

The National Hydrography Dataset (NHD): What is it and how are water quality programs using it?

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The EPA Office of Water has developed a data system to integrate water quality monitoring data, state reported water quality assessments, the status of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) in conjunction with any associated legal obligations, and the environmental results associated with Clean Water Act Section 319 funding. The new system, the Watershed Assessment Tracking Environmental Results System (WATERS), integrates program databases using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) as the spatial framework. Initially, this integration coupled with an EPA-internal Web-based user interface allows EPA Office of Water managers and staff to ask and answer numerous programmatic questions in support of assessment and monitoring activities.

KEY WORDS:NHD, National Hydrography Dataset, Reach Files, WATERS, assessment, TMDLS.