

October to September. In 1991, SRBC changed the reporting periods to correspond with its fiscal year that covers the period from July to June. This report is presented for fiscal year 2004, which covers July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2004.

BASIN GEOGRAPHY

The Susquehanna River Basin is the largest river basin on the Atlantic Coast of the United States, draining 27,510 square miles. The Susquehanna River originates at the outlet of Otsego Lake, Cooperstown, N.Y., and flows 444 miles through New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland to the Chesapeake Bay at Havre de Grace, Md. Eighty-three streams cross state lines in the basin (Table 1). Several streams traverse the state lines at multiple points, contributing to 91 crossings. Of those 91 crossings, 45 streams flow from New York into Pennsylvania, 22 from Pennsylvania into New York, 15 from Pennsylvania into Maryland, and nine from Maryland into Pennsylvania. Many streams are small, and 32 are unnamed.

METHODS

Field and Laboratory Methods

Sampling frequency

In Water Year 1989, the interstate streams were divided into three groups, according to the degree of water quality impairment, historical water quality impacts, and potential for degradation. These groupings were determined based on historical water quality and land use. To date, these groups remain consistent and are described below.

Streams with impaired water quality or judged to have a high potential for degradation due to large drainage areas or historical pollution were assigned to Group 1. In sampling period 2003-2004, New York-Pennsylvania Group 1 streams were sampled July through September (depending on flow conditions), December, February or March, and May. Pennsylvania-Maryland Group 1 stations were sampled July and September,

November, February and March, and April and May. Benthic macroinvertebrates were collected and habitat assessments were performed in Group 1 streams during July and August 2003.

Streams judged to have a moderate potential for impacts were assigned to Group 2. Water quality samples, benthic macroinvertebrate samples, and physical habitat information were obtained from Group 2 stations once a year; preferably during base flow conditions in the summer months. In this sampling period, water chemistry, macroinvertebrate, and physical habitat information were collected during July and August 2003.

Streams judged to have a low potential for impacts were assigned to Group 3 and were visually inspected only for signs of degradation once a year until fiscal year 2000 when the biological and habitat conditions of these streams were assessed during May. Field chemistry parameters also were measured on Group 3 streams at the time of biological sampling. New York-Pennsylvania border and Pennsylvania-Maryland border stream stations sampled during fiscal year 2004 are listed in Tables 2 and 3, respectively, and are depicted in Figures 1 through 4.

Stream discharge

Stream discharge was measured at all stations unless high stream flows made access impossible. Several stations are located near U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) stream gages. These stations include the following: the Susquehanna River at Windsor, N.Y., Kirkwood, N.Y., Sayre, Pa., Marietta, Pa., and Conowingo, Md.; the Chemung River at Chemung, N.Y.; the Tioga River at Lindley, N.Y.; and the Cowanesque River at Lawrenceville, Pa. Recorded stages from USGS gaging stations and rating curves were used to determine instantaneous discharges in cubic feet per second (cfs). Instantaneous discharges for stations not located near USGS gaging stations were measured at the time of sampling, using standard USGS procedures (Buchanan and Somers, 1969). Stream discharges are tabulated according to station name and date in Appendix A.