



## Union Falls Pond – Saranac River (0415040604)

C- 15 (portion 3a)/P74a  
 C- 15 (portion 4)/P74  
 C- 15 (portion 5)/P76  
 C- 15 (portion 6)  
 C- 15-28-P 73  
 C- 15-31 thru 47(selected)  
 C- 15-35-P 75

Saranac River, Main Stem/Teft Pond (1003-0112)  
 Saranac River, Union Falls Reservoir(1003-0040)  
 Saranac River, Franklin Falls Pond (1003-0045)  
 Saranac River, Upper, Main Stem (1003-0044)  
 Silver Lake (1003-0068)  
 Minor Tribs to Saranac River, Upper (1003-0071)  
 Cranberry Pond (1003-0110)

**NoKnownImpct**  
**Impaired Seg**  
**Impaired Seg**  
**NoKnownImpct**  
**NoKnownImpct**  
 UnAssessed  
**NoKnownImpct**

# Saranac River, Main Stem, Tefft Pond ( 1003-0112)

NoKnownImpct

## Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 07/20/2009

**Water Index No:** C- 15 (portion 3a)/P74a  
**Hydro Unit Code:** 02010006/030    **Str Class:** C(T)  
**Waterbody Type:** River (Med. Flow)    **Reg/County:** 5/Clinton Co. (10)  
**Waterbody Size:** 10.0 Miles    **Quad Map:** REDFORD (C-25-3)  
**Seg Description:** river from Clayburg to Union Falls Reservoir

## Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
Habitat/Hydrology	Threatened	Possible

### Type of Pollutant(s)

Known:     - - -  
Suspected: - - -  
Possible:   SILT/SEDIMENT

### Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known:     - - -  
Suspected: - - -  
Possible:   STREAMBANK EROSION

## Resolution/Management Information

**Issue Resolvability:** 8 (No Known Use Impairment)  
**Verification Status:** (Not Applicable for Selected RESOLVABILITY)  
**Lead Agency/Office:** n/a  
**TMDL/303d Status:** n/a

**Resolution Potential:** n/a

## Further Details

### Water Quality Sampling

A biological (macroinvertebrate) assessment of Saranac River below this site in Saranac (at Hardscrabble Road) was conducted in 2003 as part of the RIBS biological screening effort. Sampling results indicated non-impacted conditions. The sample was dominated by clean-water species and conditions reflected a natural community with minimal, if any, human impacts. These results are consistent with sampling conducted in 1998 at multiple sites along the Saranac River that also revealed non-impacted conditions. NYSDEC Rotating Intensive Basin Studies (RIBS) Intensive Network monitoring of the river at the Saranac site was also conducted in 1993-94. The sites were assessed as having good water quality at that time. Aquatic life community is clearly fully supported. Though this sampling point is just below the described segment, it is considered representative of water quality in the upper reach. This segment is listed as being evaluated rather than monitored. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, January 2009)

### Habitat Assessment:

Fishery habitat in this reach may experience some impact due to sand and sediment deposition from streambank erosion. Roadway runoff may also be a contributing source. High gradient streams erode streambanks and wash sand and silt into and along streams. The sand and sediment fills in gravel spawning beds, decreasing salmonid spawning success, limiting macroinvertebrate production and increasing winter mortality of fish and invertebrates due to loss of escape cover from the effects of anchor ice. Impacts on natural reproduction of trout and other cold water species have been documented in other reaches in the basin. No such impacts have been documented in this reach, but these impacts are considered a possible

threat to fishery habitat. (DEC/DFWMR, Region 5, June 2009)

#### Segment Description

This segment includes the portion of the stream from North Branch Saranac River (-22) in Clayburg to Union Falls Reservoir. The waters of this portion of the stream are Class C(T). Tribes to this reach/segment and other portions of Saranac River are listed separately.

