

Using the Water Quality Framework to Improve Accountability

The Water Quality Framework Goal » Streamline water quality assessment and reporting while providing a more complete picture of our nation's water quality.

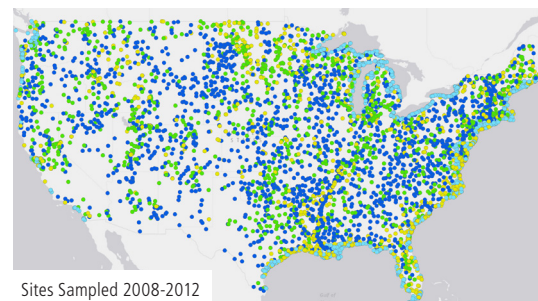
1



NATIONAL AND STATE-LEVEL SURVEYS

EPA, states, tribes and territories collaborate on nationally consistent surveys of the nation's waters. Results of these cost-effective assessments track status and trends in key measures in water quality. This information provides insights on progress achieved across the nation and helps inform priorities for regional and local action.

National Aquatic Resource Surveys



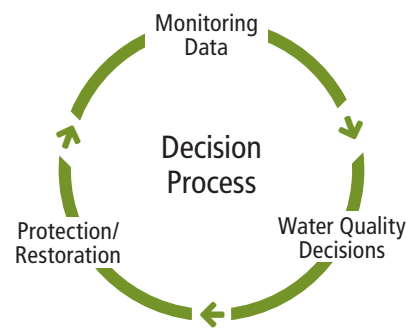
● Rivers and streams ● Wetlands
● Coastal estuarine ● Lakes and reservoirs

2



LOCAL ASSESSMENTS & DECISION PROCESS

The states, tribes and territories dig deeper to find and address priority waters for protection and restoration. They share their information with EPA throughout the continuous cycle:

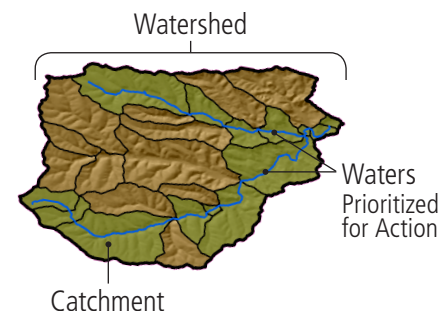


3



CONNECTING WATER QUALITY DECISIONS WITH THE LANDSCAPE

This process will provide increased accountability, transparency, and flexibility in displaying achievements to restore and maintain the nation's waters.



By integrating data systems and automating performance measures, we provide a more transparent link between actions and outcomes.