

			Fluorides; Hardness; Iron; Lead; Magnesium; Manganese; Mercury; Nickel; Ammonia as N; Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen; Nitrite (NO ₂) + Nitrate (NO ₃); Nitrogen; Phosphorus as P; Orthophosphate as P; pH; Potassium; Selenium; Silica; Sodium; Dissolved Solids; Total Suspended Solids (TSS); Specific conductance; Stream stage height; Sulfate as SO ₄ ; Water Temperature; Turbidity; Zinc	
Musconetcong River at Riegelsville	DRBC	DRBCNJ 0025	Total Alkalinity; Chloride; Chlorophyll; Pheophytin-a; Dissolved oxygen (DO); Dissolved oxygen saturation; Flow; Stream stage height; Enterococcus Bacteria; E. Coliform; Fecal Coliform; Total Coliform; Hardness; Ammonia as NH ₃ ; Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen; Nitrate Nitrogen as NO ₃ ; Nitrite Nitrogen as NO ₂ ; Nitrite + Nitrate Nitrogen as N; pH; Phosphorus as P; Orthophosphate as PO ₄ ; Dissolved Solids; Total Suspended Solids (TSS); Specific conductance; Water Temperature; Turbidity	1999-2004
Musconetcong River at Riegelsville	USGS	01457400	Too numerous to list	1961-2004
Hakihokake Creek				
Hakihokake Creek at Milford	USGS	01458100	Too numerous to list	1959-1982
Hakihokake Creek at Milford	DRBC	DRBCNJ 0023	Total Alkalinity; Chloride; Chlorophyll; Pheophytin-a; Dissolved oxygen (DO); Dissolved oxygen saturation; Flow; Stream stage height; Enterococcus Bacteria; Hardness; Ammonia as NH ₃ ; Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen; Nitrate Nitrogen as NO ₃ ; Nitrite + Nitrate Nitrogen as N; pH; Phosphorus as P; Orthophosphate as PO ₄ ; Dissolved Solids; Total Suspended Solids (TSS); Specific conductance; Water Temperature; Turbidity	1999-2000
Hakihokake Creek at Milford	NJDEP	01458100	Chloride; Dissolved Solids; Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen; Nitrite (NO ₂) + Nitrate (NO ₃) Nitrogen; Phosphorus as P; Sulfate as SO ₄ ; Total Suspended Solids (TSS); Barometric pressure; Dissolved oxygen (DO); Dissolved oxygen saturation; Specific conductance; Water Temperature; Turbidity; pH; Ammonia as N; Phosphorus as P; Orthophosphate as P; Flow; Stream stage height	2003-2004
Harihokake Creek				
Harihokake Creek near Delaware River	DRBC	DRBCNJ 0022	Dissolved oxygen (DO); Dissolved oxygen saturation; Specific conductance; Enterococcus; Bacteria Water Temperature; Stream stage height; pH	1999
Harihokake Creek near Frenchtown	USGS	01458400	Too numerous to list	1959-1982
Harihokake Creek at Harpence [sic] Road near Mount Pleasant	USGS	01458300	Too numerous to list	2002-2004
Harihokake Ck at Hartpence Rd at Alexandria	NJDEP	01458300	Chloride; Dissolved Solids; Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen; Nitrite (NO ₂) + Nitrate (NO ₃) Nitrogen; Phosphorus as P; Sulfate as SO ₄ ; Total Suspended Solids (TSS); Barometric pressure; Air Temperature; Dissolved oxygen (DO); Dissolved oxygen saturation; Specific conductance; Water Temperature; Turbidity; pH; Ammonia as N; Orthophosphate as P; Flow;	2002-2004

			Stream stage height	
Harihokake Creek On Route 619	NJDEP	01458400	Chloride; Dissolved Solids; Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen; Nitrite (NO ₂) + Nitrate (NO ₃) Nitrogen; Phosphorus as P; Sulfate as SO ₄ ; Total Suspended Solids (TSS); Barometric pressure; Dissolved oxygen (DO); Dissolved oxygen saturation; Specific conductance; Stream stage height; Water Temperature; Turbidity; pH; Ammonia as N; Orthophosphate as P; Flow; Air Temperature	2001- 2004
Source: STORET and NWIS searches.				

