

Designs for the future: Bridging the gap between assessment of condition and diagnosis of impairment

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Abstract

As the EPA, states, and tribes move towards a consolidated assessment and listing process to satisfy requirements of both Section 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, multi-purpose monitoring designs will be needed to assess regional condition as well as predict site-specific probabilities of impairment. This workshop will provide an overview of tools needed to support watershed-scale characterization and monitoring and a variety of state and regional case studies illustrating combined probabilistic approaches to assessments of condition and diagnoses of impairment. Tools reviewed will include the status of development of the National Watershed Boundary Database, watershed delineation and aggregation tools, and watershed classification approaches in support of stratified or weighted probability designs.