

Interstate Designated Use and Waterbody Classification Matrix

Prepared by NEIWPCC in cooperation with the States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
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Note that each cell's listings are ordered by use type:

(1) drinking water uses	(6) culinary and food processing uses
(2) aquatic/wildlife habitat uses	(7) navigation uses
(3) recreational uses	(8) hydroelectric uses
(4) fishing/shellfishing uses	(9) industrial water supply uses
(5) agriculture water supply uses	(10) aesthetic uses
	(11) other uses

Classification	CT	MA	ME	NH	NY	RI	VT
Class AA	(1) existing or proposed drinking water supplies (2) habitat for fish and other aquatic life and wildlife (3) recreation (5) water supply for agriculture (9) water supply for industry	No such classification.	(1) drinking water after disinfection (2) habitat for fish and other aquatic life (the habitat must be characterized as free-flowing and natural) (3) recreation in and on the water (4) fishing (5) agriculture (7) navigation <i>Outstanding natural resources and which should be preserved because of their ecological, social, scenic or recreational importance.</i>	No such classification.	AA-Special: (1) a source of water supply for drinking (2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife propagation and survival (3) primary and secondary contact recreation (4) fishing (6) a source of water supply for culinary or food processing purposes <i>- no floating solids, settleable solids, oil, sludge deposits, toxic wastes, deleterious substances, colored or other wastes or heated liquids attributable to sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes</i> <i>- no discharge or disposal of sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes</i> <i>- no phosphorus and nitrogen in amounts that will result in growths of algae, weeds and slimes that will impair the waters for their best usages</i> <i>- no alteration to flow that will impair the waters for their best usages</i> <i>- no increase in turbidity that will cause a substantial visible contrast to natural conditions</i> AA: (1) a source of water supply for drinking (2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife propagation and survival (3) primary and secondary contact recreation (4) fishing (6) a source of water supply for culinary or food processing purposes <i>- may be given to those waters that, if subjected to approved disinfection treatment, with additional treatment if necessary to remove naturally present impurities, meet or will meet New York State Department of Health drinking water standards and are or will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes</i>	(1) a source of public drinking water supply (PDWS) or as tributary waters within a public drinking water supply watershed (the terminal reservoir of the PDWS are identified in Appendix A) (2) fish and wildlife habitat (3) primary and secondary contact recreational activities <i>Class AA waters used for public drinking water supply may be subject to restricted recreational use by State and local authorities</i>	No such classification.
Class A	(1) potential drinking water supplies (2) habitat for fish and other aquatic life and wildlife (3) recreation (5) water supply for industry and agriculture (7) navigation	(1) source of public water supply and their tributaries (2) excellent habitat for fish, other aquatic life and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth and other critical functions (3) primary and secondary contact recreation, even if not allowed (10) excellent aesthetic value <i>These waters are protected as Outstanding Resource Waters.</i>	(1) drinking water after disinfection (2) habitat for fish and other aquatic life (the habitat must be characterized as natural) (3) recreation in and on the water (4) fishing (5) agriculture (7) navigation (8) hydroelectric power generation, except as prohibited under Title 12, section 403 (9) industrial process and cooling water supply	(1) potentially acceptable for water supply uses after adequate treatment (2) suitable, wherever attainable, for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife (3) suitable, wherever attainable, for recreation in and on surface waters (4) fish and shellfish consumption	A-Special: (1) a source of water supply for drinking (2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife propagation and survival (3) primary and secondary contact recreation (4) fishing (6) a source of water supply for culinary or food processing purposes <i>- may be given to those international boundary waters that, if subjected to approved treatment, equal to coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection with additional treatment, if necessary, to reduce naturally present impurities, meet or will meet New York State Department of Health drinking water standards and are or will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes</i> A: (1) a source of water supply for drinking (2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife propagation and survival (3) primary and secondary contact recreation (4) fishing (6) a source of water supply for culinary or food processing purposes <i>- may be given to those waters that, if subjected to approved treatment equal to coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection, with additional treatment if necessary to reduce naturally present impurities, meet or will meet New York State Department of Health drinking water standards and are or will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes</i>	(2) fish and wildlife habitat (3) primary and secondary contact recreational activities	A(1) Ecological Waters: <i>Managed to achieve and maintain waters in a natural condition</i> (2) aquatic biota, wildlife, and aquatic habitat (3) swimming and other primary contact recreation, and boating, fishing, and other recreational uses (4) fishing A(2) Public Water Supplies: (1) public water supplies (2) aquatic biota, wildlife, and aquatic habitat (3) swimming and other primary contact recreation, and boating, fishing, and other recreational uses (4) fishing