Selected Water Quality Results

A number of difficulties are encountered when attempting to analyze the water quality of any particular site: most sites have too few data points; there were different sampling and reporting methods for the various sampling programs; different detection limits and analysis techniques; differing site names and codes for the same site; age of the data (i.e. how many years to consider to characterize existing water quality); and, whether or not the individual data was entered into a national database, and if so, which one (the EPA's STORET or USGS' NWIS⁵). In some cases, a sampling program might have entered some years' data into STORET, while other years entered the data into NWIS.

Figures 6f through 6i compare the streams in Holland Township that have been monitored for specific conductivity, nitrite plus nitrate, total phosphorus, and total suspended solids. For this report, only sites which had at least 4 data points (4 discrete sampling events) within the past 10 years, with the data in STORET or NWIS were included. The median (central point of the dataset); 10th percentile (90% of the data are greater than this value); and 90th percentile (10% of the data are greater than this value) are shown. The four parameters are defined below:

Specific Conductivity: Conductivity is the ability of water to transmit an electrical current. It is calculated as the inverse of electrical resistance (or 1/resistance). Ions from salts, nutrients, and metals provide the conveyance for the electrical current. A greater conductivity equals a greater concentration of ions (either natural or as contamination) in the water. Water temperature influences conductivity. Therefore, to compare conductivity values, the measurements must be referenced to a constant temperature. *Specific conductivity* means that the measurements have all been referenced to a constant temperature of 25° Celsius.

Nitrite plus Nitrate as Nitrogen: Both nitrite and nitrate are found naturally in streams, but concentrations become elevated from man-induced sources such as malfunctioning septic systems, agricultural and lawn fertilizers, animal manure, and atmospheric contributions. When introduced to a stream, nitrite is usually in very low concentrations since it can be converted to nitrate very readily by nitrifying bacteria. Nitrate is one of the primary nutrients for aquatic plant growth. The greater the concentration, the more abundant plant growth occurs. Large masses of plants can overrun streams and create large fluctuations in dissolved oxygen and pH which can have adverse impacts to resident fish and other aquatic organisms. Nitrite and nitrate can become a health risk to infants if the potable water supply has elevated concentrations. A condition known as “blue baby syndrome,” or methamoglobinemia is created by excessive nitrite in the bloodstream that suppresses the transport of oxygen. Nitrate is quickly converted to nitrite in an infants’ system. Therefore, the NJ Surface Water Quality Standard targets a nitrate as

⁵ STORET is the USEPA's national water quality data STOrage and RETrieval system; NWIS is USGS' National Water Information System.

nitrogen concentration, based on a human health criterion of 10 mg/L. Natural background concentrations usually range from 1-2 mg/L.

Figure 6f: Holland Township Streams - Specific Conductivity
(Using data from 1994 to present)

