



Water Quality Program Category 2 Summary

Draft 2026 Integrated Report

Katlian River

Katlian River was listed as impaired in 1998 for non-attainment of the Sediment and Turbidity Water Quality Standards (WQS) due to past timber harvest activities. This decision was based solely on professional judgment and observations with no accompanying water quality data.

Timber harvest from the 1960's impacted approximately 1,225 acres and included 7.5 miles of mainland roads. After completion of timber harvest, all mainstem bridges and structures on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands were removed and allowed to naturally revegetate and regrow¹. Watershed restoration measures included thinning young tree growth in riparian areas to promote large riparian conifer growth and adding large woody debris to tributary channels to improve fish habitat. Any future timber harvest activities would require best management practices prescribed in Alaska's Forest Resources and Practices Act.



In 2017 the USFS completed a comprehensive field assessment² of watershed condition including: road and riparian forest condition, historical photo time series evaluation of fluvial geomorphic conditions, and aquatic habitat conditions. Findings conclude that any sediment sources are predominantly of natural origin.

Based on these findings, DEC recommends Katlian River be moved from Category 5 to Category 2 for attainment of Turbidity and Sedimentation/Siltation WQS.

Table 1. Current assessment unit status and applicable water quality standard

Assessment Unit Name	Katlian River
Assessment Unit ID	AK_R_1021212_004_001
Parameters	Turbidity, Sedimentation/Siltation
Category Change	5 to 2
Water Quality Standard	Turbidity and Sediment for freshwater uses
Designated Uses Affected	(A) Water Supply (i) drinking, culinary, and food processing (C) Growth and Propagation of Fish, Shellfish, other Aquatic Life and Wildlife

¹ USDA Forest Service Sitka Ranger District, Tongass National Forest /Sitka Tribe of Alaska. 2003. *Katlian Watershed Assessment*. October. 171 pages.

² USDA Forest Service Sitka Ranger District, Tongass National Forest. 2017. *Katlian River Water Quality: Road Source Sediment Assessment*. October. 29 pages.