

**SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**  
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**SRBC ASSESSES STREAMS CROSSING STATE BORDERS**  
*Results Available in Interactive Web-Based Report*

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) annually assesses and reports on the condition of streams that cross and sometimes re-cross the New York–Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania–Maryland state lines. Among the benefits of SRBC’s interstate monitoring program, water managers can use the data to determine if water quality standards are being met in the three states. It also provides an overall assessment of the biological health and habitat condition of the interstate streams.

SRBC monitors more than 50 locations along the interstate streams. The most recent findings are available in an interactive web-based report on SRBC’s web site at [www.srbc.net/interstate\\_streams](http://www.srbc.net/interstate_streams). Viewers can click on any point on the maps to get water quality, biological and habitat results for each monitoring location.

“This monitoring program generates data that would otherwise not be available to the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland,” said Paul Swartz, SRBC Executive Director. “As an agency that works on a watershed basis versus based on political boundaries, the Commission is uniquely qualified to conduct these interstate assessments.”

The most recent findings for water quality, biological and habitat conditions, covering the Fiscal Year-2007 monitoring period, include:

**Water Quality** – This is an assessment of various water quality parameters, primarily nutrients and metals, to determine if water quality standards of each state are being met. Of the 733 individual parameter analyses that SRBC completed, more than 90 percent met water quality standards and less than 10 percent exceeded. Of those exceeding water quality standards, the parameters included total aluminum (41%), total iron (23%), dissolved oxygen (10%), total chloride (10%) and alkalinity (6%).

NY-PA interstate streams exceeding water quality standards at the monitoring points include Apalachin Creek, Cayuta Creek, Chemung River, Choconut Creek, Cowanesque River, Denton Creek, North Fork Cowanesque River, Seeley Creek, Snake Creek, Susquehanna River, and Tioga River.

NY-PA interstate streams with best water quality at the monitoring points are Bentley Creek and Wappasening Creek.

PA-MD interstate streams exceeding water quality standards at the monitoring points are Conowingo Creek, Ebaughs Creek and Scott Creek.

PA-MD interstate streams with best water quality at the monitoring points are Big Branch Deer Creek and South Branch Conewago Creek.

**Biological Conditions** – This is an assessment of the health of the aquatic insects. Of the 48 sampling sites, 14 were designated as nonimpaired (29%), 22 were slightly impaired (46%), 10 were moderately impaired (21%) and 2 (4%) were severely impaired. Higher populations of insects that tolerate poor water

quality conditions and smaller populations of more sensitive insects are the main reasons for designating a stream as impaired.

NY-PA interstate streams with severely impaired biological conditions at the monitoring points are White Branch Cowanesque River and Dry Brook.

NY-PA interstate streams with non-impaired conditions for the past 5 years at the monitoring points are Cascade Creek and Cayuta Creek.

PA-MD interstate streams with non-impaired conditions for the past 5 years at the monitoring points are Deer Creek and Snake Creek. No streams crossing the PA-MD state border had streams designated as severely impaired.

**Habitat Conditions** – This is an assessment of the overall condition of stream beds and stream banks. Of the 48 sampling sites, 22 were rated as excellent, 19 as supporting habitats and 7 as partially supporting habitat. Streams impacted by erosion, sediment build-up, and poor streambank vegetation are the main reasons for designating a stream as having poor habitat conditions.

NY-PA interstate streams with routinely poor habitat conditions at the monitoring points are the Cowanesque River, Dry Brook and Seeley Creek.

NY-PA interstate streams with routinely excellent habitat conditions at the monitoring points are Deep Hollow Brook, Little Snake Creek and Tioga River.

PA-MD interstate stream with routinely poor habitat conditions at the monitoring point is the Long Arm Creek.

PA-MD interstate stream with routinely excellent habitat conditions at the monitoring point is Falling Branch Deer Creek.

Swartz said, “Given that these interstate streams make each of the three states both an upstream and a downstream state, the Commission’s data also can help verify if specific water quality problems or concerns are the result of activities from a neighboring state.”

Below is a list of the interstate streams in the Susquehanna River Basin monitored by SRBC. SRBC began its interstate streams monitoring program in 1986. The program is funded largely by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

SRBC ([www.srbc.net](http://www.srbc.net)) is the governing agency established under a 100-year compact signed on December 24, 1970, by the federal government and the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to protect and wisely manage the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. The Susquehanna River starts in Cooperstown, N.Y., and flows 444 miles to the Chesapeake Bay at Havre de Grace, Md.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: Following is a complete listing of the interstate streams SRBC monitors.

## **New York-Pennsylvania Interstate Streams**

### **NY→PA**

Babcock Run  
Bill Hess Creek  
Biscuit Hollow  
Briggs Hollow Run  
Bulkley Brook  
Camp Brook  
Cascade Creek  
Cayuta Creek  
Cook Hollow  
Deep Hollow Brook  
Denton Creek  
Dry Brook  
Holden Creek  
North Fork Cowanesque River  
Prince Hollow Run  
Russell Run  
Strait Creek  
Troups Creek  
Trowbridge Creek  
White Branch  
17 unnamed tributaries

### **PA→NY**

Apalachin Creek  
Bentley Creek  
Bird Creek  
Choconut Creek  
Cowanesque Creek  
Little Snake Creek  
Little Wappasening Creek  
Parks Creek  
Sackett Creek  
Seeley Creek  
Smith Creek  
Snake Creek  
South Creek  
Tioga River  
Wappasening Creek  
White Hollow  
2 unnamed tributaries

### **NY→PA→NY→PA**

Chemung River  
Susquehanna River

### **PA→NY→PA**

2 unnamed  
tributaries

## **Pennsylvania-Maryland Interstate Streams**

### **PA→MD**

Big Branch Deer Creek  
Conowingo Creek  
Deer Creek  
Ebaughs Creek  
Falling Branch Deer Creek  
Octoraro Creek  
Susquehanna River  
7 unnamed tributaries

### **MD→PA**

Long Arm Creek  
Scott Creek  
South Branch Conewago Creek  
6 unnamed tributaries