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Class B	(2) habitat for fish and other aquatic life and wildlife (3) recreation (5) agricultural water supply (7) navigation (9) industrial water supply	(1) where designated in 314 CMR 4.06, they shall be suitable as a source of public water supply with appropriate treatment ("Treated Water Supply") (2) habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth and other critical functions (3) primary and secondary contact recreation (5) irrigation and other agricultural uses (9) compatible industrial cooling and process uses (10) consistently good aesthetic value	(1) drinking water supply after treatment (2) habitat for fish and other aquatic life (the habitat must be characterized as unimpaired) (3) recreation in and on the water (4) fishing (5) agriculture (7) navigation (8) hydroelectric power generation, except as prohibited under Title 12, section 403 (9) industrial process and cooling water supply	(1) acceptable for water supply uses after adequate treatment (2) suitable, wherever attainable, for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife (3) suitable, wherever attainable, for recreation in and on surface waters (with swimming specifically cited) (4) suitable for fish and shellfish consumption (with fishing specifically cited)	(2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife propagation and survival (3) primary and secondary contact recreation (4) fishing	B: (2) fish and wildlife habitat (3) primary and secondary contact recreational activities B1: (2) fish and wildlife habitat (3) primary and secondary contact recreational activities (primary contact recreational activities may be impacted due to pathogens from approved wastewater discharges - however all Class B criteria must be met) <i>Certain Class B and B1 waterbody segments may have partial use designations assigned to them as noted in rule 8.B.(3), denoting specific restrictions of use that may affect the application of criteria:</i> Class B(a) and B1(a): Combined Sewer Overflows will likely restrict primary contact recreational activities; shellfishing uses; and fish and wildlife habitat.	(1) public water supply (2) aquatic biota, wildlife, and aquatic habitat (3) swimming and other primary contact recreation, and boating, fishing, and other recreational uses (4) fishing (5) irrigation of crops and other agricultural uses
Class C	No such classification	(2) habitat for fish, other aquatic life and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth and other critical functions (3) secondary contact recreation (5) irrigation of crops used for consumption after cooking (9) compatible industrial cooling and process uses (10) good aesthetic value	(1) drinking water supply after treatment (2) habitat for fish and other aquatic life (3) recreation in and on the water (4) fishing (5) agriculture (7) navigation (8) hydroelectric power generation, except as prohibited under Title 12, section 403 (9) industrial process and cooling water supply	No such classification.	(2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife propagation and survival (3) suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes (4) fishing	(2) fish and wildlife habitat (3) secondary contact recreational activities	No such classification.
Class D	No such classification	No such classification.	No such classification.	No such classification.	(2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife survival (the waters will not support fish propagation due to such natural conditions as intermittency of flow, water conditions not conducive to propagation of game fishery, or stream bed conditions) (3) suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes (4) fishing	No such classification.	No such classification.

Classification	CT	MA	ME	NH	NY	RI	VT
Class SA	<p>(2) habitat for marine fish, other aquatic life and wildlife (3) recreation (4) shellfish harvesting for direct human consumption (7) navigation (9) industrial water supply</p>	<p>(2) excellent habitat for fish, other aquatic life and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth and other critical functions (Note: may include, but is not limited to, seagrass) (3) primary and secondary contact recreation (4) where designated in the tables to 314 CMR 4.00 for shellfishing, these waters shall be suitable for shellfish harvesting without deputation (Approved and Conditionally Approved Shellfish Areas). (10) excellent aesthetic value</p>	<p>(2) habitat for fish and other estuarine and marine life (the habitat must be characterized as free-flowing and natural) (3) recreation in and on the water (4) fishing, aquaculture, and propagation and harvesting of shellfish (7) navigation <i>Outstanding natural resources and which should be preserved because of their ecological, social, scenic, economic or recreational importance.</i></p>	No such classification.	<p>(2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife propagation and survival (3) primary and secondary contact recreation (4) fishing, and shellfishing for market purposes</p>	<p>(2) fish and wildlife habitat (3) primary and secondary contact recreational activities (4) aquacultural uses, shellfish harvesting for direct human consumption <i>Some Class SA waters contain Closed Safety Zones which are waters in the vicinity of an approved sanitary discharge which may be impacted in the event of complete failure of treatment and are therefore, currently prohibited to shellfishing. Although shellfishing use is restricted, all SA criteria must be met.</i> <i>Certain Class SA waterbody segments may have partial use designations assigned to them as noted in rules 8.B(3), denoting specific restrictions of use that may affect the application of criteria:</i> Class SA(b): These waters are in the vicinity of marinas and/or mooring fields and therefore seasonal shellfishing closures will likely be required as listed in the most recent (revised annually) RIDEM document entitled Shellfish Closure Areas, however, all Class SA criteria must be attained.</p>	No such classification.
Class SB	<p>(2) habitat for marine fish, other aquatic life and wildlife (3) recreation (4) commercial shellfish harvesting (7) navigation (9) industrial water supply</p>	<p>(2) habitat for fish, other aquatic life and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth and other critical functions (Note: may include, but is not limited to, seagrass) (3) primary and secondary contact recreation (4) where designated in the tables to 314 CMR 4.00 for shellfishing, these waters shall be suitable for shellfish harvesting with deputation (Restricted and Conditionally Restricted Shellfish Areas) (10) consistently good aesthetic value</p>	<p>(2) habitat for fish and other estuarine and marine life (the habitat must be characterized as unimpaired) (3) recreation in and on the water (4) fishing, aquaculture, and propagation and harvesting of shellfish (7) navigation (8) hydroelectric power generation (9) industrial process and cooling water supply</p>	No such classification.	<p>(2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife propagation and survival (3) primary and secondary contact recreation (4) fishing</p>	<p>SB: (2) fish and wildlife habitat (3) primary and secondary contact recreational activities (4) shellfish harvesting for controlled relay and deputation SB1: (2) fish and wildlife habitat (3) primary and secondary contact recreational activities (primary contact recreational activities may be impacted due to pathogens from approved wastewater discharges - however all Class SB criteria must be met) <i>Certain Class SB and SB1 waterbody segments may have partial use designations assigned to them as noted in rules 8.B(3), denoting specific restrictions of use that may affect the application of criteria:</i> Class SB(a) and SB1(a): Combined Sewer Overflows will likely restrict primary contact recreational activities; shellfishing uses; and fish and wildlife habitat.</p>	No such classification.
Class SC	No such classification	<p>(2) habitat for fish, other aquatic life and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth and other critical functions (3) secondary contact recreation (9) certain industrial cooling and process use (10) good aesthetic value</p>	<p>(2) habitat for fish and other estuarine and marine life (3) recreation in and on the water (4) fishing, aquaculture, and propagation and restricted harvesting of shellfish (7) navigation (8) hydroelectric power generation (9) industrial process and cooling water supply</p>	No such classification.	<p>(2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife propagation and survival (3) primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes (4) fishing</p>	<p>(2) fish and wildlife habitat (3) secondary contact recreational activities</p>	No such classification.
Class SD	No such classification	No such classification.	No such classification.	No such classification.	<p>(2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife survival (4) fishing <i>- may be given to those waters that, because of natural or man-made conditions, cannot meet the requirements for primary and secondary contact recreation and fish propagation.</i></p>	No such classification.	No such classification.

