



Alaska Surface Water Quality Standards 2018 – 2020 Triennial Review

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Water



Overview of today's presentation:

- Role of Water Quality Standards
- 2018-2020 Triennial Review
- How to submit comments



Division of Water

Mission Statement:

Improve and Protect Alaska's Water Quality

How?

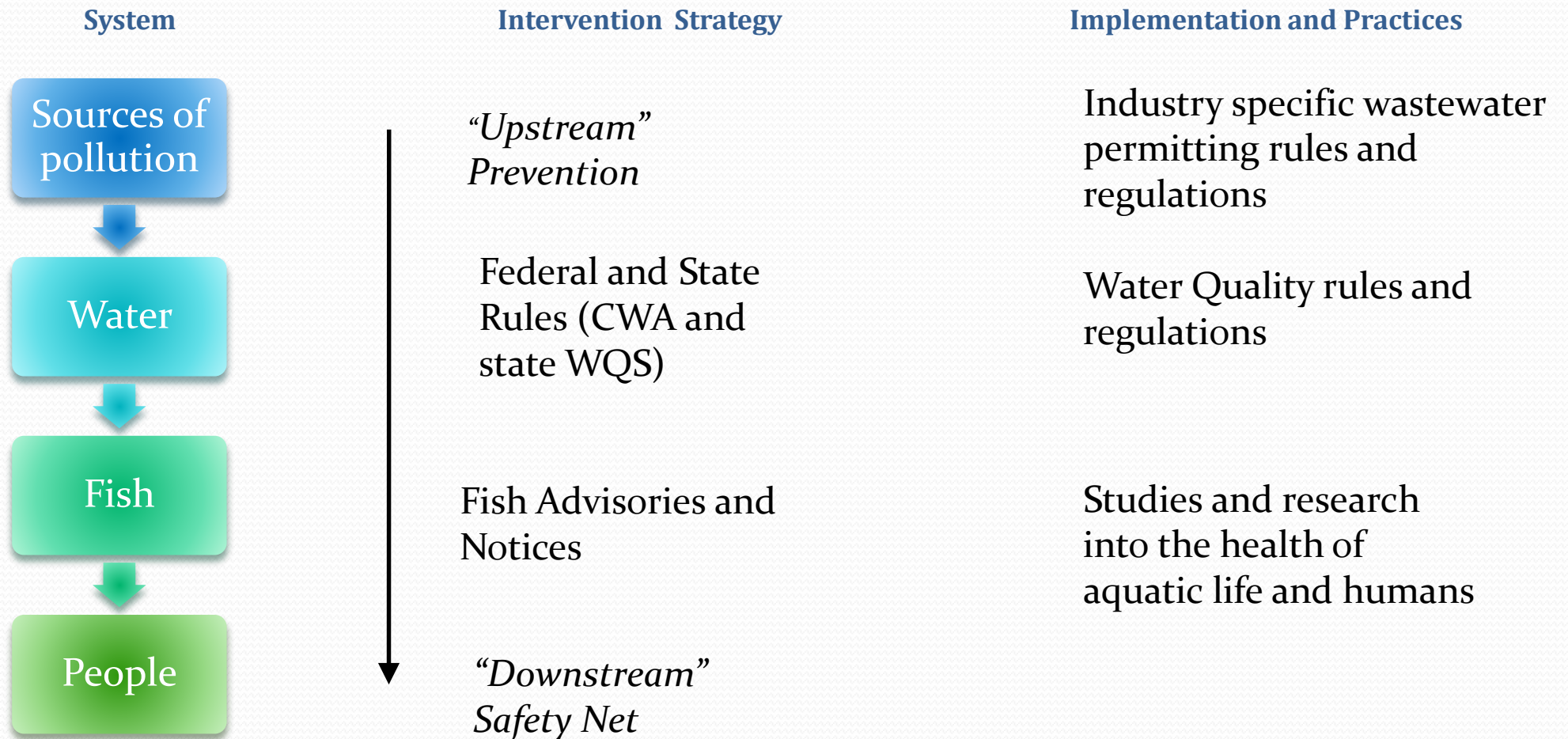
- **Establishes standards for water cleanliness**
- Regulates discharges to waters and wetlands
- Provides financial assistance for water and wastewater facility construction and waterbody assessment and remediation
- Trains, certifies, and assists water and wastewater facility system operators
- Monitors and reports on water quality



What are Water Quality Standards (WQS)?

- Are designed to protect public health or welfare
- Help identify polluted waters; clean-up polluted water, and make sure our waters don't get more polluted

Ways to Control Water Pollution



What do Water Quality Standards do?

