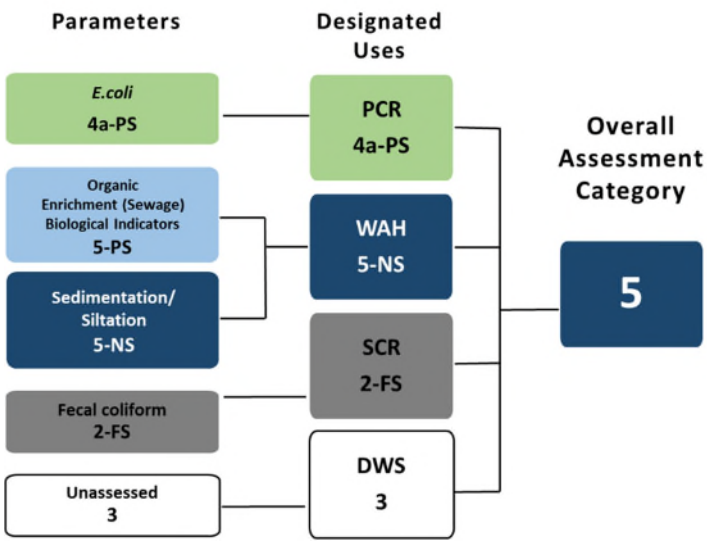
A waterbody that has been assessed and assigned to a surface water assessment category can be re-categorized.

The following diagrams provide examples of circumstances that would cause an assessed waterbody to be re-categorized.



In the example to the left, the waterbody has been assessed for more than one designated use — primary contact recreation (PCR), warm water aquatic habitat (WAH), and secondary contact recreation (SCR). The designated use, domestic water supply (DWS), has not been assessed.

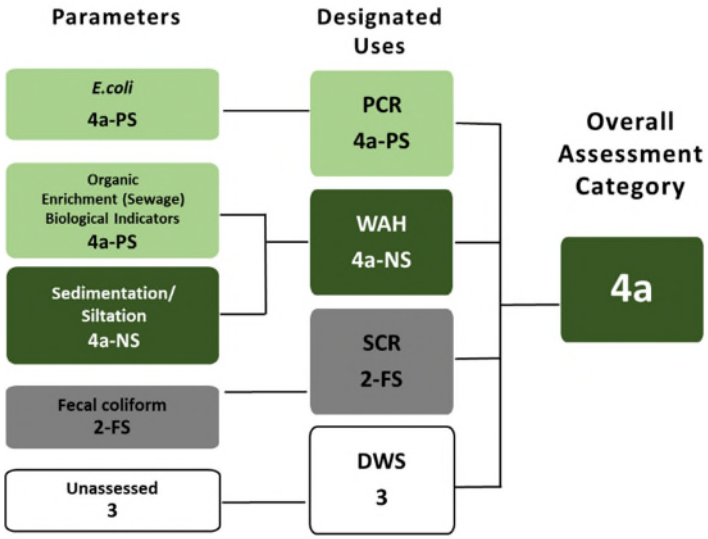
Past monitoring data showed that the water quality standard for the parameter *E.coli* was not being met for this waterbody, impairing the PCR designated use. The data also showed the level of support to be partial support (PS). A TMDL for this waterbody has been written and approved by the EPA for *E.coli*; therefore, the parameter, *E.coli*, and the PCR designated use are in category 4a-PS (impaired by a pollutant that has an EPA-approved TMDL; partial support).

Current monitoring data shows that the biological community is being adversely impacted by two parameters, Organic Enrichment (Sewage) Biological Indicators and Sedimentation/ Siltation, which are impairing the WAH designated use. Water quality standards are not being met for these parameters, which are classified as pollutants. Therefore, the two parameters and the WAH designated use are placed in category 5 (the waterbody is not supporting the designated use and is impaired by pollutants; a TMDL is required). The data showed the level of support to be PS for Organic Enrichment (Sewage) Biological Indicators and nonsupport (NS) for Sedimentation/Siltation. Parameters classified as NS are more impaired than parameters classified as PS. The designated use category is always determined by the most impaired parameter scenario, which for the WAH designated use is category 5-NS.

Current monitoring data also shows that this waterbody is meeting water quality standards for fecal coliform; therefore, the parameter, fecal coliform, and the SCR designated use are placed in category 2-FS (designated use is fully supporting; no action required).

The overall waterbody is in category 5 because the waterbody is impaired by at least one pollutant requiring a TMDL. The overall surface water assessment category is always determined by the most impaired designated use scenario, which in this example is the WAH designated use. This waterbody is not attaining (i.e. not supporting) the WAH designated use and is impaired by two pollutants which still require a TMDL.

