



Owego Creek Watershed (0205010304)

Water Index Number

SR- 16
 SR- 16- 4
 SR- 16- 7
 SR- 16- 7
 SR- 16- 8
 SR- 16- 8

Waterbody Segment

Owego Creek and minor tribs (0603-0031)
See Catatank Creek Watershed
 West Branch Owego Cr, Lower, and tribs (0603-0011)
 West Branch Owego Cr, Upper, and tribs (0603-0035)
 East Branch Owego Cr, Lower, and tribs (0603-0012)
 East Branch Owego Cr, Upper, and tribs (0603-0034)

Category

Minor Impacts
 NoKnownImpct
 NoKnownImpct
 NoKnownImpct
 NoKnownImpct

Owego Creek and minor tribs (0603-0031)

MinorImpacts

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 07/16/2009

Water Index No: SR- 16
Hydro Unit Code: 02050103/140 **Str Class:** C(T)
Waterbody Type: River (Low Flow) **Reg/County:** 7/Tioga Co. (54)
Waterbody Size: 21.7 Miles **Quad Map:** OWEGO (M-15-3) ...
Seg Description: stream and select tribs fr mouth to East/West Branch

Water Quality Problem/Issue Information (CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
Habitat/Hydrology	Stressed	Suspected

Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: ---
Suspected: SILT/SEDIMENT, THERMAL CHANGES
Possible: ---

Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: HABITAT MODIFICATION, STREAMBANK EROSION
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Resolution/Management Information

Issue Resolvability: 1 (Needs Verification/Study (see STATUS))
Verification Status: 4 (Source Identified, Strategy Needed)
Lead Agency/Office: ext/WQCC **Resolution Potential:** n/a
TMDL/303d Status: n/a

Further Details

Overview

Habitat/hydrology of Owego Creek is thought to experience minor impacts from silt/sediment loads and elevated temperatures due to stream modifications.

Water Quality Sampling

A biological (macroinvertebrate) assessment of Owego Creek in Owego (at Route 17C/at ball field) was conducted as part of the RIBS biological screening effort in 2003. Sampling results indicated non-impacted conditions. Such samples are dominated by clean-water species and are most similar to a natural community with minimal human impacts. Some additional species, including sensitive non-native species, and additional biomass may be present; the samples reveal no, or only incidental, anomalies. Aquatic life community is fully supported. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, January 2009)

These results are consistent with sampling conducted at the same site during a biological (macroinvertebrate) survey of Owego Creek in 1998 (Owego Creek Biological Assessment Report, Bode et al. DEC/DOW, BWAR/SBU, June 1999). Owego Creek was sampled at two sites below the confluence of the East and West Branches. One of these was in Owego at the Route 17C site where non-impacted conditions, like those found in 2003, were reported. The other sample, collected above Owego at Route 96, revealed slight impact, but very near the range of non-impacted. Although the fauna

showed some influence from nonpoint sources, the sample was diverse and well-balanced. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/WQAS, June 2009)

A RIBS Intensive Network Monitoring site was also located on Owego Creek in Owego in 1998. Chemical monitoring at the site indicated no significant parameters of concern and water quality was assessed as good. A fishery assessment found an abundant and diverse fishery with suitable habitat. (DEC/DOW, RIBS, August 2000)

Habitat Assessment

Streambank erosion reported in previous assessments continues to be a major concern. Past practices have allowed highway departments and private landowners to conduct stream "maintenance" channelization which had previously kept many section of streams artificially straight. Now many areas of stream are trying to reestablish a more natural, meandering stream pattern. This process of stream migration has impacts on the fishery habitat. However, it is likely that over the long term the return to more natural channel processes should create better trout habitat in terms of quality pools and riffle/pool ratios. (DEC/DFWMR, Region 7, December 2000)

Segment Description

This segment includes the entire stream and selected/smaller tribs. The waters of the stream are Class C(T). Tribs to this reach/segment are also/primarily Class C. Catatank Creek (-4), West Branch (-7) and East Branch (-8) are listed separately.