# Saranac River, Union Falls Reservoir ( 1003-0040)

# Impaired Seg

## Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 04/22/2009

**Water Index No:** C- 15 (portion 4)/P74  
**Hydro Unit Code:** 02010006/030    **Str Class:** C(T)  
**Waterbody Type:** Lake(R) (Unknown Trophic)  
**Waterbody Size:** 1570.7 Acres  
**Seg Description:** entire reservoir

**Drain Basin:** Lake Champlain  
Great Chazy/Saranac  
**Reg/County:** 5/Canton Co. (10)  
**Quad Map:** WILMINGTON (D-25-A)

## Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
FISH CONSUMPTION	Impaired	Known

### Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: METALS (mercury)  
Suspected: - - -  
Possible: - - -

### Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION  
Suspected: - - -  
Possible: - - -

## Resolution/Management Information

**Issue Resolvability:** 3 (Strategy Being Implemented)  
**Verification Status:** 5 (Management Strategy has been Developed)  
**Lead Agency/Office:** ext/EPA  
**TMDL/303d Status:** 2b->4a?

**Resolution Potential:** Medium

## Further Details

### Overview

Fish consumption in Union Falls Reservoir is known to be impaired by health advisories that recommend restricting the consumption of fish from the lake. Mercury contamination from atmospheric deposition is the suspected source of the impairment.

### Fish Consumption

Fish consumption in Union Falls Flow/Reservoir is impaired due to a NYS DOH health advisory that recommends eating no more than one meal per month of northern pike and smallmouth bass because of elevated mercury levels. The source of mercury is considered to be atmospheric deposition, as there are not other apparent sources in the lake watershed. The advisory for this lake was first issued in 2006-07. (2008-09 NYS DOH Health Advisories and DEC/DFWMR, Habitat, January 2009).

### Water Quality Sampling

A biological (macroinvertebrate) assessment of Saranac River in Saranac (at Hardscrabble Road) just downstream of this segment was conducted in 2003 as part of the RIBS biological screening effort. Sampling results indicated non-impacted conditions. The sample was dominated by clean-water species and conditions reflected a natural community with minimal, if any, human impacts. These results are consistent with sampling conducted in 1998 at multiple sites along the Saranac River that also revealed non-impacted conditions. NYSDEC Rotating Intensive Basin Studies (RIBS) Intensive Network

monitoring of the river at the Saranac site was also conducted in 1993-94. The sites were assessed as having good water quality at that time. Aquatic life community is clearly fully supported. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, January 2009)

#### Section 303(d) Listing

Due to the recently issued fish consumption advisory Union Falls Reservoir was included in the 2008 Section 303(d) List. However the Northeast Regional Mercury TMDL which was approved in 2007 provides coverage for a number of specific waters as well as waters that are subsequently identified as being impaired by mercury from atmospheric deposition. NYSDEC is currently considering delisting this waterbody because of coverage under this TMDL. (DEC/DOW, BWAM, January 2009)

#### Segment Description

This segment includes the entire area of Union Falls Reservoir (P74).

# Saranac River, Franklin Falls Pond (1003-0045)

Impaired Seg

## Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 04/22/2009

**Water Index No:** C- 15 (portion 5)/P76  
**Hydro Unit Code:** 02010006/010    **Str Class:** C  
**Waterbody Type:** Lake(R) (Eutrophic)  
**Waterbody Size:** 447.7 Acres  
**Seg Description:** entire reservoir

**Drain Basin:** Lake Champlain  
Great Chazy/Saranac  
**Reg/County:** 5/Essex Co. (16)  
**Quad Map:** WILMINGTON (D-25-A) ...

## Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
FISH CONSUMPTION	Impaired	Known

### Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: METALS (mercury)  
Suspected: - - -  
Possible: - - -

### Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: ATMOSPH. DEPOSITION  
Suspected: - - -  
Possible: - - -

## Resolution/Management Information

**Issue Resolvability:** 3 (Strategy Being Implemented)  
**Verification Status:** 5 (Management Strategy has been Developed)  
**Lead Agency/Office:** ext/EPA  
**TMDL/303d Status:** 4a (TMDL Complete, Being Implemented, Not Listed)

**Resolution Potential:** Medium

## Further Details

### Overview

Fish consumption in Franklin Falls Flow/Pond is known to be impaired by health advisories that recommend restricting the consumption of fish from the pond. Mercury contamination from atmospheric deposition is the suspected source of the impairment. Aquatic life support in these lakes may also be limited due to low pH, a result of atmospheric deposition (acid rain). However available data indicating such impacts is limited to small ponds within this segment and is more than 20 years old. Until more recent data on the larger waterbodies is available, this segment will be considered to be unassessed regarding these impacts.

### Fish Consumption

Fish consumption in Franklin Falls Pond is impaired due to a NYS DOH health advisory that recommends eating no walleye because of elevated mercury levels. The source of mercury is considered to be atmospheric deposition, as there are not other apparent sources in the lake watershed. The advisory for this lake was first issued in 2005-06. (2008-09 NYS DOH Health Advisories and DEC/DFWMR, Habitat, January 2009).

### Water Quality Sampling

Monitoring of Franklin Falls Pond was included in the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation (ALSC) lake monitoring and assessment effort conducted in the mid-1980s (1984-86). Generally these were one-time samples analyzed for variety of parameters, including total phosphorus, pH and water color. These data revealed no indication of impacts to aquatic life

support or recreational use at the time. Because the data is limited to single samples and collected more than 20 years ago, this assessment is considered to be evaluated, rather than monitored. (DEC, DOW, BWAM/WQAS, January 2009 and ALSC, 1984-86)

#### Section 303(d) Listing

Due to the fish consumption advisory Franklin Falls Pond was included in the 2006 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, but it is not included on the 2008 List. The waterbody was delisted in 2008 due to the completion of the Northeast Regional Mercury TMDL which was approved in 2007 and provides coverage for this specific waterbody. (DEC/DOW, BWAM, January 2009)

#### Segment Description

This segment includes the entire area of Franklin Falls Pond (P76).

# Saranac River, Upper, Main Stem ( 1003-0044)

NoKnownImpct

## Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 04/21/2009

**Water Index No:** C- 15 (portion 6)      **Drain Basin:** Lake Champlain  
**Hydro Unit Code:** 02010006/010      **Str Class:** C      **Great Chazy/Saranac**  
**Waterbody Type:** River (Med. Flow)      **Reg/County:** 5/Essex Co. (16)  
**Waterbody Size:** 14.8 Miles      **Quad Map:** BLOOMINGDALE (D-24-A) ...  
**Seg Description:** river from Franklin Falls Pond to Saranac Lake

## Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
Habitat/Hydrology	Threatened	Possible

### Type of Pollutant(s)

Known:     - - -  
Suspected: - - -  
Possible:   SILT/SEDIMENT

### Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known:     - - -  
Suspected: - - -  
Possible:   STREAMBANK EROSION

## Resolution/Management Information

**Issue Resolvability:** 8 (No Known Use Impairment)  
**Verification Status:** (Not Applicable for Selected RESOLVABILITY)  
**Lead Agency/Office:** n/a      **Resolution Potential:** n/a  
**TMDL/303d Status:** n/a

## Further Details

### Water Quality Sampling

A biological (macroinvertebrate) assessment of Saranac River in Saranac Lake (at Pine Street) was conducted as part of the RIBS biological screening effort in 2003. Sampling results indicated moderately impacted conditions. Sensitive species are markedly reduced or missing and the distribution of major groups is significantly unbalanced relative to what would be expected. Sample is dominated by more tolerant species. The nutrient biotic index indicates some enrichment. However impact source determination revealed a fauna that is most similar to communities experiencing impoundment effects. These effects are known to skew biological sampling results and are not a true reflection of water quality. NYSDEC Rotating Intensive Basin Studies (RIBS) Intensive Network monitoring of the Saranac River in Bloomingdale/St. Armond (at Moose Pond Road) at the downstream end of this reach was conducted in 1998-99. Biological (macroinvertebrate) sampling of the river indicated non-impacted water quality. This assessment represents an improvement over results collected in 1993, which indicated a slight impact. Other indicators (water chemistry) indicate good water quality as well. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, January 2009)

