



- Clarifies for staff and permit applicants the information that should be provided in a mixing zone study prior to permit development.

The evaluation of a new application or renewal of an existing permit will include an environmental mapping process to characterize special habitat for threatened or endangered species (such as salmon), public swimming beaches, shellfish harvesting areas, drinking water intakes and other uses in the vicinity of the proposed or permitted discharge.

Following are significant changes to the mixing zone process used by DEQ :

- The directive provides permit writers with additional guidance to ensure that mixing zones are as small as feasible.
- The directive strengthens protection of public health and the environment by employing more rigorous data and analysis, supporting the implementation of the state's water quality standards for protecting human and aquatic health, such as: Using the latest technology in environmental mapping, stream modeling and laboratory sample analysis to assess mixing zones and standardizing the process for the calculation of mixing zone size and alignment.

The IMD is vital for a consistent approach in allocating regulatory mixing zones in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. It is expected this IMD will be amended in the future to reflect the Department's experience implementing this IMD and to address topics that need further refinement.

The IMD may be found on the Internet at: <http://deq.state.or.us/wq/pubs/pubs.htm>.

