

# Status of DRBC Water Quality Assessments



**Delaware River Basin Commission**

DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY  
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## Water Quality Advisory Committee July 18, 2018

Presented to an advisory committee of the DRBC on July 18, 2018.  
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# DRBC Water Quality Assessments

- 1. Delaware River and Bay Water Quality Assessment Report**
- 2. Technical Report for the Estuary and Basin (TREB) – Chapter 3**
- 3. Near-real-time Water Quality Assessments**

# Delaware River and Bay Water Quality Assessment Report

- \* Completed every even-numbered year since 1998
- \* As a condition of our CWA 106 Grant
- \* Assess mainstem Delaware River & Bay
- \* Specifically compare water quality observations to criteria
- \* 5 year data window
- \* All readily available data
  - DRBC data
  - Data from others, States, USGS, NOAA, NPS, PWD
- \* Help inform that states on their 303d listing decisions

# Timeline & Status

- \* Shared early assessment results with state counterparts in early 2018
- \* Draft report sent to EPA3 April 2018, shared with state counterparts
- \* Will address any comments received and post on DRBC web site
  - Typically by August

## State Counterparts

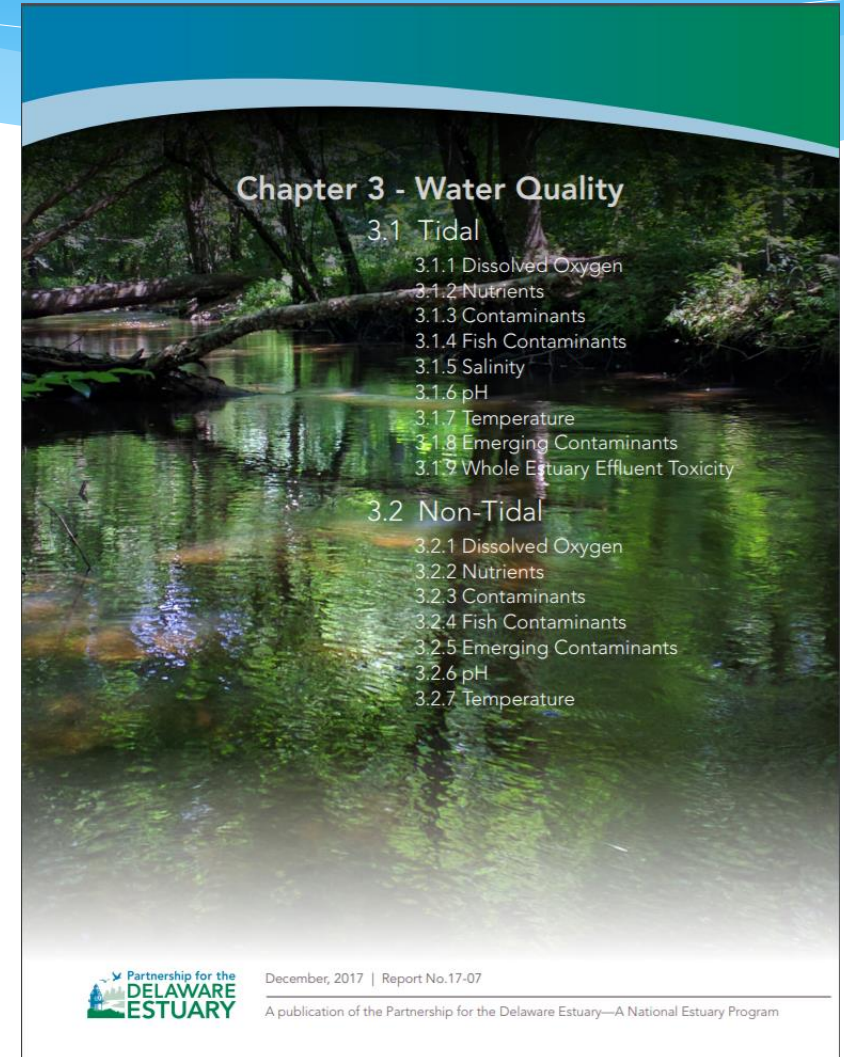
- \* PA – Gary Walters
- \* NJ – Jack Pflaumer, Frank Klapinski, Biswarup Guha
- \* DE – Dave Wolanski
- \* NY – Sarah Rickard, Jason Fagel

# Water Quality Assessment Report Modernization

- \* **Targeting the 2020 Report**
- \* **Primarily scripted assessment**
  - Automated retrieval and processing of data
- \* **Refine thresholds for translating how percentage of observations not meeting criteria corresponds to supporting / not supporting the use**

# Technical Report for the Estuary and Basin (TREB)

- \* Cooperative effort with Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE)
- \* Approximately every 5 years
- \* Basin-wide
- \* Looking at indicators, rather than criteria
- \* Long term trends
  - Full period of record
- \* Most recent published in 2017



