



Maryland DNR

US EPA National Rivers and Streams Assessment

From 2008 to 2009, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Monitoring and Non-tidal Assessment Division (MANTA) and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) participated in the U.S. EPA's National Rivers and Stream Assessment (NRSA). The survey is a blend of the earlier wadeable stream survey (WSA) and the first attempt at assessing non-wadeable streams and rivers. The survey is one of a series being implemented to periodically make statistically-valid and environmentally relevant reports on the health of the nation's waters. Prior to sampling in both years, staff underwent training by EPA personnel in field methods of the rivers and streams survey. Each year, 14 randomly selected wadeable and non-wadeable streams were sampled following EPA methods for water chemistry, physical habitat, fish, benthic macroinvertebrates, periphyton, sediment, invasive plants, and other indicators. Since the survey work has ended, the U.S. EPA has begun analyzing the thousands of samples collected throughout the nation.

Periodic updates to the project are made available through the U.S. EPA NRSA website (<http://water.epa.gov/type/rsl/monitoring/riverssurvey/index.cfm>). Detailed descriptions of the field methods, indicators, QAPP, and results of prior surveys of wadeable streams and lakes are also available on the website. For further information please contact Ellen Tarquinio with U.S. EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (202-566-2267). The Maryland regional contact is Louis Reynolds at the U.S. EPA Wheeling, WV Operations Office (304-234-0244).

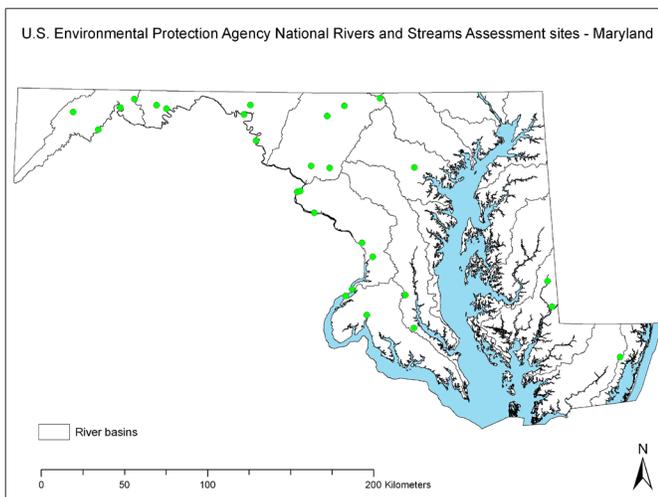


Photo from an EPA NRSA site on Fifteen Mile Creek, western Maryland
Credit: Angela Bollinger