioritize waters for data gathering, watershed protection, and restoration of impaired waters.

How does the Integrated Report work?
DEC collects water quality information through a public solicitation and through a year-round waterbody nomination process. Information is assessed by a multi-agency process called Alaska Clean Water Actions. Based on this assessment, a waterbody is categorized in the Integrated Report in one of five categories.

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DEC's Water Quality Reports:
http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wqsar/reports.html

Alaska Water Quality Standards, Chapter 70:
https://dec.alaska.gov/com

What are the categories?
There are five categories to which a waterbody can be assigned:

• Categories 1 and 2 are waters for which there is enough information to determine that water quality standards are attained for all or some of their designated uses.

• Category 3 are waters for which there is not enough information to determine their status.

• Category 4 are waters that are impaired, but have a variety of waterbody recovery plans.

• Category 5 are waters that are impaired and do not yet have waterbody recovery plans. Category 5 waters are also known as Section 303(d) impaired waters.

What changes are being proposed?

Eighteen waters are now attaining standards in Category 2 for some criteria:

- Five Unnamed Creeks, near Sweetwater Lake and USFS 3030 Road, where the waters are meeting various criteria for a variety of metals.
- Chatanika River, north of Fairbanks, where the water is meeting criteria for arsenic and dissolved oxygen.
- Chena River, Fairbanks, where the water is meeting the criteria for sediment.
- Chena Slough, Fairbanks, where the water is meeting the criteria for sediment.
- Cottonwood Creek, Wasilla, where the water is meeting the criteria for dissolved

gas, pH, sediment (settable solids), and turbidity.

- Granite Creek, Sitka, where the water is meeting the criteria for sediment and turbidity.
- Kenai River, Kenai, where the water is meeting the criteria for arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and pH.
- Lakes Hood/Spenard, Anchorage, where the water is meeting the criteria for dissolved oxygen.
- Little Meadow Creek, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, where the water is meeting the criteria for dissolved gas; petroleum hydrocarbons, oils, and grease; pH; sediment; toxic and other deleterious organic and inorganic substances; turbidity.
- Meadow Creek, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, where the water is meeting the criteria for dissolved gas; petroleum hydrocarbons, oil,s and grease; pH; sediment; toxic and other deleterious organic and inorganic substances; turbidity.
- Mosquito Lake, Haines Highway, where the water is meeting the criteria for dissolved gas, fecal coliform bacteria, and pH.
- Noyes Slough, Fairbanks, where the water is meeting the criteria for sediment standard, but remains impaired from residues and petroleum hydrocarbons.
- Udagak Bay, Unalaska Island, where the water is meeting the criteria for residues.
- Wasilla Creek, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, where the water is meeting the criteria for dissolved gas; petroleum hydrocarbons, oils, and grease; pH; sediment (settleable solids); turbidity.

Five waters are now in Category 4a under a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):

- Cottonwood Creek, Wasilla, previously in Category 5/Section 303(d) impaired list, now has a TMDL that was developed and approved for fecal coliform bacteria.
- Goldstream Creek, Fairbanks previously in Category 5/Section 303(d) impaired list, the water now has a TMDL that was developed and approved for turbidity and total suspended solids.
- Hawk Inlet, Southeast Alaska, previously in Category 5/Section 303(d) impaired list, now has a TMDL that was developed and approved for cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc.
- Matanuska River, previously in Category 5/Section 303(d) impaired list, the water now has a TMDL that was developed and approved for residues (debris).
- Slate Creek, Denali National Park, previously in Category 5/Section 303(d) impaired list, now has a TMDL that was developed and approved for antimony, arsenic, and iron.

One water is now in Category 4b with alternative pollution controls:

- Little Susitna River, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, threatened for 8.5 miles for petroleum hydrocarbons with a waterbody recovery plan.

Two new waters are placed in Category 5/Section 303(d) impaired list:

- Lake Lucille, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, where two areas of freshwater lake bed sediments have elevated levels of lead and zinc. Lake Lucille is under an existing plan to correct a dissolved oxygen impairment.
- Little Susitna River, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, for 8.5 miles for turbidity.