



Notice of Public Solicitation of Water Quality Data for the 2024 Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality in Maryland.

November 1, 2022

Dear Interested Stakeholder:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is currently requesting data in preparation of Maryland's 2024 Integrated Report (IR) of Surface Water Quality. As part of the Federal Clean Water Act, MDE submits a biennial Integrated Report to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that provides information on both impaired and non-impaired waters within the State of Maryland. In order to provide the most comprehensive report, the Department relies on water quality data from a variety of sources including Federal and State agencies, local government agencies, researchers, students, and watershed organizations.

If your organization collected water quality data in Maryland within the past five-year period (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2021), please consider submitting your data. MDE is particularly interested in water quality data that are comparable to state water quality standards and criteria (e.g., dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, various toxics, benthic macroinvertebrate and fish community data). Other water quality data, including conductivity, nutrient species, chlorophyll, habitat conditions, and field observations may also be used to assess ambient water quality. *Please do **not** submit discharge monitoring report (DMR) data.*

MDE is striving to incorporate more non-governmental organization (NGO) and citizen data into the Integrated Report and is pleased to announce that we are continuing our partnership with the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) to obtain NGO and citizen data for assessing water quality for the Integrated Report. The CMC's goal is to connect initiatives across monitoring groups and regions. They provide technical, programmatic, and outreach support in order to integrate volunteer-based water quality and macroinvertebrate monitoring data into a centralized data hub, the Chesapeake Data Explorer. These data are publicly available and used to assess the health of the Chesapeake Bay and watershed. For more information on the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative, please see their website here: <https://www.chesapeakemonitoringcoop.org/>

To submit data, please complete this 2024 [Integrated Report Submittal Form](#) and follow the appropriate data pathway. MDE plans to pull applicable data from the CMC's Chesapeake Data Explorer and accept other data through email or google drive. For additional information on the types of data accepted and how to submit data, please visit [MDE's website](#).

Because the IR is a regulatory document, some data may not be suitable for water quality assessments. However, the Department will track all data received and data submitters can contact MDE to inquire how their data were used and why. MDE and its partners can provide technical assistance to organizations interested in making sure their data are useful for Integrated Reporting. If you are interested in starting a monitoring program and having your data

used by MDE, please contact Becky Monahan at 410-537-3947 or Becky.Monahan@maryland.gov for more information.

MDE accepts data on a continual basis. However, **in order to be used for the 2024 IR, all data must be submitted by Friday, December 30, 2022.** Data submitted after this date will be reviewed in preparation of the 2026 IR.

MDE values all of its partners in monitoring, restoring and protecting Maryland's waters. Thank you in advance for your consideration of the Department's reporting needs and for any data and assistance you can provide.