



# PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

April 4, 2022

Improving And Protecting Alaska's Water Quality

## **What is DEC-Water proposing to do?**

DEC-Water is proposing changes to 18 AAC 70 (state water quality standards) and 18 AAC 83 (Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) regulations. These amendments will improve clarity, application, and consistency within state regulations.

## **What are the proposed amendments to 18 AAC 70?**

- Clarify the duration period used during the waterbody assessment process for petroleum hydrocarbons, oils, and grease at 18 AAC 70.020(b)(5), (10), (17);
- Clarifying that di minimis cumulative human activity, air temperature, or low flow conditions will not result in an exceedance of temperature criteria during the DEC water quality assessment process at 18 AAC 70.020(b).
- Update accepted standard analytical methods used by programs authorized under the Clean Water Act (e.g., APDES permits) at 18 AAC 70.020(c)(1), (c)(3), and 18 AAC 83.010(f).
- Clarify how freshwater and marine waters will be determined based on salinity at 18 AAC 70.040(3) and (4).
- Introduce definitions for "7-day average of the daily maximum recorded values", "fresh waters", "marine waters", and "mean higher high water" at 18 AAC 70.990.

For additional questions or a copy of the proposed rulemaking package, please contact Brock Tabor ([brock.tabor@alaska.gov](mailto:brock.tabor@alaska.gov)) or (907) 465-5185.