



It's Our Water!

(Join us and schedule a workshop TODAY!)

N.C. Division of Water
Resources

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Is Your Adopted Stream on the Impaired Waters List?



You've tested the water,
but what does the State
say about your water
quality?

States must submit an integrated report of state water quality every two years to the Environmental Protection Agency under Section 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act. The N.C. Division of Water Quality is responsible for this report which describes the quality of surface waters, groundwater and wetlands. It details the types of monitoring conducted, how well waters support their designated uses (aquatic habitat for wildlife, water supply, etc.), and

likely causes and sources of impairments. In addition, a list of degraded waterways (a 303(d) list), where the total amounts of certain types of pollutants is greater than national standards must also be compiled so plans can be created to decrease the total maximum daily loads, or TMDL of the excess pollutants.

Surface waters are organized by river basin and then by smaller sections and tributaries. The list provides the reason for impairment along certain stretches of stream or river such as degraded aquatic habitat, fish advisories for both mercury and dioxins, and high fecal coliform levels. The 303(d) list of impaired waters is part of this report and includes a description of the section of waters scheduled for TMDL development plans including the reason the waterways is on the list. A status report for waterways that were placed on the list in 2004 and a list of waterways removed from the list are also included.

Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

IOW Resources On-line 2

What is IOW? 3

Want to Host a Workshop 3

Did You Know?

- The Cape Fear River Basin has the largest drainage basin in NC.
- The Neuse River is the longest continuous river in NC.
- At its mouth, the Neuse River is the widest river in America at 6 miles across.
- Lake Mattamusquette is the largest natural lake in NC.

Source: Discover North Carolina's River Basins.



Is Your Stream Impaired? Continued

If you would like more information on the health of your river basin or to see if your adopted waterway is on the 303(d) list, a public review draft of the 2006 report can be found at the N.C. Division of Water Quality's Web site: h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tmdl/General_303d.htm.



"Acts of conservation without the requisite desire and skills are futile. To create these desires and skills and the community motive is the task of education."

— Aldo Leopold

It's Our Water! Resources Available On Our Web Site

Check out the resources created for It's Our Water educators.

- Clean, color hydrologic cycle diagrams (blank and labeled).
- Gross Water Quality Assessment Guidelines
- String and Stick Stream Profiling Lab
- Stream Survey Data Sheets
- North Carolina River Basin Maps for labeling
- River Basin Drop Game
- Storm Water Drop Game
- Secchi Disks for Turbidity Tubes
- Advanced Water Quality Bingo and Definition Cards
- Newsletters

[www.ncwater.org/Education_and_Technical_Assistance/
Its_Our_Water/educators/](http://www.ncwater.org/Education_and_Technical_Assistance/Its_Our_Water/educators/)



N.C. Division of Water Resources

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It's Our Water!...

- Is a North Carolina-specific high school Earth/ Environmental Science curriculum and resource guide for North Carolina students and teachers. It covers the importance of water quality and quantity, monitoring and maintaining water quality, and the impacts individual choices and actions have on water quality.
- Centers around field activities in a local stream that leads to a final report and recommendations by the class, coordinated with a series of videos, demonstrations, classroom activities, homework and quizzes.
- Is aligned with the new (2004) North Carolina Standard Course of Study for **high school Earth/Environmental Science**.

Would You Like to Host an It's Our Water! Workshop?

All you need to do is...

- Gather up 10 high school science teachers from your school or district.
- Pick a workday or other day you can meet for 6 — 10 hours.
- Find a place to have this meeting.
- Ask the school district or another sponsor to pay \$25 each for your materials (Including: It's Our Water! DVD and Curriculum Guide, Project WET, Healthy Water Healthy People Testing Kit Manual, and NC River Basin Booklet with inserts and posters, and more).
- Contact Shelby Gull Laird <shelby.gull@ncmail.net>, who will arrange for another facilitator or herself to come to your facility and work with your group learning about It's Our Water!

