

# Water Quality Partnership

## March 23, 2023



<b>Welcome - Introductions &amp; Program Updates</b>	Vince McGowan	10:00 –10:10
<b>Legislative session and budget updates</b>	David Giglio and Leslie Connelly	10:10 – 10:25
<b>Permit Fee draft rule</b>	Leslie Connelly and Ligeia Heagy	10:25 – 10:50
<b>Watershed Management Updates</b>	Melissa Gildersleeve	10:50 - 11:20
<b>General Permit Updates</b>	Colleen Keltz Katie Rathmell	11:20 – 11:45
<b>Roundtable</b>	All	11:45 – 11:55
<b>Wrap Up – Future agenda topics</b>	Colleen Keltz	11:50 –12:00



# Water Quality Program Updates

## Vince McGowan





# Legislative Session and Budget Updates

## David Giglio and Leslie Connelly







# Permit Fee draft rule

## Leslie Connelly and Ligeia Heagy



# Chapter 173-224 WAC Permit Fees

- RCW 90.48.465 requires Ecology to establish annual fees to recover the cost of administering the wastewater and stormwater permit programs.
- Most recent fee increase occurred in 2021.
- No increase in 2022 or 2023.

# Key Changes

- Increasing Municipal Wastewater fees based on advisory committee recommendation
- Rebasng the CAFO fee and adding fee categories based on EPA definitions
- Adding tiers to Construction and Industrial stormwater general permit fee subcategories
- Adding state agency statewide Aquatic Species & Invasive Control fee subcategories and aligning subcategory names to the reissued permit
- Adding a Bridge & Ferry Terminal Washing multiple site permit fee option
- Adding a Minimum Permit Fee and a Minimum Municipal/Domestic Wastewater Fee
- Removal of dual coverage fee waiver
- Other Fee Reduction changes

# Timeline (subject to change)

Date	Activity
June 6, 2022 (complete)	Announce rulemaking (file the CR-101 form)
March 22, 2023	Announce proposed rule (file the CR-102 form) Public comment period begins
April 20, 2023	Information Session for Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant fee category
May 2, 2023	Online public hearing at 10 am.
May 4, 2023	Online public hearing 6 p.m.
May 12, 2023	Public comment period ends
June 2023	Adopt rule (file the CR-103 form)
Summer 2023	Rule effective (usually 31 days after filing)

# More Information

The following documents are now available for review and comment:

- Proposed rule language
- Preliminary Cost-Benefit and Least Burdensome Alternative Analyses
- CR-102

To download these documents visit:  
<https://ecology.wa.gov/WQ-fee-rule>



# Questions on Water Quality Permit Fees

## Contacts

Leslie Connelly, Water Quality Program Budget Manager  
(360) 628-4381 or [Leslie.connelly@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Leslie.connelly@ecy.wa.gov)

Ligeia Heagy, Rule Coordinator  
(360) 280-3697 or [Ligeia.heagy@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Ligeia.heagy@ecy.wa.gov)

## Rulemaking page

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-224>

[WAC 173-224 - Washington State Department of Ecology](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-224)



# Watershed Management Updates

## Melissa Gildersleeve

# Watershed Management Section Updates

- Nonpoint Work
- Water Quality Standards
- Water Quality Assessment
- Water Cleanup Work
- Litigation Updates



# Nonpoint Work

## Nonpoint Plan

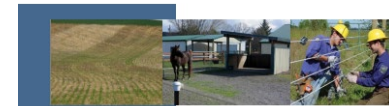
- to EPA at the end of December 2022
  - CWA review and ESA consultation is next
  - 2025 next update

## Agriculture BMP manual

- appendix to the nonpoint plan
- next set of chapters due in 2025



### Washington's Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Sources of Pollution



#### Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture

Introduction

#### Water Quality Program

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Olympia, Washington  
December 2022, Publication 20-10-008



