

How can I influence Ecology's decision?

The format you choose is up to you. You don't need to type your comments as long as they are easy to read.

Send them by mail or e-mail, or hand-deliver them before the Public Comment Period ends.

1. **Be brief so the reviewer won't miss the point** of your comment.
2. **Be specific** so the reviewer knows what you want. Say, "I am concerned about how this will affect small seafood processors because..." rather than just saying, "Don't do this."
3. **Know your subject** so that your comments are both focused and accurate. Refer to the specific sections in the proposed document, preferably in the same order in which they appear, so that we can follow your point(s).
4. **State the facts** and back them up where possible. Be sure to reveal your sources of information to help make your point stronger.

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If you need this information in an alternate format, please contact the Water Quality Program at 425-649-7041. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711, or 800-833-6388 for TTY.



How to Comment Effectively

On
Detailed Implementation Plans
for
Water Cleanup Plans

"Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)"



A Guide

HOW TO COMMENT EFFECTIVELY

Why Should I Comment?

If your water is polluted, your community and your quality of life are affected. It's the people who live and work in the watershed who will ultimately take the actions that are needed to improve or clean up the water.

Although the Department of Ecology is bound by existing state and federal laws, you can influence how solutions are achieved. Sharing your ideas and what you know about local conditions will result in a better plan to improve water quality.



How Does the Public Comment Process Work?

A Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) is the last document produced as part of the Water Cleanup Plan or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. Previously, a TMDL Submittal Report for your water body was produced. This report contains a summary implementation strategy (an outline for how to improve water quality). This strategy is used as the basis to develop the DIP, which outlines what specific activities will be put into action to clean up the water. The DIP is usually developed by a local advisory group working with Ecology.**

Ecology issues a **public notice** to let people know a document is available for public comment. The **public comment period** lasts a minimum of 30 calendar days. During that time, you may submit written comments to Ecology, which may result in changes to the Detailed Implementation Plan.

Ecology considers each comment received. We then produce a **Response to Comments**, which explains how and whether public comments influenced the final document.

** For more information about the TMDL process visit our TMDL website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/index.html>

Detailed Implementation Plans explain:

- Who will do the activities
- What activities will be implemented
- Where various activities might occur
- When the activities will be completed (a schedule or timeline)
- How the activities may be paid for (potential funding sources)