

Comment Period

A public comment period is being held from November 15 to December 29, 2017. Public comments will be incorporated in the final draft 2018 list submitted to EPA for approval in April, 2018.

Wisconsin's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methods (WisCALM)

The CWA requires states to document the methodology used to assess its waters, including how the state makes decisions to add or delete waters from the Impaired Waters List. Wisconsin's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methods (WisCALM) provides guidance to DNR staff conducting assessments of water quality.

Revised: November 13, 2017

Every two years, DNR publishes a list of waters considered impaired, as required by Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d). Impaired waters do not meet water quality standards and may not support fishing, swimming, recreating or public health and welfare.

A comment period is being held from November 15 to December 29, 2017 for changes proposed for the draft 2018 Impaired Waters List.

The comprehensive draft 2018 list contains 1,533 waterbodies, of which 240 are newly added in 2018.

A majority of the new listings are waters exceeding the total phosphorus criteria (see Figure 1). A large number of these waters had not been assessed for phosphorus prior to the 2018 cycle.

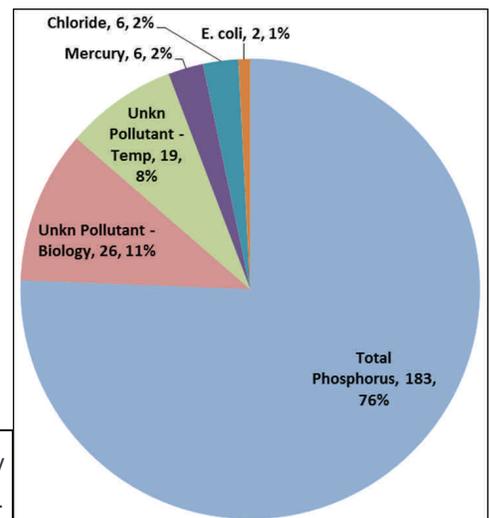
The remaining new listings are due to biological impairment, elevated temperature, levels of bacteria or chloride, or concentrations of mercury in fish tissue.

Figure 1. Summary of new waterbody listings by pollutant.

Delistings

Thirty-five waters are proposed for delisting because new water quality data indicate they are no longer impaired. This is the largest number of delistings since 2010.

- New fish tissue data resulted in the removal of specific fish consumption advice for 7 lakes and 4 rivers, prompting delisting.
- Ten lakes and three rivers had total phosphorus levels below the criteria.
- Five beaches have bacterial levels low enough for delisting.
- Three streams and two lakes are proposed to be removed based on improved biological community health.
- One stream delisting is proposed due to a previous listing error.



For more information regarding Wisconsin's Impaired Waters visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/impairedwaters/>



To receive future updates on the Impaired Waters List, please subscribe to our mailing list using the GovDelivery service on our website: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDNR/subscriber/new>



dnr.wi.gov