



For Immediate Release:
Nov. 12, 2020

Contact: Megan Moore
Telephone: 225-219-3754

New online, interactive map details water bodies included in Louisiana Water Quality Integrated Report

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has launched a new interactive map that details the water bodies included in the Louisiana Water Quality Integrated Report. The Louisiana Water Quality Integrated Report (IR) is the current format for the state’s biennial reports on the water quality of Louisiana surface waters.

The most current Water Quality Integrated Report, considered final and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is the 2018 report, which can be viewed via an interactive map at <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/louisiana-water-quality-integrated-report>.

The full report, including text, assessments and appendices, can be viewed at <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/468>.

The IR, formerly known separately as the 305(b) Report and the 303(d) List, is a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act. It is developed every even-numbered year and submitted to the EPA for approval of the 303(d) List portion of the report.

“The new LDEQ Water Quality Integrated Report map has been needed for many years. Fortunately, the technology and the ability to use it recently came together to make it happen. It allows the public to locate target water bodies more easily and then find LDEQ’s water quality assessment for each,” Al Hindrichs said. Hindrichs is an LDEQ Senior Environmental Scientist in the Water Planning and Assessment Division (WPAD).

The map was developed by LDEQ Environmental Scientist Jaclyn Allen of the WPAD. “The spatial data in the new web map is actually generated with each Integrated Report cycle and published as soft copy maps; however, GIS software is required to view the data’s true interactive format. The ArcGIS Online mapping platform solves this issue by providing the public access to IR spatial data through the public website,” Allen said. “A major improvement is that the user can now zoom to smaller water bodies that may get overlooked on the older map files. The web map allows the user to interact with the data at a higher resolution that wasn’t possible in the previous Integrated Report format.” Keep watching for a soon-to-be-released app version of the IR map, currently under development by LDEQ.

Louisiana has over 66,294 miles of rivers and streams, 1,078,031 acres (1,684 square miles) of lakes and reservoirs, 5,550,951 acres (8,673 square miles) of fresh and tidal wetlands and 4,899,840 acres (7,656 square miles) of estuaries. It is the responsibility of the LDEQ to protect the chemical, physical, biological and aesthetic integrity of the water resources and aquatic environment of Louisiana. This responsibility is addressed through use of public education, scientific endeavors, water quality management, wastewater permitting and inspections, and regulatory enforcement in order to provide the citizens of Louisiana with clean and healthy water now and in the future. The 2018 Integrated Report (IR) documents LDEQ’s progress toward meeting that goal.

To learn more about Water Quality Management in Louisiana, watch the EnviroSchool webinar here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiftFJ1Hn48>.