

2017 National Lakes Assessment

Summer 2017 Lake Assessment

In 2017, DEQ's Statewide Biomonitoring and Toxics Monitoring Programs will combine sampling efforts to assess the condition of Oregon's lakes, reservoirs and ponds. This joint effort will provide a statewide assessment of the ecological, chemical and physical conditions of these important waterbodies.

EPA National Lakes Assessment

The majority of the sampling effort (29 lakes) will be funded by the EPA's National Lakes Assessment, a component of the National Aquatic Resources Survey (NARS). The project is described on the [EPA website](#) as follows:

The National Lakes Assessment (NLA) is designed to provide statistically valid national and regional estimates of the condition of lakes. It uses a probability-based sampling design to represent the condition of all lakes across the coterminous United States. The survey is a collaborative effort between EPA, states, tribes, federal agencies, and other organizations.

The NLA is designed to answer the following questions about lakes across the United States.

- *What is the current biological, chemical, physical and recreational condition of lakes?*
- *What is the extent of degradation among lakes?*
- *Is degradation widespread (e.g., national) or localized (e.g., regional)?*
- *Is the condition of lakes getting better, worse, or staying the same over time?*
- *Which environmental stressors are most associated with degraded biological condition in lakes?*

The surveys will evaluate a set of indicators to determine lake conditions. These indicators include biological, physical, chemical and recreational/human use parameters.

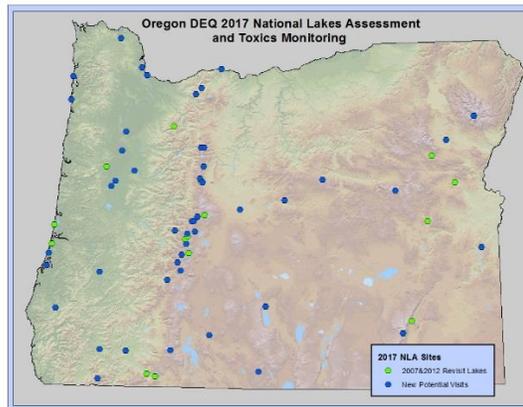
Approximately half of the lakes surveyed in 2017 will be lakes previously sampled as part of the 2007 and 2012 NLAs. These repeated site evaluations will provide information on trends in Oregon's lakes.

Joint DEQ Efforts

In addition to the 29 lakes funded by the EPA, DEQ is adding 21 lakes to bring the survey total to 50. These lakes will allow for a more robust

statistical representation of the condition of Oregon's lakes.

In addition to the national suite of biological, chemical and physical indicators collected as part of the NLA, DEQ sampling crews will collect samples for over 400 different toxic pollutants at all 50 lakes to further the monitoring goals of the Statewide Toxics Monitoring Program.



A preliminary map of lake sites to be sampled in 2017.

DEQ's Biomonitoring staff is currently finalizing the sampling site list and will conduct sampling from June to September of 2017.

Data Reporting

The EPA has published two previous NLA reports, one in 2007 and the other in 2012. That information is available on their website, listed above, including data from Oregon's waters. Information on the "Key Findings", regional results and the full report can be found there.

The Toxics Monitoring Program produces an annual report that provides the data from each year's sampling efforts. Toxics data from 2017 lake sampling effort should be available some time in 2018 and will be integrated into a statewide lakes report when the complete data set is finalized.

Alternative formats

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.



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