Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Water

2010 INTEGRATED REPORT FACT SHEET

What is the Integrated Report?
Every 2 years Department of Environmental Conservation (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 a 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 are waters attaining all the designated uses;
- Category 2 are waters that attain some of the 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.

What's New?

Eleven waters or portions of waters are removed from the 2008 Integrated Report Category 5/Section 303(d) list of impaired waters:

- Caribou Creek, in Denali National Park, moves to Category 2 after data show it is meeting standards;
- Chena River and Chena Slough in Fairbanks are meeting standards for petroleum hydrocarbons and are moved to Category 2; however, they are still listed as impaired for sediment problems;
- Cottonwood Creek in Wasilla moves to Category 2 after sampling data show the standard for residues, in this case, foam, is met. A seven mile segment of the creek has been found impaired for fecal coliform bacteria;
- Dutch Harbor near Unalaska, portions of the harbor are now in Category 2 after sampling data show a large portion of the harbor is meeting standards. Two small nearshore areas of Dutch Harbor remain impaired;
- Iliuliuk Bay, bordering the City of Unalaska, moves to Category 2 after sampling data show it is meeting standards;
- Jordan Creek, near Juneau, is now in Category 4a since the TMDL was completed;
- Klag Bay, North of Sitka, is now in Category 4a since the TMDL was completed;
- Nakwasina River, North of Sitka, is now placed in Category 2. The standard for turbidity is met; and
- Noyes Slough in Fairbanks is now in Category 4a since it has a TMDL completed for residues but remains impaired from sediment and petroleum hydrocarbons;
- Pullen Creek, in Skagway, is now in Category 4a since the TMDL was completed.

Four waters are moved from the 2008 Integrated Report Category 4a and 4b waters to Category 2 attaining waters:

- Jewel Lake in Anchorage is now placed in Category 2 since it is meeting fecal coliform standards;
- Kenai River is now placed in Category 2 since it is meeting petroleum hydrocarbons standards;
- Lake Hood in Anchorage is now placed in Category 2 since it is meeting fecal coliform standards; and
- Ward Cove near Ketchikan is now placed in Category 2 since it is meeting the toxic and other deleterious substances standards.

Eight waters are placed in Category 5 in the 2010 Integrated Report:

- Five creeks along the United States Forest Service 3030 Road near Coffman Cove on Prince of Wales Island for exceeding one or more of the following metals: aluminum, cadmium, copper, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, zinc and sulfate. The source of the metals is crushed rock used to build the new road;

- Cottonwood Creek, a seven-mile segment near Wasilla, is impaired for exceeding the fecal coliform bacteria standard. The source of the bacteria is undetermined; and
- Red Devil Creek and the Kuskokwim River are listed for exceeding standards for antimony, arsenic and mercury. An abandon mine site is along the creek.

There is new listing methodology for pathogens.

New listing and assessment methodology has been proposed for pathogens. No impairment determinations based on this new methodology were made in this 2010 report (see Appendix I). The new listing and assessment methodology proposed for pathogens does not change the FC bacteria criterion within Alaska's WQS (in 18 AAC 70); however, it does provide direction for implementing the criterion when making water quality attainment or impairment determinations.

Public Involvement

DEC sought written comments from the public on the DRAFT 2010 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Integrated Report). The public comment period was from February 26 to March 30, 2010. The final report incorporates information from the public comment period.

For additional information on:
Coffman Cove Forest Service Road: See the fact sheet at:
http://www.dec.alaska.gov/water/wqsar/waterbody/integratedreport/ForestServiceRd3030.pdf
Red Devil mine: See the fact sheet at:
http://www.dec.alaska.gov/water/wqsar/waterbody/integratedreport/red-devil.pdf
Salt Chuck mine: See the fact sheet at:
http://www.dec.alaska.gov/water/wqsar/waterbody/integratedreport/salt-chuck-mine.pdf