West Branch Owego Cr, Lower, and tribs (0603-0011) NoKnownImpct

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 06/25/2009

Water Index No: SR- 16- 7
Hydro Unit Code: 02050103/140 **Str Class:** C
Waterbody Type: River (Low Flow) **Reg/County:** 7/Tioga Co. (54)
Waterbody Size: 87.6 Miles **Quad Map:** NEWARK VALLEY (M-16-1) ...
Seg Description: stream and tribs, from mouth to Jenksville

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

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 West Branch Owego Creek in Weltonville (at West Creek Road) was conducted as part of the RIBS biological screening effort in 2003. Sampling results indicated non-impacted conditions. Such samples are dominated by clean-water species and are most similar to a natural community with minimal human impacts. Some additional species, including sensitive non-native species, and additional biomass may be present; the samples reveal no, or only incidental, anomalies. Aquatic life community is fully supported. These results are consistent with sampling conducted at this site in 1998. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, January 2009)

A biological (macroinvertebrate) assessment of a West Branch trib, Doolittle Creek (-2), in Weltomville (at West Creek Road) was conducted as part of the RIBS biological screening effort in 2003. Sampling results indicated non-impacted conditions. Such samples are dominated by clean-water species and are most similar to a natural community with minimal human impacts. Some additional species, including sensitive non-native species, and additional biomass may be present; the samples reveal no, or only incidental, anomalies. Aquatic life community is fully supported. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, January 2009)

A biological survey of Owego Creek and the East and West Branches of Owego Creek at multiple sites was conducted in 1998. Sampling results indicated very good water quality, non-impacted conditions or slightly impacted just outside the non-impacted range. Two of three sites on the West Branch (in Jenksville and in Welton) revealed non-impacted water quality, while the most upstream site (above Speedsville) was assessed as slightly impacted. Nonpoint sources impacts were present at all three sites, but these impacts were determined to be minimal. (Owego Creek Biological Assessment Report, DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, June 1999)

Previous Assessment

Local agencies had previously (1996) expressed concern regarding possible impacts to the West Branch Owego Creek and Doolittle Creek due to silt/sedimentation from stream and roadbank erosion. Gravel removal in the stream and tribs and the removal of riparian vegetation had been noted. However more recent sampling indicates any impacts to the aquatic community are not significant. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/WQAS, June 2009)

Segment Description

This segment includes the portion of the stream and all tribs from the mouth to/including unnamed trib (-3) near Jenksville. The waters of this portion of the stream are Class C. Tribs to this reach/segment, including Doolittle Creek (-2), are Class C,C(T). Upper West Branch is listed separately.

West Branch Owego Cr, Upper, and tribs (0603-0035) NoKnownImpct

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 06/25/2009

Water Index No: SR- 16- 7
Hydro Unit Code: 02050103/140 **Str Class:** C(T)
Waterbody Type: River (Low Flow)
Waterbody Size: 78.5 Miles
Seg Description: stream and tribs, above Jenksvile

Drain Basin: Susquehanna River
Reg/County: 7/Tioga Co. (54) ...
Quad Map: SPEEDSVILLE (L-15-3) ...

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

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 survey of Owego Creek and the East and West Branches of Owego Creek at multiple sites was conducted in 1998. Sampling results indicated very good water quality, non-impacted conditions or slightly impacted just outside the non-impacted range. Two of three sites on the West Branch (in Jenksville and in Welton) revealed non-impacted water quality, while the most upstream site (above Speedsville) was assessed as slightly impacted. Nonpoint sources impacts were present at all three sites, but these impacts were determined to be minimal. (Owego Creek Biological Assessment Report, DEC/DOW, BWAR/SBU, June 1999)

Previous Assessment

Local/county agencies have previously expressed concerns regarding poor agricultural practices in the watershed, and potential future impacts on the fishery. Potential source of impairment are typical of rural/agricultural areas. (Tioga/Tompkins WQCCs, 1996)

Segment Description

This segment includes the portion of the stream and all tribs above unnamed trib (-3) near Jenksville. The waters of this portion of the stream are Class C(T). Tribs to this reach/segment, including Boyer Creek (-11), Rawson Hollow Creek

(-15) and Willow Creek (-22), are Class C,C(T). Lower West Branch is listed separately.

