



Upper Susquehanna River Watershed (0205010111)

Water Index Number

SR (portion 7)
 SR-147 thru 171 (selected)
 SR-153
 SR-153
 SR-155
 SR-156-P279a
 SR-158
 SR-165

Waterbody Segment

[Susquehanna River, Main Stem \(0601-0020\)](#)
 Minor Tribs to Susquehanna River (0601-0154)
[Carrs Creek, Lower and tribs \(0601-0005\)](#)
 Carrs Creek, Upper and tribs (0601-0155)
See Ouleout Creek Watershed
 Buckhorn Lake (0601-0093)
 Sand Hill Creek and tribs (0601-0156)
[Otsdawa Creek and minor tribs \(0601-0059\)](#)

Category

Impaired Seg
 UnAssessed
 NoKnownImpct
 UnAssessed
 UnAssessed
 NoKnownImpct

Susquehanna River, Main Stem (0601-0020)

Impaired Seg

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 09/11/2009

Water Index No: SR (portion 7)
Hydro Unit Code: 02050101/220 **Str Class:** B
Waterbody Type: River (Med. Flow)
Waterbody Size: 9.2 Miles
Seg Description: from Sidney to Colliersville

Drain Basin: Susquehanna River
Upper Susquehanna
Reg/County: 4/Otsego Co. (39) ...
Quad Map: UNADILLA FORKS (J-20-4) ...

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

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

Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: METALS (mercury)
Suspected: Pathogens
Possible: Nutrients

Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: On-Site/Septic Syst
Suspected: ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION, Agriculture
Possible: - - -

Resolution/Management Information

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

Further Details

Overview

Fish consumption in this portion of the Susquehanna River is thought to be impaired due to a health advisory that recommend restricting the consumption of fish from the river because of elevated mercury levels. Atmospheric deposition is the likely source of the mercury contamination. Recreational uses are also thought to experience minor impacts due to inadequate on-site wastewater treatment (septic) systems.

Fish Consumption Advisories

Fish consumption in this portion of the Susquehanna is impaired by a health advisory for the entire river due to mercury contamination. The advisory recommends eating no more than one meal per month of larger walleye (over 22 inches). NYS DOH indicates elevated mercury levels have been documented in the river in the vicinity of Owego, Johnson City, Kirkwood and Bainbridge. Although monitoring data above that point is not available, this reach is included in the advisory as a precaution. Atmospheric deposition is considered a likely source of the mercury contamination. Other sources have not been identified. (2009-10 NYS DOH Health Advisories).

Water Quality Sampling

A biological (macroinvertebrate) survey of the Susquehanna River at multiple sites along its entire length was conducted in 2003. Sampling results indicated non-impacted to slightly impacted water quality conditions, with most of the river displaying very good water quality. Results at a number of sites showed better water quality than previous sampling. However this may be at least in part the result of high flows at the time of the survey. High flow conditions tend to de-emphasize point source contribution due to increased dilution and increase nonpoint source contributions due to increase runoff. This survey included sampling sites on the Susquehanna River in Unadilla (at DEC fishing access) and in Oneonta (at Route 23). Sampling results at both sites indicated non-impacted conditions. Such samples are dominated by clean-water species and conditions that reflect a natural community with minimal, if any, human impacts. Aquatic life community is clearly fully supported. (Susquehanna River Biological Assessment Report, DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, January 2004)

Previous biological sampling on the Susquehanna in Colliersville (1991, 92 97) revealed slightly impacted condition, with low species richness and absence of stoneflies. Crayfish, caddisflies and riffle beetles were numerous. However, these impacts are now considered to be primarily the result of impoundment effects from Goodyear Lake. The results at the Oneonta site farther downstream are considered to be more representative on this reach. (DEC/DOW, BWAR/SBU, January 2004)

RIBS Intensive Network monitoring of the river was conducted at Unadilla in 1998. Water quality at the site was assessed as good. Biologic communities were non-impacted, and there were no significant chemical parameters of concern in the water column. A fishery assessment indicates an abundant, diverse and healthy fishery. Elevated levels of some pesticides (chlordan, lindane) which may impact aquatic life were noted in bottom sediment samples. RIBS sampling of the river in Colliersville in 1991-92 also revealed good water quality. (DEC/DOW, BWAR/RIBS, 1999)

Water Quality Management

In a number of small unsewered communities along this reach, inadequate residential and commercial on-site wastewater treatment systems result in the discharge of untreated or poorly treated wastewater to the ground or directly into the river. Such instances have been documented in the Hamlet of Riverside and elsewhere in the Town of Unadilla (Otego, Wells Bridge, Unadilla). Construction of a collection and conveyance system to address the discharges to the Susquehanna and Unadilla Rivers in the town has been discussed, but adequate funding has not been identified. Individual discharges are currently being addressed on a case-by-case basis by NYSDEC and health department staff. (DEC/DOW, Region 4, September 2009)

Section 303(d) Listing

Due to the fish consumption advisory this portion of Susquehanna River was included in the 2006 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, but it is not included on the 2008 List. Though the waterbody remains impaired, it 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 main stem portion of the river from the Unadilla River (-146) in Sydney to Goodyear Lake in Colliersville. This reach of the river is Class B.

Carrs Creek, Lower and tribs (0601-0005)

NoKnownImpct

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 09/10/2009

Water Index No: SR-153
Hydro Unit Code: 02050101/110 **Str Class:** C(T)
Waterbody Type: River (Low Flow) **Reg/County:** 4/Delaware Co. (13)
Waterbody Size: 11.3 Miles **Quad Map:** UNADILLA (L-19-3)
Seg Description: stream and tribs from mouth to Sidney Center

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

Biological (macroinvertebrate) sampling of Carrs Creek in Youngs (at Poplar Hill Road) indicated non-impacted water quality conditions. The sample was diverse, well-balanced and satisfied screening criteria. (DEC/DOW, BWAR/SBU, January 1999)

Previous Assessment

NYSDEC regional staff had reported during a previous assessment effort that impacts from septic systems and the resulting contamination of private wells were noted in a 1990 nonpoint sources evaluation. More recent discussion with the NYS DOH office in the county indicate that these were isolated problems had been addressed by local code enforcement officials. There were no known direct impacts to the stream. (DEC/DOW, BWAM and NYS DOH, September 2009)

Segment Description

This segment includes the portion of the stream and all tribs from the mouth to/including unnamed trib (-6) in Sidney Center. The waters of this portion of the stream are Class C,C(T). Tribs to this reach/segment are primarily Class C,C(T), with a small subtrib (-6-1-1) designated Class AA. Upper Carrs Creek listed separately.

Otsdawa Creek and minor tribs (0601-0059)

NoKnownImpet

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 07/19/2000

Water Index No: SR-165
Hydro Unit Code: 02050101/080 **Str Class:** C(TS)
Waterbody Type: River (Low Flow) **Reg/County:** 4/Otsego Co. (39)
Waterbody Size: 2.6 Miles **Quad Map:** OTEGO (L-20-1)
Seg Description: stream and selected 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
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

Biological (macroinvertebrate) sampling of Otsdawa Creek in Otego (at Main Street) indicated non-impacted water quality conditions. The sample was dominated by midges and was diverse, well-balanced and all indices were indicative of excellent water quality. (DEC/DOW, BWAR/SBU, January 1999)

Segment Description

This segment includes the entire stream and all tribs. The waters of the stream are Class C(TS). Tribs to this reach/segment, including West Branch Otsdawa Creek (-3) and East Branch Otsdawa Creek (-4), are Class C,C(T),C(TS).