



Maryland Department of the  
Environment

## FACTS ABOUT:

### Maryland's Draft 2014 Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality

#### **WHAT IS THE INTEGRATED REPORT?**

The Integrated Report (IR) combines water quality reports required under sections 305(b), 314, and 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act. Section 305(b) requires states, territories and authorized tribes to perform annual water quality assessments to determine the status of jurisdictional waters. Section 314 requires states, territories and authorized tribes to classify lakes according to eutrophic condition and to identify lakes known to not meet water quality standards. Section 303(d) requires states, territories and authorized tribes to identify waters assessed as not meeting water quality standards (see Code of Maryland Regulations 26.08.02). Waters that do not meet standards may require a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to determine the maximum amount of an impairing substance or pollutant that a particular water body can assimilate and still meet water quality criteria. Historically, the 303(d) List, 305(b) report, and 314 report were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as separate documents but more recent guidance has called for combining these reports into a single biennial publication. Maryland's 2014 IR represents a fully combined 305(b), 314, and 303(d) report.

#### **WHY COMPILE AN INTEGRATED REPORT?**

Besides being required by EPA, the IR serves many other purposes relating to water quality planning for a number of federal, state, county, local, and non-governmental organizations. By providing an update on the status of water bodies, the IR helps to prioritize which watersheds should be addressed by TMDLs or restoration and which watersheds are in need of protection.

#### **WHAT IS THE SAME FOR 2014?**

The 2014 IR continues to use a multiple category reporting structure that includes the following 5 categories: *Category 1* – waterbodies that meet all water quality standards and no use is threatened; *Category 2* – waterbodies meeting some water quality standards and there are insufficient data and information to determine if other water quality standards are being met; *Category 3* – insufficient data and information are available to determine if any water quality standard is being met; *Category 4* – one or more water quality standards are impaired or threatened but a TMDL is not required either because one has already been completed, other technical solutions are expected to correct the impairment, or the water body is impaired due to pollution not caused by a pollutant (e.g. channelization); and *Category 5* [the historical 303(d) List] – waterbodies that are impaired, do not attain the water quality standard, and a TMDL is required.

#### **WHAT HAS CHANGED FROM 2012 TO 2014?**

The 2014 IR incorporates several changes this year which include the implementation of revised assessment methodologies for bacteria, toxics, and biological data. In addition, there are newly developed guidelines for biological data submission and a completely new assessment methodology for stream temperature (Use Class III and III-P only). These changes are part of an on-going effort to improve Maryland's reporting and assessment activities required under the CWA.

There are 138 additions to the list of Category 5 waters in 2014. Seventy-one of these new Category 5 waterbody-pollutant combinations (also referred to as listings) resulted from the newly implemented temperature assessment methodology for Use Class III and III-P streams. Another thirty-five of these new Category 5 listings resulted from MDE's Biological Stressor Identification Analyses. The purpose of these analyses is to identify the primary pollutants that are responsible for impairing watershed biological integrity. Of these 35 new 'biostressor' listings, ten are for chlorides, eight are for total suspended solids, seven are for sulfates, six are for total phosphorus, and four are listed for pH. In addition, there are eight new PCB listings for fish tissue, seven listings for impairment to the biological community (no pollutant yet specified), seven fecal coliform listings in shellfish harvesting waters, six mercury listings for fish tissue, three listings for high pH in streams, and one new heptachlor epoxide listing. These additional impairment listings do not necessarily indicate a recent decline in the State's overall water quality but instead represent improvements to Maryland's water quality monitoring and assessment methodologies.

Other major changes to the IR include several delistings of Category 4b (impaired, technological solution) listings in the Patapsco River. In addition, a new section was added to the text of the IR which provides a detailed history of the tidal Chesapeake Bay nutrient and sediment listings (Parts G and H) and how they evolved given refinements in segmentation, water quality standards, assessment, and TMDL development.

### **HOW ARE WE ADDRESSING THESE WATER QUALITY ISSUES?**

Maryland completed a total of 36 TMDLs and Water Quality Analyses in 2012 and 2013. Twelve of the 36 meet specific requirements of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with EPA that sets TMDL production schedules for Maryland. Since the completion of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load in December 2010, Maryland has completed both its Phase I and II Watershed Implementation Plans that propose localized loading reductions for meeting the water quality goals of the TMDL. In addition, MDE also recently supported legislative efforts to institute a stormwater utility fee for the state's most populated jurisdictions. This fee is designed to fund stormwater infrastructure improvements to reduce the amount of pollution generated by impervious surfaces. Lastly, MDE continues to review Water Resource Elements (WRE), water and sewer plans, and permits to protect waters of high water quality, also known as Tier II waters.

### **HOW CAN THE PUBLIC GET INVOLVED?**

There are a number of opportunities for the public to get involved in IR development. Data solicitations are conducted prior to the development of each IR during which volunteer groups, community groups, academia, local/State/federal governments and non-profits can submit data to be incorporated into the decision making process for the report. Draft methodologies for the determination of impairments are placed on the web for public comment. An informational meeting is also held in support of the draft methodologies and Integrated Report. Finally, the report itself is available for public review on the web (<http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Pages/2014IR.aspx>) and by special request.

*MDE is conducting a public comment period for the Draft 2014 IR from August 8 through September 24, 2014. In addition, MDE is hosting an informational public meeting and conference call in Baltimore at 6pm on September 8, 2014. Any hearing impaired person may request an interpreter to be present at the meeting by giving five (5) working days notice to Matthew Stover at [matthew.stover@maryland.gov](mailto:matthew.stover@maryland.gov) or by calling (410) 537- 3611. Anyone wanting to participate in this meeting via conference call should also contact Matthew Stover in advance for instructions. Given enough interest, the Department may schedule additional meetings. Comments or questions may be directed in writing to Mr. Matthew Stover MDE, Science Services Administration, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore Maryland 21230, emailed to [matthew.stover@maryland.gov](mailto:matthew.stover@maryland.gov), or faxed to the attention of Mr. Matthew Stover at 410-537-3873 on or before **September 24, 2014**. After addressing all comments received during the public review period, a final List will be prepared and submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.*

#### **Public Meeting Announcement**

**Date:** September 8, 2014

**Time:** 6:00PM

**Location:** MDE Headquarters, 1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230

Lobby Conference Room (*to the left after entering the front door*)

1800 Washington Boulevard

Baltimore, MD 21230

**Parking:** Red Lot, Front (South) of Building