

# 2020 WisCALM Public Comment Period

UPDATE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

JANUARY 9, 2018



# WisCALM Background

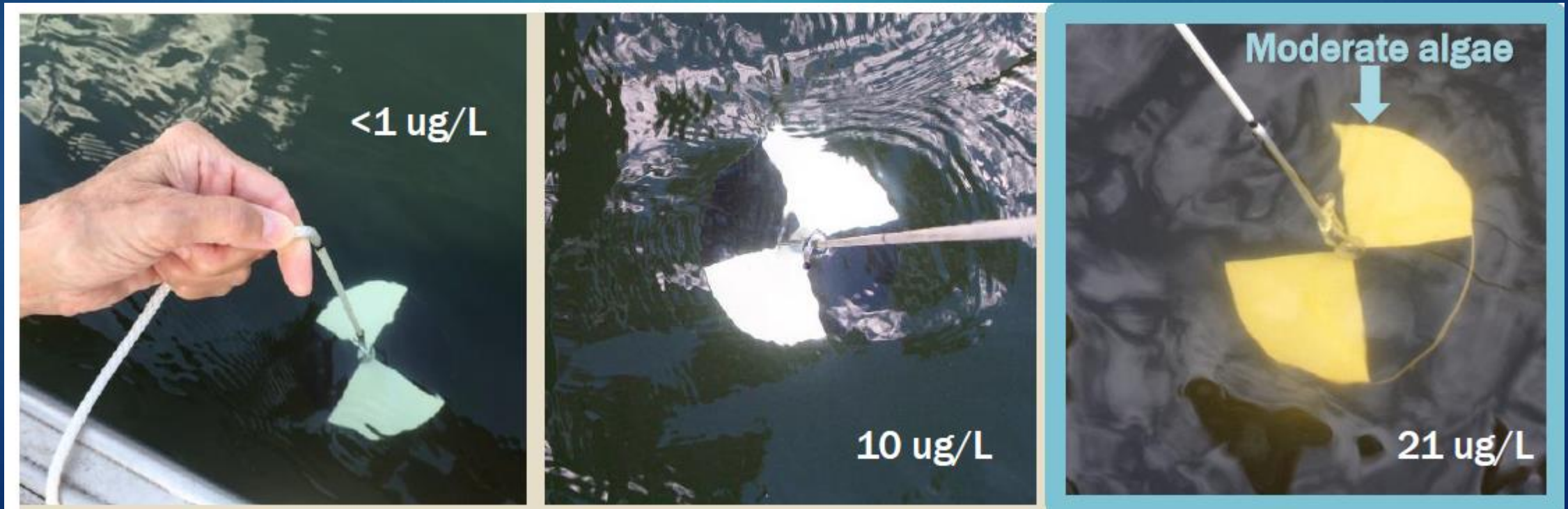
- ▶ **WisCALM:** Wisconsin Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology
  - ▶ Describes standardized procedures WDNR uses to assess surface water quality data against criteria.
  - ▶ Describes how/why a water would be determined impaired or healthy.
- ▶ Updated every 2 years.
- ▶ Every two years Wisconsin assesses the water quality of its surface waters as required by sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (40 C.F.R. § 130.7(b)).

# Major 2020 WisCALM Updates

- ▶ Chlorophyll-a terminology change.
- ▶ Aligned language with current state Water Monitoring Strategy.
- ▶ Updated listing categories to match other EPA Region 5 states.
- ▶ Added more description of general assessments.
- ▶ Removed language on vestigial mercury listings.
- ▶ Added Quick-Link section.
- ▶ Updated References section.

