

2021 Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

EQC Presentation

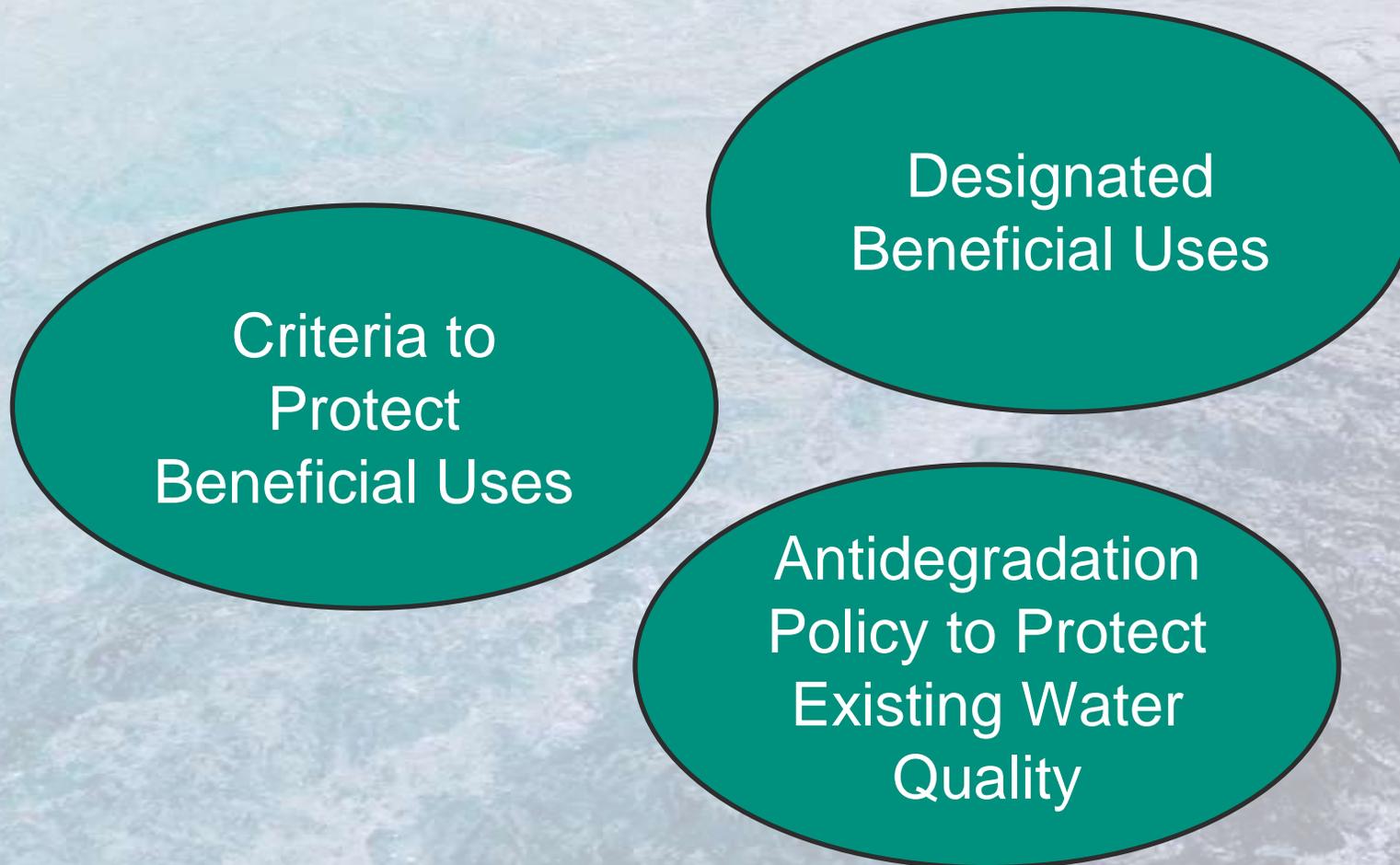
Sept. 30, 2021



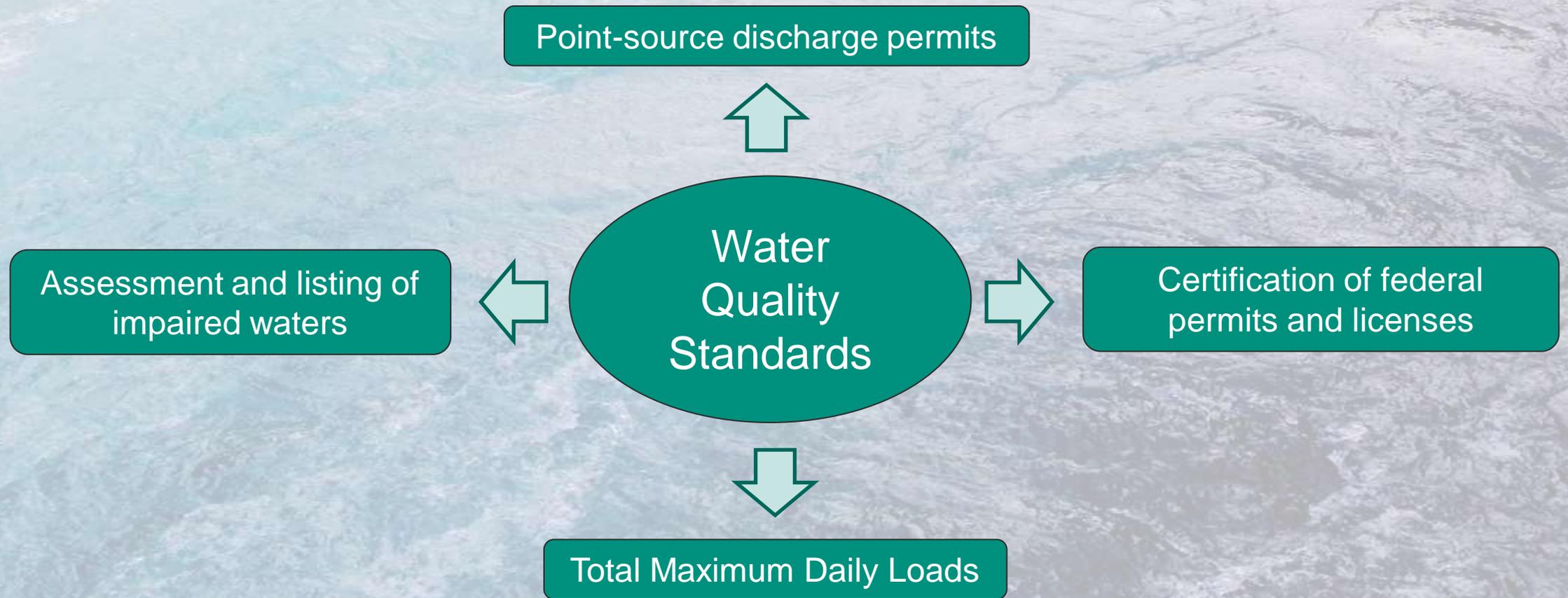
2021 Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

- Required by federal Clean Water Act
- Hold public hearing, update water quality standards
- At least once every three years
- Result: Triennial Review Workplan
 - Priority projects
 - Complete or initiate July 2021 – June 2024

