

Water Quality

WATER QUALITY

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Water Quality Assessment and 303(d) List

The federal Clean Water Act, adopted in 1972, requires that all states restore their waters to be “fishable and swimmable.” Washington’s Water Quality Assessment lists the water quality status for water bodies in the state. This assessment meets the federal requirements for an integrated report under Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act.

The assessed waters are grouped into categories that describe the status of water quality. The 303(d) list comprises those waters that are in the polluted water category, for which beneficial uses— such as drinking, recreation, aquatic habitat, and industrial use – are impaired by pollution.

- [Introduction to the Water Quality Assessment and 303\(d\) List](#)
- **Assessments**
 - **Current EPA-Approved Assessment:**
 - [EPA-approved marine assessment and 303\(d\) list](#)
Approved December 21, 2012
 - **Proposed Assessment:**
 - [Freshwater Water Quality Assessment and 303\(d\) List](#)
In progress as of January 2013
 - [Differences between the current and past 303\(d\) Lists](#)
- **Categories**
 - [Water Quality Assessment Categories](#)
 - **Examples of local water quality improvement efforts:**
 - [Category 4b: Pollution Control Programs other than TMDLs](#)
 - [Category 5: Water Quality Improvement Projects \(TMDLs\)](#)
- **Program Policies that Apply to the Integrated Report**
 - [Water Quality Policy 1-11: Ensuring Credible Water Quality Data for Management and the Assessment Report](#) (Chapters 1 and 2)
- [Related Links](#)
- [For more information](#)

SPOTLIGHT

Change in Assessment Schedule

Starting with the current, EPA-approved marine assessment, Ecology changed the schedule for conducting the water quality assessment and 303(d) listing process from all waters every two years to an alternating two-year cycle of fresh and marine waters. [More](#)

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