



Fact Sheet

2024 Integrated Report

Every two years, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality creates the Integrated Report, a comprehensive evaluation of Oregon's surface waters. Surface waters are any body of water above ground, including streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, reservoirs, creeks and the ocean. DEQ evaluates these waterbodies and rates them from Category 2 – Attaining to Category 5 – Impaired. The overall waterbody status is based on whether or not a water body is meeting water quality standards for the 150 pollutants DEQ evaluates. The [Draft Integrated Report](#) has more detailed information.

Between each Integrated Report, DEQ works to improve water quality, expand data collection and improve the tools that help the public understand our data and findings.

Key findings

- The greatest number of waterbody impairments continue to come from temperature, dissolved oxygen, biocriteria and *E. coli* pollution.
- Impairment of waterbodies in Oregon most commonly harms the Fish and Aquatic Life beneficial use.
- Over 70 water bodies are moving to Category 2 – Attainment from Category 4 or 5 – Impairment.
- This Integrated Report divides all Oregon waterbodies into 7,299 assessment units and has information to report on 3,029, or 42% of those units.
 - 2,608 assessment units are listed as impaired. This is an increase from 2,556 in 2022, which is mainly due to new temperature data DEQ received.
 - Of the 39,222 individual pollutant assessments DEQ is reporting this cycle, 14,823, or 38% are attaining criteria, 5,486 or 14% are not meeting criteria and the remainder have insufficient data.
- There are four new pollutants DEQ evaluated in the draft 2024 Integrated Report: ocean acidification and hypoxia, aquatic trash and PFOS.

Ocean acidification and hypoxia

For the three past assessment cycles, DEQ has received data and on the impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia on fish and aquatic life. DEQ proposes to list sections of marine waters, meaning zero to three nautical miles offshore, as impaired for these conditions based on climate change related causes.

By including these assessments in the Integrated Report, DEQ recognizes the impact of changing ocean conditions on plants and animals in the ocean, while also understanding more information is needed to determine how Oregon's actions on climate change policy and water quality management can influence these largely global water quality stressors. The [Draft Integrated Report](#) includes more information on this topic.

Aquatic trash in the Willamette River

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DEQ received data and information during the 2024 Integrated Report Call for Data related to aquatic trash in the Willamette River and some tributaries. EPA guidance for the 2024 Integrated Report expects that states consider trash a pollutant regardless of whether the state has an established assessment methodology. DEQ proposes to list three sections of the Willamette River from its headwaters to the Columbia River for aquatic trash.

Aquatic trash is a complex issue with no one source and where most of the sources of aquatic trash are outside of DEQ's regulatory control. The [Draft Integrated Report](#) includes more information on this topic.

PFOS in the Columbia Slough

PFAS, or per and perfluoroalkyl substances, is a group of commonly used chemicals for non-stick and stain-resistant consumer products as well as food packaging, fire-fighting foam and industrial processes. These chemicals are long-lasting and widespread in the environment. PFOS, or perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, is one type of PFAS chemical. DEQ proposes listing the Columbia Slough for PFOS based on Oregon Health Authority's [fish consumption advisory](#). DEQ typically lists areas with OHA fish consumption advisories in its Integrated Report. DEQ's [Cleanup Program](#) will continue to work with local governments and other parties to identify and mitigate known sources of PFAS and related compounds in the Columbia Slough.

Public Process

DEQ offered several opportunities for public engagement this reporting cycle. DEQ would like to acknowledge how valuable the contribution of high-quality data and comments during public engagement are to the assessment and integrated report process

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