

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

2020 Integrated Report

Fact Sheet



What is the Integrated Report?

Every two years, DEC is required to report on the condition of Alaska's waters, in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act. 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. The Integrated Report helps the State prioritize waters for data gathering, watershed protection, and restoration of impaired waters.

DEC website:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/>

Since 2019 the report has been submitted electronically as a list of waters and their various categories. Additional information on individual waters in the Integrated Report is available by contacting DEC, or from the EPA How's My Waterway website <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/state/AK/water-quality-overview>.

What are the Integrated Report categories?

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

Categories 1 and 2	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	Waters for which there is not enough information to determine their status.
Category 4	Waters that are impaired, but have one of several different types of waterbody recovery plans.
Category 5	Waters that are impaired and do not yet have waterbody recovery plans. Also known as 303(d) list impaired waters.

Impairment means that a waterbody persistently exceeds state water quality standards (18 AAC 70), usually determined after two or more years of water quality monitoring. DEC makes impairment decisions using publically available listing methodologies. EPA has approval authority over waters moving into and out of Category 5, also known as the impaired waters list. Waters in Category 4 are also impaired but have an EPA-approved waterbody recovery plan.

What changes are included in the 2020 Integrated Report?

Category 2

Six waters have improved and are now meeting the standards for Category 2 for some criteria:

Waterbody	Parameter	Previous Category (2018 IR)	Proposed Category (2020 IR)
Chena Slough	Turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen	3	2
Deshka River	Total aromatic hydrocarbons	3	2
Kenai River	Arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead	3	2
King Cove	Residues	4a	2
Tongass Narrows 1	Residues	4b	2
Unuk River	Alkalinity, ammonia, antimony, barium, beryllium, boron, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, cyanide, lead, lithium, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, nitrate/nitrite, selenium, silver, thallium, total dissolved solids, uranium, zinc	None	2

Category 3

Fifteen waters were added to Category 3

Waterbody	Parameter	Previous Category (2018 IR)	Proposed Category (2020 IR)
Akutan Harbor	Dissolved oxygen	2	3
Captain's Bay	Dissolved oxygen	None	3
Chester Creek	Dissolved oxygen, pH	None	3
Gold Creek	Turbidity	None	3
Goose Lake	Alkalinity, ammonia, chloride, color, nitrate-nitrite pH, sulfate, temperature, turbidity	None	3
Kenai River	Iron, turbidity, zinc	None	3
Leachate Creek	Ammonia, iron	None	3
Little Campbell Creek	Dissolved oxygen, pH	None	3
Lutak Inlet Beach	Pathogens	2	3
Mountain Point Surprise Beach	Pathogens	None	3
Port of Valdez	Residues	None	3
Redoubt Lake	Alkalinity, ammonia, dissolved oxygen, nitrate/nitrite, pH, temperature	None	3
Rotary Park Beach	Pathogens	None	3
Stikine River	Aluminum, alkalinity, ammonia, antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chloride, copper, dissolved oxygen, nitrate/nitrite	None	3
Taku River	Aluminum, alkalinity, ammonia, antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chloride, copper,	None	3

	dissolved oxygen, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, nitrate/nitrite, pH, selenium, silver, temperature, vanadium, zinc		
Unuk River	Aluminum, arsenic, copper, dissolved oxygen, iron, manganese, pH, strontium, temperature, turbidity, vanadium	None	3

Categories 4a and 4b

One water is now in Category 4a under a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and two are in Category 4b under alternative water quality improvement plans.

Waterbody	Parameter	Previous Category (2018 IR)	Proposed Category (2020 IR)
Lake Lucile	PAH (sediment)	3	4a
Silver Bay 2	Residues – seafood waste discharge	None	4b
Cold Bay	Petroleum hydrocarbons	5	4b

Category 5

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

Waterbody	Parameter	Previous Category (2018 IR)	Proposed Category (2020 IR)
Beacon Hill Beach	Pathogens	None	5
Herring Cove Beach	Pathogens	None	5
Knudson Cove Beach	Pathogens	None	5
Mountain Point Cultural Food Beach	Pathogens	None	5
Rotary Park Pool Beach	Pathogens	None	5
Seaport Beach	Pathogens	None	5
Shull Beach	Pathogens	None	5
South Point Higgins Beach	Pathogens	None	5
Refuge Cove Beach	Pathogens	None	5
Sunset Beach	Pathogens	None	5
Thomas Basin Harbor	Pathogens	None	5

Where can I find more information online on the health of Alaska's water?

- ADEC Integrated Report web page; Integrated Reports from previous years can be found here <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report>
- Summary data on Alaska's waters in Integrated Reports from previous years can be found on EPA's ATTAINS here https://ofmpub.epa.gov/waters10/attains_state.control?p_state=AK