



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

2024 Integrated Report

Public Process

Oregon's Integrated Report

The federal Clean Water Act requires the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to report on the quality of Oregon's surface waters every two years. Surface waters are any body of water above ground, including streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, reservoirs, creeks and the ocean. This effort represents the state's most comprehensive evaluation of water quality data and information to determine whether Oregon's waters are fully supporting beneficial uses, such as fish and aquatic life, drinking water or water contact recreation.

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 which need a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The Integrated Report is submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

DEQ provides several opportunities for the public to learn about and get involved in Integrated Report development. There are opportunities to provide data, attend technical work group sessions, attend webinars and comment on DEQ's proposed assessment methodology and draft Integrated Report.

For this reporting cycle DEQ reviewed and assessed readily available data and information using the [Assessment Methodology for Oregon's 2024 Integrated Report](#). This document summarizes the public process DEQ used for the development of the 2024 Integrated Report.

Public Process Timeline

For this cycle, DEQ held two separate public processes during the development phase. The first was for all inland surface and estuarine waters, and the second focused solely on DEQ's first assessment of changing ocean conditions in state marine waters.

Assessment Methodology development – public comment

Oregon law ([Oregon Revised Statute 468B.039](#)) requires that DEQ publish the Integrated Report Assessment Methodology prior to the start of drafting the Integrated Report. The draft methodology contains the "decision rules" DEQ will use to compare data and information to existing water quality standards and assess water quality conditions.

The first public comment period for the draft Assessment Methodology for Oregon's 2024 Integrated Report was open from Jan. 5, 2023, to Feb. 21, 2023, for a total of 47 days. DEQ held a second public comment period on new assessment methodologies for marine waters from May 31, 2023, to July 7, 2023, for a total of 38 days. DEQ posted a combined [response to comments](#) document on August 14, 2023.

DEQ presented an informational update on the 2024 Oregon Water Quality Integrated Report Assessment Methodology on Sept. 15, 2023, to its policy and rulemaking board, the Environmental Quality Commission. The update included information on the assessment methodology, a summary of comments received during

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the public comment periods and DEQ's response to those comments. An opportunity was also provided during the EQC meeting for additional public comments on the methodology updates.

Assessment Methodology webinars

DEQ hosted two informational webinars to present updates for the 2024 assessment cycle. DEQ uses the opt-in email delivery system called GovDelivery to notify the public about webinars, publication of materials, and other public information.

Webinar 1 – Jan. 12, 2023

- Background, Oregon's Integrated Report Process
- Overview of 2022 Integrated Report Tools
- 2024 Integrated Report Assessment Methodology updates and discussion
 - Revisions to water contact recreation
 - Updated Temperature impairment delisting procedure
- Long-term assessment methodology updates and discussion
- Overview of the Call for Data process

Webinar 2 – June 8, 2023

- Overview/background
 - Ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH)
 - Clean Water Act framework
- OAH Technical Workgroup
- Assessment methodology updates for marine waters
 - Ocean Acidification
 - Hypoxia
- Overview of the marine waters Call for Data process

Call for data

For each reporting cycle, DEQ solicits data and information from the public that may be used to assess the condition of Oregon's water bodies. DEQ completed two Calls for Data for the development of the 2024 Integrated Report. The first for inland and estuarine surface waters from Feb. 6, 2023, through April 7, 2023, and for marine waters from June 15, 2023, through Aug. 14, 2023. Additionally, DEQ has posted a [video tutorial](#) to explain the call for data process and data submission templates.

Draft Integrated Report

- DEQ accepted comments on Oregon's draft 2024 Integrated Report on Surface Water Quality and 303(d) List of Impaired Waters from April 18, 2024, through July 1, 2024, with an extension request granted.
- DEQ hosted two informational webinar options (morning and evening) on May 1, 2024 and May 7, 2024. Topics included:
 - General statistics on the report findings
 - Four new assessments in the draft 2024 Integrated Report: ocean acidification, marine hypoxia, aquatic trash and PFOS

- Technical assistance for reviewing and providing comments on the report (this part was [recorded](#))
- May 23, 2024, Director's Report to the Environmental Quality Commission, 2024 Integrated Report update
- Comments received during the public comment period for the draft 2024 Integrated Report are summarized and suggested changes are considered in a "Response to Comments" document that is included in DEQ's submittal of the Integrated Report to EPA

Water Quality Assessment Program

DEQ makes frequent updates to the program webpages with current information on the Integrated Report.

- [General Program Information](#)
- [Effective Integrated Report](#) – **EPA approved and in effect for regulatory purposes.** Contains reporting tools, fact sheets, frequently asked questions and documentation.
- [Draft Integrated Report](#) – **In development and not effective for regulatory purposes.** Contains reporting tools, fact sheets, frequently asked questions and documentation.
- [Assessment Methodology](#) – Documentation on methodology development and updates.
- [Call for Data](#) – Data submission guidelines, data submission templates and video tutorial.

[Sign up for future updates from DEQ's Water Quality Assessment Program.](#)

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