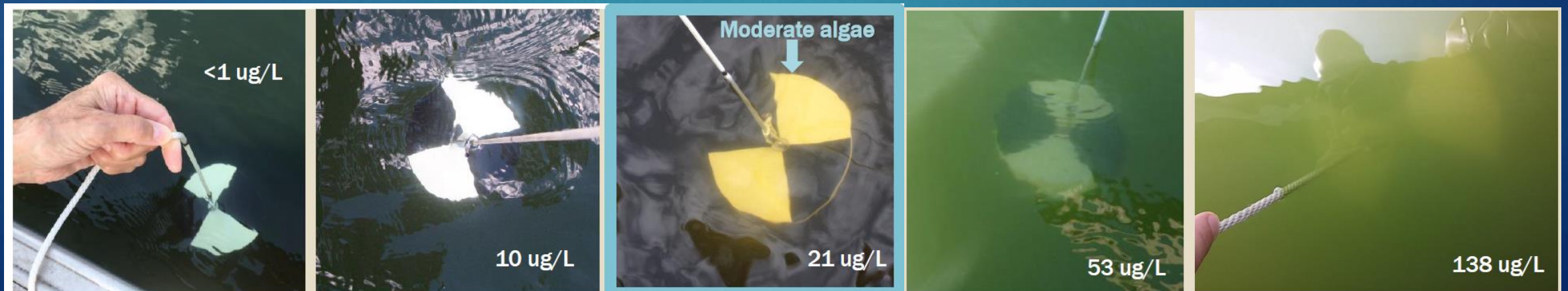
# Chlorophyll-a Language Update

- ▶ Change phrase “**nuisance algal blooms**” to “**moderate algae levels**”.
- ▶ Based on External Advisory Committee for assessment standards rule updates.



# Chlorophyll-a Language Update

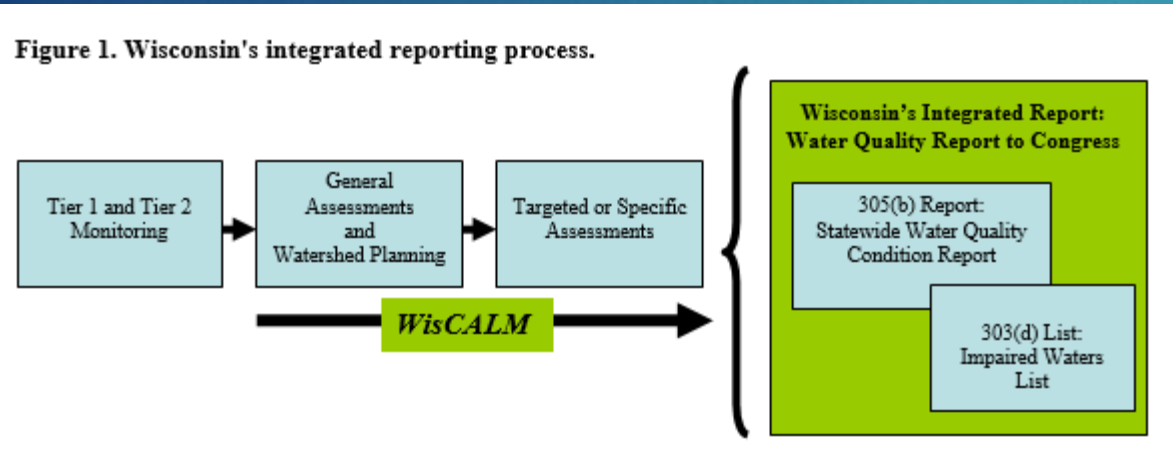
- ▶ “Half of lake users perceive some impairment to their enjoyment & recreation due to algae, but over 90% would still swim.
- ▶ The number of lake users who would not swim skyrockets as chlorophyll-a rises above 20 ug/L.



