Division of Water

TMDL and Alternative to a TMDL Recovery Plan Prioritization and Schedule

Final 2026 Integrated Report

DEC has reviewed waterbody assessment units (AUs) currently listed as impaired (Category 5) and proposes the following prioritization and schedule[1] for development of waterbody restoration plans[2] including Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). The approach used for each Category 5 AU will be based on criteria and considerations described in *Alaska's Prioritization Framework 2022-2032 Clean Water Act Vision for Section 303(d)*[3] and summarized below. These include the severity of the pollution and effects on designated uses. DEC also considers availability of resources for plan development and participation of community partners for implementation.

In the event that multiple AUs within a subbasin (US Geological Survey eight-digit hydrologic unit code) are impaired for the same parameter or group of parameters, DEC may develop a TMDL or alternative to a TMDL recovery plan for the subbasin rather than the individual AUs. The subbasin pollutant/parameter pairs would have the same priority ranking.

DEC's prioritization process considers designated uses by giving the highest priority to AU pollutant/parameter pairs based on the severity of the pollution and impacts to designated uses as shown in Table 1. Other factors DEC considers include:

- Whether there are multiple listed pollutants and the relationship between the pollutants and water quality.
- The number of TMDLs in place for that AU.
- Severity of violations of permitted discharges.
- Cross-program and cross-agency priorities.
- Deadlines established via a court order or consent decree.
- Estimated scale and complexity of TMDL development, monitoring needs, and DEC TMDL resources.
- Community partner interest and public participation.

The Division of Spill Prevention and Response Contaminated Sites (CS) program has regulatory authority to address contaminated sites; therefore the Division of Water does not rank or develop TMDLs based on contaminated sites. Assessment units may still be listed as impaired but the regulatory process within DEC's Contaminated Sites program will establish recovery timelines and goals. The Division of Water may use these recovery timelines and goals to establish a Category 4b alternative to a TMDL restoration plan. The Division of Water will continue to monitor the progress towards the attainment of contaminated sites.

Alaska's approved TMDLs and alternative to a TMDL restoration plans can be found at the following website: https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/.

[1] 40 CFR 130.7(d)(1)
[2] 40 CFR 130.7(b)(4)
[3] See https://dec.alaska.gov/media/y3sffjzb/alaskas-prioritization-framework-2022-2032-final-jan2024.pdf

Table 1. Alaska's priority ranking considerations. Timing factors identified may elevate or demote rankings.

Priority	Ranking Considerations	Timing Factors
High	Human health or public drinking water system impacts, significant permit discharge violations, environmental impacts	• Current restoration activities • Lack of water quality data • Coordination with other agencies and partners • New regulations • Enforcement actions • Lack of resources
Medium	Recreation advisories or potential exposure to pathogens	
Lower	Other recovery implementation efforts underway; allowing time for implementation and water quality response	

Table 2. Alaska's 2026 Integrated Report 303(d) list of Category 5 waters, pollutant(s), and priority

Assessment Unit Name	Assessment Unit	Pollutant	Target Completion Date	Priority Elevation	Considerations
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Beaches	AK_B_3020207_000 AK_B_3020603_004 AK_B_3020302_002 AK_B_3020301_000 AK_B_3040303_002	Petroleum hydrocarbons, Oils, and Grease	June 2026	High	Revise current alternative to a TMDL recovery plan
Port Valdez Small Boat Harbor	AK_M_2020111_011	Residues	June 2026	High	Alternative to a TMDL recovery plan included in 2026 Integrated Report
Chester Creek	AK_R_2040108_003	*E. coli* bacteria	June 2027	High	Revise current TMDL to add *E. coli*
Little Campbell Creek	AK_R_2040106_004	*E. coli* bacteria	June 2027	High	Revise current TMDL to add *E. coli*

Assessment Unit Name	Assessment Unit	Pollutant	Target Completion Date	Priority Elevation	Considerations
Ketchikan Beaches: Rotary Park Pool, Rotary Park, Mountain Point Cultural Food, Mountain Point Surprise, Herring Cove	AK_B_1010205_001 AK_B_1010208_001 AK_B_1010208_002 AK_B_1010204_007 AK_B_1010204_008	Fecal coliform, Enterococcus bacteria	June 2031	Medium	Community actively implementing pathogen reduction plan
Ketchikan Beaches: Thomas Basin and Seaport Beach	AK_B_1010204_005 AK_B_1010204_006	Fecal coliform, Enterococcus bacteria	June 2032	Medium	Community actively implementing pathogen reduction plan
Ketchikan Beaches: Knudson Cove, Beacon Hill	AK_B_1010203_001 AK_B_1010203_002	Fecal coliform, Enterococcus bacteria	June 2033	Medium	Community actively implementing pathogen reduction plan
Ketchikan Beaches: South Point Higgins, Shull Beach, Sunset Beach, Refuge Cove	AK_B_1010204_001 AK_B_1010204_002 AK_B_1010204_003 AK_B_1010204_004	Fecal coliform, Enterococcus bacteria	June 2034	Medium	Community actively implementing pathogen reduction plan
Ketchikan Creek	AK_R_1010204_003	Fecal coliform bacteria	June 2035	Medium	Community actively implementing pathogen reduction plan

Assessment Unit Name	Assessment Unit	Pollutant	Target Completion Date	Priority Elevation	Considerations
Salt Chuck Bay	AK_M_1010305_021	Copper	June 2028	CS	Contaminated Site program lead. Target completion date dependent on the responsible lead agency or organization completing required site recovery documents and actions.
Kimshan Cove	AK_M_1021115_007	Arsenic, Copper, Lead, Mercury	June 2029	CS	Contaminated Site program lead. Target completion date dependent on the responsible lead agency or organization completing required site recovery documents and actions.
Egegik River	AK_R_3020311_001_001	Petroleum hydrocarbons	June 2030	CS	Contaminated Site program lead. Target completion date dependent on the responsible lead agency or organization completing required site recovery documents and actions.

Note: During plan development, it may be determined that a plan is not needed if the AU has recovered, or adequate restoration actions are ongoing. Additionally, the order in which recovery plans are worked may change as new information becomes available.