
APPENDIX A
WATER CLASSIFICATION AND BEST USAGE RELATIONSHIPS

New York:

The New York State water quality classifications are summarized from Water Quality Regulations for Surface Waters and Groundwaters, 6NYCRR Parts 700-705, effective September 1, 1991, NYSDEC Division of Water, Albany, N.Y.

Class AA - The best usages of Class AA waters are a source of water supply for drinking, culinary, or food processing purposes; primary and secondary contact recreation; and fishing. The waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival. This classification may be given to those waters that, if subjected to approved disinfection treatment, with additional treatment necessary to remove naturally present impurities, meet or will meet New York State Department of Health drinking water standards and are or will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes.

Class A - The best usages of Class A waters are a source of water supply for drinking, culinary, or food processing purposes; primary and secondary contact recreation; and fishing. The waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival. This classification may be given to those waters that, if subjected to approved treatment equal to coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection, with additional treatment necessary to remove naturally present impurities, meet or will meet New York State Department of health drinking water standards and are or will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes.

Class B - The best usages of Class B waters are primary and secondary contact recreation and fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival.

Class C - The best usage of Class C waters is fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival. The water quality shall be suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes.

Class D - The best usage of these waters is fishing. Due to natural conditions as intermittency of flow, water conditions not conducive to propagation of game fishery, or streambed conditions, the waters will not support fish propagation. These waters shall be suitable for fish survival. The water quality shall be suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes.

(T) - Suffix added to Classes AA, A, B, and C waters where trout survival is an additional best use to the classification.

(TS) - Suffix added to Classes AA, A, B, and C waters where trout propagation is an additional best use to the use classification.

Pennsylvania:

The Pennsylvania State water quality classifications are summarized from Water Quality Standards of the Department's Rules and Regulations, 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 93.3-5, effective August 1989, Pa. DER, Division of Water Quality, Harrisburg, Pa. All surface waters must meet protected water uses for aquatic life (warm water fishes), water supply (potable, industrial, livestock, and wildlife), and recreation (boating, fishing, water contact sports, and aesthetics). The designated use classifications are as follows:

EV - Exceptional Value Waters: These waters must meet the statewide list, and are protected at their existing water quality. These streams constitute outstanding national, state, regional, or local resources. The water quality in these streams shall not be lowered.

HQ-TSF - High Quality Trout Stocking Fishery: The water quality can only be lowered if a discharge is the result of necessary social or economic development, the water quality criteria are met, and all existing uses are protected. Maintenance of stocked trout from February 15 to July 31 and maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna, which are indigenous to a warm water habitat.

HQ-CWF - High Quality Cold Water Fishery: The water quality can only be lowered if a discharge is the result of necessary social or economic development, the water quality criteria are met, and all existing uses are protected. Maintenance and/or propagation of fish species, including the family of Salmonidae and additional flora and fauna, which are indigenous to a cold water habitat.

HQ-WWF - High Quality Warm Water Fishery: The water quality can only be lowered if a discharge is the result of necessary social or economic development, the water quality criteria are met, and all existing uses are protected. Maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna, which are indigenous to a warm water habitat.

TSF - Trout Stocked Fishery: Maintenance of stocked trout from February 15 to July 31 and maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna that are indigenous to a warm water habitat.

CWF - Cold Water Fishery: Maintenance and/or propagation of fish species, including the family Salmonidae and additional flora and fauna, which are indigenous to a cold water habitat.

WWF - Warm Water Fishery: Maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna that are indigenous to a warm water habitat.

MF - Migratory Fishes: Passage, maintenance and propagation of anadromous and catadromous fishes and other fishes that ascend to flowing waters to complete their life cycle. The MF designation is in addition to other designations when appropriate.

Maryland

The Maryland State water quality classifications are summarized from Water Quality Regulations for Designated Uses, COMAR 26.08.02, effective November 1, 1993, Maryland Department of the Environment, Annapolis, Md. All surface waters must protect public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water, protect aquatic resources, and serve the purposes of the Federal Act. The designated uses are:

Use I - Water Contact Recreation and Protection of Aquatic Life. This use designation includes waters that are suitable for water contact sports; play and leisure time activities where individuals may come in direct contact with surface water; fishing; the growth and propagation of fish (other than trout), other aquatic life, and wildlife; and industrial supply.

Use I-P - Water Contact Recreation, Protection of Aquatic Life, and Public Water Supply. This use includes all uses identified in Use I and use as a public water supply.

Use II - Shellfish Harvesting Waters. This use designation includes waters where shellfish are propagated, stored, or gathered for marketing purposes; and actual or potential areas for the harvesting of oysters, softshell clams, hardshell clams, and brackish water clams.

Use III - Natural Trout Waters. This use designation includes waters that have the potential for or are suitable for the growth and propagation of trout; and capable of supporting self-sustaining trout populations and their food organisms.

Use III-P - Natural Trout Waters and Public Water Supply. This use includes all uses identified in Use III; and use as a public water supply.

Use IV - Recreational Trout Waters. This use designation includes cold or warm waters which have the potential for or are capable of holding or supporting adult trout for put-and-take fishing; and managed as a special fishery by periodic shocking and seasonal catching.

Use IV-P - Recreational Trout Waters and Public Water Supply. This use includes all uses identified in Use IV; and use as a public water supply.