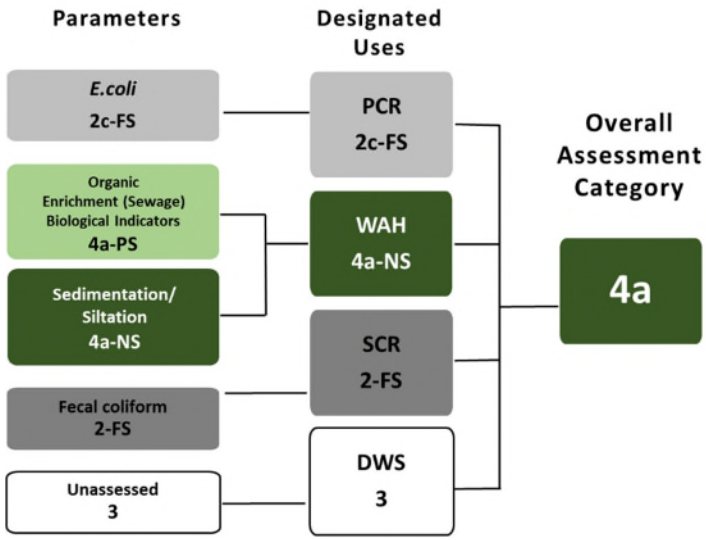
Re-categorization



Since the publication of the last 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report, a TMDL has been written and approved by the EPA to address both category 5 parameters that are impairing the WAH designated use for the waterbody in the previous diagram. Both parameters, Organic Enrichment (Sewage) Biological Indicators and Sedimentation/Siltation, are now in category 4a (as shown). The levels of support (PS and NS) remain the same for each parameter because no new data has been collected to demonstrate otherwise. Parameters classified as NS are more impaired than parameters classified as PS. The WAH designated use always defaults to the most impaired parameter scenario, which is category 4a-NS (impaired by a pollutant that has an EPA-approved TMDL; nonsupport).

The overall assessment category is always determined by the most impaired designated use scenario, which in this case is the WAH designated use. Designated uses classified as NS are more impaired than those classified as PS. The overall waterbody is placed in category 4a because the most impaired designated use scenario is WAH designated use with an EPA-approved TMDL to address a pollutant at the nonsupport level. On the next Integrated Report, the overall assessment category for this waterbody will change from category 5 (as shown on the previous diagram) to category 4a (as shown to the left).

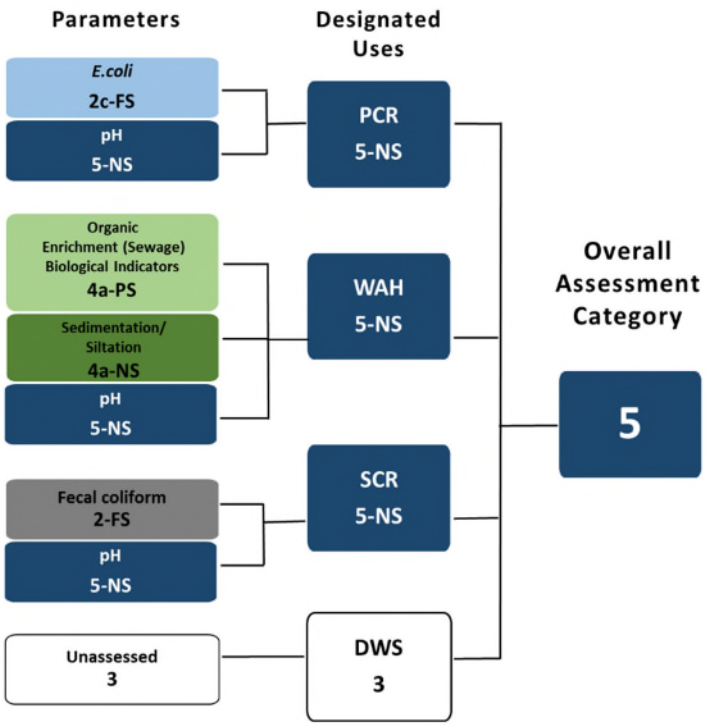
Re-categorization



New monitoring data was collected and now shows that the water quality standard is being met for the parameter *E.coli*; therefore, the PCR designated use is now fully supported. For the parameter *E.coli* and the PCR designated use, the waterbody will move to category 2c-FS (fully supporting with an EPA-approved TMDL for a pollutant that at one time was causing impairment). All other designated use categories will remain as is unless new data is collected to support their listing or delisting, or some type of action is developed or changed.

The overall assessment category is always determined by the most impaired designated use scenario, which is still the WAH designated use. The other designated uses are full support or unassessed. The overall waterbody is placed in category 4a because it is still impaired by at least one pollutant where an EPA-approved TMDL has been developed to address the impaired designated use.

Re-categorization



New monitoring data is collected and now shows that a different parameter (pH) is not meeting water quality standards, impairing the PCR, SCR, and WAH designated uses. The parameter pH is a pollutant and the level of support is NS; therefore, pH is in category 5-NS for all three designated uses (as shown).

The designated use category is always determined by the most impaired parameter scenario. The PCR designated use would now change from 2c-FS (fully supporting with a TMDL; as shown in the previous diagram) to category 5-NS (impaired and requiring a TMDL; nonsupport). The WAH designated use would now change from 4a-NS (impaired by a pollutant that has an EPA-approved TMDL; nonsupport; as shown in the previous diagram) to category 5-NS (impaired and requiring a TMDL; nonsupport). The SCR designated use would now change from 2-FS (fully supporting with no action required; as shown in the previous diagram) to category 5-NS (impaired and requiring a TMDL; nonsupport).

The overall assessment category is always determined by the most impaired designated use scenario, which is now the same for the PCR, WAH, and SCR designated uses. The overall waterbody is placed in category 5 because it is now impaired by at least one pollutant requiring a TMDL where one or more of its designated uses is not being attained. On the next Integrated Report, the overall assessment category for this waterbody will change from category 4a (as shown on the previous diagram) to category 5 (as shown to the left).

For more information about Kentucky's assessment and listing methodology including information clarifying the distinction between partial support and nonsupport, refer to the Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM).