

Attachment B – Translating 2004 and 2014 Wetland Rating Scores

The Department of Ecology recommendations for buffers are based, in part, on the category of wetland and scores for functions. The 2014 version of the rating systems keeps the same four wetland categories as the 2004 version but the scale of scores has been adjusted.

This means the buffer guidance for critical areas ordinances (CAOs) or shoreline master programs (SMPs) based on scores for functions will need to be adjusted to reflect the new range. For example, in the 2004 version of the rating system, the high score range for habitat was 29-36. However, under the 2014 version, it is now 8-9. See the score translation tables below.

Tables for translating category scores

Category	2004 Score Range	Western WA 2014 Score Range
I	≥ 70	23-27
II	51-69	20-22
III	30-50	16-19
IV	< 30	9-15

Tables for translating function scores

Function scores	2004 Score Range	2014 Score Range
Habitat — High	29-36	8-9
Habitat — Medium	20-28	5-7 (July 2018 modified to 6-7)*
Habitat — Low	≤ 19	3-4 (July 2018 modified to 3-5)*
Water quality — High	24-32	8-9

*Based on a review of the rating system reference wetland data, Ecology adjusted the ranges for the habitat scores.