

2022 WATER QUALITY LISTS

Every two years, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources publishes a list of waters considered impaired, as required by the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Impaired waters are those that do not meet water quality standards and may not support fishing, swimming, recreating or public health and welfare.

Waterbodies on the *Impaired Waters List* require a restoration plan that must be approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. The *Restoration Waters List* comprises those that already have an EPA-approved plan. Defining the Impaired Waters List in this way aligns Wisconsin methods with neighboring states.

The public can comment on changes proposed for the draft 2022 Impaired Waters and Restoration Waters lists from August 16 to October 1, 2021.

The comprehensive draft 2022 Impaired Waters List contains 1,526 listings, of which 104 are newly added in 2022. A majority of the new listings – 57% – are waters exceeding the total phosphorus criteria. Over 30% of new listings are for bacteria; this is the first cycle to use the new *E. coli* bacteria criteria recently approved by the Wisconsin legislature. The Restoration Waters List grew by 11 listings.

WisCALM: *Wisconsin's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methods* – The CWA requires states to document the methodology used to assess its waters, including how the state makes decisions to add or delete waters from the Impaired Waters List. WisCALM provides guidance to DNR staff conducting assessments of water quality.

Comment Period

A public comment period on the 2022 draft Water Condition Lists is being held from August 16 to October 1, 2021.

Delistings

Twenty-two waterbodies are slated for delisting, the majority are for phosphorus, degraded biology, and sediment.

New Listings

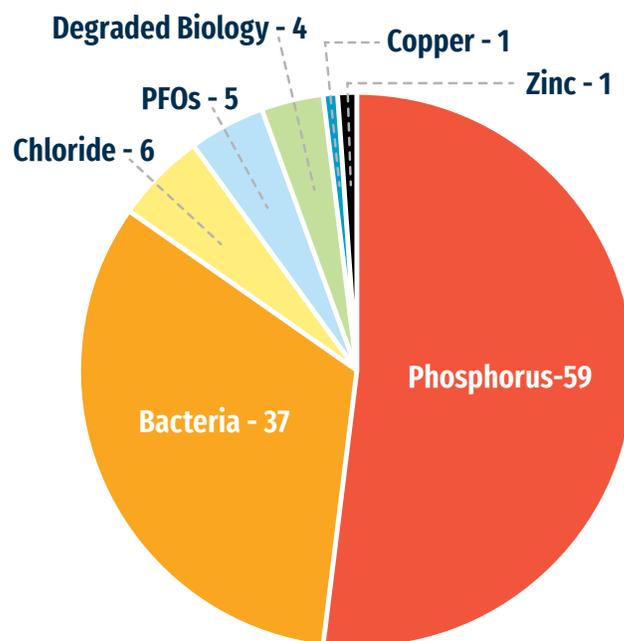


Figure 1. New 2022 pollutant listings by count and percent. These new listings are for both the Impaired Waters and Restoration Waters lists.

Stay in the loop

For more information regarding Wisconsin's Water Quality Lists visit: dnr.wi.gov/topic/impairedwaters

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