PART H: ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES

H.1 Updated Assessment Methodologies

H.1.1 The Listing Methodology for Identifying Waters Impaired by Bacteria in Maryland's Integrated Report

Section III of this methodology, The Interpretation of Bacteria Data for Water Contact Recreation Use, was updated with the 2012 EPA Recreational Water Quality Criteria and the assessment process was modified to support the new criteria, including the addition of a weekly sampling requirement. Appendix A. Considerations for Bacteria Sampling at Non-Beach Areas was also added. The updated Bacteria assessment methodology can be found online at:
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Documents/Assessment_Methodologies/Bacteria_Listing_Methodology_Final_2_23_2021.pdf

H.1.2 The Fish Tissue Assessment Methodology section which is part of the Methodology for Determining Impaired Waters by Chemical Contaminants for Maryland's Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality

The Fish Tissue section of this methodology was updated with modifications to the data used for Integrated Report listings including a minimum data requirement of 5 fish, a data assessment period of ten years, and information concerning the use of best professional judgment. The updates on best professional judgement apply to reviewing data outside of the ten-year period and determining if a species identified from older data is still representative of the current common recreational fish species for that waterbody. The updated Fish Tissue assessment methodology can be found online at:
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Documents/Assessment_Methodologies/Toxics_Assessment_Methodology_06-28-2019.pdf

H.1.3 The Temperature Assessment Methodology for Use III(-P) Streams in Maryland

The Temperature Assessment Methodology was updated to include a decision diagram and assessment process that supports the policy of independent applicability by only using temperature data and applicable criteria for the impairment listing decisions. The presence or absence of any cold-water obligate taxa has been excluded from the process. The updated Temperature assessment methodology can be found online at:
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Documents/Assessment_Methodologies/Temp_AM_UCIII_2019.pdf

H.2 New Assessment Methodologies

H.2.1 The Delisting Methodology for Biological Assessments

A new assessment methodology, The Delisting Methodology for Biological Assessments in Maryland's Integrated Report is intended to be part of the Biological Assessment Methodology for Non-Tidal Wadeable Streams. The purpose of the delisting methodology is to refine the spatial scale of biological

impairment listings in order to demonstrate progress and identify areas that are attaining biocriteria. The delisting methodology utilizes a targeted standardized approach that is complementary to the large scale probabilistic design of the current biological assessment methodology. The new Delisting Methodology can be found at:
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Documents/Assessment_Methodologies/Final_Draft_Delisting_Methodology_10_20_21.pdf

The rest of Maryland's assessment methodologies remain unchanged for this IR cycle and are available on MDE's website at:
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Pages/ir_listing_methodologies.aspx. The public is invited to review and comment on any of these methodologies during the public review period for the Integrated Report. Comments should be submitted in writing to Matthew Stover at matthew.stover@maryland.gov.