

# Water Quality Standards in the Upper Delaware River

## Why Should I Care?

How do we  
maintain  
high quality  
fisheries?



How do we  
protect  
water quality  
for  
swimming?




Photo: [timesunion.com](http://timesunion.com)

How do we  
protect  
source water  
for drinking?



Photo: Baudolino on Pixabay

A scenic landscape featuring a calm river in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding environment. The river is flanked by lush, green forested hills. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

# Water Quality Standards!

- What are they?
- Where do you find them?
- Who develops them?
- **HOW CAN WE MAKE THEM BETTER?**

# WHAT ARE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS?

## Three main parts:

Identify <b>USES</b> of Delaware River	<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>
Determine levels of pollutants that are not going to harm uses	<b>WATER QUALITY CRITERIA</b>
Protect <b>EXISTING</b> water quality	<b>“ANTIDEGRADATION”</b>



# CLASSIFICATION OF WATERS

**Drinking = Class A**

**Swimming = Class B**

**Fishing = Class C**



# LEVELS OF PROTECTION - WATER QUALITY CRITERIA

Drinking water



Toxic contaminants, sediment

Swimming



Bacteria

Fishing



Dissolved oxygen, temperature



# WHERE TO FIND THEM



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**Water Quality  
Standards and  
Classifications**

Advanced Notice of  
Proposed Rulemaking -  
Saline Water  
Reclassification and Water  
Quality Standards Updates

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## Water Quality Standards and Classifications

On this page:

- [Water Quality Standards and Classifications](#)
  - [Standards and Criteria](#)
  - [Water Classifications and Reclassification](#)
  - [Antidegradation](#)
- [Proposed Amendments to Water Quality Criteria to Protect Primary and Secondary Contact Recreation in NYS Saline Waters](#)
- [Water Quality Guidance Values to Regulate PFOA, PFOS, and 1, 4-Dioxane](#)
- [Nutrient Criteria](#)
- [Table of Milestones for Nutrient Criteria](#)

Water Quality Standards are the basis for programs to protect the state waters. Standards set forth the maximum allowable levels of chemical pollutants and are used as the regulatory targets for permitting, compliance, enforcement, and monitoring and assessment of the quality of the state's waters. Waters are classified for their best uses (fishing, source of drinking water, etc.) and standards (and guidance values) are set to protect those uses.

The water quality standards program is a state program with federal (U.S. EPA) oversight. New York's longstanding water quality standards program predates the federal Clean Water Act and protects both surface waters and groundwaters.

U.S. EPA defines a water quality standard to include the criteria, the designated (best) uses of the water, and an antidegradation policy.

