



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER  
BASIN COMMISSION

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*For the raw survey data, visit the web site at  
[www.srbc.net/docs/Publications/techreports.htm](http://www.srbc.net/docs/Publications/techreports.htm)*

*For additional copies of this subbasin survey,  
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 (other contact information on back page).*

# Lower Susquehanna Subbasin Survey:

## *A Water Quality and Biological Assessment, June - November 2005*

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) conducted a survey of water quality and biological conditions in the Lower Susquehanna Subbasin from June to November 2005. This survey was part of SRBC's Subbasin Survey Program, which is funded in part through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Subbasin Survey Program consists of two-year assessments in each of the six major subbasins (Figure 1) on a rotating schedule. This report details the Year-1 survey, which entailed point-in-time water chemistry, macroinvertebrate, and habitat data collection and assessments of the major tributaries and areas of interest throughout the Lower Susquehanna Subbasin. A Year-2 survey of bacteriological conditions will be performed in the Yellow Breeches Creek Watershed in Cumberland and York Counties. Previous surveys of the Lower Susquehanna Subbasin were conducted in 1996 (Traver, 1997) and 1985 (McMorran, 1986). A comparison with the 1996 data and the 2005 data is included in this report.



**Figure 1.** The Susquehanna River Subbasin

- Subbasin survey information is used by SRBC staff and others to:
- evaluate the chemical, biological, and habitat conditions of streams in the basin;
  - identify major sources of pollution and lengths of stream impacted;
  - identify high quality sections of streams that need to be protected;
  - maintain a database that can be used to document changes in stream quality over time;
  - review projects affecting water quality in the basin; and
  - identify areas for more intensive study.



*Susquehanna River north of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.*