

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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DES to participate in survey of nation's rivers and streams

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services will begin work this summer on an EPA sponsored project to characterize the condition of the nation's flowing waters. The survey will use a random sampling design to complete a statistically valid assessment of all flowing waters. As part of its commitment to this project, 16 rivers and streams from across New Hampshire will be sampled in 2008 and 2009. These data will be combined with data from over 1,800 other sites nationwide to provide the most comprehensive and coordinated snap-shot evaluation to date of the rivers and streams in the U.S. using a consistent sampling protocol.

Components of the project include water chemistry, physical habitat, structure and composition of biological communities, fish tissue, and bacteriological samples. Of the sixteen sites in New Hampshire, six are tentatively scheduled to occur on the Connecticut River, two on the Merrimack River, and two on the Androscoggin River. The remaining six sites are on the Cocheco River (Rochester), Nubanusit Brook (Peterborough), Peavy Brook (Ossipee), Nineteenmile Brook (Tuftonboro), Indian River (Canaan), and an unnamed brook in Amherst.

Once field work for the national sites is completed DES staff will sample 34 additional sites in order to complete a statewide assessment of New Hampshire's rivers and streams. A report on these results is expected to be available in 2012.

In conjunction with the national survey of rivers and streams, the DES participated in a similar effort for lakes in 2007. EPA expects additional studies will follow for coastal waters and wetlands in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

For more information on this project, contact David Neils, Aquatic Biologist at 603 271-8865 or David.Neils@des.nh.gov.

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