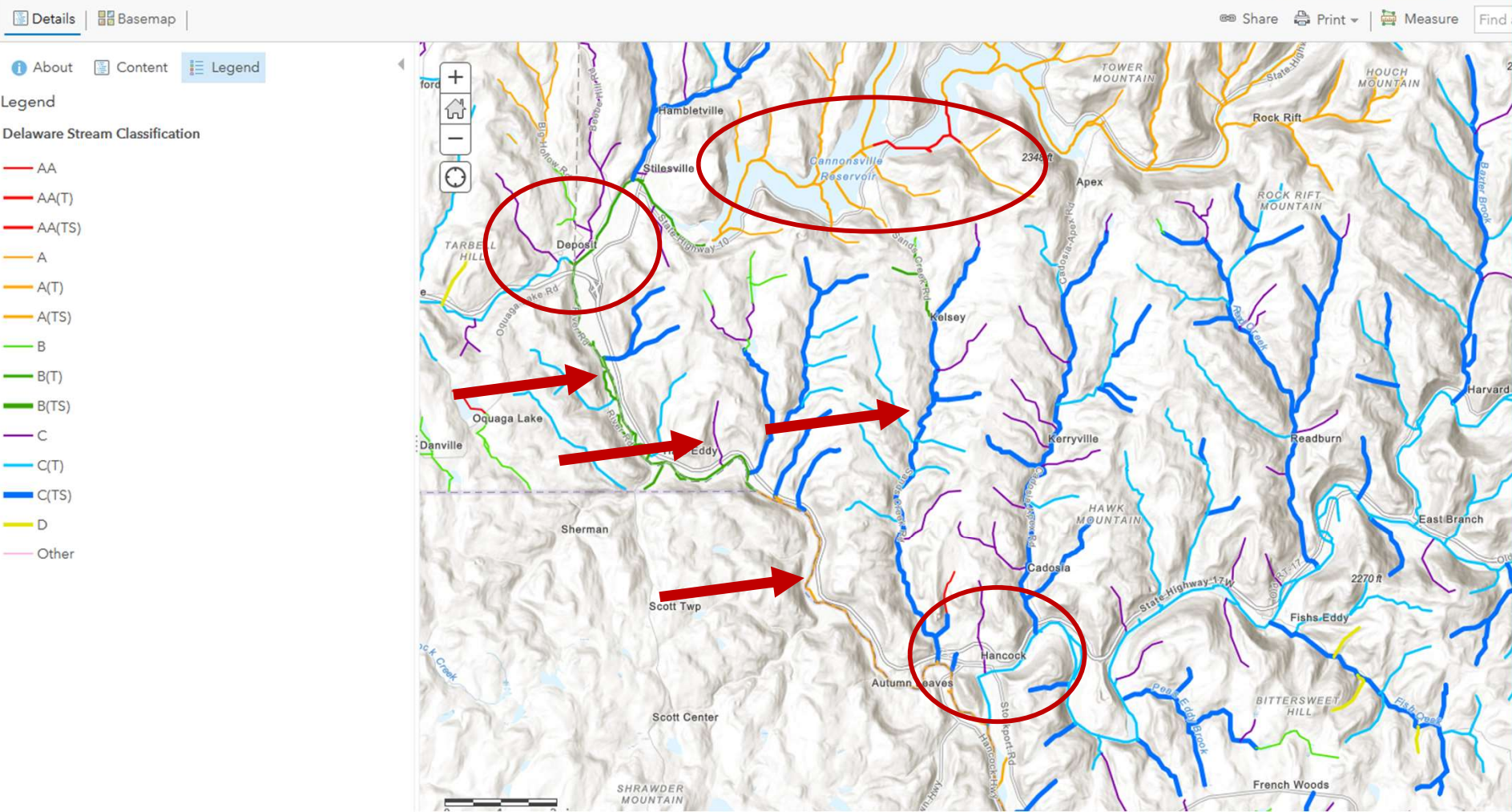
Information regarding the New York State Water Quality Standards Program can be found in state regulation, specifically New York Codes, Rules and Regulations Title 6 (6 NYCRR) and guidance documents found in the Division of Water Technical and Operational Guidance Series (TOGS). Contact Jason Fagel at [jason.fagel@dec.ny.gov](mailto:jason.fagel@dec.ny.gov), Chief, Standards and Analytical Support Section.