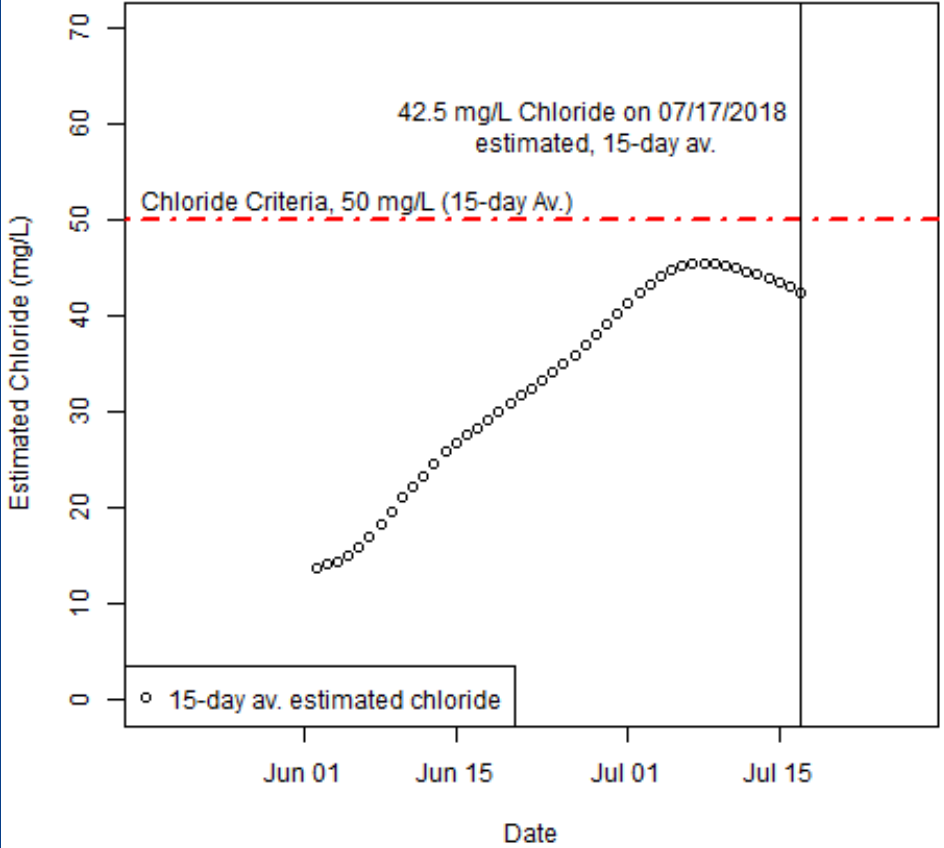
# Near Real-Time Assessments

- \* Published assessments indicate what happened in the past
- \* Too late to respond / react
- \* When we know water quality right now, we can respond:
  - Perform additional monitoring
  - Notify users
  - Operational adjustments (future)?
- \* Public Water Quality Dashboard  
<http://drbc.net/Sky/waterq.htm>

