

Section 5

5 Ohio's WQS Use Designations

Beneficial use designations describe existing or potential uses of water bodies. They take into consideration the use and value of water for public water supplies, protection and propagation of aquatic life, recreation in and on the water, agricultural, industrial and other purposes. Ohio EPA assigns beneficial use designations to water bodies in the state. There may be more than one use designation assigned to a water body. Examples of beneficial use designations include: public water supply, primary contact recreation, and numerous sub-categories of aquatic life uses. The following chart lists all of Ohio's WQS designated uses and the status of the evaluation that was conducted for the Ohio 2004 IR.

| Beneficial Use Category | Key Attributes, or why a water would be designated in the category | Evaluation status in 2004 Integrated Report |
|---|---|--|
| <i>Categories for the protection of aquatic life</i> | | |
| Coldwater Habitat | native cold water or cool water species; put-and-take trout stocking | Assessed on case by case basis |
| Seasonal Salmonid Habitat | supports lake run steelhead trout fisheries | No direct assessment, streams assessed as EWH or WWH |
| Exceptional Warmwater Habitat | unique and diverse assemblage of fish and invertebrates | 69% of the Watershed Assessment Units and 96% of the Large River Assessment Units fully assessed using direct comparisons of fish and macroinvertebrate community index scores to the biocriteria in Ohio's WQS; sources and causes of impairment were assessed using biological indicators and water chemistry data |
| Warmwater Habitat (WWH) | typical assemblages of fish and invertebrates | |
| Modified Warmwater Habitat | tolerant assemblages of fish and macroinvertebrates; irretrievable condition precludes WWH | |
| Limited Resource Waters | fish and macroinvertebrates severely limited by physical habitat or other irretrievable condition | Assessed on case by case basis |
| <i>Categories for the protection of recreational activities</i> | | |
| Bathing Waters | Lake Erie (entire lake); for inland waters bathing beach with lifeguard/bath house | Lake Erie beaches fully evaluated no inland waters evaluated |
| Primary Contact Recreation | water depth allows full body immersion | 44% of the assessment units assessed using percentile rankings of fecal coliform counts |
| Secondary Contact Recreation | water depth prevents full body immersion | Not assessed, see Section 6.4.1 |
| <i>Categories for the protection of water supplies</i> | | |
| Public Water Supply | waters within 500 yards of all public water supply surface water intakes | Not assessed, methods under development, see Section 6.2.1 |
| Agricultural Water Supply | water used, or potentially used, for livestock watering and/or irrigation | Not assessed |
| Industrial Water Supply | water used for industrial purposes | Not assessed |