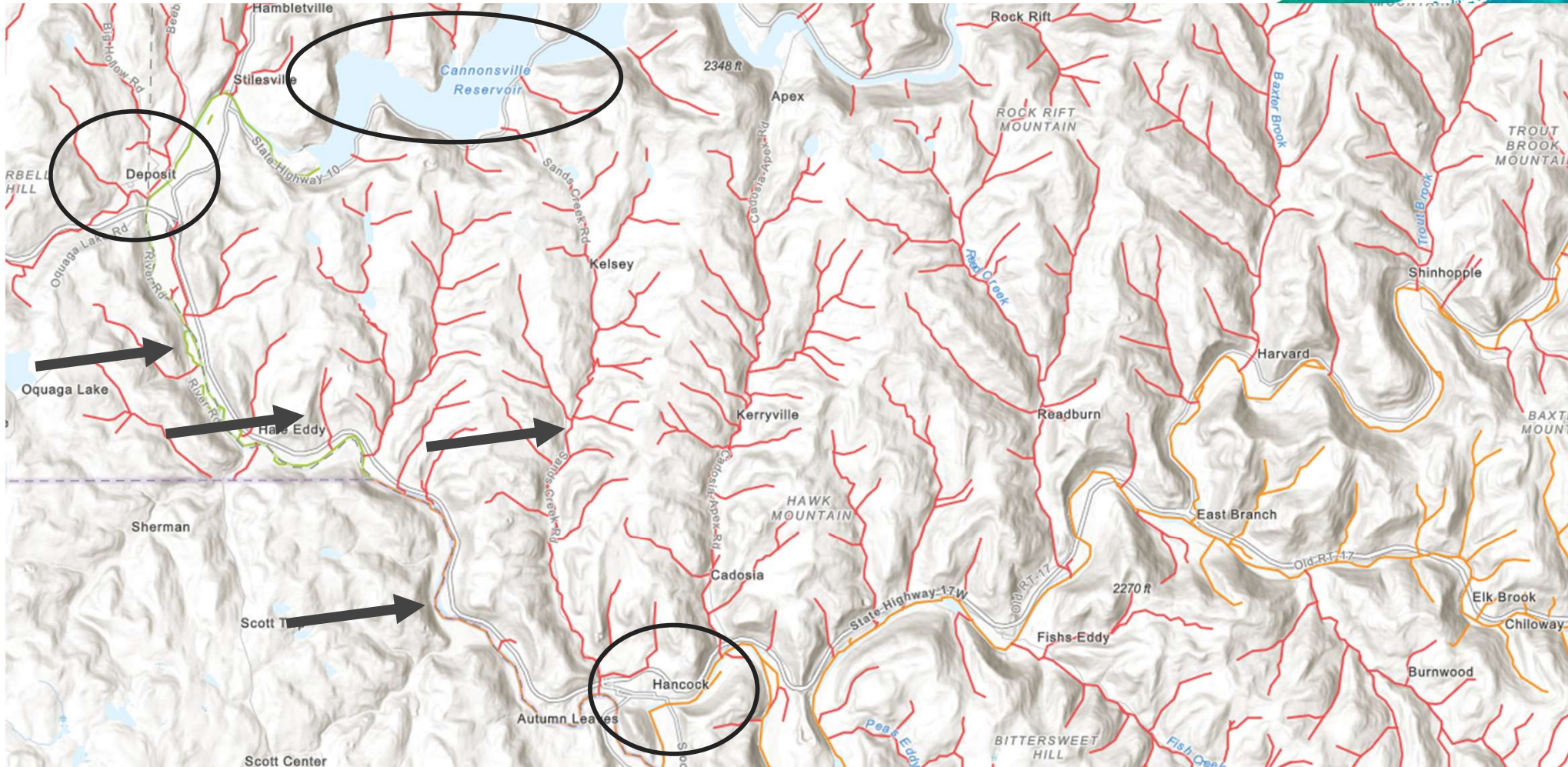
# WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

Class	Primary Use	Criteria
A	Water supply for drinking or culinary purposes <u>and</u> recreation <u>and</u> fishing	Chloride less than 250 mg/L
B	Recreation (swimming and boating) <u>and</u> fishing	Fecal coliform (bacteria) less than 200 per 100 ml
C	Fishing	Dissolved oxygen always greater than 5 mg/L; 7 mg/L where trout spawn

# UPPER DELAWARE USES



# UPPER DELAWARE ASSESSMENT



# HOW WE CAN MAKE THEM BETTER



- Are all uses identified?
- Are conditions established that protect uses?
- Are we paying attention to threats?

# Thanks

Grateful for the  
opportunity...

Special thanks for slide background: [SlidesCarnival](#), [GraphicBurguer](#)

Photo credits: Friends of the Upper Delaware