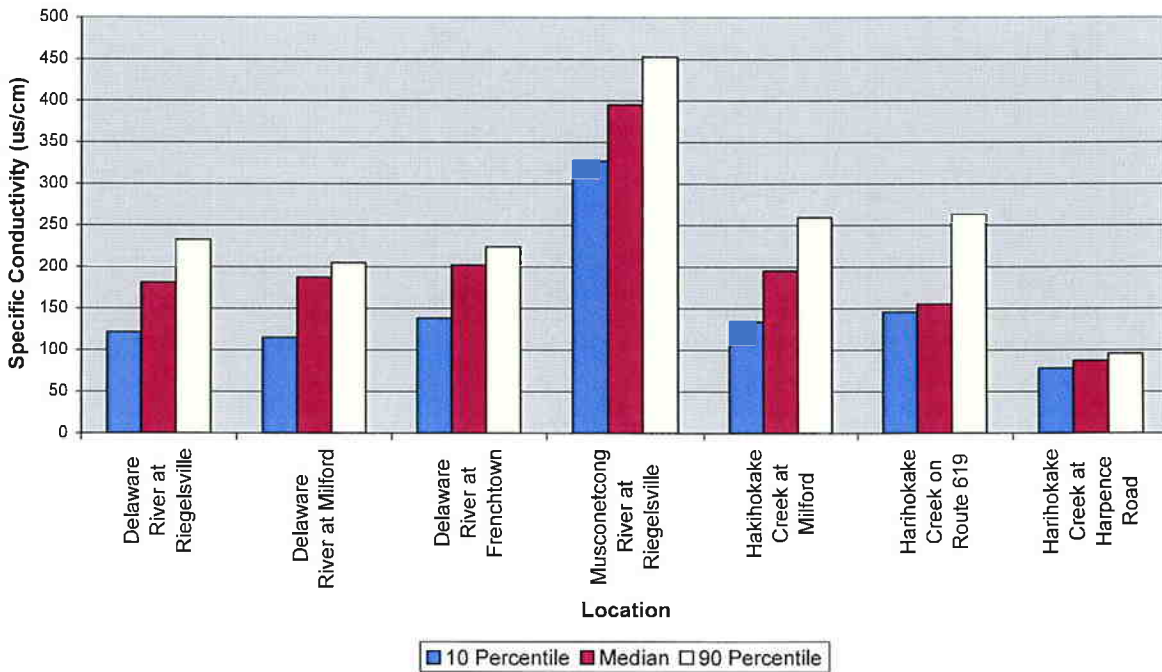
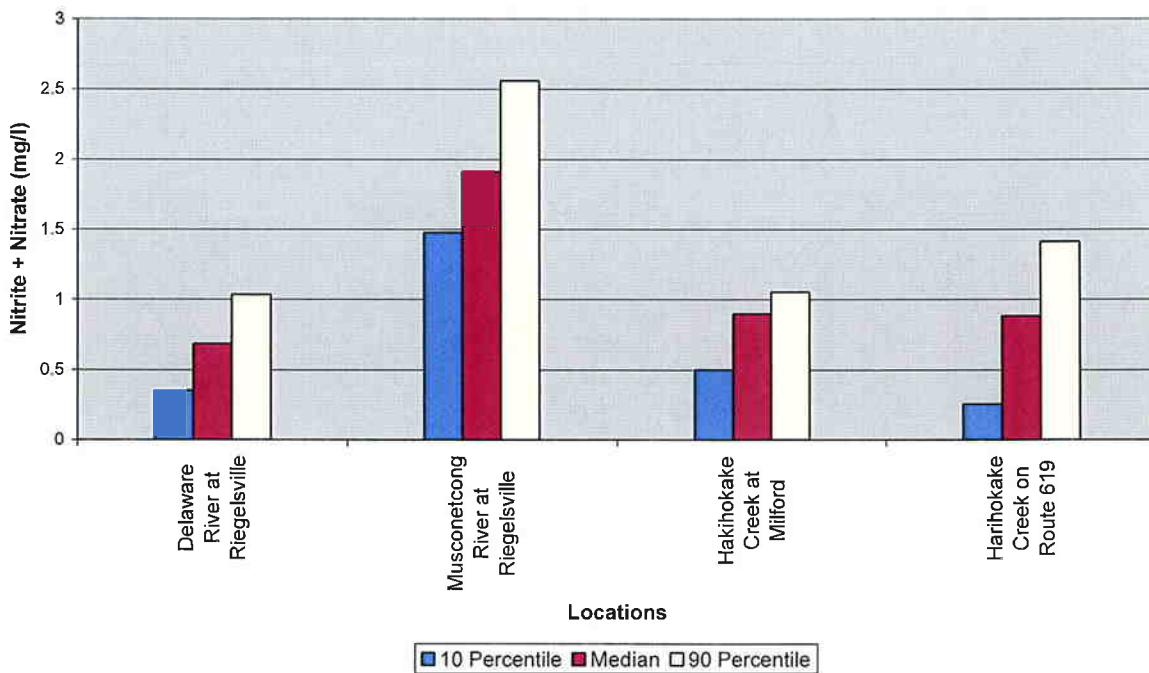


