

Surface Water Quality Standards  
**Category One Waters**

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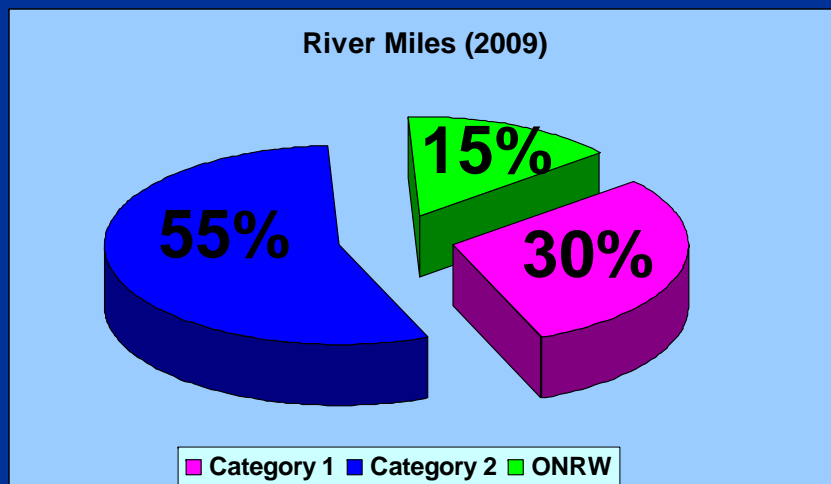
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Water Monitoring and Standards

# Surface Water Quality Standards Antidegradation Designations

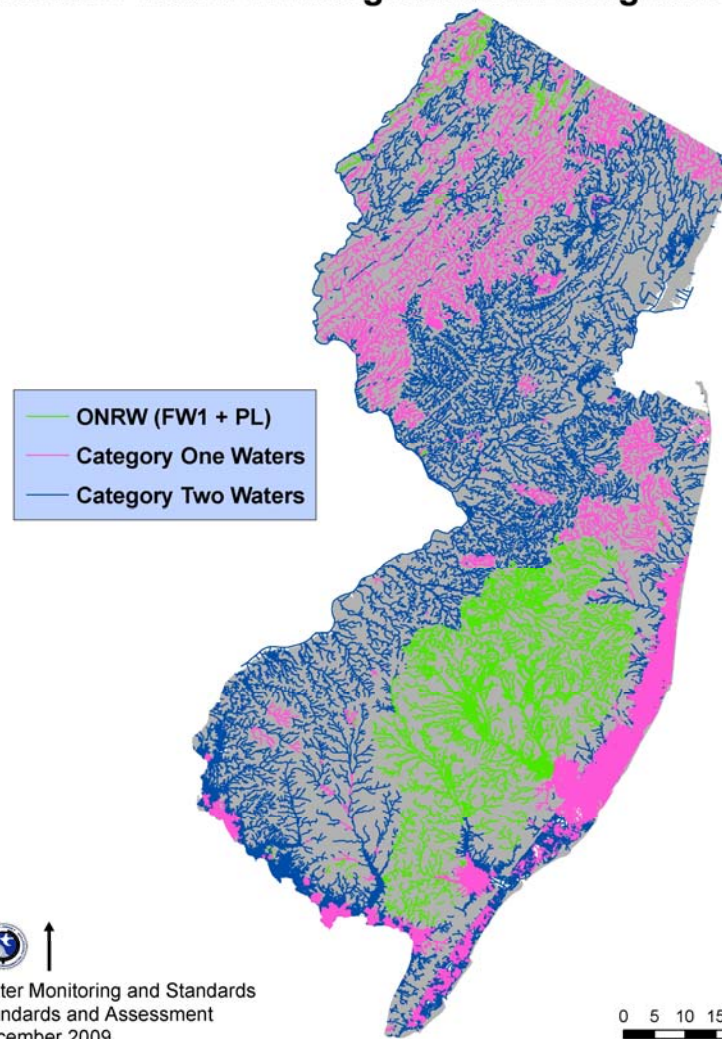
- Outstanding National Resource Waters
- Category One  
(Exceptional Resource Waters)
- Category Two