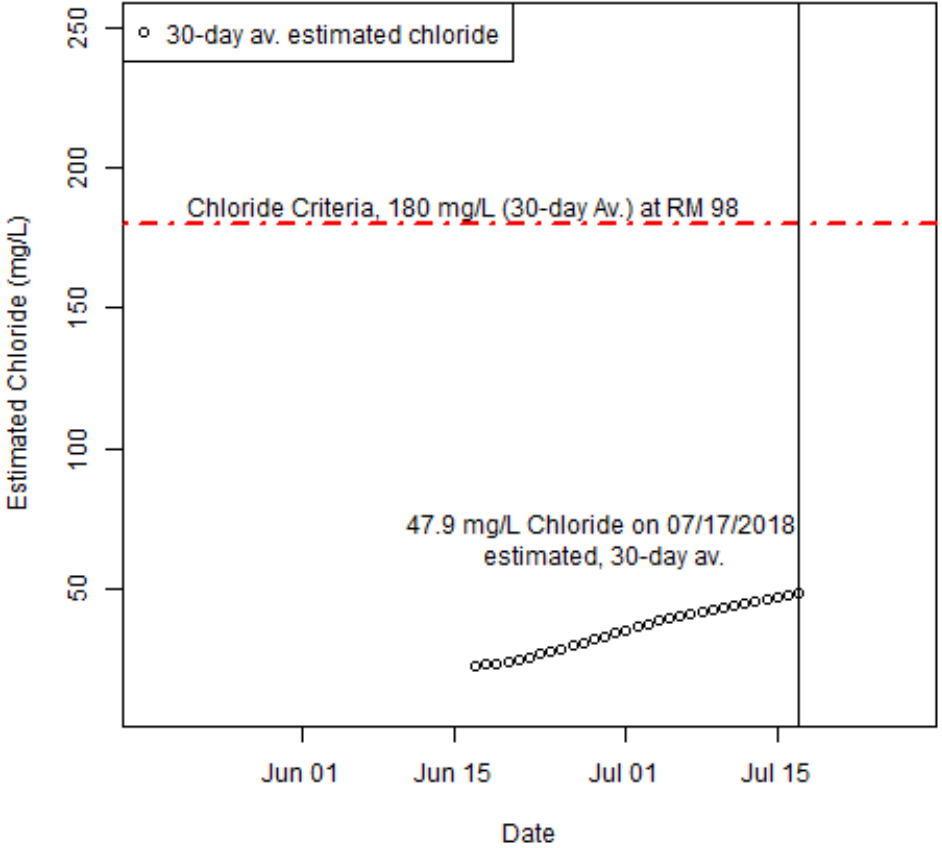
# Chloride & Sodium Scans

## Not public, daily scans

**Comparison of Estimated Chloride to Criteria, Delaware River Zone 2, as of 07/17/2018**



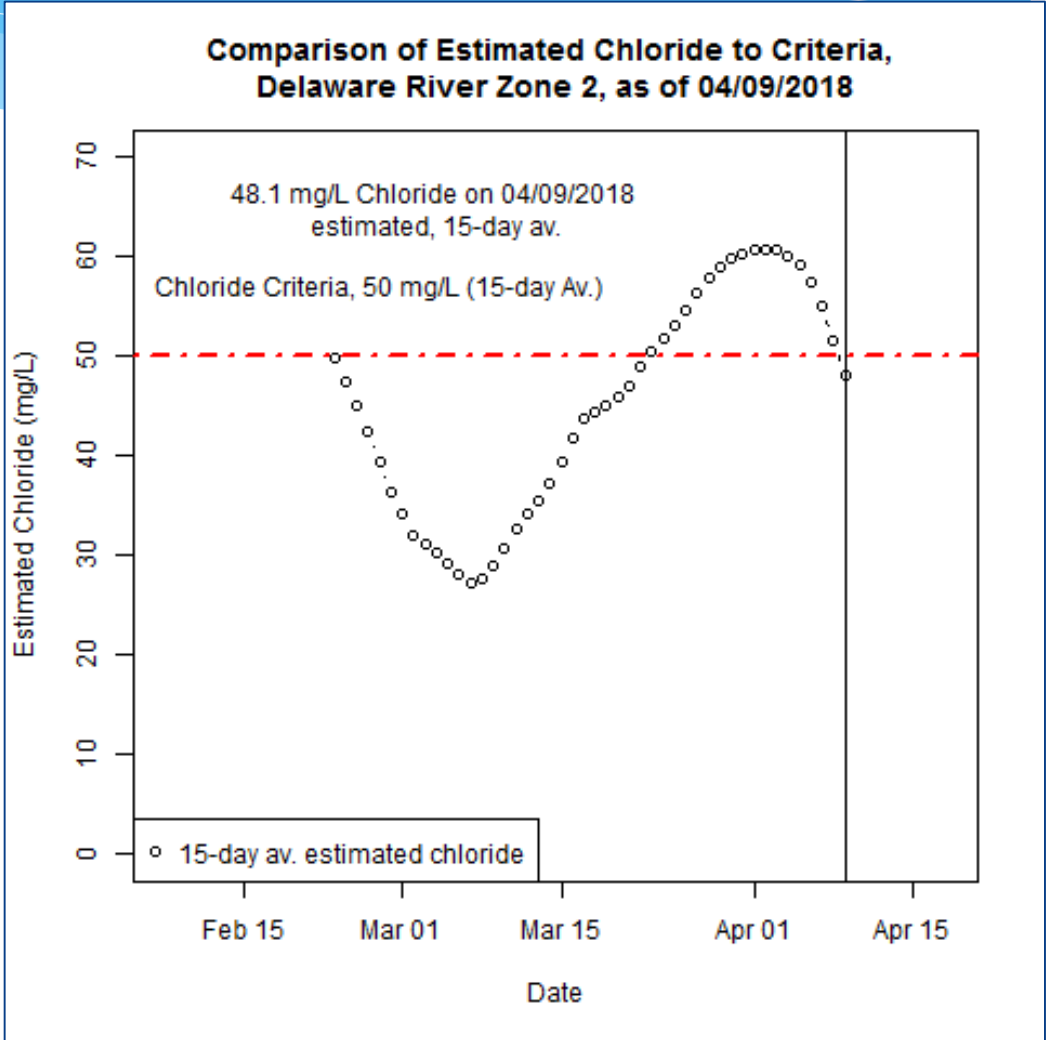
**Comparison of Estimated Chloride to Criteria, Delaware River Zone 3, as of 07/17/2018**





# Violation of Chloride Standard in April 2018

- \* Health effects – hypertension
- \* Coordinated with PWD & NJ American
- \* Shared data
- \* Able to track the onset, peak, and end of the apparent violation in near-real-time



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Questions / Discussion?