Figure 6g: Holland Township Streams - Nitrite Plus Nitrate as Nitrogen
(Using data from 1994 to present)



Total Phosphorus: Phosphorus is found in streams from natural decomposition of organic material, geologic releases, and animal wastes. However, phosphorus can also be contributed from fertilizers, septic systems, and farm and domestic animals. Like nitrate, it is a key contributor to excessive aquatic plant growths which can cause large daily fluctuations in dissolved oxygen and pH. These fluctuations can become detrimental to many aquatic organisms. The NJ Surface Water Quality Standard for Phosphorus is 0.1 mg/L.

Total Suspended Solids: Both suspended and dissolved solids are carried naturally by all streams. Large amounts of solids entering a stream can adversely alter the aquatic habitat required by organisms for growth and reproduction. Solids settle out of the water and can blanket fish nursery areas and can reduce the available habitat of food organisms. Overland flow from storm events can quickly erode unstable soils and stream banks. Solids in solution cause a sandpaper effect that creates even more erosion. The addition of excessive amounts of solids into a stream causes the channel to lose its capacity to contain the usual volume of flow. Besides affecting the habitat, deposition of solids into the channel causes more frequent flooding throughout the stream reach downstream of the solids loading.

Although there are many other water quality parameters that could have also been assessed, it is beyond the scope of this report to provide a complete review. Overall, based on the selected parameters, the Musconetcong River at Riegelsville is experiencing the greatest loadings of solids and nitrate, which is also reflected by the specific conductivity. The analysis indicates that although there are occasional elevated concentrations at the Delaware River, Harihokake Creek, and Harihokake Creek sites, the ranges are usually good for the selected parameters.

The NJ AMNET sampling program consists of using the USEPA's Rapid Bioassessment Protocol, which relies on the analysis of a site's population of *benthic macroinvertebrates*, which are the small (but large enough to be seen with the naked eye) invertebrate creatures living on the stream bottom, including insects, mollusks, and crustaceans. The various species of macroinvertebrates have a predictable tolerance (or intolerance) of pollution and/or habitat degradation. Since the macroinvertebrates must live for an extended time period in a relatively small area of stream bottom, they reflect a longer-term level of water quality than a single grab sample of the water.

The macroinvertebrate samples are collected with a D-frame net, preserved and later counted and identified. The New Jersey Impairment Score (NJIS) is a composite of five calculations of the benthic macroinvertebrate community's response to pollution stress, including taxa richness, percent contribution of dominant family, EPT, %EPT, and modified family biotic index. Based on the NJIS, a biological impairment rating is determined (non-impaired, moderately impaired, or severely impaired, see **Table 6.5**). Based on these results, NJDEP may determine that additional water quality sampling is warranted.



The presence of sensitive macroinvertebrates, such as damselfly larvae, in a stream are an indicator of good water quality.

Figure 6h: Holland Township Streams - Total Phosphorus
(Using data from 1994 to present)