# Antidegradation Designations



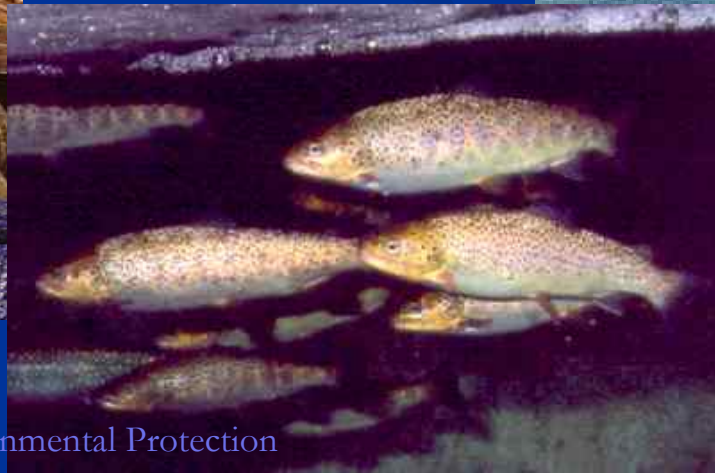
## Surface Water Antidegradation Designations



# Category One Designation

Historically, C1 waters were based on:

- State & Federal Parks
- Trout Production Waters
- Approved Shellfish Waters





# Category One Designation

- Exceptional ecological significance
- Exceptional water supply significance
- Exceptional fisheries resources



# Exceptional Ecological Significance

- Documented occurrence of specific aquatic-dependent Endangered or Threatened species and suitable habitat
- Exceptional Aquatic Community



# Exceptional Ecological Significance Aquatic-Dependent T&E

Specific T&E species eligible for C1 designation  
without other water quality information

- Bog turtle
- Dwarf wedgemussel
- Brook floater
- Green floater
- Triangle floater
- Eastern lampmussel
- Eastern pondmussel



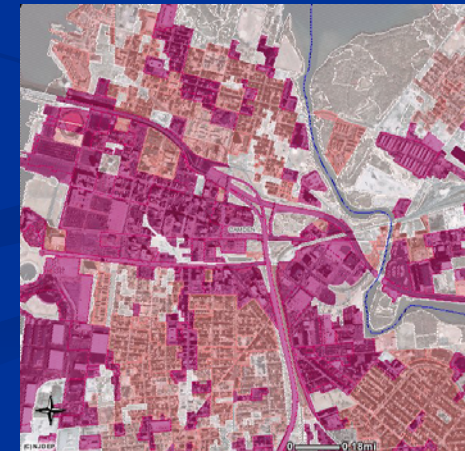


# Exceptional Ecological Significance

## Exceptional Aquatic Community

Non-impaired aquatic community and 2 of the following:

- Optimal habitat
- Excellent fish community
- Meet water quality criteria for DO, temp., TP, TSS
- Low impervious surface
  - <2% - HUC 14 < 5 acres
  - <10% - HUC 14  $\geq$  5 acres





# Exceptional Water Supply Significance

- Water supply system serving a population of greater than 100,000 including reservoirs and natural tributaries



# Exceptional Fisheries Resources

- Waterbodies that support trout production and classified as FW2-TP
- Waterbodies approved for unrestricted shellfish harvesting



# Category One Waters

- Provide additional protection to waterbodies that help prevent water quality degradation and discourage development where it would impair or destroy natural resources and environmental quality.
- Provide protection from measurable change in water quality



# Evaluation of Current Designation Methodology

- Convened group of “Internal” DEP Stakeholders to evaluate current processes
  - Identified “External” stakeholders who needed to be incorporated into the re-evaluation exercise
  - Developed a list of key issues and questions which would inform said re-evaluation





# Questions to Kick-Off Today's Conversation:

- Do you have any recommendations that would improve the existing methodology?
- What other ecological factors should the Department be considering?
- What other types of data should the Department be considering when designating C1 waters?

