

ATTAINS NEWS 2019



The Tribal ATTAINS Pilot had a Tribal ATTAINS & Assessment Methodologies Training on November 29th and 30th at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Grand Casino Resort located in Shawnee, Oklahoma. EPA and the participating Tribal Pilot Group had a Pre-Workshop Study and Open Meeting with Region 6 Tribes wanting to learn more about the ATTAINS Pilot Project. The training team for the training consisted of various speakers from EPA, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Cherokee Nation and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

The participants reviewed 2017 and 2018 submissions and the ATTAINS Tribal Case Studies with discussions on the Pilot Tribes' Workgroup Experiences. The training also focused on Tribal Assessment Methodologies, Performing Water Quality Assessments, Data Retrieval and Assessment Tools. The Tribal ATTAINS Pilot also discussed the Mentoring Activities for the new round of participating tribes and starting a new ATTAINS Submission.

The course learning objectives allowed the participants to be able to:

- Identify benefits and limitations of the ATTAINS system for tribal water quality assessment reporting.
- Discuss how the tribal assessment methodology process supports tribal water quality assessments and reporting requirements.
- Demonstrate an expanded knowledge of the water quality assessment process, including available tools and guidance.



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Tribes monitor, collect, and assess water quality annually on their lands under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act. Historically, tribes have submitted water quality assessments to the EPA regional offices in a paper format, creating challenges when tracking, analyzing, and sharing trend data across the EPA Regions and on a national level.

In 2016, EPA and select tribes from Regions 5, 6, and 9 initiated a pilot to electronically report water quality assessments alongside states and territories in the Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Tracking, and Implementation System (ATTAINS).

A year after initiating the pilot, ATTAINS now provides participating tribes statistics on the most common pollutants in Indian country. Tribes and EPA use this data to inform tribal communities of water quality issues that can impact fishing, swimming, and other activities. Upon successful completion of the pilot, ATTAINS will start to incorporate more water quality assessment information from other tribal governments that are performing water quality assessments.



E-reporting will not only help inform EPA of water quality issues on tribal lands, but it will also help make tribal information more accessible in decision-making by states and territories. Through this reporting process, tribal decisions will be available alongside those made by states and territories and will show a more complete picture of water quality across the nation.

For more information on [ATTAINS](#), please contact [Laura Shumway](#) with EPA.

The top 5 pollutants reported for tribes participating in the pilot for 2017:

- E. Coli
- Turbidity
- Phosphorus
- Mercury
- Dissolved Oxygen

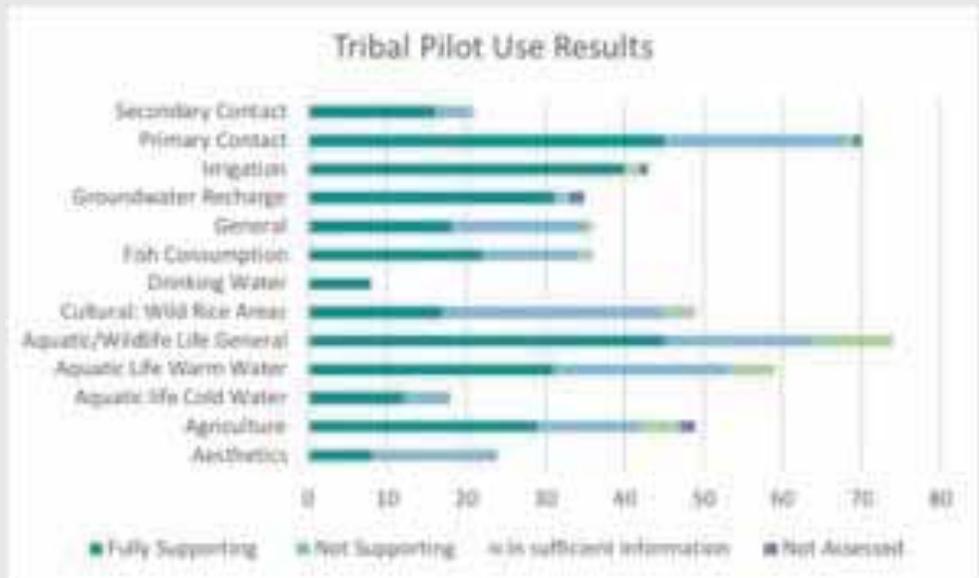


Figure 2: Tribes identify the uses for each of their waters (e.g., primary contact = swimming, secondary contact = boating, etc.) and determine whether they can safely use those waters for their identified purpose. These are the results of the pilot tribes' determinations.

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