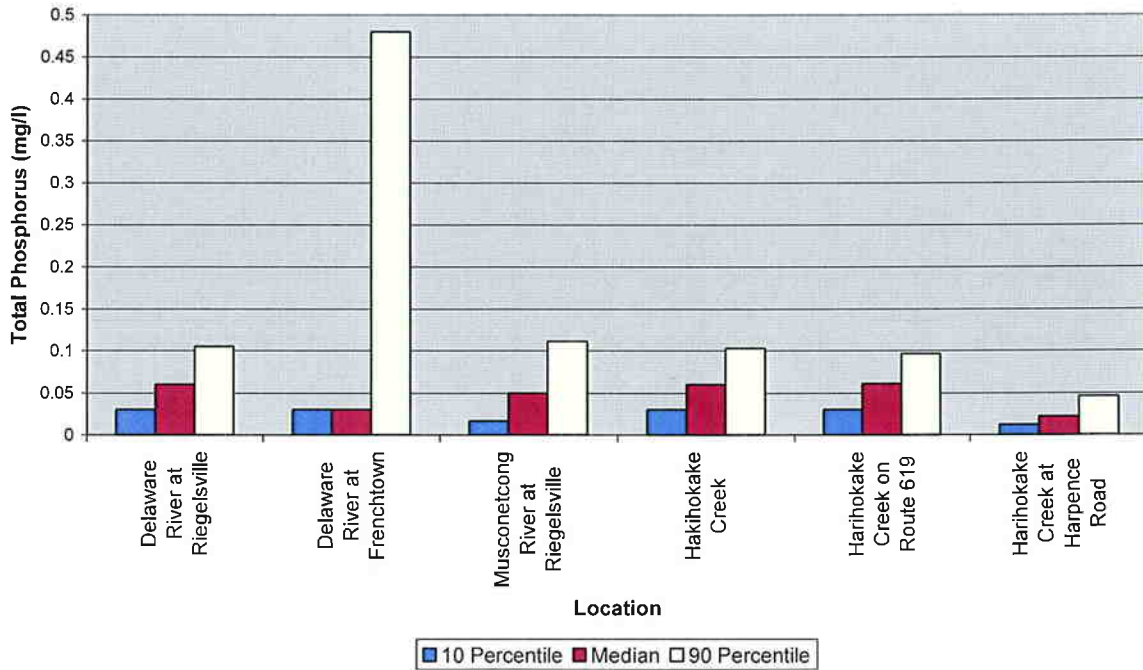


Figure 6i: Holland Township Streams - Total Suspended Solids
(Using data from 1994 to present)

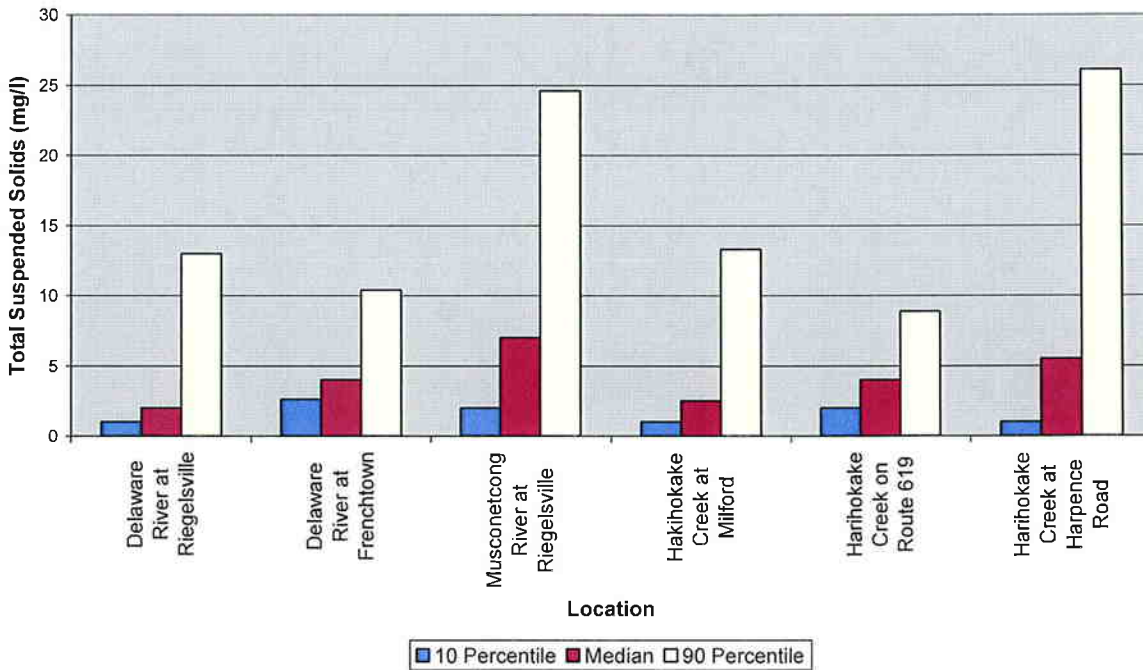


Table 6.5: NJDEP Ambient Biomonitoring Network Results for Sites in and Near Holland