Classification	CT	MA	ME	NH	NY	RI	VT
Other Classifications	N/A	N/A	<p>Class GPA shall be the sole classification of great ponds and natural ponds and lakes less than 10 acres in size.</p> <p>(1) drinking water after disinfection (2) habitat for fish and other aquatic life. The habitat must be characterized as natural (3) recreation in and on the water (4) fishing (5) agriculture</p> <p>(7) navigation (8) hydroelectric power generation (9) industrial process and cooling water supply</p>	<p>Temporary Partial Use (TPU): For waters where it can be demonstrated that Class B standards cannot be met at all times as a result of combined sewer overflows (CSO)s. Can last during CSO discharges and up to 3 days following cessation of CSO discharges. <i>(Note: As of December 2014, no surface water in NH has ever been classified as TPU and none are anticipated to be classified in the future.)</i></p> <p>(2) free from chemicals and other materials and conditions inimical to aquatic life or the maintenance of aquatic life</p>	<p>Class N:</p> <p>(1) a source of water for drinking (2) fish propagation, suitable for shellfish and wildlife propagation and survival and fish survival (3) recreation, bathing (4) fishing (6) a source of water for culinary purposes (11) enjoyment of water in its natural condition.</p> <p>- no discharge of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes, waste effluents or any sewage effluents not having had filtration resulting from at least 200 feet of lateral travel through unconsolidated earth. A greater distance may be required if inspection shows that, due to peculiar geologic conditions, this distance is inadequate to protect the water from pollution. - no deleterious substances, hydrocarbons or substances that would contribute to eutrophication, nor shall they receive surface runoff containing any such substance. - no alteration to flow that will impair the waters for their best usages <i>(Note: As of December 2014, no New York waters have are classified as Class N)</i></p> <p>Class I:</p> <p>(2) suitable for fish, shellfish, and wildlife propagation and survival (3) secondary contact recreation (4) fishing</p>	N/A	N/A
Information Source	Connecticut Water Quality Standards Regulations (PDF) adopted October 10, 2013	Department of Environmental Protection, MA Water Quality Standards, 314 Code of MA Regulations (CMR) 4.00, Effective February 25, 2011	Department of Environmental Protection, Classification of Maine Waters, Title 38, Chapter 3, Subchapter 1, Article 4-A, Sections 464 and 465, 2005	Department of Environmental Services, Classification of Waters, Title L, Chapter 485-A, Section 8, effective July 11, 1998. NH Code of Administrative Rules, Chapter Env-Wq 1700 Surface Water Quality Regulations	Department of Environmental Conservation, Classifications-Surface Waters and Groundwaters, Chapter X, Part 701; February 2008	Department of Environmental Management, Water Quality Regulations, July 2006, Amended December 2010	State of Vermont Water Resources Board, Vermont Water Quality Standards, adopted January 25, 2006; Effective February 9, 2006
Web Access	http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/regulations/22a/22a-426-1through9.pdf	http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/service/regulations/314cmr04.pdf	http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/wqs/index.html	http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ras/html/485-A/485-A-8.htm http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-wq1700.pdf	http://www.dec.ny.gov/regs/4592.html#15993	http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/water/h2oq10.pdf	http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/docs/msqp/sw_water_quality_standards.pdf