



NUTRIENT TRADING OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

**To Improve Water Quality in the
Long Island Sound**

June 23, 2021

TODAY'S AGENDA

3:00 – 3:10 Introduction & project overview
Emma Gildesgame, NEIWPCC

3:10 – 3:45 **Presentation:** Economic Obstacles and Opportunities
Rachel Bouvier, rbouvier Consulting

3:45 – 4:20 **Presentation:** Trading in the Ecosystem Context
Paul Stacey, Footprints in the Water, LLC

4:20 – 4:30 Q&A, initial feedback

4:30-5:00 Optional: Q&A, discussion, and feedback.

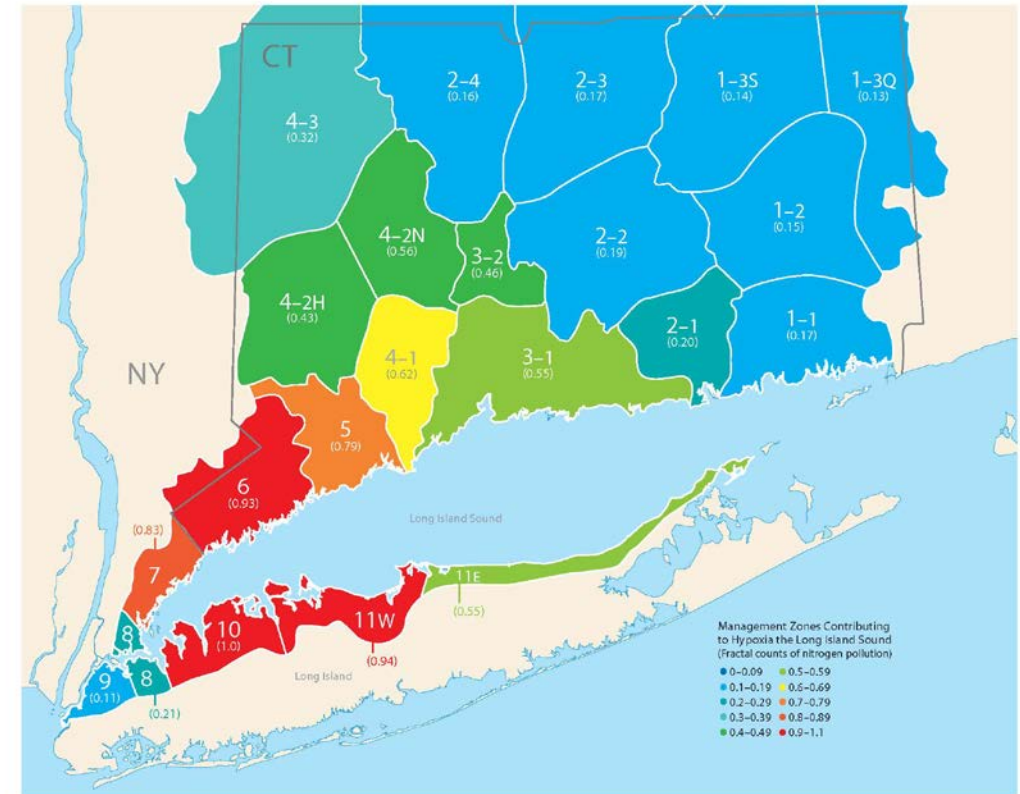
LIS NEEDS MORE WQ IMPROVEMENTS

- Meeting some TMDL N reduction targets
- Significant WQ improvements
- Hypoxia, other WQ challenges persist
- Reductions needed from nonpoint sources



TRADING AS A TOOL FOR CLEANER WATER?

- CT Nitrogen Credit Exchange – successful for WWTFs!
- Point – Nonpoint Trading?
- Interstate Trading?
- Trading beyond single-pollutant approach?



Trade equalized N loading to the LIS
Map: [LISS](#)

LEARNING FROM OTHERS: WHAT IS SUCCESSFUL TRADING?

