



Water Program Data

The increasing numbers of water program data in WATERS facilitates cross- program analyses

A growing number of EPA water program data are linked to the NHD and spatially-enabled for visualization and analysis. Many program data are continuously being updated and new data layers are planned. These linked and spatially-enabled data sets provide enhanced ability to perform cross-program analysis enabling informed decision-making.

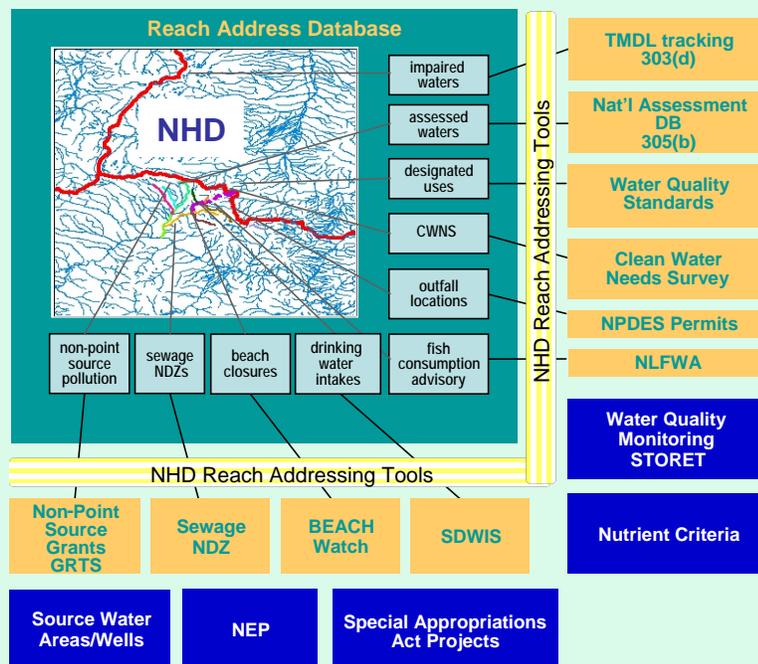
Water Quality Standards—standards established by States, Territories, and Tribes to determine the appropriate designated uses of waters (e.g., fishing, swimming, irrigation) and the scientific criteria to support those uses. WATERS contains the locations of state reported water quality standards from the EPA’s Water Quality Standards Database (WQSDB). These uses are assigned by states to provide regulatory goals and establish protection levels associated with the waters.
www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase/

Assessed Waters—waters that have been evaluated by states to determine if their designated uses are being met. States report on water quality assessment data, including use attainment and causes and sources of impairment. Two principle goals of this process are to improve the quality and consistency of State water quality reporting and to improve States’ and the EPA’s ability to perform water quality data analyses. Assessment status can be Fully Supporting, Not Assessed, or Not Supporting. Biennial reporting on these assessments is required under Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). WATERS contains the locations of state reported assessed waters from the EPA’s National Assessment Database (NAD).
www.epa.gov/waters/305b/

Impaired Waters—waters that are not currently meeting their designated uses. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to report a prioritized list of waters not meeting water quality standards and to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to correct the impairments.

WATERS contain the locations of state-reported impaired waters from the EPA’s National TMDL Tracking System.
www.epa.gov/waters/tmdl/

Beaches—information that shows whether a specific beach is being monitored for water quality, who is responsible for the monitoring, what pollutants are being monitored, and whether advisories or closures have been issued. To counteract the problem of increasing beach closures and to ensure public notification when there may be a risk of illness and disease, EPA established the Beaches Environmental Assessment, Closure, and Health (BEACH) Program to protect public health at our nation’s beaches. WATERS contains beach locations from the EPA’s BEACH Database.
www.epa.gov/OST/beaches/



Nutrient Criteria—information on nutrient concentration in surface waters being gathered to support EPA's development of scientifically defensible numeric nutrient criteria. The ultimate use of the data would be to derive ecoregion- and waterbody-specific numeric nutrient criteria ranges. Applications can directly connect to the EPA's national Nutrient Criteria Database, which contains ambient nutrient monitoring information. www.epa.gov/ost/standards/nutrient.html

Nonpoint Source Pollution—sources of polluted runoff which are eligible for cleanup grants under Section 319 of the CWA. These funds are provided only to designated state and tribal agencies to implement their approved non-point source management programs. The Non-point Source Projects layer contains the locations of non-point source projects from the EPA's Grant Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS). www.epa.gov/nps/

Sewage No Discharge Zones—areas where the discharge of sewage from vessels is prohibited. Vessel sewage discharge is regulated under Clean Water Act Section 312 which mandates the use of marine sanitation devices on all commercial and recreational vessels. States may request a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) designation. WATERS contains the locations of No Discharge Zones for vessel sewage. www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/regulatory/vessel_sewage/

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits— information on the regulated point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States, as authorized by the Clean Water Act. Point sources are discrete conveyances such as pipes or man-made ditches. The outfall location events in WATERS are based on pipe locations for all current PCS pipes with pipe discharges that have valid locational information in NPDES. cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/index.cfm

Fish Consumption Advisories—States, U.S. Territories and Native American tribes have primary responsibility for protecting their residents from the health risks of consuming contaminated non-commercially caught fish. They do this by issuing consumption advisories. WATERS contains linear, point, and waterbody events from the National Listing of Fish and Wildlife Advisories (NLFWA) database. www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/

www.epa.gov/waters/data/prog.html

Safe Drinking Water Information On Public Water Systems—required under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); States report to EPA information about public water systems and any violations of drinking water regulations. These regulations establish maximum contaminant levels, treatment techniques, monitoring, and reporting requirements to ensure that drinking water is safe for consumption. The WATERS Intranet version contains information for drinking water intakes, drinking water wells, and source water areas. www.epa.gov/safewater/dwhealth.html

National Estuary Program—established to improve the quality of estuaries of national importance. The Clean Water Act Section 320 directs EPA to develop plans for attaining or maintaining water quality in an estuary. www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/sheds.htm

Clean Water Needs Survey—CWNS provides information on publicly-owned wastewater collection and treatment facilities, facilities for control of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), combined sewer overflows (CSOs), stormwater control activities, nonpoint sources, and programs designed to protect the nation's estuaries. Information obtained from the survey is maintained in the CWNS database. www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/cwns/index.htm

Water Quality Monitoring Data from STORET— includes physical, chemical, and biological information from the Legacy Data Center (LDC) and the STORET Data Warehouse. The LDC contains historical water quality information while the STORET Data Warehouse contains current monitoring data of documented quality. www.epa.gov/storet/

New Data Layers Coming Soon:

- STORET
- Source Water Areas/Wells

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