



FACTS ABOUT: Maryland's Draft 2018 Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality

WHAT IS THE INTEGRATED REPORT?

The Integrated Report (IR) combines water quality reports required under Sections 305(b), 314, and 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act. Section 305(b) requires states, territories and authorized tribes to perform annual water quality assessments to determine the status of jurisdictional waters. Section 314 requires states, territories and authorized tribes to classify lakes according to eutrophic condition and to identify lakes known to not meet water quality standards. Section 303(d) requires states, territories and authorized tribes to identify waters assessed as not meeting water quality standards (see Code of Maryland Regulations 26.08.02). Waters that do not meet standards may require a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to determine the maximum amount of an impairing substance or pollutant that a particular water body can assimilate and still meet water quality criteria. Historically, the 303(d) List, 305(b) report, and 314 report were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as separate documents but more recent guidance has called for combining these reports into a single biennial publication. Maryland's 2018 IR represents a fully combined 305(b), 314, and 303(d) Report.

WHY COMPILE AN INTEGRATED REPORT?

Besides being required by EPA, the IR serves many other purposes relating to water quality planning for a number of federal, state, county, local, and non-governmental organizations. By providing an update on the status of water bodies, the IR helps to prioritize which watersheds should be addressed by TMDLs or restoration and which watersheds are in need of protection.

WHAT IS THE SAME FOR 2018?

The 2018 IR continues to use a multiple category reporting structure that includes the following 5 categories: *Category 1* – waterbodies that meet all water quality standards and no use is threatened; *Category 2* – waterbodies meeting some water quality standards and there are insufficient data and information to determine if other water quality standards are being met; *Category 3* – insufficient data and information are available to determine if any water quality standard is being met; *Category 4* – one or more water quality standards are impaired or threatened but a TMDL is not required either because one has already been completed (4a), other technical solutions are expected to correct the impairment (4b), or the water body is impaired due to pollution not caused by a pollutant (e.g. channelization)(4c); and *Category 5* [the historical 303(d) List] - waterbodies that are impaired, do not attain the water quality standard, and a TMDL is required.

WHAT HAS CHANGED FROM 2016 TO 2018?

The 2018 IR incorporates several changes this year which include a revamped online map with water quality assessment information overlaid on top of TMDL watersheds. This IR also has the most comprehensive dataset ever assembled for the Lower Susquehanna River in Maryland. This recently collected data and information has helped to inform a new Category 5 listing for total phosphorus in the Conowingo Reservoir, a new Category 3 (insufficient data for assessment) listing for debris in the Conowingo Reservoir, and a new Category 4c (impaired by pollution not caused by a pollutant) listing for flow alteration (changes in depth and flow velocity) for the portion of the Susquehanna River immediately downstream of the Dam and extending to the head of tide.

Also, continuing with this IR, Maryland has made significant efforts to incorporate non-state government data in ways that increase the resolution of the state's water quality assessments.

There are a total of 12 additions to the list of Category 5 (impaired, TMDL needed) waters in 2018. Six of the new Category 5 impairment listings resulted from MDE's Biological Stressor Identification Analyses. The purpose of these analyses is to identify

the primary pollutants that are responsible for impairing watershed biological integrity. Of these 6 new ‘biostressor’ listings, three are for total suspended solids, two are for sulfates, and one is for chlorides. In addition, there is one new PCB listing, four new fecal coliform listings in shellfish harvesting waters, and one new total phosphorus listing. It should be noted that additional impairment listings do not always indicate recent decline in the State’s overall water quality but, in some cases, represent improvements to Maryland’s water quality monitoring and assessment methodologies.

Other major changes to the 2018 IR include the removal of twelve waterbody-pollutant combinations from Category 5 (impaired, TMDL needed) and several other delistings from Category 4a (impaired, TMDL approved). One notable removal from Category 5 was an assessment for high pH (above 8.5) in the Conococheague watershed. After an extensive review, State assessors determined that natural geologic features were the cause of occasional exceedances of the pH criteria.

HOW ARE WE ADDRESSING THESE WATER QUALITY ISSUES?

Since the 2016 IR, Maryland has continued to make progress in addressing impaired waters having completed a total of five TMDLs and three Biostressor Identification Analyses in 2017 and 2018. 2018 IR marks the third IR cycle in a row where specific restoration projects, undertaken by the State, have been directly linked to attainment of water quality criteria in three separate stream segments in the Casselman River watershed. These 3 stream segments, Alexander Run, Tarkiln Run, and Spiker Run, were previously listed as impaired and had TMDLs established to address issues with low pH. Acid mine treatment systems, each installed more than 4 years ago, have demonstrated to be a reliable solution for increasing stream pH to levels within Maryland’s pH criteria range (6.5 – 8.5). As a result, all three streams have been moved to Category 2 (meeting some water quality criteria) in recognition of meeting pH water quality criteria. Management of these streams will still be ongoing to ensure that they continue to meet pH criteria moving forward

HOW CAN THE PUBLIC GET INVOLVED?

There are a number of opportunities for the public to get involved in IR development. Data solicitations are conducted prior to the development of each IR during which volunteer groups, community groups, academia, local/State/federal governments and non-profits can submit data to be incorporated into the decision making process for the report. Draft methodologies for the determination of impairments are placed on the web for public comment. An informational meeting is also held in support of the draft methodologies and Integrated Report. Finally, the report itself is available for public review on the web (<http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Pages/2018IR.aspx>) and by special request.

*MDE is conducting a public comment period for the Draft 2018 IR from February 16, 2018 through March 19, 2018. In addition, MDE is hosting an informational public meeting and conference call in Baltimore at 6pm on February 27, 2018. Any hearing impaired person may request an interpreter to be present at the meeting by giving five (5) working days notice to Becky Monahan at Becky.Monahan@maryland.gov or by calling (410) 537- 3947. Anyone wanting to participate in this meeting via conference call should also contact Becky Monahan in advance for instructions. Given enough interest, the Department may schedule additional meetings. Comments or questions may be directed in writing to Mr. Matthew Stover MDE, Water and Science Administration, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore Maryland 21230, emailed to Matthew.Stover@maryland.gov on or before **March 19, 2018**. After addressing all comments received during the public review period, a final List will be prepared and submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.*

Public Meeting Announcement

Date: February 27, 2018

Time: 6:00PM

Location: MDE Headquarters, 1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230
Lobby Conference Room (to the left after entering the front door)
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230

Parking: Red Lot, Front (South) of Building