



# Alaska's 2018 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report Public Workshop/Meeting

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Water

**Terri Lomax**

February 4, 2020



# What is the Integrated Report?

- Report card on the health of Alaska's waterbodies
- Congress requires report every 2 years
- Waters may change categories based on new data





# Public Meeting/Workshop

- ✓ No Public Testimony
- ✓ <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/.aspx>
- ✓ Questions & Comments at the end of presentation
- ✓ In person and teleconference participants
- ✓ Please state name/organization
- ✓ Teleconference Courtesy
  - Please put phone on mute
  - Please do not put on hold (we get music)



# DEC Team

- Terri Lomax, Section Manager
- Amber Bethe, Anchorage and Kenai, Overall Integrated Report Coordinator
- Laura Eldred, Mat-Su and Western
- Chandra McGee, Northern
- Morgan Brown, Northern
- Gretchen Pikul, Southeast
- Sarah Apsens, Kenai Peninsula



# What We Will Cover

- ✓ Clean Water Act
- ✓ DEC's Integrated Report Process
- ✓ Proposed Waterbody Categories
- ✓ Improving Water Quality
- ✓ How to Make Public Comments



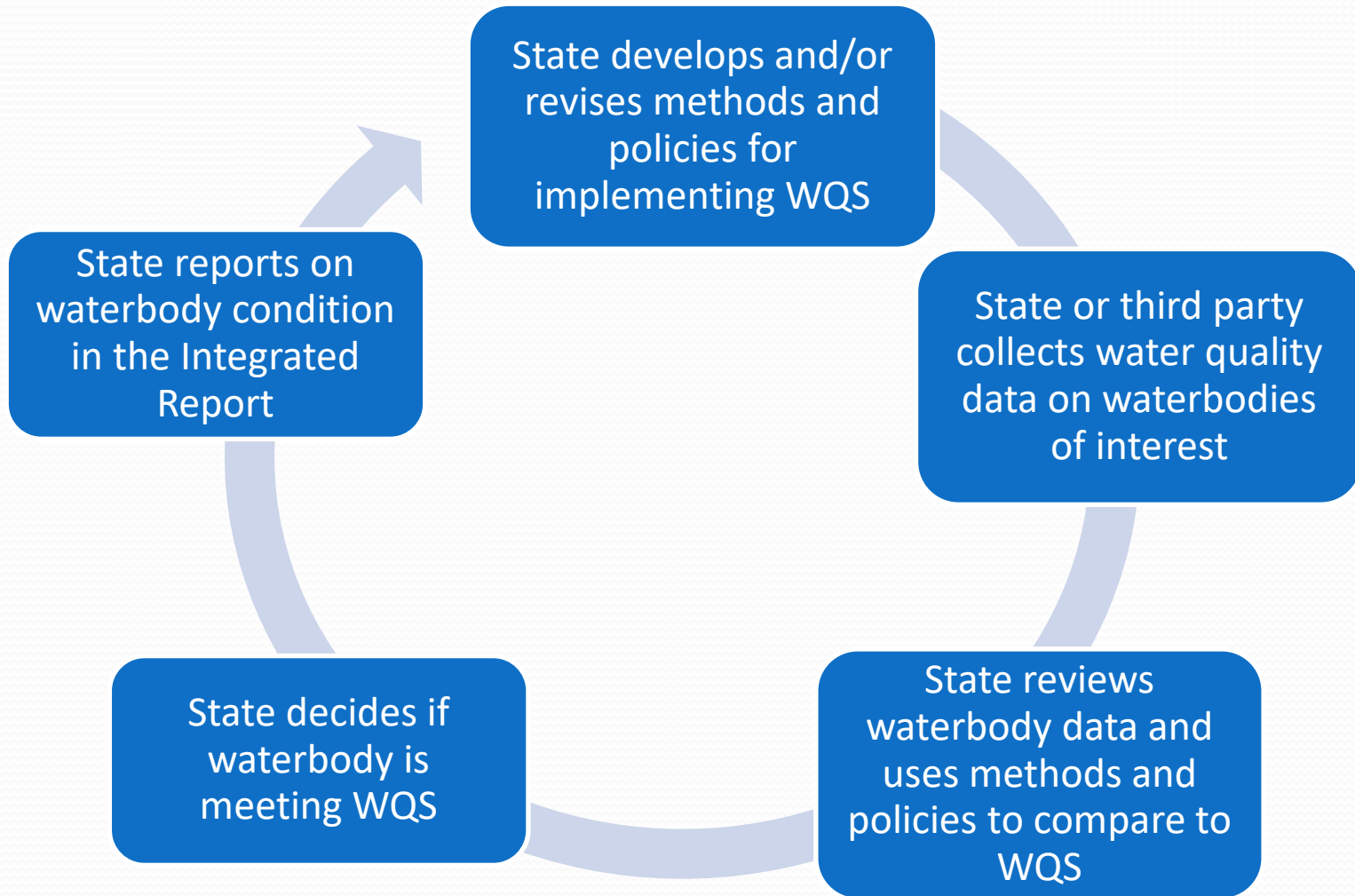


# Federal Clean Water Act

- Congress requires that states:
  - Report on the health of all waters in the state every 2 years
  - Identify waters not meeting State water quality standards
- Integrated Report (or the Integrated Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Report)

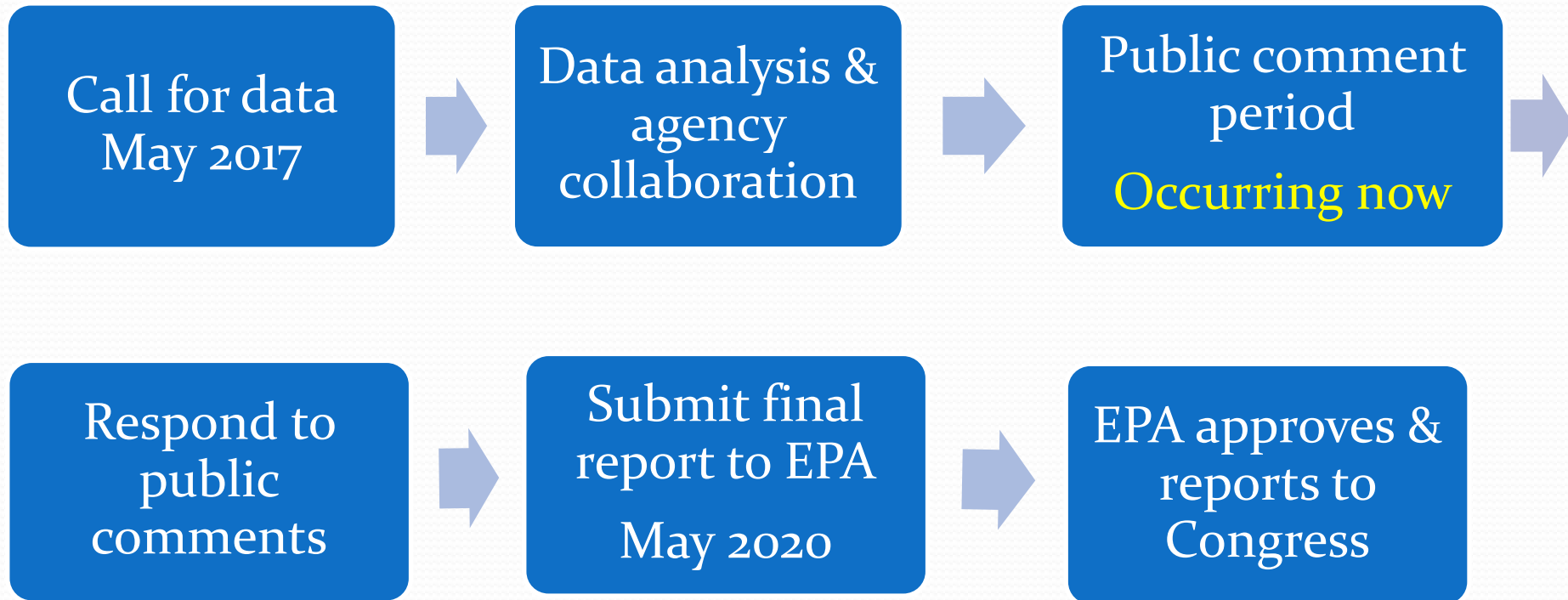


# Water Quality Assessment Process





# Integrated Report Timeline







# Alaska's Integrated Report Status

- 2014/16 - Approved by EPA - November 2018
- 2018 – moving to an electronic format
  - requested data from the public – May 2017
  - Completed data analysis–August 2019
  - Public notice - *Where we are today*
- 2020- In Progress
  - Requested data from the public – May 2019



