

Dear NAWQA Liaison Participants,

Please join us for a meeting to learn about the USGS National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Project's recent accomplishments and plans for assessing the status and trends of the quality of the Nation's streams and rivers.

Key topics to be covered include:

- Comprehensive long-term look at trends changes in nutrients, pesticides, sediment, carbon, salinity, and aquatic ecology;
- New interactive visualization mapper that provides a nationwide look at changes in the quality of our rivers and streams in the 40 years since the passage of the Clean Water Act;
- Trends, seasonality, and regional patterns in chloride, sulfate, and alkalinity—indicators of potential corrosivity in streams and rivers; and
- What's next?—recent progress and plans for stream and river quality monitoring/assessments and watershed modeling.

What: NAWQA Liaison Meeting—The Quality of Our Nation's Streams and Rivers—A Comprehensive Assessment

When: 10 am till noon on April 14, 2017

Where: Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C.

Please RSVP to Carise Barbour (cbarbour@usgs.gov) or by clicking the link below, by April 7, 2016.

RSVP

At the April 14th Liaison meeting, you will learn more about the following activities that are an integral part of NAWQA's comprehensive assessment of the quality of the Nation's streams and rivers:

Long-term trends in the quality of U.S. rivers and streams

USGS recently completed the largest-ever evaluation of water-quality trends in U.S. rivers and streams. Monitoring data from more than 70 agencies were leveraged to describe changes between 1972 and 2012 in nutrients, pesticides, sediment, carbon, salinity, and aquatic ecology. At least one trend result is reported at 1,400 stream sites. Data screening for trends and national scale results will be described, along with future plans to describe the major causes of trends in rivers and streams.

Challenges remain in combining data from multiple agencies to assess the quality of our Nation's streams and rivers—About 14.5 million of the 25 million nutrient water-quality records collected since 1899 by nearly 500 public and private organizations at 312,927 stream and river sites across the country had missing or ambiguous metadata—the standard

descriptive information needed to determine the amount of a chemical present in the sample. This inconsistency limits the use of these data for assessing water quality across large river basins, such as the Great Lakes or the Mississippi River basin. By adopting standard metadata practices across all monitoring organizations in the United States, the quality and amount of data that could be used to assess water management actions could be drastically increased.

New mapper provides a long-term look at changes in the quality of U.S. rivers and streams

An online, interactive map provides a comprehensive, long-term look at changes in the quality of our Nation's streams and rivers over the last four decades. Tracking changes in the quality of these waterways over multiple decades is crucial for evaluating the effectiveness of pollution control efforts and protecting the Nation's water resources into the future. The interactive map can be used to see whether 51 water-quality constituents and 38 aquatic-life metrics have increased, decreased, or remained the same at nearly 1,400 sites by comparing data from 1972, 1982, 1992, or 2002 to 2012 data. You will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the use and functionality of the mapper at the meeting.

Trends, seasonality, and regional patterns in chloride, sulfate, and alkalinity—indicators of potential corrosivity in streams and rivers

Learn more about ongoing work on how changes in chloride, sulfate, and alkalinity can affect the potential corrosivity in rivers and streams across the Nation.

Progress and plans for water quality monitoring and watershed assessments and modeling

Learn about regional water quality monitoring and watershed modeling activities.

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We look forward to getting your feedback at the meeting.

Gary Rowe
USGS National Water Quality Program Coordinator