

NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME

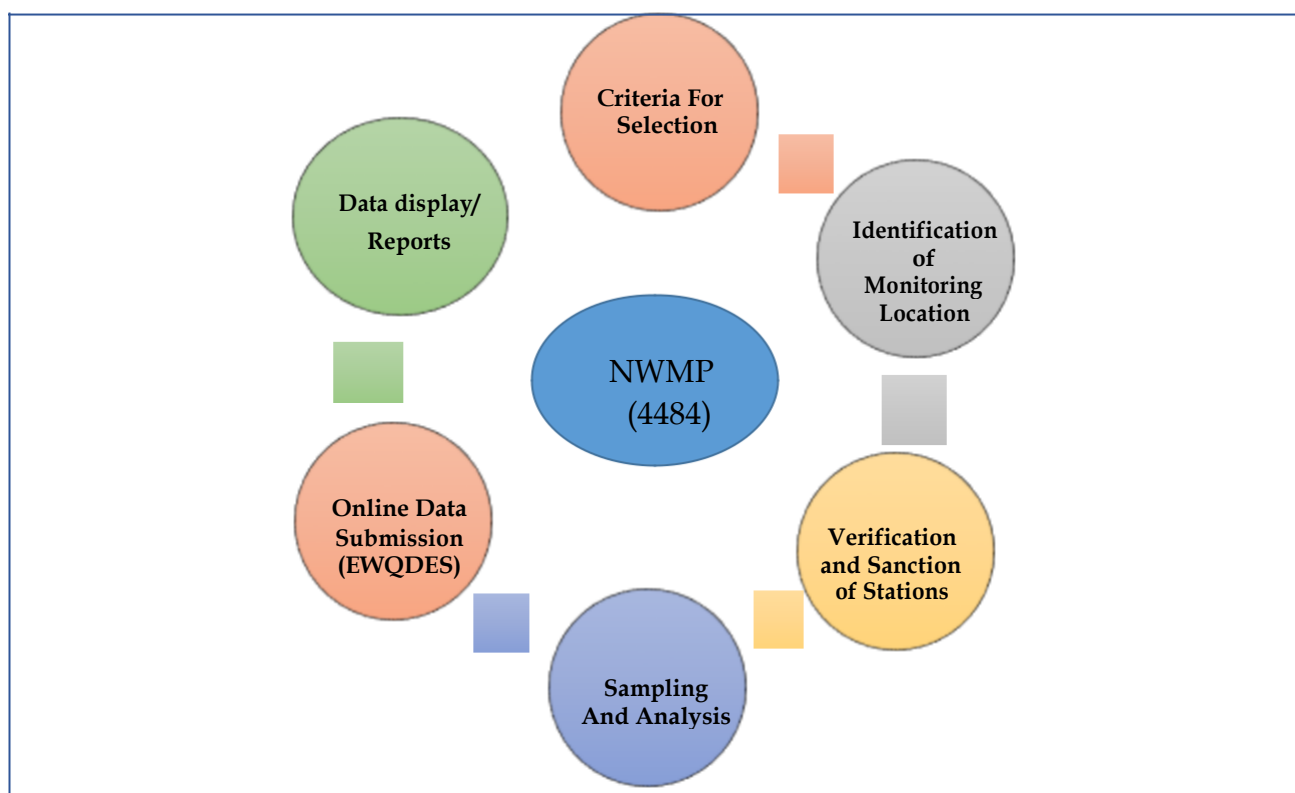
Objectives

The preamble of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 stated that Pollution Control Board both at State and Central level to restore and maintain the wholesomeness of water bodies in India. Water quality monitoring is therefore an imperative prerequisite in order to assess the extent of maintenance and restoration of water bodies. The water quality monitoring is performed with following main objectives: -

- To assess nature and extent of pollution control needed in different water bodies or their part
- To evaluate effectiveness of pollution control measures already in existence
- To evaluate water quality trend over a period of time
- To assess assimilative capacity of a water body thereby reducing cost on pollution control
- To understand the environmental fate of different pollutants
- To assess the fitness of water for different uses
- Rational planning of pollution control strategies and their prioritisation

Steps involved in Water Quality Monitoring under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP)

Steps involved in Water Quality Monitoring under NWMP are given below.



Water Quality Monitoring Network

The present monitoring network comprises of 4484 stations in 28 States and 7 Union Territories spread over the country. The monitoring network covers 719 Rivers, 348 Lakes, 134 Tanks, 107 Ponds, 102 Creeks/Seawater, 36 Canals, 81 Drains, 11 Water Treatment Plants (Raw Water) and 1235 Wells. Among 4484 stations, 2108 are on rivers, 437 on lakes, 110 on drains, 64 on canals, 141 on tanks, 194 on beach/creeks/marine/seawater, 112 on ponds, 49 on Sewage Treatment Plants, 11 on Water Treatment Plants (Raw Water), 23 on Wetlands and 1235 are Groundwater stations.

Monitoring Frequency of Water Quality

Surface water bodies comprising rivers, lakes, tanks, ponds, creeks/sea water, canals & drains are monitored on monthly or quarterly basis, and half yearly basis in case of ground water. Water Quality for various parameters is assessed as per Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring, 2017 issued by MoEF&CC. Micro pollutants such as metals and pesticides are monitored twice in a year, before and after monsoon.

Distribution of Water Quality Monitoring Stations

TYPE OF WATER BODIES	NUMBER OF WATER BODIES MONITORED	NUMBER OF STATIONS
RIVERS	719	2108
LAKES	348	437
TANKS	134	141
PONDS	107	112
CANALS	36	64
CREEKS/SEA WATER	102	194
DRAINS	81	110
GROUND WATER	1235	1235
WETLANDS	23	23
WATER TREATMENT PLANTS	11	11
SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS	49	49
TOTAL		4484