A biological (macroinvertebrate) survey of the Saranac River at multiple sites between Plattsburgh and Saranac Lake was conducted in 1993. Sampling results indicated non-impacted invertebrate fauna and excellent water quality conditions between Plattsburgh and Bloomingdale. The upstream sites appeared to be impacted by lake effects and sluggish currents, but water quality problems were not indicated. (Saranac River Bioassessment Report, Bode etal, DEC/DOW, BWAR/SBU, January 1994)

#### Habitat Assessment:

Fishery habitat in this reach may experience some impact due to sand and sediment deposition from streambank erosion. Roadway runoff may also be a contributing source. High gradient streams erode streambanks and wash sand and silt into and along streams. The sand and sediment fills in gravel spawning beds, decreasing salmonid spawning success, limiting macroinvertebrate production and increasing winter mortality of fish and invertebrates due to loss of escape cover from the effects of anchor ice. Impacts on natural reproduction of trout and other cold water species have been documented in other reaches in the basin. No such impacts have been documented in this reach, but these impacts are considered a possible threat to fishery habitat. (DEC/DFWMR, Region 5, June 2009)

#### Segment Description

This segment includes the portion of the stream from Franklin Falls Pond to Lake Flower Dam in Saranac Lake. The waters of this portion of the stream are Class C. Tribes to this reach, including Cold Brook (-50), are primarily Class C(T) and D. This segment also includes small ponds Moody Pond (P85) and Heart Pond (P87) in Saranac Lake. Towbridge Brook (-51) and Moose Creek (-54) are listed separately.

## Silver Lake (1003-0068)

NoKnownImpct

### Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 03/04/2009

<b>Water Index No:</b>	C- 15-28-P 73	<b>Drain Basin:</b>	Lake Champlain
<b>Hydro Unit Code:</b>	02010006/010	<b>Str Class:</b>	A
<b>Waterbody Type:</b>	Lake		Great Chazy/Saranac
<b>Waterbody Size:</b>	801.2 Acres	<b>Reg/County:</b>	5/Clinton Co. (10)
<b>Seg Description:</b>	entire lake	<b>Quad Map:</b>	REDFORD (C-25-3) ...

### Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
NO USE IMPAIRMNT		

#### Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: ---  
Suspected: ---  
Possible: ---

#### Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: ---  
Suspected: ---  
Possible: ---

### Resolution/Management Information

<b>Issue Resolvability:</b>	8 (No Known Use Impairment)	
<b>Verification Status:</b>	(Not Applicable for Selected RESOLVABILITY)	
<b>Lead Agency/Office:</b>	n/a	<b>Resolution Potential:</b> n/a
<b>TMDL/303d Status:</b>	n/a	

### Further Details

#### Water Quality Sampling

Silver Lake was included 1993 NYSDEC Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). CSLAP relies on volunteer monitors to collect samples for evaluating lake trophic status and perception surveys for evaluating recreational suitability. Results of this study found no evidence of water quality impacts at the time. Because this data was collected more than 10 years ago, this assessment is considered to be evaluated, rather than monitored. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/Lake Services, December 2000)

Monitoring of Silver Lake was included in the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation (ALSC) lake monitoring and assessment effort conducted in the mid-1980s (1984-86). Generally these were one-time samples analyzed for variety of parameters, including total phosphorus, pH and water color. These data revealed no indication of impacts to aquatic life support or recreational use at the time. Because the data is limited to single samples and collected more than 20 years ago, this assessment is considered to be evaluated, rather than monitored. (DEC, DOW, BWAM/WQAS, January 2009 and ALSC, 1984-86)

#### Segment Description

This segment includes the total area of Silver Lake (P73).

## Cranberry Pond (1003-0110)

NoKnownImpct

