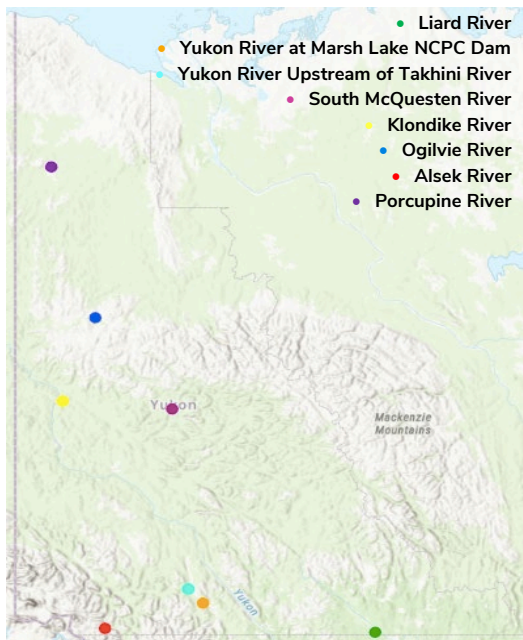




Esri, USGS | Northwest Territories, State of Alaska, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NRCAN, Parks

Why is monitoring important?

Clean water is an essential element for healthy aquatic ecosystems, but as humans continue to develop the surrounding landscape, the quality of water can become jeopardized. By monitoring surface water throughout Canada and the Yukon, we can assess the current and trending health of lakes, rivers and streams.

WQI scores across the Yukon

WQI Period	Liard River at Upper Crossing	Yukon River at Marsh Lake NCPC Dam	Yukon River Upstream of Takhini River	South McQuesten River Downstream of Flat Creek		Klondike River Upstream of Bonanza Creek	Ogilvie River above Engineer Creek	Alsek River above Bates River in Klane National Park	R
2002-2004	100	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	
2003-2005	93.6	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	
2004-2006	93.6	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	
2005-2007	87.2	100	100	64.4		66.8	N/A	N/A	
2006-2008	93.6	N/A	100	64.3		66.4	N/A	N/A	
2007-2009	93.6	N/A	100	64		67.4	N/A	N/A	
2008-2010	87.2	N/A	93.6	70		74.2	N/A	N/A	
2009-2011	85.5	N/A	93.6	69.5		74.2	N/A	N/A	
2010-2012	80.6	N/A	93.6	70.1		74.2	N/A	N/A	
2011-2013	80.6	N/A	93.6	70.4		74	N/A	N/A	
2012-2014	80.5	N/A	93.6	70.6		73.8	N/A	N/A	
2013-2015	80.6	N/A	93.6	70		73.7	N/A	N/A	
2014-2016	80.6	N/A	100	63.8		73.7	N/A	N/A	
2015-2017	80.5	N/A	100	63.7		86.6	N/A	N/A	
2016-2018	80.6	N/A	93.6	63.5		80.1	N/A	N/A	
2017-2019	80.6	N/A	93.6	64.1		80.4	72.9	87.3	
2018-2019	80.6	N/A	93.6	64.1		80.2	73.2	87.6	
2019 & 2021	74.1	N/A	100	70.8		80.4	73.5	93.4	
2021-2023	72.9	N/A	87.1	82.1		53.4	67.8	88.0	

Water Quality Across the Yukon

Yukon sites

Across the Yukon there are 15 water quality sampling station as part of the Canada-Yukon Water Quality Monitoring Network. 8 of these sites have, or have had, Water Quality Index scores assigned to them.

What is the WQI?

The Water Quality Index (WQI) is used to provide an overall snapshot of water quality conditions at a monitoring site. Every three years, a WQI score is calculated for each site, resulting in a single value ranging from 0 (poor) to 100 (excellent). These scores are then categorized to help indicate the overall health of the aquatic environment (see WQI categories). Because natural water quality conditions and potential concerns vary among sites, different groups of parameters are monitored at each location. Common parameters include copper, pH, phosphorus, temperature, and zinc, while arsenic, lead, and nitrogen are measured at nearly all stations.

WQI categories:

Excellent (95-100)	Aquatic life is not threatened or impaired. Measurements never or very rarely exceed water quality guidelines.
Good (80-94)	Aquatic life is protected with only a minor degree of threat or impairment. Measurements rarely exceed water quality guidelines and, usually, by a narrow margin
Fair (65-79)	Aquatic life is protected, but at times may be threatened or impaired. Measurements sometimes exceed water quality guidelines and, possibly, by a wide margin.
Marginal (45-64)	Aquatic life frequently may be threatened or impaired. Measurements often exceed water quality guidelines by a considerable margin.
Poor (0-44)	Aquatic life is threatened, impaired or even lost. Measurements usually exceed water quality guidelines by a considerable margin.