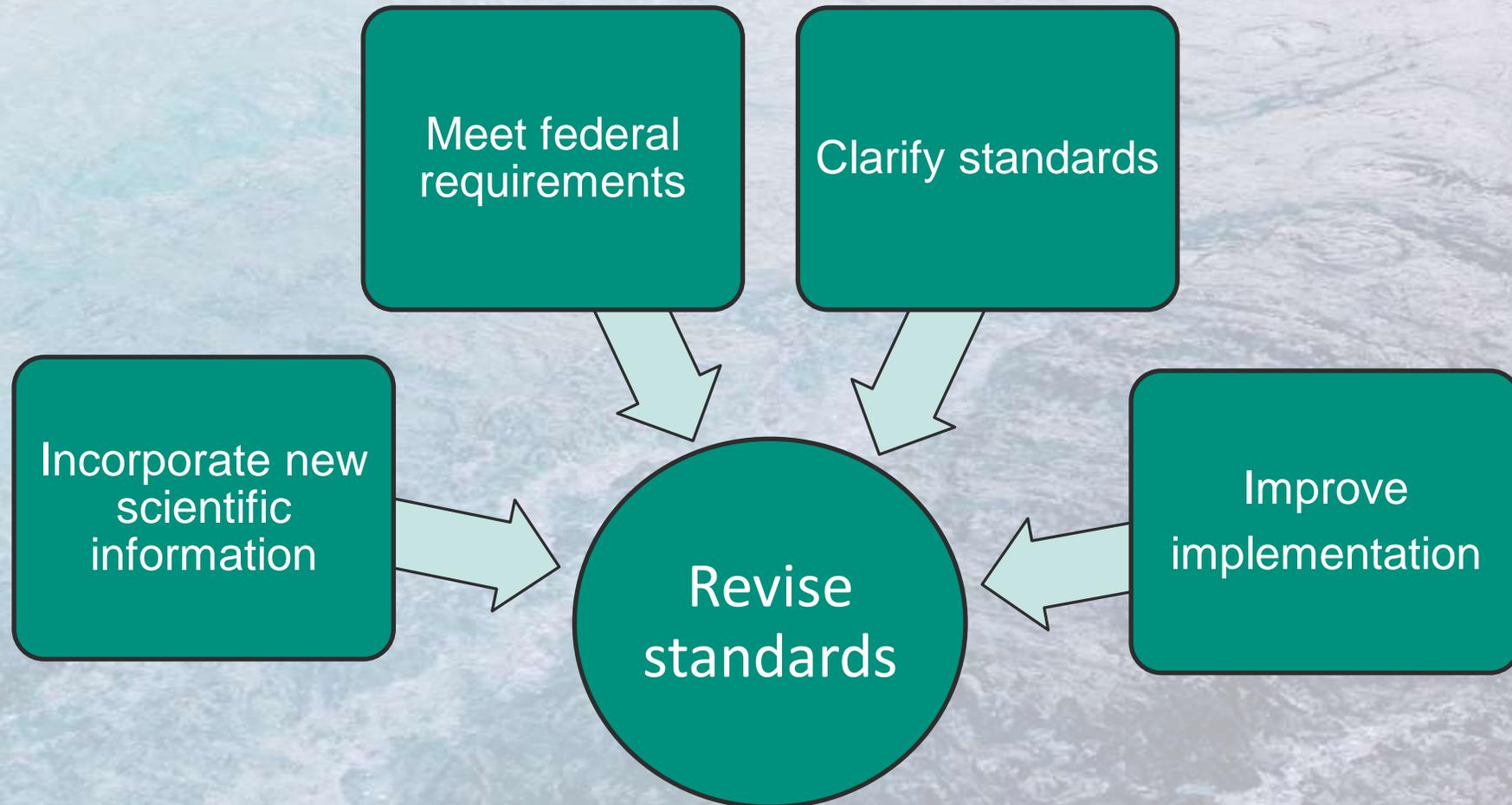
Components of Water Quality Standards



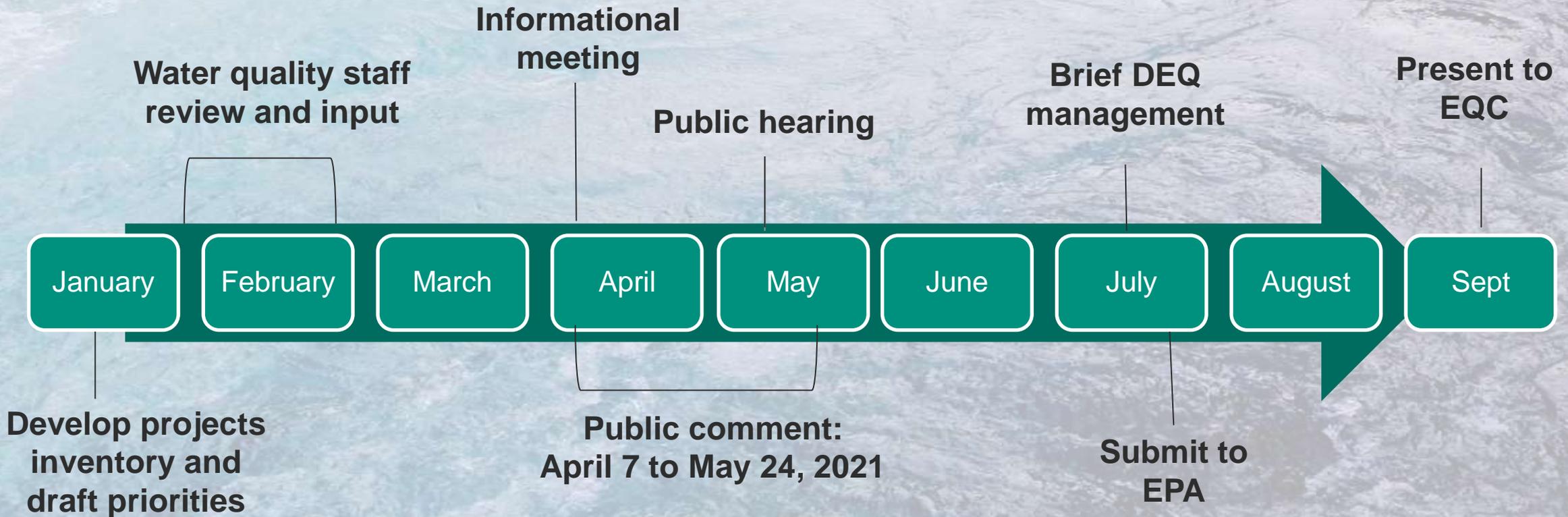
Foundation for Water Quality Programs



Why revise standards?



Milestones and Timeline



How did DEQ prioritize projects?

Value

- Environmental
- Administrative

Urgency

- Work in progress
- DEQ work impeded?
- External drivers

Effort

- Resources required
- Guidance available?
- Project scope

Risk

- Level of experience
- Availability of data/information
- Approvals needed



Questions?

High-Priority Projects

In Progress

Aquatic Life Use Updates:
Temperature

Aquatic Life Use Updates:
Dissolved Oxygen

Variance Procedures

Temperature Variances

Toxics: Aquatic life
criteria

Toxics: Narrative
criterion

Sedimentation

Biocriteria

Excessive Aquatic Plant
and Algal Growth

High-Priority Project: Use updates

Fish & Aquatic Life Use Updates

Temperature
Dissolved Oxygen

- Correct and update aquatic life use designations based on the best available data
- Accurate application of the temperature and dissolved oxygen standards
- *In progress*

High-Priority Projects: Variances

Variance Procedures

- Clear procedures to evaluate and grant variances
- DEQ anticipates need for variances
- *In progress*

Temperature Variances

- For dischargers who cannot feasibly meet permit limits based on temperature criteria
- *In progress*

High-Priority Projects: Toxics

Aquatic Life Toxics

- Update Oregon's aquatic life criteria
- Aquatic life protection

Narrative Criterion

- Procedures to apply narrative toxics criterion
- Human health and aquatic life protection

High-Priority Projects

Biocriteria

- Procedures to apply the narrative biocriteria
- Aquatic life protection

High-Priority Projects

Excessive Aquatic Plant and Algal Growth

- Procedures to apply narrative criterion, and
- the chlorophyll-a action value
- Protect waters from impacts of nutrient loading

High-Priority Projects

Sedimentation

- Procedures to apply the narrative criterion pertaining to suspended and bedded sediment