Site Code	Site Name	Year Sampled	NJIS*	Impairment Rating**	Habitat Score***	Habitat Rating
AN0074	Musconetcong R at River Road (Pohatcong Twp)	1992	30	NONE	-	-
		1997	27	NONE	184	Optimal
		2002	30	NONE	173	Optimal
AN0075	Hakihokake Ck at Myler Road (Holland Twp)	1992	30	NONE	-	-
		1997	30	NONE	174	Optimal
		2003	30	NONE	184	Optimal
AN0076	Hakihokake Ck at Miller Park Rd (Holland Twp)	1992	30	NONE	-	-
		1997	30	NONE	176	Optimal
		2003	30	NONE	184	Optimal
AN0077	Hakihokake Ck at Bridge St (Milford Boro)	1992	27	NONE	-	-
		1997	30	NONE	85	Marginal
		2003	30	NONE	123	Suboptimal
AN0078	Harihokake Ck at Hartpence Road (Alexandria Twp)	1992	30	NONE	-	-
		1997	30	NONE	171	Optimal
		2003	24	NONE	158	Suboptimal
AN0079	Harihokake Ck at Rt. 619 (River Road) (Alexandria Twp)	1992	21	MODERATE	-	-
		1997	30	NONE	146	Suboptimal
		2003	27	NONE	174	Optimal

*NJIS=New Jersey Impairment Score; see Rating, below.

****Impairment Rating:**

MODERATE= Moderately Impaired: macroinvertebrate richness reduced, in particular, EPT taxa; reduced community balance and number of intolerant taxa.

NONE=Non-impaired: benthic community comparable to other undisturbed streams within the region; community characterized by a maximum taxa richness, balanced taxa groups, and good representation of intolerant individuals.

SEVERE=Severely Impaired: benthic community drastically different from those in less impaired situations; macroinvertebrates dominated by few taxa, but with many individuals; only intolerant individuals present.

HABITAT: Habitat Score for the third round of sampling. Parameters evaluated included in-stream substrate, channel morphology, bank structural features, and riparian vegetation. The area evaluated included the sample site and its immediate surroundings (usually within a 100 - 200 foot radius). The qualitative habitat assessment involves four condition categories, rating each parameter as optimal, suboptimal, marginal or poor based on recently revised EPA criteria (Barbour et. al, 1997 "Revision to Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use in Streams and Rivers: Periphyton, Benthic Macroinvertebrates, and Fish. USEPA 841-D-97-002). Note: a score of 999 indicates the site was not assessed for habitat.

***HABITAT SCORES: OPTIMAL= 160 - 200; SUB-OPTIMAL=110 - 159; MARGINAL= 60 - 109; POOR= < 60

Source: NJDEP, Water Monitoring and Standards, Freshwater and Biological Monitoring, 2006

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/wmm/bfbm/amnet.html>

J. Fish Consumption Advisories

When toxic pollutants are present in surface water, they are consumed by the organisms that live in the water. The process of *bioaccumulation* is when there is an increase in concentration of certain fat-soluble chemicals, such as DDT and PCBs, in successively higher trophic levels of a food chain or web. For example, insects living in contaminated sediments may have accumulated a certain amount of a toxin. Fish, by eating many of these insects, then ingest the toxin into their own bodies. Anything that eats that contaminated fish, including

humans and other predators, will absorb the toxin. When the concentration of toxin becomes high enough, the individual's health will be impacted.

The NJDEP samples fish for certain toxic pollutants and, when necessary, issues *fish consumption advisories*, as a guide to limit the human health effects of consuming these fish and the pollutants they contain. This information is intended to help individuals make an informed choice on the number of meals of fish to consume. The 2005 fish consumption advisories for fish caught in the vicinity of Holland Township are listed in **Table 6.6**. In addition, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has issued an advisory to eat American eel no more than 2 meals per month based on mercury contamination. See the **Internet References** for more information, such as fish preparation guidelines and annual updates.

