



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



Bureau of Clean Water

2021 Assessment Methods Updates and the 2022 Integrated Report

Water Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

July 28, 2021

Presentation Outline

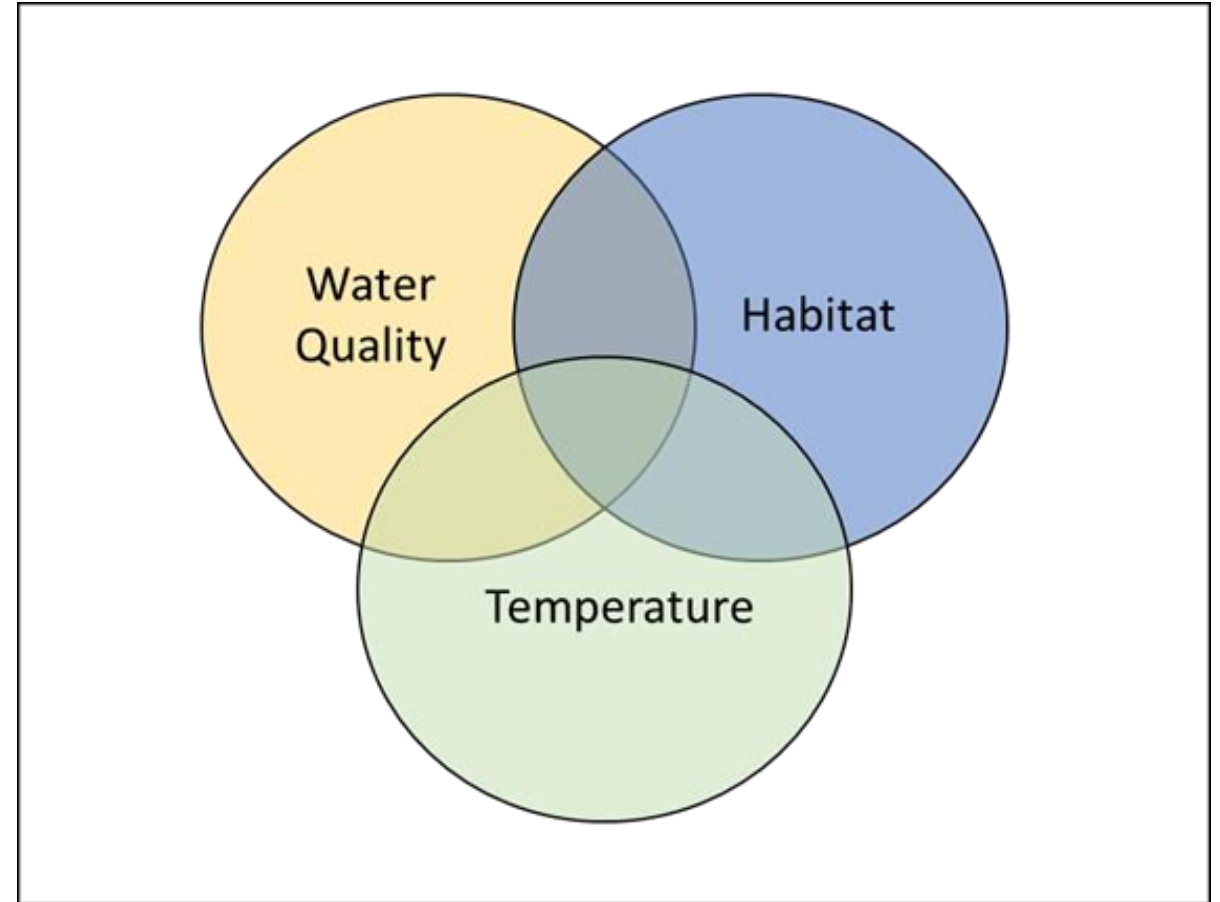
- **Assessment Method Updates**
 - Thermal Fish Index Update
 - Discrete Physicochemical Assessment Method Revisions and Technical Report
 - Fish Consumption Assessment Method Revision (PFOS addition)
 - Delisting Methods Revision
- **Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Integrated Report) Updates**

Thermal Fish Index Update

- Draft presented to WRAC July 29, 2020
- Published for 45-day public comment period on September 26, 2020
 - Public comment period ended on November 9, 2020
 - Comments received from USEPA and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
- Finalization in internal review
- Assessments using this method will appear in the 2022 Integrated Report

Thermal Fish Index Update

- The Thermal Fish Index (TFI) Assessment Method was 88% efficient at discriminating stress, with independent validation of 91% efficient
- The TFI responded significantly to temperature, water quality, and habitat condition



Physiochemical Assessment Method Revisions

- Published for 45-day public comment period on June 26, 2021
 - Comment period open until August 9, 2021
- Revision Summary:
 - Consolidated the assessment method and made the technical support document publicly accessible
 - Added clarifying language
 - Added magnitude and duration assessment components to toxic criteria (in table format)

Fish Consumption Assessment Method Revisions

- Projected Public Participation: Summer 2021
- Addition of PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) advisory levels
 - Adopted from Great Lakes Consortium for Fish Consumption
 - Bold values in table represent meal frequencies that are more restrictive than general statewide advice
- Other minor organizational edits
 - Consolidated advisory tables

Group	Meal Advice	PFOS
1	UNRESTRICTED	
2	1 MEAL/WEEK, (52 MEALS/YEAR)	0.02-0.05
3	2 MEALS/MONTH, (24 MEALS/YEAR)	
4	1 MEAL/MONTH, (12 MEALS/YEAR)	0.05-0.2
5	6 MEALS/YEAR	
6	DO NOT EAT	>0.2

Delisting Methods Revisions

- Projected Public Participation: Summer 2021
- Clarified the definition of “delisting”
- Added a “Delisting Clarification” sub-section
 - Requirements for delisting to Category 4b
 - Requirements for listing date refinement
- Other minor text and organizational edits

Integrated Report Updates

- Assessment work through COVID-19
- Clean Water Act 50th Anniversary in 2022
 - Timely submission of a final Integrated Report by April 1, 2022
 - Public Participation of draft Integrated Report projected for Winter 2021
- Enhancements
 - Additional numeric/statistical summaries
 - Additional focus on water quality success and progress
 - Links to data resources such as EPA's "How's My Waterway" application



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Questions?

Dustin Shull
dushull@pa.gov