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 2018 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 submitted to the U.S. EPA for final approval.

The Integrated Report categorizes all assessed waterbodies. Data 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”.

Category 1: All beneficial uses are supported and none are known to be impaired. Oregon does not have sufficiently robust data to be able to use this Category.

Category 2: At least one core beneficial use is supported and none are 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.

DEQ is soliciting comment on the draft 2018/2020 surface water quality assessment results. Because the Clean Water Act requires states to develop a report every two years, and DEQ’s significant improvement efforts have spanned two cycles, DEQ is referring to this effort as the “2018/2020 Integrated Report”.

What’s New with the Integrated Report?
In 2016, DEQ initiated significant improvements on how it develops and publishes its Integrated Report. DEQ staff reconstructed the framework and foundation to streamline its biannual water quality assessment. In mid-2018, DEQ held its first statewide request for water quality data since the 2004/2006 Integrated Report.

One major improvement is the method by which waterbody segments are delineated, assessed, and reported. DEQ migrated its hydrologic framework from the outdated Longitude Latitude Identification (LLID) system to the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) framework, which is the national and state hydrologic framework standard.

DEQ also redefined how it identifies the segments of waterbodies it uses to conduct assessments. Because waterbodies change as they flow from headwaters to the mouth (flow, adjacent land uses, and other characteristics), DEQ splits up the waterbody into multiple pieces, called “assessment units.”

These new waterbody assessment units represent homogeneous surface water quality, incorporate environmentally and hydrologically relevant breaks, and remain fixed over time. These fixed assessment units allow DEQ to more easily summarize information related to water quality in Oregon and track water quality changes over time. The water quality status by assessment unit will also be accessible through a new web-based tool that is both transparent and easy to use.

What happened to the 2012 listings?
When DEQ does a new assessment, the assessment retains information from previous assessments. This is important, because there will not always be additional data for every location that has been evaluated previously. Due to the newly defined assessment units in this Integrated Report, DEQ was required to
crosswalk assessment results between the 2012 non-attaining segments and the 2018 assessment units to ensure this information carried forward. The method DEQ used to complete the crosswalk included: (1) Identify monitoring stations that impairments within the 2012 Integrated Report were based on and assign those results to the appropriate new Assessment Unit; (2) if no monitoring station could be determined, identify whether other location information was available; and (3) if no spatial information was available, move the entire extent of the original listing forward.

Key Findings
The draft 2018/2020 assessment continues to indicate the most widespread causes of impairments are temperature, dissolved oxygen, and E. coli.

- In 2018/2020 we assessed 2,871 Assessment Units, representing 146,057 river miles.
- 44% of Oregon’s river miles are impaired; this is an increase from 33% in 2012
- Fish and Aquatic Life use impairments are the most commonly unsupported uses. This is largely driven by non-attainment of the temperature criteria

Public Process and Participation
DEQ will conduct 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/federal governments, and non-profit organizations to submit data to be incorporated into the water quality assessments. Draft methodologies for how DEQ used the data to determine whether waters are attaining protective standards were also placed on the web for public comment prior to the assessment.

Informational sessions will be held in support of the draft 2018/2020 Integrated Report in several locations throughout the state.

Portland – Oct. 15, 2019, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
State Office Building, Room 1E
800 NE Oregon St, Portland, OR 97232

Bend – Oct. 22, 2019, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Parks and Recreation District Office, Riverbend Room
779 SW Columbia St, Bend, OR 97702

Corvallis – Nov. 12, 2019, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Corvallis Public Library Boardroom
645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis, OR 97330

Central Point/Medford – Oct. 29, 2019, 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
RVCOG Conference Room
155 N. 1st Street, Central Point, OR 97502

Newport – Nov. 5, 2019, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Hatfield Marine Science Center
Lavern-Weber Room
2030 SE Marine Science Dr, Newport, OR 97365

At these information sessions, DEQ will walk through changes to the Integrated Report, demonstrate the new map tool and online searchable database, and provide technical assistance for interested parties. The report itself is available for public review at https://travispritchard.shinyapps.io/2018-2020_IR_Database/. DEQ will be accepting comments through Dec. 2, 2019.

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You can also visit the Integrated Report website at: https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/2018-Integrated-Report.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.