

# **Announcing Version 2.0 of the Watershed Assessment, Tracking and Environmental Results (WATERS)**

## **Summary**

*The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with states, territories and tribes, is improving communication with the regulated community and the public about the quality of the Nation's surface waters through the use of the Watershed Assessment, Tracking and Environmental Results (WATERS). WATERS unifies geography-specific water quality information previously available only on individual state web sites and various EPA web sites. WATERS (Version 2.0), which provides direct access to an expanded list of information sources, is now available.*

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Visit WATERS at:  
**[www.epa.gov/waters](http://www.epa.gov/waters)**

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## **What is WATERS?**

WATERS is a data architecture that integrates information from various EPA Office of Water programs by *linking* it to the national surface water network. Through WATERS, environmental professionals and interested citizens can access comprehensive information about the quality of the Nation's surface water. By clicking on an interactive Web-based map, users can simultaneously display the locations and associated information for:

- the designated use(s) of a waterbody
- water quality monitoring stations
- assessments of water quality
- causes and sources of impaired waters
- public beaches
- no discharge zones for vessel sewage

## **Linking Water Quality Information**

Numerous EPA programs pursue clean and safe water. These programs generate large amounts of information

stored across many different EPA databases. WATERS improves program efficiency, communication, and analytical capacity by linking these databases so the water quality information they contain can easily be shared and combined. These linkages enable program managers to examine relationships between programs, perform nationwide analyses, and investigate interstate water quality issues. As updated information is added to each individual database it immediately becomes available through WATERS.

WATERS uses the surface water network defined within the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) as the geographic framework for linking and integrating water quality information. The NHD was produced and is jointly maintained by the EPA, U.S. Geological Survey, and other federal and state cooperators.

## **Future Releases**

Future releases of WATERS will include information on fish consumption advisories, non-point source projects to control polluted runoff, and facility discharges. Also planned is the ability to calculate total river miles and waterbody acres for a given area and to answer multi-program questions that draw on information from the databases linked through WATERS.

## **For More Information Contact:**

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