Table 6.6: 2006 Fish Consumption Advisories for Fish Caught in the Vicinity of Holland Township

LOCATION	SPECIES	ADVISORY/PROHIBITION	
		General Population ¹ Range of Recommended Meal Frequency	High-Risk Individuals ²
		DO NOT EAT MORE THAN:	DO NOT EAT MORE THAN:
New Jersey Statewide – All water bodies except those listed below	Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass & Chain Pickerel	One meal per week	One meal per month
	Yellow bullhead	No restrictions	One meal per month
	Sunfish ³		One meal per week
	Brown Bullhead		
Delaware River - Phillipsburg to Trenton (Hunterdon/Mercer Co.)	American eel	One meal per month	Do not eat
	Striped bass	Four meals per year	
	Channel catfish	Four meals per year	
	Largemouth Bass	No restrictions	One meal per month
	Smallmouth Bass	One meal per week	One meal per month
	White Sucker	One meal per month	
¹ Eat only the fillet portions of the fish. Use proper trimming techniques to remove fat, and cooking methods that allow juices to drain from the fish (e.g., baking, broiling, frying, grilling, and steaming). See web site for full description. One meal is defined as an eight-ounce serving. ² High-risk individuals include infants, children, pregnant women, nursing mothers and women of childbearing age. ³ Sunfish includes bluegill, pumpkinseed, and redbreast sunfish.			
Source: NJDEP Division of Science and Research, 2003 http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/njmainfish.htm			

References: Surface Water

Fair, Abigail. 2004. Freshwater Wetlands Protection in New Jersey: A Manual for Local Officials. Third Edition. Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions. 52 pages.

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<http://www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt/rules.htm>

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NJDEP Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring. 2006. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/bfbm/index.html>

NJDEP Division of Science and Research. 2003. Fish Advisories. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/njmainfish.htm>

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<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/bfbm/amnet.html>

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⁶ NJDEP Division of Watershed Management. Approved September 23, 2003; Established June, 2003; Proposed: April 21, 2003. Total Maximum Daily Loads for Fecal Coliform to Address 28 Streams in the Northwest Water Region: Watershed Management Area 1 (Delaware River, Flat Brook, Paulins Kill, and Pequest, Lopatcong, Pohatcong and Musconetcong Rivers); Watershed Management Area 2 (Walkkill River, and Pochuck, Papakating, Rutgers Creeks); Watershed Management Area 11 (Harihokake, Nishisakawick, Locketong, Wickecheoke, Alexauken, Moore, Jacobs and Assunpink Creeks).
<http://www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgmt/DOCS/TMDL/june2006/Northwest%20FC.pdf>

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NJDEP Division of Watershed Management. 2006a. New Jersey's Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (includes 305 (b) Report & 303(d) List).
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/sgwqt/wat/integratedlist/integratedlist.html>

NJDEP Division of Watersheds Management. 2006b. Stormwater Management Rule Frequently Asked Questions:
<http://www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgmt/stormwaterfaqs.htm>

NJDEP Division of Watershed Management. 2006c. Total Maximum Daily Loads home page.
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<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/rules>

NJDEP Land Use Regulation Program. March 2006. Freshwater Wetlands Program Home Page.
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/landuse/fvw.html>

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NJDEP Office of Environmental Planning. January 1997. Draft Statewide Watershed Management Framework Document for the State of New Jersey.

NJDEP Site Remediation Program. 2001. Status Report.
http://www.state.nj.us/dep/srp/publications/site_status/2001/

NJDEP Water Monitoring Management. November 2003. Surface Water Quality Standards N. J. A. C. 7:9B.
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/sgwqt/swqsdocs.html>

NJDEP Water Monitoring Management. Category One Fact Sheet.
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/sgwqt/c1factsheet.pdf>

⁶ Harihokake Creek is listed in the title of this document, but no TMDL was discussed or proposed.