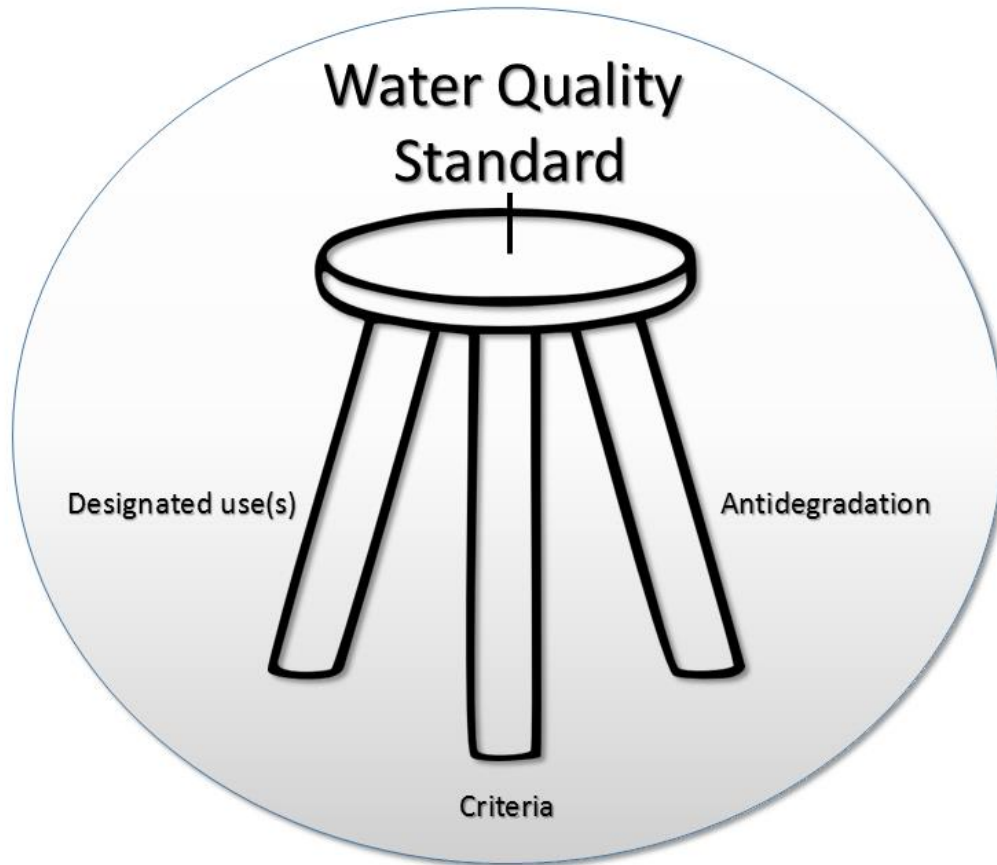
- Standards protect a variety of uses
 - Drinking water
 - Recreation
 - Agriculture/Aquaculture
 - Aquatic life
 - Industrial
 - Other typical activities



Foundation of a Water Quality Standard

-Defined-

1. **Designated Uses** – how water is used (e.g. recreational, industrial, aquatic life)
2. **Criteria** - are numeric or narrative values. Consider how much and how long you may be exposed to a substance or condition
3. **Antidegradation** –process for protecting high quality waters



Application of State Water Quality Standards

"Waters" means

- All bodies of surface or underground water
- Freshwater or marine
- Wholly or partially in or bordering the state or under the jurisdiction of the state.





Triennial Review Process

- Occurs every three years as required by the Clean Water Act
- Helps ensure that pollution limits are integrating the latest science, technology, and policy requirements
- Engages interested stakeholders to help increase the effectiveness of this process



Triennial Review Process

- DEC is accepting written comments till the end of 2017
- DEC has posted background materials on the WQS Website
 - Can provide additional information via email
- DEC will accept public testimony following this presentation



2018-2020 *High Priority* Issues

- Antidegradation Implementation rule making
- Update to 2008 Toxics manual
 - Includes Human Health Criteria (inc. FCR) and other pollutants that could affect aquatic life
- Water Quality Standards Clarifications
- Water Quality Standards Variances



Other issues of interest to DEC

- Numerous other topics are noted in the 2018-2020 *Issue Summary*
 - Available on DEC Website or upon request
- The Triennial Review process will consider all comments pertaining to current or potential issues of interest to the public
- While many topics may not be considered to be a *high priority*, that does not mean that DEC is not interested in pursuing them at some point



Do you have questions about the process or specific topics?

- You may submit written questions relevant to the proposed action by electronic mail at dectriennialreview@alaska.gov or 410 Willoughby Ave, Suite 303. P.O. Box 11800, Juneau, Alaska 99811.
- The questions must be received at least 10 days before the end of the public comment period.



How can I comment in writing?

- Submit written comments to Water Quality Standards Section, DEC Division of Water, at 410 Willoughby Ave, Suite 303. P.O. Box 118000, Juneau, Alaska 99811.
- Comments may also be submitted electronically through the Alaska Online Public Notice System at <http://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices>.



Summary

- DEC is only accepting comments on **potential** projects- this is not rulemaking and new or revised WQS will **not** directly result from this process
- You may submit comments via the State of Alaska public notification webpage or directly to DEC
- DEC will consolidate comments and publish a responsiveness summary document on its webpage



How can I be more involved?

Register to the DEC Water Quality Standards listserv

- Issues and Communications on Water Quality Standards:

http://list.state.ak.us/soalists/DEC_WaterQualityStandard/jl.htm

Register to the DEC-Tribal Outreach listserv

- http://dec.alaska.gov/water/TribalCommunication/tribal_email_list.htm



Thank you for your time!

Thoughts? Suggestions?
Questions?

We want to hear from you!



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2018-2020 Public Hearing



- Please note that during today's hearing DEC will not be providing commentary on any of the proposed triennial review issues
- DEC may answer questions about the public process but not discuss potential projects
 - All comments will be considered part of the public record
- Instructions
 - Please state your name and who you may represent
 - Topic(s) of interest or concern to DEC
 - Please be respectful
 - Please keep your comments directed to the triennial review process



Conclusion of Public Hearing

- Thank you for you time
- Please note that written comments may be submitted to DEC through December 31st at 5pm.
- The comment deadline may be extended if DEC receives such a request in writing and is approved by the DEC Commissioner.
- Any extension will be public noticed.

Additional slides



High Priority Issues

- Water Quality Criteria Clarifications
 - Update duration and frequency values- beneficial for monitoring and compliance programs
 - Update Standard Analytical Methods
 - New Definitions (e.g., fresh and marine waters)
- Adoption of Water Quality Standards Variances
 - Consistent with federal CWA rulemaking in 2015