# Water Quality Standards

- Outstanding Resource Waters Draft Summer 2023

Soap Lake (Grant County)

Napeequa River (Chelan County)

Green River (Lewis and Skamania counties)

Cascade River (Skagit County)

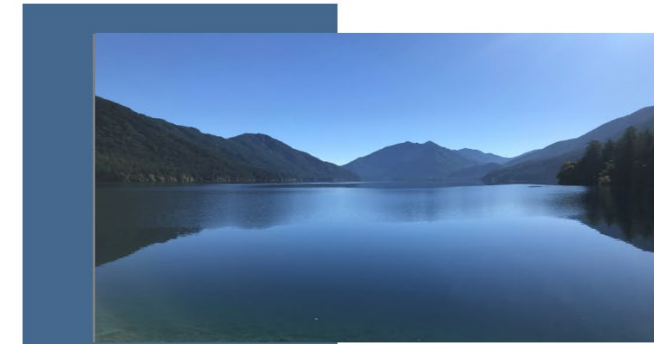
- Aquatic Life-Toxics Criteria Draft Winter 2024

- Natural Conditions Criteria Draft Spring 2024

The screenshot shows a website page with a breadcrumb trail: > Water quality > Water quality standards > Updates to the standards. The main heading is 'Updates to the surface water quality standards'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'We update the surface water quality standards to incorporate the latest science and t priorities and commitments regarding the standards.' A green-bordered box titled 'I want to...' contains three links: 'Learn about water quality standards rulemakings', 'Read about the 2021 Triennial Review of our water quality standards', and 'Find out more information about the human health criteria'. Below this, a section titled 'Current actions' includes the text: 'The following information highlights the most recent actions related to the water qua Washington.' This section lists three items: 'EPA disapproves portions of our water quality standards', 'Human health criteria', and 'Recent and current rulemaking'. The 'Recent and current rulemaking' section includes the text: 'We use the [rulemaking process](#) to meet our priorities and commitments regarding th'. This section lists three items: 'Aquatic Life Toxics Criteria', 'Outstanding Resource Waters', and 'Natural conditions provisions'.

# Water Quality Assessment

- Updated Policy --Signed and on the web in the next week
- Starting the assessment of data once we are done with the Policy
- We are assessing data that is from December 2021 back a decade



## Water Quality Program Policy 1-11

### Chapter 1

#### Washington's Water Quality Assessment Listing Methodology to Meet Clean Water Act Requirements

**Water Quality Program**  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Olympia, Washington

**Final:** March 2023  
**Revisions:** July 2020 / February 2023  
**Original:** July 2018

Publication 18-10-035



303(d)/305(b) List

ed WQ Assessment Contact Us WQ Atlas

### Current Water Quality Assessment

View the [Water Quality Policy 1-11](#) for more information about how Washington's waters are assessed.

Listing Details	Categories	Sources																	
Listing ID: <input type="text"/>	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Category</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Current</td><td>ALL</td><td>Add</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Listed in 1998</td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="radio"/> ALL</td><td><input type="radio"/> Yes</td><td><input type="radio"/> No</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Listed in 1996</td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="radio"/> ALL</td><td><input type="radio"/> Yes</td><td><input type="radio"/> No</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Category	Current	ALL	Add	Listed in 1998			<input checked="" type="radio"/> ALL	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	Listed in 1996			<input checked="" type="radio"/> ALL	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	Study ID: <input type="text"/> Location: <input type="text"/> Source Database: <input type="text"/>
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Reach Code: <input type="text"/>	Grid Cell: <input type="text"/>	Active WQI Project: <input type="text"/>																	
Waterbody: <input type="text"/>	County: <input type="text"/>																		
Waterbody Type: <input type="text"/>	WRIA: <input type="text"/>																		
Supporting Documentation																			
Basis Statement: <input type="text"/>	Remarks: <input type="text"/>																		