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<http://www.njflood.org/docs/draftnjtaskforcereport20060117.pdf>

NJ Office of Legal Affairs – lists environmental statutes (NJSA) and regulations (NJAC); plus links to many that are available online
http://www.state.nj.us/dep/legal/nj_env_law.htm

NJDEP Land Use Regulation Program – Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act (July 1998)
http://www.state.nj.us/dep/landuse/13_9b.pdf

NJDEP Land Use Regulation Program – Flood Hazard Control Act (July 1998)
http://www.state.nj.us/dep/landuse/58_16a.pdf

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U.S. Geological Survey. November 1995. Water Resources Division. Summary of Monthly Hydrologic Conditions in New Jersey.

Internet Resources: Surface Water

General Water Resources Protection:

Home*A*Syst: Evaluate your home and property for pollution and health risks (USDA):
<http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/homeasyst/>

Farm*A*Syst: Tools to help farmers better manage their operation to avoid environmental problems (USDA)
<http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/farmasyst/>

SEEDS: The State Environmental Education Directory Website: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/seeds/index.html>

Basic Watershed Information (Division of Watershed Management):
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/basicinfo2.htm>

The Clean Water Book: Choices for Watershed Protection:
http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/cleanwaterbook/waterbook_tble.htm

Water Quality Fact Sheets and Bulletins (NJ Agricultural Experiment Station Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension): <http://www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/pubs/subcategory.asp?cat=6&sub=50>

Floodplains:

New Jersey Flood Mitigation Task Force. <http://www.njflood.org/>

Wetlands:

Freshwater Wetlands Program (NJDEP Land Use Regulation) <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/landuse/fww/fww.html>

Freshwater Wetlands Program: Before You Buy – Before You Build presentation
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/wetland-training/ontheroad/>

Stream Encroachment Program (NJDEP Land Use Regulation) <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/landuse/se/se.html>

Non-Point Source Pollution / Stormwater:

Municipal stormwater regulation program <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/municstw.html>

NJ Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (NJ-CREP) <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/crep.htm>

NJDEP Division of Watershed Management – Stormwater <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/stormwater.htm>

NJDEP's Stormwater Website <http://www.njstormwater.org/>

Model stormwater control ordinance

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/DOCS/pdfs/ModelSWOrdinance2.pdf>

NJ Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual (April 2004)

http://www.njstormwater.org/tier_A/bmp_manual.htm

Riparian Buffer Conservation Zone Model Ordinances

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/DOCS/pdfs/StreamBufferOrdinance.pdf>

USEPA Nonpoint Source Pollution <http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/NPS/>

Surface Water Quality:

USEPA STORET Database: <http://www.epa.gov/storet>

NJDEP Water Monitoring Management: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/>

Delaware River Basin Commission: <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/>

NJDEP Regulations:

NJDEP Rule proposals <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/rules>

Information about C1 classification of streams (NJDEP, Water Monitoring and Standards)

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/cleanwater/c1rule.html>

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (NJDEP) <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt/tmdl.htm>

NJDEP stormwater rule: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/cleanwater/stormwater.html>

NJ Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual (February 2004):

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/bmpmanualfeb2004.htm>

Fish Advisories & Guides:

NJ Division of Science & Research Fish Advisories Home Page: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/njmainfish.htm>

Phone Contacts:

NJ Drought Hotline: 1-800-448-7379

NJ Environmental Incident Hotline (hazardous spill, fire, explosion, illegal dumping, wildlife problem):

1-877-WARNDEP / 1-877-927-6337 (toll-free, 24 hours)

NJDEP Land Use Enforcement: 1-609-292-1240

NJDEP Land Use Regulation (stream encroachment), Hunterdon County: 1-609-984-0194

NJDEP Land Use Regulation (wetlands), if you want to build near suspected wetlands, call and ask for the Letter of Interpretation (LOI) information and application package: 1-609-292-0060

NJDEP Land Use Regulation (wetlands), Hunterdon County: 1-609-777-0454