- Aquatic life protection

Additional Projects

Ocean acidification

- Assist with assessment methodology; background research

Marine dissolved oxygen

- Assist with assessment methodology;
- background research

pH

- Review the pH criteria for the Crooked River

Projects to be included *as time allows*

Toxics –
human health criteria

- Compare Oregon criteria with updated EPA recommendations

Designated Use -
constructed waterways

- Update uses for irrigation canals and drainage ditches

Antidegradation
implementation

- Update Antidegradation implementation procedures

Public Comment

- Comments from 22 people or organizations
- Many supportive of our high priorities, or most of them
- Sampling of other comments received:
 - Do not spend time on variances
 - Sedimentation work should be lower priority
 - Concerns about ocean conditions
 - Correcting uses for irrigation canals should be high priority

2021–2024 Water Quality Standards Workplan: *Estimated Schedule*

Project	2021		2022				2023				2024	
	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun
Update Fish and Aquatic Life Uses												
Aquatic Life Use Definition Clarifications												
pH for Crooked River												
Variance Procedures												
Variances and UAAs: temperature, other												→
Revise Aquatic Life Toxics Criteria												
Update Antidegradation IMD		As	time	allows								
Biocriteria Application Procedures												
Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia: assessment												
Toxics Narrative Criterion Procedures												
Excessive Growth Narrative Procedures												
Sedimentation Application Procedures												→
Background Human Health Toxics Criteria									As	time	allows	
Revise Uses for Constructed Waterways							As	time	allows			→

Where to find more information

Triennial Review information can be found on our website:
<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/Triennial-Review.aspx>

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Questions?