# Integrated Report categories

- **Category 1** – all designated uses attained
- **Category 2** – some designated uses attained
- **Category 3** – insufficient information to determine status
- **Category 4** – one or more uses impaired, but does not need a restoration plan [or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)]
  - 4a – impaired waters with a restoration plan (TMDL)
  - 4b – impaired waters with other pollution controls
- **Category 5** (also known as 303(d) list) – one or more uses impaired needing a restoration plan



# Alaska's Designated Uses

- **Water Supply**
  - Drinking, culinary, and food processing
  - Agriculture
  - Aquaculture
  - Industry
- **Recreation**
  - Contact
  - Secondary
- **Growth and Propagation of Fish, Shellfish, Other Aquatic Life, and Wildlife**





# Category 1

All designated uses attained – meets everything

- Most of Alaska's waters fall here, but do not have the data to verify. No waters currently Category 1.





# Category 2 – 36 new Waters

Some designated uses attained for some pollutants –  
Some things ok

- Indian River
- Greens Creeks, Site 61
- Lower Kenai River
- Salmon River
- National Park Service waters
- Willow Creek
- Beaches: Ann Coleman Road Beach, Auke Recreation Area Beach, City Park, Lena Cove, Lutak Cove, Petroglyph Beach, Portage Cove, Sandy Beach





# Category 2- Improved Waters

Some designated uses attained for some pollutants

- Bonanza, Mammoth, Mastodon, and Porcupine, Bedrock and Independence Creeks
- Eagle River, Anchorage







# Category 3

Insufficient information to determine if water quality standards are attained – not sure

- Includes approximately 154 new waters
- Since 2012 most have not changed





# Category 4a

Impaired but has an approved restoration plan (TMDL)

- Crooked, Deadwood, Boulder, Ketchum Creeks (Crooked creek watershed near Central, AK)- Turbidity





# Category 4b

Impaired with pollution controls other than restoration plan (TMDL)

- Popof Strait- 0.07 miles for Residues (seafood waste discharge)





# Category 5 (or 303(d) list)



Impaired (polluted) needs a restoration plan (TMDL)

No new waters have been added in this report.





# Impaired Waters in 2018 Report

Total of 7 waters continue to be listed as impaired including:

- 7 waters in Category 5
- 41 water in Category 4a (impaired with TMDL)
- 25 waters in Category 4b (impaired with other pollution controls)



# How do impaired waters get healthy?

- Water quality recovery often takes time
  - Setting priorities and timeframes
- Identify needs:
  - additional water quality studies
  - engineering designs
- Develop & implement restoration plans (TMDLs)







# How do impaired waters get healthy? (continued)

- Permitted discharges will be regulated to improve water quality
- DEC does not have authority to regulate pollution from numerous small sources (aka nonpoint source)
  - DEC works to fix nonpoint source pollution by collaborating with other organizations
- Waters re-evaluated every 2 years
  - Call for data
  - Evaluate new information
  - Issue a new Integrated Report

# What happens next with the report?



1. DEC reviews comments and revises Integrated Report as needed
2. DEC submits Final 2018 Integrated Report and Response to Comments to EPA
3. EPA approves or disapproves the Category 5 waters
4. EPA reports to Congress



# Resources - web page

- A copy of this presentation
- Fact Sheets
  - Integrated Report
  - Category 3 waters
  - Kenai River
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Eagle River Attainment
- Bonanza, Porcupine, Mastodon, and Mammoth Creeks Attainment
- Popof Strait 4b Demonstration



<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/.aspx>



# How do I stay informed?

- Join the NPS Listserv
- <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/nonpoint-source-control/>





# Public Comments

- Public comments must be received in writing:
  - E-mail
  - Fax
  - Letter
- No verbal comments
- Must be received and date stamped by:  
**5 pm on February 27, 2020**

*Send comments to:*

Amber Bethe

555 Cordova St

Anchorage, AK 99501

Email:

[amber.bethe@Alaska.gov](mailto:amber.bethe@Alaska.gov)

Fax: (907) 334-2415



Questions?  
Thank you for your time!

Deadline for written comments 5 pm  
on February 27, 2020