East Branch Owego Cr, Lower, and tribs (0603-0012) NoKnownImpet

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 06/25/2009

Water Index No: SR- 16- 8
Hydro Unit Code: 02050103/140 **Str Class:** C(T)
Waterbody Type: River (Low Flow) **Reg/County:** 7/Tioga Co. (54)
Waterbody Size: 45.4 Miles **Quad Map:** NEWARK VALLEY (M-16-1) ...
Seg Description: stream and tribs, from mouth to Newark Valley

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

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 East Branch Owego Creek in Newark Valley (at Knapp Road) was conducted as part of the RIBS biological screening effort in 2003. Sampling results indicated non-impacted conditions. Such samples are dominated by clean-water species and are most similar to a natural community with minimal human impacts. Some additional species, including sensitive non-native species, and additional biomass may be present; the samples reveal no, or only incidental, anomalies. Aquatic life community is fully supported. These results are consistent with sampling conducted at this site in 1998. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, January 2009)

A biological assessment of Wilson Creek in Newark Valley (at Route 38) was also conducted as part of the RIBS biological screening effort in 2003. Sampling results indicated non-impacted conditions. Such samples are dominated by clean-water species and are most similar to a natural community with minimal human impacts. Some additional species, including sensitive non-native species, and additional biomass may be present; the samples reveal no, or only incidental, anomalies. Aquatic life community is fully supported. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, January 2009)

A biological survey of Owego Creek and the East and West Branches of Owego Creek at multiple sites was conducted in 1998. Sampling results indicated very good water quality, non-impacted conditions or slightly impacted just outside

the non-impacted range. Two of three sites on the East Branch (in Newark Valley and in Berkshire) revealed non-impacted water quality, while the most upstream site (below Richford) was assessed as slightly impacted. Nonpoint sources impacts were present at all three sites, but these impacts were determined to be minimal. (Owego Creek Biological Assessment Report, DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, June 1999)

Segment Description

This segment includes the portion of the stream and all tribs from the mouth to/including Wilson Creek (-8) near Newark Valley. The waters of this portion of the stream are Class C,C(T). Tribs to this reach/segment, including Wilson Creek (-8), are also Class C,C(T). Upper East Branch is listed separately.

East Branch Owego Cr, Upper, and tribs (0603-0034) NoKnownImpet

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 06/25/2009

Water Index No: SR- 16- 8
Hydro Unit Code: 02050103/140 **Str Class:** C(T)
Waterbody Type: River (Low Flow)
Waterbody Size: 141.4 Miles
Seg Description: stream and tribs, above Newark Valley

Drain Basin: Susquehanna River
Reg/County: 7/Tioga Co. (54) ...
Quad Map: RICHFORD (L-16-4) ...

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

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 survey of Owego Creek and the East and West Branches of Owego Creek at multiple sites was conducted in 1998. Sampling results indicated very good water quality, non-impacted conditions or slightly impacted just outside the non-impacted range. Two of three sites on the East Branch (in Newark Valley and in Berkshire) revealed non-impacted water quality, while the most upstream site (Below Richford) was assessed as slightly impacted. Nonpoint sources impacts were present at all three sites, but these impacts were determined to be minimal. (Owego Creek Biological Assessment Report, DEC/DOW, BWAR/SBU, June 1999)

Previous Assessment

Concerns were raised by local agencies during a previous assessment (1999) regarding stream aesthetics, odors and debris that discourage recreational uses. Several residents have suggested that the fishery has never fully recovered from a 1980 spill at an ARCO underground storage facility in Harford Mills and the resulting major fishkill. Also noted was the washing of material from a Town of Richford cinder storage facility during rain events. These specific sources should continue to be monitored, however based available sampling data they do not appear cause any significant water quality impacts to the stream. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/WQAS, June 2009)

Segment Description

This segment includes the portion of the stream and all tribs above Wilson Creek (-8) near Newark Valley. The waters of this portion of the stream are Class C,C(T). Tribs to this reach/segment, including Hubby Creek (-12), are also Class C,C(T),C(TS). Lower East Branch is listed separately.