# Litigation Updates

- Constructive submission
  - Spokane PCB
  - Washington's TMDL Program
  - Water Quality Assessment
  - Puget Sound Dissolved Oxygen
  
- Aquatic Life Criteria

# Vacancies

- Communications Coordinator (Communication Consultant 3)
- Water Quality Policy Lead-Nonpoint Source Pollution/TMDL
- Hydropower Aquatic Resource Compliance and Research Scientist



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# General Permit Update

Water Quality Partnership Meeting

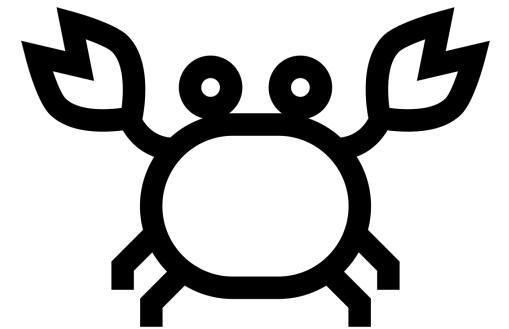
Thursday, March 23, 2023

Colleen Keltz  
Katie Rathmell



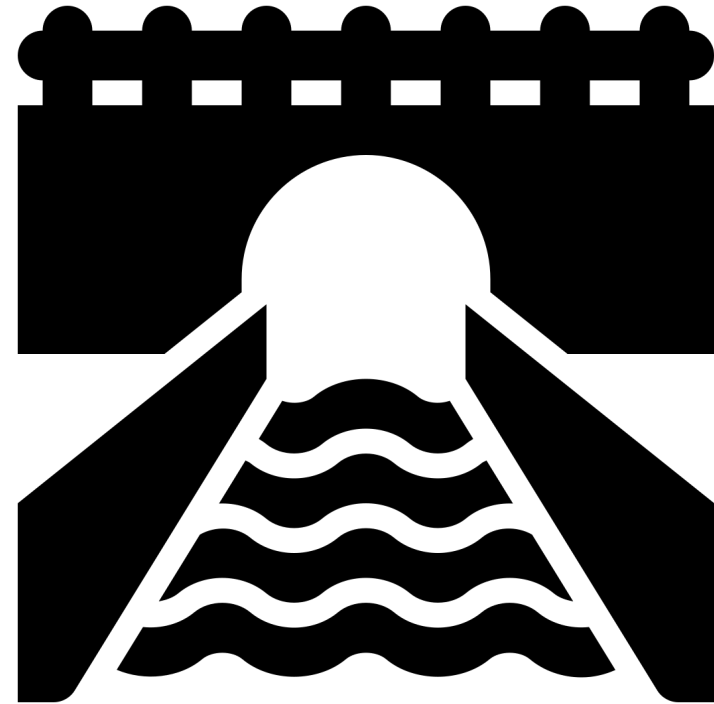
Activities from  
First Quarter  
2023

Aquatic and Invasive  
Species General Permit



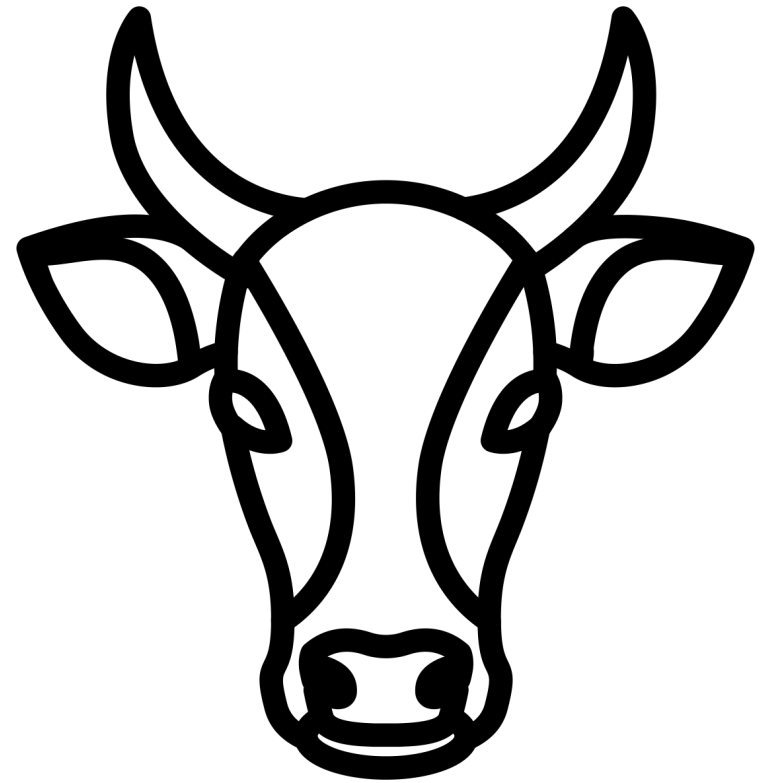
