

## 2022 Integrated Report

### What is the Integrated Report

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires Oregon to report on the quality of its surface waters every two years. This effort represents the state's most comprehensive evaluation of water quality data and information about Oregon's waters. DEQ assessed this data and information to determine whether Oregon's waters contain pollutants at levels that exceed protective water quality standards. To complete this, DEQ reviewed and assessed readily available data and information using the [Methodology for Oregon's 2022 Water Quality Report and List of Water Quality Limited Waters](#).

The result of these analyses and conclusions is called the "Integrated Report" because it combines the requirements of Clean Water Act section 305(b) to develop a status report and the section 303(d) requirement to develop a list of impaired waters. The Integrated Report is required to be submitted to the U.S. EPA for final approval in April 2022.

The Integrated Report categorizes all assessed waterbodies. Oregon does not have sufficiently robust data to be able to use Category 1; all designated uses are supported. See Categories two – five below. Data and information are used to evaluate the most common beneficial uses, such as aquatic life, drinking water or recreation. Waterbodies that exceed protective water quality standards are identified as impaired, (which is also referred to as the "303(d) List"). Identifying a waterbody as impaired initiates the prioritization and development of a Total Maximum Daily Load that

identifies sources of pollution and ways to ultimately meet water quality standards.

### What's new in the 2022 Integrated Report?

DEQ completed several improvements in the 2022 Integrated Report: (1) the Assessment Methodology update focused on the use of continuous data, thus, the 2022 Integrated Report incorporated more continuous datasets for an expanded set of parameters (i.e., temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH), (2) DEQ expanded rationales for support of assessment conclusions, and (3) DEQ provided more localized impairment information for watershed units by assessing at the monitoring station level.

In 2018/2020, DEQ redefined how it identified the segments of waterbodies it uses to conduct assessments within waterbodies. DEQ migrated its hydrologic framework to the National Hydrography Dataset framework. These waterbody segments are referred to as "assessment units" and remain fixed for each assessment cycle.

During the 2018/2020 Integrated Report public comment period, DEQ received comments expressing concern about watershed units and the visualization of impaired waterbodies within watershed assessment units. DEQ revised its map display to represent impaired watershed units as purple polygons and identified impaired waterbodies within the assessment unit as dashed purple lines.

Previous assessment methodologies for watershed units pooled data together from multiple monitoring locations in the sub-watershed to arrive at a single assessment unit conclusion. However, by doing this, specific details about where impairments occurred within a watershed assessment unit occurred only through analysis of the raw assessment data files.

In the 2022 Integrated Report, watershed units were assessed at each individual monitoring station. This approach identifies the specific monitoring station and streams within a watershed unit where the impairment occurs. Ultimately, the watershed unit will have a single assessment conclusion for reporting purposes.



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### Water Quality Assessment

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**Category 2:** At least one core beneficial use is supported and none is known to be impaired.

**Category 3:** Not enough information to determine beneficial use support.

**Category 4:** Available data and/or information indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported but a TMDL is not needed.

**Category 5:** At least one beneficial use is not supported and a TMDL is needed.

Monitoring station conclusions were compiled to determine a waterbody conclusion, and waterbody conclusions were rolled up to an assessment unit conclusion. If one monitoring station in the watershed assessment unit was considered impaired, the assessment unit was reported as impaired.

### What happened to the 2018/2020 listings?

When DEQ does a new assessment, previous assessment conclusions were carried forward where no new data were assessed. This is important, because there will not always be additional data for every location that has been evaluated previously.

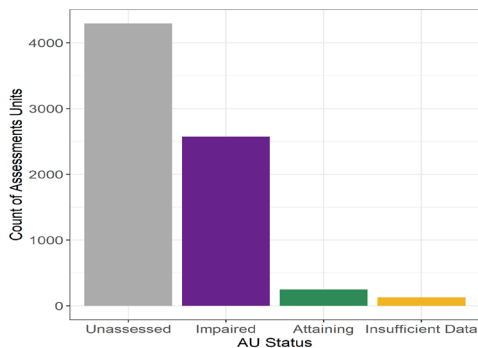


Oregon Coast

### Key findings

The 2022 assessment continues to indicate the greatest number of impairments are for temperature, dissolved oxygen, biocriteria and *E. coli*.

- In 2022 DEQ assessed 1,201 assessment units, representing 17% of waters statewide.
- Statewide, DEQ has assessed 41% of all assessment units through the Integrated Report over time.
- 37% of Oregon’s assessment units are impaired; this is an increase from 34% in 2018/2020.
- Fish and Aquatic Life use impairment continues to be the most commonly unsupported use. This is largely driven by non-attainment of the temperature criteria.



Status of Oregon’s assessment units

### Public process and participation

DEQ conducts this assessment every two years. During this cycle, there were a number of opportunities for the public to learn about and get involved in Integrated Report development. Data solicitations were conducted prior to development of the Integrated Report during which DEQ encouraged volunteer groups, watershed councils, academia, local, state and federal governments, and non-profit organizations to submit data to be incorporated into the water quality assessments. Webinars were offered for draft methodologies on how DEQ uses the data to determine whether waters are attaining standards. The 2022 Assessment Methodology also underwent a public comment period prior to beginning the 2022 assessment.

The draft report was put out for public comment from January 12 - February 11, 2022.

After release of the draft report, DEQ held an informational [webinar](#) where we highlighted major findings as well as how to navigate the new data display features that were created for this cycle. Additionally, instructions for review of the draft report were provided in a [story map](#) that also provides a refresher on assessment units and how the assessment team makes its category determinations.

For questions regarding the Integrated Report, please contact:

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You can also visit the Integrated Report website at: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/proposedIR.aspx>

### Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us)



Wallowa River