



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Description of proposal: The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing to update fresh and marine water quality standards in Chapter 173-201A WAC, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington for the protection of water contact recreational uses in state waters.

The update to the rule will:

- Include new bacterial indicators of fecal contamination and associated numeric criteria to protect water contact recreational uses in sections 200(2) and 210(3).
- Review current water contact recreational use categories and modify sections 600 and 610 if necessary.

Proponent and Lead Agency: Washington State Department of Ecology

Location of proposal: Statewide

EIS Required: The lead agency has determined this proposal may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared. This EIS will evaluate potential environmental impacts of the proposed rule. Ecology will use the EIS to guide rule development and adoption.

The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:

The EIS will evaluate the environmental impacts associated with changing bacterial indicators. Discussion and background material on the rule is online at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-201A-Aug17>.

Scoping: Ecology invites agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals are welcome.

Scoping public comment period: May 1, 2018 through May 21, 2018

Ecology prefers to have comments submitted through the comment form on the Water Quality Standards Recreational Use Criteria rulemaking page, but accepts all comments.

Submit comments online at: <http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=Jf3au>

Email comments to: Becca Conklin at swqs@ecy.wa.gov

Mail comments to: Becca Conklin
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

To sign-up for the Ecology Water Quality Info Listserv, visit:
<http://listserv.ecology.wa.gov/scripts/wa-ECOLOGY.exe?A0=ECOLOGY-WATER-QUALITY-INFO>.

Responsible official: Heather R. Bartlett
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Date: 4/30/18 Signature Heather R. Bartlett

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