- Watershed-Specific
- Simple, Flexible, Accountable, & Transparent
- Reduce costs (transaction, administrative, monitoring)
 - Build on existing programs, partnerships
- Stack credits, recognize co-benefits
- Point – Nonpoint Trading
 - PS – Ag NPS most common
 - NPS trades require tracking, accounting



LEARNING FROM OTHERS: BALANCING GOALS

- **Baselines** set the starting point for trading
- **Trade ratios** account for differences between buyers + sellers
- Address and mitigate **risks**
- Determine **market** size and participants



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BALANCING GOALS: MAXIMIZE TRADING PROGRAM

- **Baseline** less stringent
- **Trade ratios** closer to 1:1
- Address and mitigate liability, economic **risk**
- Maximize **market** size and participants



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BALANCING GOALS: MAXIMIZE ECOSYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

- **Baseline** more stringent
- **Trade ratios** reflect variation in discharge types, locations, etc.
- Address and mitigate **risk** of pollution hotspots, lack of WQ improvement
- Local **markets** – small watershed or subwatershed



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BALANCING GOALS: FIND A HAPPY(ISH) MEDIUM?

- Ecosystem conditions & goals
- Supply & demand factors
- Frameworks to reduce risk
- Existing programs & support
- **Goals need to be clear**



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RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT - FALL 2021

- What goals can trading support in the LIS Watershed?
- Lessons from existing trading programs
- Recommendations for successful trading:
 - Economic factors
 - Ecosystem considerations
- Identification of potential drivers needed for trading
- What further studies, information are needed?

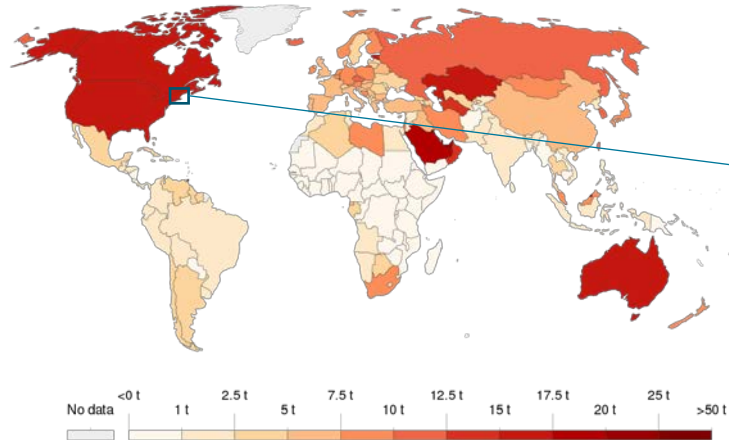
WQ TRADING \neq CARBON / CLIMATE TRADING

- **Pollution Scale:** Watershed vs. planetary
- **Markets:** Local vs. global
- **Drivers:** Regulatory, social pressure

CO₂ emissions per capita, 2017

Average carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per capita measured in tonnes per year.

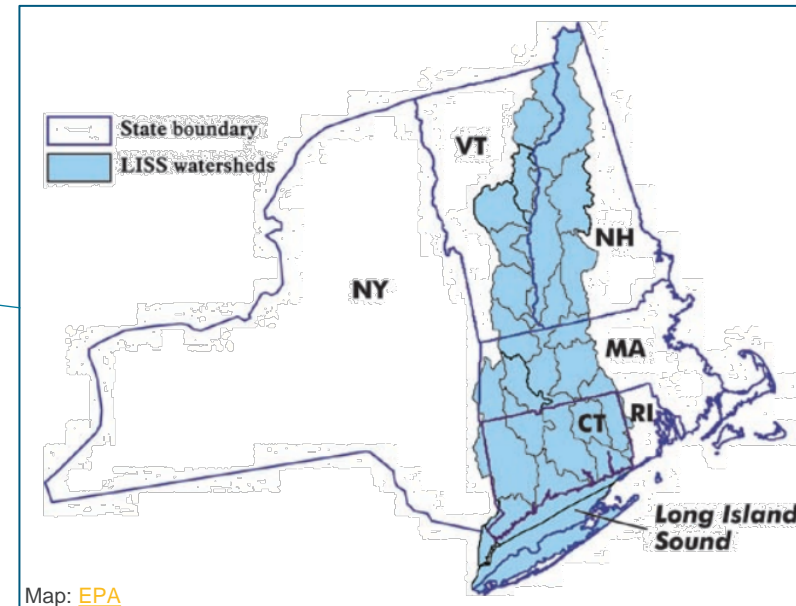
Our World
in Data



Source: OWID based on CDIAC; Global Carbon Project; Gapminder & UN

By Our World in Data - CO₂ emissions per capita.