# Activities from First Quarter 2023

Irrigation System  
Aquatic Weed Control  
General Permit



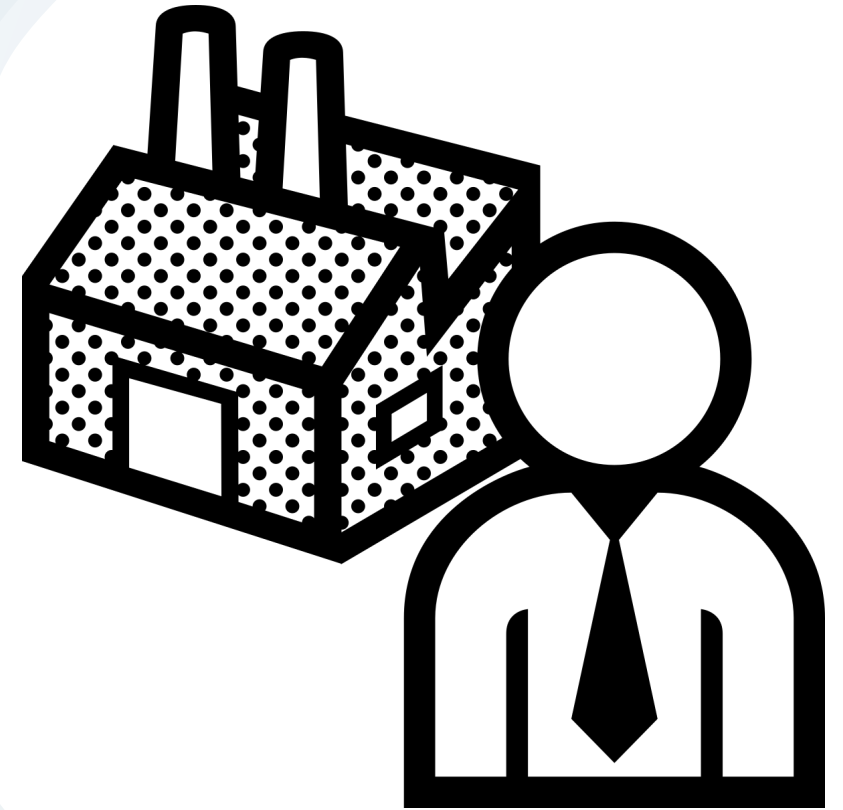
# Actions and Ongoing activities First Quarter of 2023

CAFO  
General Permit



# Ongoing Activities 2023

## Industrial Stormwater General Permit





A scenic photograph of a river flowing through a forested valley. The river is the central focus, with water splashing over large, smooth rocks in the foreground and middle ground. The background shows a dense forest of tall trees, some with autumn-colored foliage. The sky is bright and clear. A large, white, oval-shaped graphic is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "Roundtable".

# Roundtable



# Wrap Up

## Colleen Keltz

