



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Water

2012 INTEGRATED REPORT FACT SHEET

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is seeking written comments on the proposed 2012 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Integrated Report). The deadline to submit written comments is September 7, 2012.

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 (CWA). The Integrated Report categorizes waterbodies in Alaska to meet the 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 Integrated 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 Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA). Based on this assessment, a waterbody is categorized in the Integrated Report in one of five CWA categories.

What are the categories?

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

- Categories 1 and 2 are 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 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

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- Category 5 are waters that are impaired and do not yet have waterbody recovery plans. Category 5 waters are also known as CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters.

What's New?

Three waters are now attaining standards in Category 2:

- East Port Frederick, near Hoonah, where the marine water is meeting the residues standard.
- Eyak Lake, Cordova, where the water is meeting the petroleum hydrocarbons standard.
- Fubar Creek on Prince of Wales Island, where the water is meeting the sediment standard.

Six impaired waters are now under a plan in Category 4:

- Big Lake, near Wasilla, is now in Category 4a, because a TMDL has been developed for petroleum hydrocarbons.
- Dutch Harbor, near Unalaska, is now in Category 4a, because a TMDL has been developed for petroleum hydrocarbons.
- Iliuliuk Harbor, near Unalaska, is now in Category 4a, because a TMDL has been developed for petroleum hydrocarbons.
- Noyes Slough, in Fairbanks, is now in Category 4a, because a TMDL has been developed for petroleum hydrocarbons.
- Skagway Harbor, at Skagway, is now in Category 4a, because a TMDL has been developed for petroleum hydrocarbons.
- Tongass Narrows, Ketchikan Harbor, is now in Category 4b, because a waterbody recovery plan (4b) has been developed for seafood residues.

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

- Hawk Inlet, NW Admiralty Island, where a small portion of the marine sediment is impaired from cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc.
- Kimshan Cove, west Chichagof Island, where the marine sediment is impaired from arsenic, copper, lead, and mercury.
- Stampede Creek, Denali National Park and Preserve, where the water is impaired from antimony.

Four modifications of waters with impairments are proposed:

- Akutan Harbor in the Aleutians – This water is no longer impaired from dissolved gas (low dissolved oxygen) but remains in Category 4a as impaired for residues with a TMDL.
- Ship Creek in Anchorage – This water is no longer impaired from petroleum hydrocarbons but remains in Category 4a as impaired from fecal coliform bacteria with a TMDL.
- Slate Creek in Denali National Park and Preserve – This water is no longer impaired from turbidity but has been determined to be in Category 5/303(d) as impaired from antimony and arsenic.

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- Skagway Harbor in Skagway – This water is no longer impaired from metals but has been determined to be in Category 4a as impaired from petroleum hydrocarbons with a TMDL.

Waters were added to the section 303(d) list in this report were due to historic mining activity and an ore spill. The impairment determination was based on data collected by the DEC Contaminated Sites Program and Greens Creek Mine as part of their wastewater discharge permit and environmental impact statement.

The Draft 2012 Integrated Report is available online at

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

Submit written comments by 5:00 PM on Sept 7, 2012 to:

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