



## FACTS ABOUT:

### Maryland's 2012 Integrated Report

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Maryland Department of the  
Environment

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

The Integrated Report (IR) combines two water quality reports required under sections 305(b) 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 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 and the 305(b) report were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as separate documents but more recent guidance has called for combining these two reports into a single biennial publication. Maryland's 2012 IR represents a fully combined 305(b) 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 state, county, and local agencies. 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 2012?**

The 2012 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 or other technical solutions are expected to correct the impairment; 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 2010 TO 2012?**

The 2012 IR incorporates several changes this year which include: the increased utilization of volunteer data, implementation of revised assessment methodologies for bacteria and biology, and most notably, Maryland's first submission of IR information in a geographic information system (GIS) format. These changes are part of an on-going effort to improve Maryland's reporting and assessment activities required under the CWA.

There are 37 additions to the list of Category 5 waters in 2012. Twenty-four of these new Category 5 waterbody-pollutant combinations (also referred to as 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 24 new 'biostressor' listings, nine are for total suspended solids, seven are for chlorides, seven are for sulfates, and one is listed for total phosphorus. In addition, there are nine new fecal coliform listings in shellfish harvesting waters, two Chesapeake Bay segment listings as a result of updated bioassessments, and two new PCB listings for fish tissue. These additional impairment listings may reflect increased monitoring and improvements in assessment techniques, and do not necessarily indicate a decline in the State's overall water quality.

Another major change to the IR was due to the completion of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The Chesapeake Bay TMDL established individual TMDLs for 53 of Maryland's tidal tributary segments and caused 139 of Maryland's tidal nutrient and sediment impairment listings to be moved from Category 5 (impaired, requires a TMDL) to Category 4a (impaired, TMDL established). This represents a major step forward in bringing the Chesapeake Bay into water quality compliance.

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

Maryland completed a total of 31 TMDLs and Water Quality Analyses in 2010 and 2011. Twenty-four of the 31 meet specific requirements of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with EPA that sets TMDL production schedules for Maryland. In addition, in December 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with the Bay states, completed the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load, establishing a pollution diet (for nutrients and sediments) for the watershed and effectively addressing 139 of Maryland's impairment listings. In addition, MDE recently promulgated new soil erosion and sediment control regulations designed to reduce impacts from stormwater associated with development and construction. 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 WAS THE PUBLIC INVOLVED THE PROCESS?**

The Department put out a data solicitation in the spring of 2011 requesting data from volunteer groups, community groups, academia, local/State/federal governments, non-profits, and others who wanted their data to be incorporated into the decision making process for the report. In some cases, MDE worked with organizations to organize their data for inclusion into the statewide assessments. Later in the summer of 2011, draft assessment methodologies for the determination of impairments were placed on the web for public comment and later, on February 13, 2012, the Department public noticed the draft 2012 Integrated Report for a comment period of 30 business days (from February 13, 2012 through March 26, 2012). On March 12, 2012, MDE held an informational public meeting at MDE Headquarters in Baltimore to receive comments on the draft document. In response to questions raised during this meeting and from letters, MDE held an additional informational meeting on April 19, 2012 and extended the public comment period to April 26, 2012. All comments related to the Integrated Report were considered and given a formal response as MDE values the input of all stakeholders in the this process.