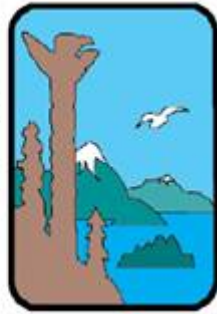


ALASKA
Department of
Environmental
Conservation



**Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation
Division of Water**

**PROPOSED 2008 INTEGRATED REPORT
FACT SHEET**

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is seeking written comments on the proposed 2008 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Integrated Report).

What is the Integrated Report?

Every 2 years DEC is required to report on the condition of Alaska's waters in accordance with the Clean Water Act. The Integrated Report categorizes waterbodies in Alaska to meet the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) reporting requirements for the Section 305(b) report and Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. The Integrated Report helps the State prioritize waters for data gathering, watershed protection and restoration of impaired waters.

How does the 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-state agency process called the Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA). Based on this assessment, a waterbody is placed in one of the CWA categories in the Integrated Report. If a waterbody consistently does not meet water quality standards, DEC may place the water in Category 5 also known as the CWA Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. Using established EPA guidelines, waters in Category 5 require DEC to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)-a 'pollution budget' or other controls that lead to waterbody recovery.

What are the categories?

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

- Categories 1 and 2 are waters that attain 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 waterbody recovery plans; and
- Category 5 are waters that are impaired and do not yet have a waterbody recovery plan.

PROPOSED 2008 INTEGRATED REPORT

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What's New?

Six waters are removed from the 2006 Integrated Report Category 5/Section 303(d) list of impaired waters:

- Cheney Lake is now placed in Category 2 since recent monitoring shows the water is attaining the fecal coliform bacteria criterion;
- Pederson Hill Creek is proposed for placement in Category 4a as a final TMDL for fecal coliform bacteria and is being submitted to EPA for approval;
- St. Paul Island Lagoon is now placed in Category 2 since recent evaluation demonstrates the waterbody is attaining the petroleum hydrocarbons standard; and
- Hobart Bay, Twelvemile Arm, and Schulze Cove are now placed in Category 2. These waters associated with historic log transfer and/or log storage from timber harvest activities. Dive surveys and assessments were completed in 2007 that indicate these waters are now attaining the residues standard.

Five waters are moved from the 2006 Integrated Report Category 4b waterbody recovery plan waters to Category 2 attaining waters:

- Tongass Narrows 2 is now placed in Category 2 since it is attaining the residues water quality criterion and the water quality impairment no longer exists;
- Eagle River Flats, is now placed in Category 2 since it is attaining the toxics water quality criterion and the water quality impairment no longer exists; and
- Sawmill Creek, is now placed in Category 2 since it is attaining residues standards and the water quality impairment no longer exists.

In other water actions, DEC acknowledges work being done to address the impairment of the lower Kenai River area (currently in Category 5). New regulations being considered by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game Board of Fisheries may result in sufficient controls on the contaminant source (boat motors) to allow the Kenai River to attain standards. If regulatory actions happen before the final report is submitted to EPA, the waterbody status may change to Category 4b.

There is new listing and assessment methodology proposed for the turbidity standard. No new impairments are currently proposed based on this new methodology, but public comment is sought on the methodology as it may affect future listing and assessment decisions.

The Draft 2008 Integrated Report is available online at

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wqsar/waterbody/integratedreport.htm>

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**The public comment period is from February 1, 2008 to March 3, 2008.
You can submit written comments by 4:30 PM on March 3, 2008 to:**

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