

State of Maine
Guidance for Submittal of Surface Water Data / Information
for Development of the 2024 Clean Water Act
§ 305(b) Water Quality Report and § 303(d) List of Impaired Waters
“The 2024 Integrated Report”

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) encourages anyone who has surface water data or information to submit it to MDEP at this time. **Data received by June 30, 2023** will be considered for inclusion in the 2024 Integrated Report.

Please note that the **2024 Integrated Report will cover assessments of monitoring results that have been completed by approximately April 30, 2023**. The reporting cycle is set to **include data from the 2021 and 2022 field monitoring seasons**.

Please note that a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or MDEP is required in most cases for data to be used in Maine’s Integrated Report.

The information you provide can help MDEP identify:

- waters that are meeting designated uses such as aquatic life, fishing or swimming (i.e. waters in good condition),
- waters that are in a higher condition than their designated use class,
- waters that are not supporting one or more of their designated uses (i.e. impaired waters), and
- waters that require additional monitoring or investigation before a final assessment can be made.

Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires each state to prepare a water quality inventory of its surface waters every two years (formerly referred to as “the 305(b) Report”). The Maine State Legislature and Section 303(d) of the CWA also require the state to prepare a list of impaired surface waters that do not attain one or more of their designated uses. This list is also included in the Integrated Report and is commonly called the “303(d) List”. Maine’s previous Section 305(b) Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Reports and 303(d) lists of impaired waters may be found at: www.maine.gov/dep/water/monitoring/305b/.

Guidance on submitting sampling location information and data for the 2024 Integrated Report is provided below. Excel templates for data submission are available on request and provide a list of requested sampling location and data fields. Data may be submitted in a spreadsheet or database format but please call or e-mail to discuss your submission. MDEP staff will evaluate submitted data for adherence to quality assurance guidelines and the potential for use in the 2024 Integrated Report.

SCHEDULE

Surface water quality data and information are welcome and encouraged at any time. However, to be considered as part of the 2024 assessments, data should be submitted by the date shown below, and only include data analyzed before May 2023. Data or information submitted after the deadline may need to be deferred for inclusion in future assessments. The public comment period for the 303(d) List is also presented in the following table.

Expected Timetable

April 30, 2023	Approximate analysis cut-off for data collected during the 2020 and 2021 field seasons
June 30, 2023	Data submission deadline for quality-assured data for consideration in 2024 assessments
January 8, 2024	Draft Integrated Report is available for public comment
February 8, 2024	End of Integrated Report public comment period
April 1, 2024	Integrated Report is submitted to EPA

WHAT TO SUBMIT

Note: Data and assessment recommendations should be submitted in a format that provides the information requested below. A Data Submittal form and Sampling Location form can be provided on request. Electronic data submissions are preferred (i.e. MS Excel spreadsheet or Word document, ArcGIS shape files, etc.).

How data or information are used in MDEP assessments depends largely on the quality and completeness of the submission. Scientifically sound and defensible evidence is needed to determine if a waterbody is meeting or not meeting water quality standards. Less rigorous evidence, however, is still useful as it provides a preliminary sense of water quality that can be used to prioritize future monitoring investigations. We welcome your comments on conclusions that you think can be drawn from the submitted data. These conclusions about the significance of the data findings are a very important component of the MDEP evaluation of submitted data. The table below shows a summary of the information required for data submittals.

Sampling Location Information Required Fields	Data and Assessment Information Required Fields
Contact name Contact phone or e-mail Organization or departmental unit Monitoring type (chemical, pathogen/bacteria, toxicity, biological assemblage group, physical, tissue, other, etc.) Monitoring year of data/assessment	
Assessment Unit/Segment ID number (if known) (cross-reference to an ID code described on the Data and Assessment form)	Assessment Unit/Segment ID number (if known) (must cross-reference to an ID code described in the Sampling Location form)
Waterbody type (river, stream, lake, wetland, estuarine/marine)	Sample Event Date
Waterbody name	<i>Discrete Sample Event ID code (optional)</i>
Town/jurisdiction	Waterbody type (river, stream, lake, wetland, estuarine/marine)
Coordinate source (e.g., GPS model ID; digitized from maps, etc.)	Parameters sampled (provide a list)
GPS accuracy	Parameter measurement data*
Latitude / UTM North	Narrative assessment summary* of measurement results (what does data indicate about WQ condition?)

Sampling Location Information Required Fields	Data and Assessment Information Required Fields
Longitude / UTM West	Quality Assurance Program documentation (coversheet & location of a current approved QAPP or documentation of QA methods used to collect/analyze data)
<i>Map and/or photos of sampling location (optional)</i>	
<i>10-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (optional)</i>	
Narrative description of location	<i>* Must provide EITHER measurement data OR assessment summary; may provide both</i>

HOW TO SEND DATA TO MDEP

For electronic submittals (preferred), please contact MDEP via the e-mail below at your earliest convenience and include the subject line: “**2024 Integrated Report data submission**”. For paper submittals, please provide the information requested above for each location/sample and submit, along with supporting documentation, to MDEP by mail or fax at the addresses below.

By mail: Water Quality Data
 Attn: Susanne Meidel
 Maine Department of Environmental Protection
 Bureau of Water Quality
 SHS #17
 Augusta, Maine 04333

By fax: Attn: Susanne Meidel
 207-297-7826

By e-mail: Susanne.K.Meidel@maine.gov

QUESTIONS? Please call 207-441-3612