



Maryland's Draft Combined 2020-2022 Integrated Report

What You Need to Know

What is the Integrated Report?

The Integrated Report is a biennial report that provides the information required under sections 303(d), 305(b), and 314 of the federal Clean Water Act. States, territories and authorized tribes identify waters assessed as either meeting or not meeting water quality standards and report them in the IR using five different categories of water quality ranging from Category 1- attaining all standards through Category 5- impaired waters. Impaired waters may require a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), or other alternative approach, to determine the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed in the waterbody.

Why compile an Integrated Report?

Besides being required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the IR provides an update on the status of waterbodies and helps the State prioritize which waters should be addressed by restoration efforts and which watersheds are in need of protection. It also provides a summary of water quality trends across the State, and reports on the status of water quality restoration efforts and initiatives throughout Maryland.

What has changed from 2018 to 2020-2022?

New for this cycle, Maryland is submitting a combined 2020-2022 Integrated Report that incorporates all assessments from 2020 and 2022 into one report. The decision to 'combine' these reports (2020 and 2022) was made in consultation and with the support of EPA Region 3 and is consistent with EPA's Integrated Reporting guidance. Also new for this report, MDE utilized EPA's Assessment, Total maximum daily load Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) reporting function to produce all assessment results and summary calculations in the report. MDE also continued to make significant efforts to incorporate non-governmental organization (NGO) and citizen data for assessing water quality by partnering with the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) and obtained citizen data directly from their Chesapeake Data Explorer for this cycle.

What are the highlights in this IR cycle?

MDE established a fish consumption advisory threshold, and subsequently issued its first fish consumption advisories, for the health risks posed by levels of PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate), one of the more widely studied PFAS chemicals. Levels of PFOS exceeded a human health threshold in the fish tissue of three species captured from Piscataway Creek, a tributary to the Potomac River in Prince



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George's County. This, in turn resulted in Maryland's first ever Category 5 (impaired, may need a TMDL) listings for PFOS in fish tissue for the tidal and non-tidal waters of Piscataway Creek in this combined 2020-2022 IR.

In addition, long term water quality trend analyses conducted by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR) show that temperature trends are degrading in both tidal and nontidal waters in Maryland. Maryland has also documented seventy-four new temperature impairments across nine different watersheds in Class III (and Class III-P) coldwater streams for this cycle, bringing the total number of temperature impairments to one hundred and seventy-four. The exceedance of the temperature criterion in these streams threatens the persistence of coldwater obligate species and provides strong justification for moving forward with temperature TMDLs.

Alternatively, the same trend analyses conducted by USGS and MDDNR show that historical Chesapeake Bay restoration spending has been successful, and there are significant reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment concentrations at both tidal and non-tidal trend monitoring stations. The analyses show that nutrient trends are improving in the State of Maryland, and that the restoration efforts display measurable positive impacts on water quality.

This cycle also highlights the increasing trend of chloride (drinking water contaminant and toxic to aquatic life) in non-tidal streams throughout the State due to road deicers. MDE has now documented twenty-eight watersheds as impaired for chloride. New for this report, MDE created a Subcategory 5s (Waterbody impairment is caused by chloride from road salt) to specifically acknowledge the ongoing pollution contribution from road salt. Maryland will be addressing these 5s impairments using 'straight-to-implementation' approaches with the intention of expediting chloride reduction practices and water quality improvements.

How can the public get involved?

There are a number of opportunities for the public to get involved in IR development and public review. MDE is accepting public comments for the Draft Combined 2020-2022 IR from December 6, 2021 to January 17, 2022. In addition, MDE is hosting a virtual informational public meeting at 5pm on January 5, 2022.

Please visit MDE's website for more information about submitting water quality data, providing public comments, or attending the informational public meeting for Maryland's Integrated Report at: http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Pages/Combined_2020_2022IR.aspx. Please contact Matthew Stover at Matthew.Stover@maryland.gov with any questions.