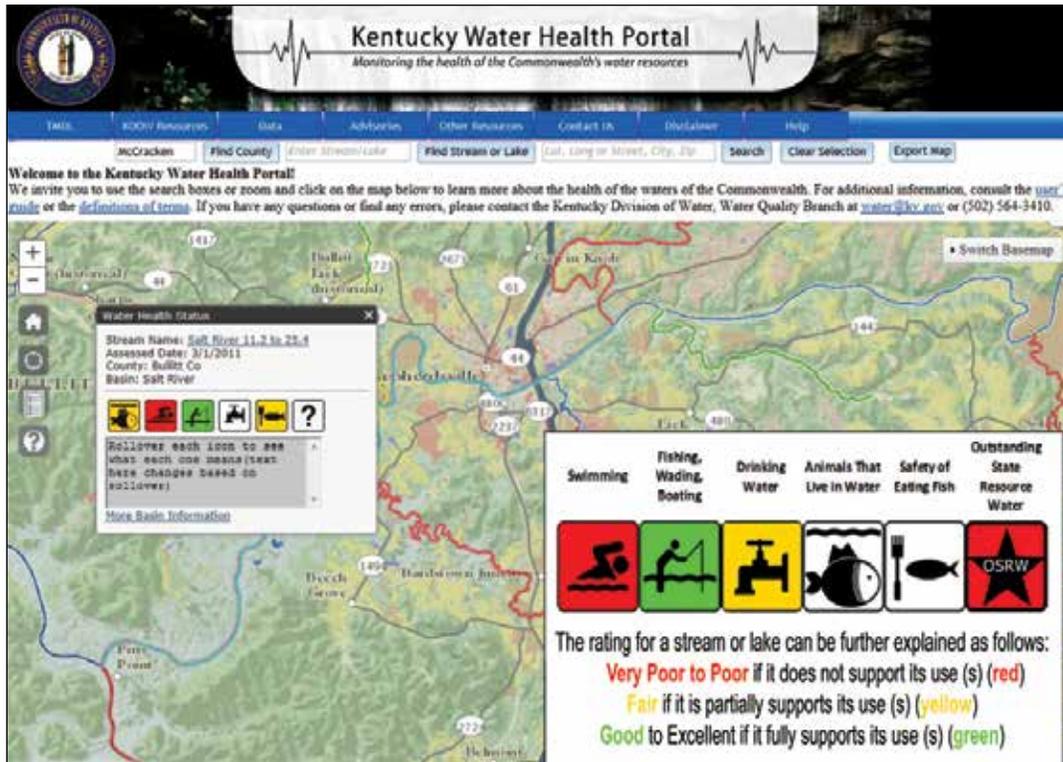


Kentucky Water Health Portal

DOW monitors health of the state's water resources; information now available at your fingertips

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Division of Water



Browser Information

The portal is best viewed in Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Apple Safari.

We all need to visit the doctor for a regular checkup to ensure that our bodies are healthy. We know the drill—blood pressure readings, temperature readings, blood work and other standard markers of health are assessed during the normal office visit. Just as our bodies need to be assessed, the Commonwealth's waters also need to be evaluated for their health.

A team of environmental scientists in the Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) is tasked with studying the complex systems that comprise water health. Their results are now available online using the new Kentucky Water Health Portal.

The portal was developed in response to the 2013 House Bill 378, an act related to making the complex and technical data presented in the Integrated Report more transparent to the average citizen. The report, submitted to Congress every two years, includes information based on the health and physical properties of the Commonwealth's waterbodies and assessments of fish and bugs that call the waters home.

"The Division of Water, in an effort to make this information more accessible and easier to understand, worked with a diverse group of stakeholders to incorporate their feedback as the Kentucky Water Health Portal was developed," said

DOW Director Peter Goodman. "The portal is a high-quality communications tool that, we believe, will quickly become a valuable asset to Kentuckians who want to stay informed about their waterways."

How does the portal work?

Think about your favorite place on Kentucky's waters—that spot where you caught the biggest fish or maybe a quiet stream bank where you go to relax. With that spot in mind, visit the Kentucky Water Health Portal at <http://watermaps.ky.gov/WaterHealthPortal/> and type in the area that interests you.

With a few clicks of the mouse, you can learn if your favorite spot is safe to swim in or if the fish are healthy enough for your family to eat. The information is presented through a series of color-coded icons.

If your favorite stream is impaired, you can find ways to help in the efforts to improve water quality by clicking on "more basin information" that provides the basin coordinator's name and any upcoming basin events.

The DOW has had its finger on the pulse of Kentucky's waters since the inception of the Clean Water Act in 1972. Its dedicated environmental scientists have worked tirelessly collecting, studying and interpreting the data. Now with the creation of the Kentucky Water Health Portal, every citizen can have their finger on the pulse of one of Kentucky's most precious resources.