# Match State Monitoring Strategy

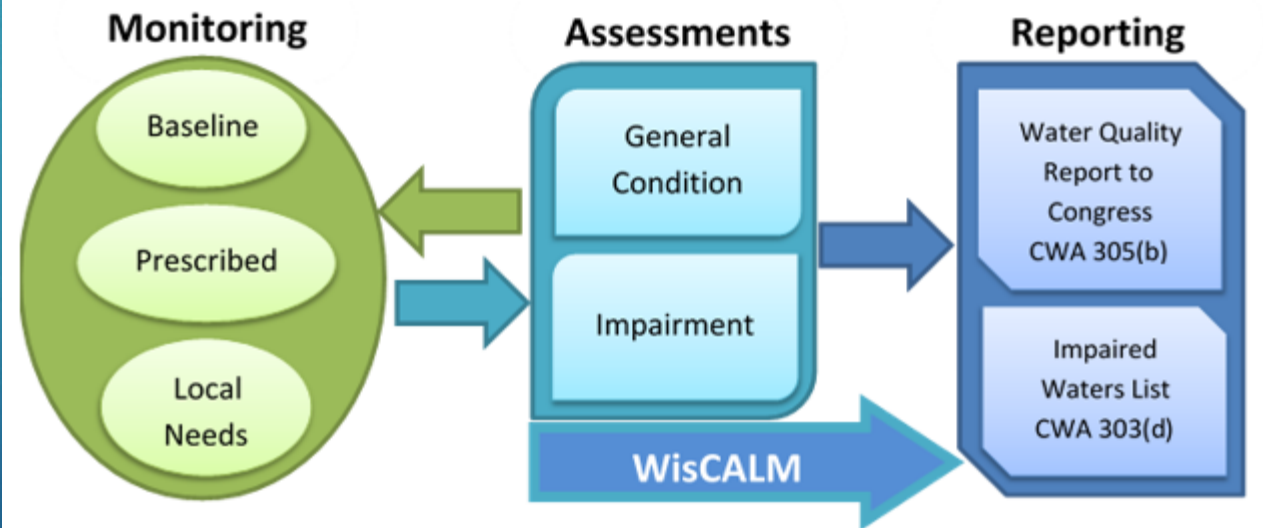
- ▶ Removed language on “Tiered” monitoring. Updated Figure 1.

2018








2020

**Figure 1. Wisconsin's integrated reporting process.**



# Updating Listing Categories

- ▶ Category 4 no longer considered part of the Impaired Waters List (aligns with other EPA R5 states).
- ▶ Newly created “**Restoration Waters**” List for all waters with TMDL or alternative plan.
- ▶ Newly created “**Healthy Waters**” List.

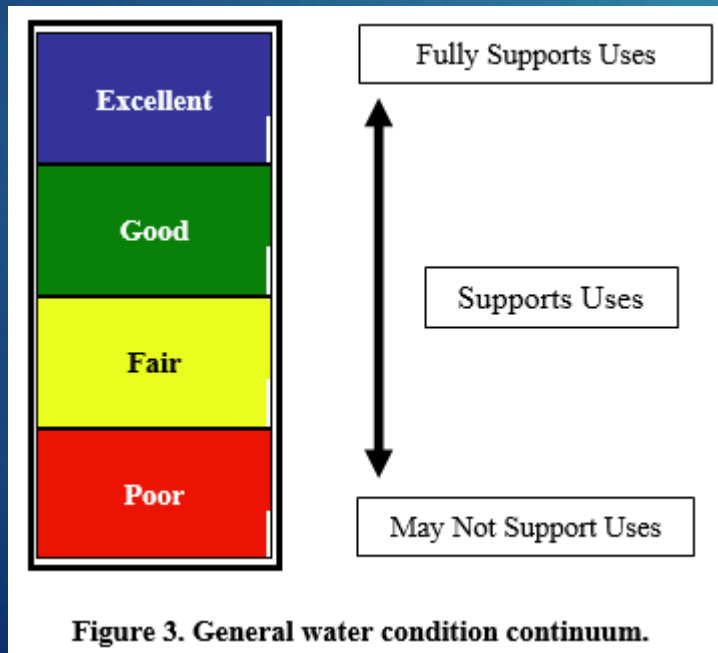
	<b>1</b> Attains all uses.	<b>Healthy Waters</b>
	<b>2</b> Attains at least one use; no use impaired.	
	<b>3</b> Insufficient information for an attainment decision.	
	<b>4</b> An impairment exists and a cleanup plan (TMDL or alt.) has been approved by the EPA.	<b>Restoration Waters</b>
	<b>5</b> An impairment exists but a cleanup plan (TMDL or alt.) is still needed.	<b>Impaired Waters</b>

# General Assessments

- ▶ Added water chemistry metrics as way to do a general assessments (previously only described as biology).

2018

2020



**Table 7.** General water condition assessment decisions based on biological and water quality metrics.

Metric		Assessment	
Biological Metrics (TSI*, mIBI, fIBI)	Water Quality Metrics (TP, Temp., Chloride, etc.)	Designated Use Support	Attainment Decision
Excellent	Meets Criteria	Fully Supports Use	Attaining
Good		Supports Use	
Fair			
Poor**	Exceeds Criteria**	May Not Support Use	Insufficient Information

\*Secchi, chlorophyll, and satellite-based values.  
 \*\*Not enough data to do a full impairment assessment.



