

## National Water Quality Assessment Program Liaison Committee

Presentation to Advisory Committee for Water Information

### Outline

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- Overview of the NAWQA Program
  - o The National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program began in 1991 after a 4-year pilot program and review by the National Research Council. The Program has 3 broad goals:
    - Define current water quality conditions for streams and aquifers
    - Identify changes or trends in water quality conditions
    - Determine, to the extent possible, the major factors influencing current conditions and how they're changing through time.
- Overview of the National Liaison Committee to the NAWQA Program
  - o Formed at the beginning of the program.
  - o The broad goals of this committee include:
    - Exchange information on Water Quality Findings
    - Identify sources of new data and information
    - Provide feedback on program changes including the design and scope of activities and products.
- Stakeholder priorities to be addressed during the third decade of NAWQA
  - o <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/pubs/fs-2013-3008/>
- Recent activities of the NAWQA Liaison Committee and accomplishments of the NAWQA Program
  - o The NAWQA Liaison Committee held two meetings during the last year.
    - September 14, 2014 meeting focused on surface water aspects of the NAWQA Program including presentations on:
      - Tracking and forecasting the Nation's water quality—Priorities and strategies 2013-2022
      - SPARROW model and Decision Support System-New capabilities and future plans for improving the understanding of stream water quality across the Nation; and
      - New web-based annual reporting of stream and river water quality data
    - May 8, 2015 meeting focused on groundwater aspects of the NAWQA Program The two presentations that were given focused on
      - Plans and Products for the next decade for modeling and mapping groundwater quality across some of the most important principal aquifers of the United States.

- Selected accomplishments from NAWQA during the last year
  - Sediment data portal <http://cida.usgs.gov/sediment/>
  - National summary report of the quality of the Nation's groundwater  
[http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/pubs/prin\\_aq/](http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/pubs/prin_aq/)
  - On-line tool for tracking water quality in the Nation's streams  
[http://www.usgs.gov/envirohealth/headlines/2015-08-27-wq\\_tracking\\_tool.html](http://www.usgs.gov/envirohealth/headlines/2015-08-27-wq_tracking_tool.html)
  - Interactive [mapping tool](#) that provides predicted concentrations for 108 pesticides in streams and rivers across the Nation and identifies which streams are most likely to exceed water-quality guidelines for human health or aquatic life. <http://cida.usgs.gov/warp/home/>