# Mercury Listing Language

- ▶ Removed language referring to listings made before the 2001 statewide mercury advisory.
  - ▶ EPA originally wanted WDNR to sample all waters that had been listed for mercury before delisting even when sample levels used for listing were below the new statewide criteria.
  - ▶ Worked with EPA in Fall 2018 to approve proposal to remove these vestigial 1998 listings (total of 90).

# Quick-Link Section

- ▶ Links to federal guidance, state administrative code, monitoring plans, topic pages, resources and tools, and other sources.
- ▶ Added to give easier access to these documents.

## 10.0 Quick Link Guide

### Federal Clean Water Act & EPA Guidance

How US EPA Manages the Quality of its Environmental Data:

<https://www.epa.gov/quality>

Drinking Water Contaminants- Standards and Regulations:

[https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations?\\_sm\\_au=iVVVMN2W4PQ7iM2QN](https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations?_sm_au=iVVVMN2W4PQ7iM2QN)

Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act):

<https://www.epa.gov/beach-tech/about-beach-act>

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Ch. I, Subchapter D, Part 131- Water Quality Standards:

[https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfr/browse/Title40/40cfr131\\_main\\_02.tpl&\\_sm\\_au=iVVW3452QBmB6LmN](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfr/browse/Title40/40cfr131_main_02.tpl&_sm_au=iVVW3452QBmB6LmN)

Use Attainability Analysis:

<https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/use-attainability-analysis-uaa>

### Wisconsin State Administrative Codes

Chapter NR1.02(7), Trout Stream Classification:

[http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/001/1/02](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/001/1/02)

Chapter NR102, Water Quality Standards for Wisconsin Surface Waters:

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/100/102](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/102)

Chapter NR 103, Water Quality Standards for Wetlands:

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/100/103](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/103)

Chapter NR 104, Uses and Designated Standards:

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/100/104](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/104)

Chapter NR 105, Surface Water Quality Criteria and Secondary Values for Toxic Substances:

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/100/105](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/105)

Chapter NR 107, Aquatic Plant Management:

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/100/107](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/107)

Chapter NR 207, Antidegradation and Antibrackishwater:

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/200/207](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/200/207)

Chapter NR 281, Paint and Ink Formulation:

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/200/281](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/200/281)

### Monitoring Strategies and Protocols

Wisconsin's Water Monitoring Strategy 2015 - 2020, June 2015. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison, WI:

[https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/monitoring/strategy/Strategy\\_2015\\_2020.pdf](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/monitoring/strategy/Strategy_2015_2020.pdf)

# Minor 2020 WisCALM Updates

- ▶ Terminology changes:
  - ▶ Fish and Aquatic Life Use (FAL) → Aquatic Life Use (AL).
  - ▶ Impairment “Water Quality Use Restrictions” is now “High Phosphorus Levels”.
- ▶ Clarifying Language:
  - ▶ More information on assessment station selection (section 4.2).
  - ▶ Updated lake dissolved oxygen assessment language (section 4.5).
  - ▶ Added Wildlife Use sections 4.8 and 5.5.
  - ▶ Further description of TMDL Status (High, Medium, Low) determination (section 8.1).

# Minor 2020 WisCALM Updates

- ▶ New Tables & Figures:
  - ▶ Assessment cycle date ranges (Table 1).
  - ▶ New List definitions (Figure 3, Tables 2 & 3).
  - ▶ Station selection in database, for DNR staff (Figures 7 & 14).
  - ▶ Outline of what parameter assessments result in certain impairments (Table 22).
  - ▶ Examples of listing decision process based on parameter attainment and use (Figures 16 & 17).
  - ▶ Example of pollutant-level and waterbody-level category determination (Table 24).
- ▶ Other Changes:
  - ▶ Added Acronyms & Terminology to Quick-Reference Section.

# Public Comment Period

- ▶ A 30-day public comment period on draft WisCALM changes.
- ▶ **January 22<sup>nd</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.**
- ▶ Submit comments:
  - ▶ Via Email: [dnrimpairedwaters@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrimpairedwaters@wisconsin.gov)
  - ▶ Via Mail to Ashley Beranek, DNR, Bureau of Water Quality, 101 S. Webster St. WQ/3 Madison, WI 53707.
- ▶ WDNR will respond to comments with finalization of guidance.