[Our World in Data](https://ourworldindata.org/), CC BY 4.0



THE PROJECT TEAM



ECONOMIC OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Rachel Bouvier, rbouvier Consulting



A Thought Experiment: Nutrient trading in the LIS watershed

Presented to: LIS Nutrient Trading Options and Obstacles Evaluation

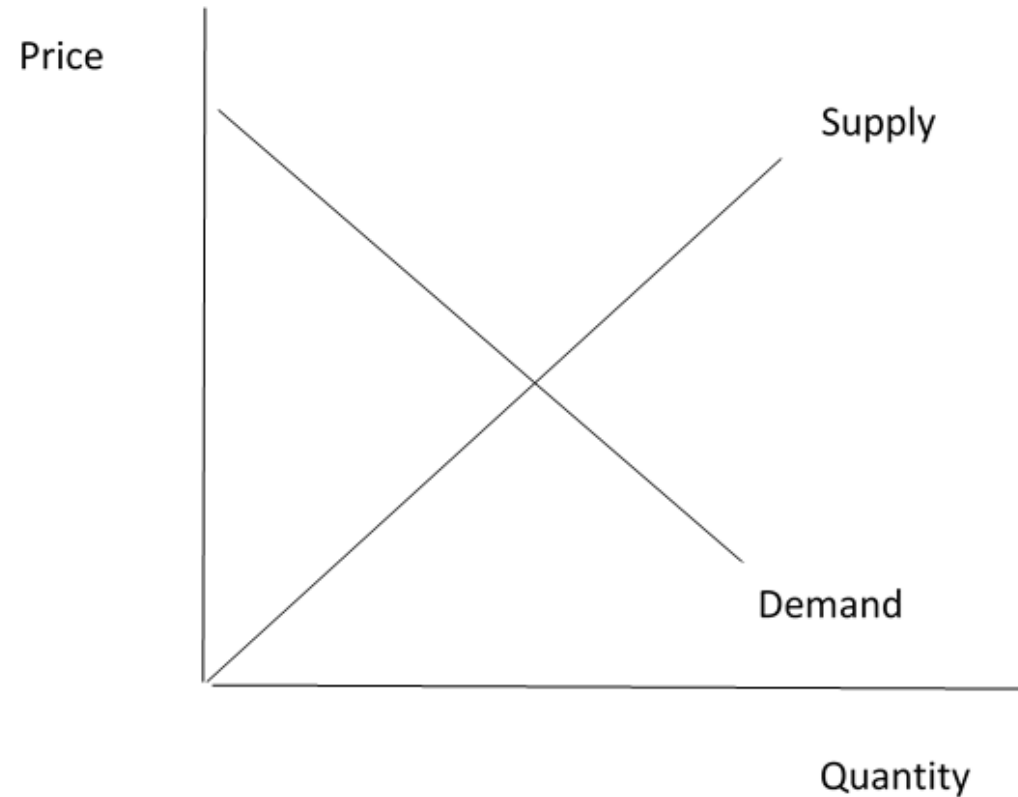
June 23, 2021

Overall Project Purpose Statement and Tasks

- ▶ Purpose: To explore the economic opportunities and obstacles in developing a nutrient trading program for the Long Island Sound Watershed.
- ▶ Tasks:
 - ▶ Task 1: Literature Review
 - ▶ Task 2: Interviews
 - ▶ Task 3: Inventory
 - ▶ Task 4: Conclusions and Recommendations

This presentation describes the results of a “thought experiment” that we are using to explore and demonstrate our findings.

An Idealized Credit Market



A thought experiment



How many pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus are currently being discharged into Long Island Sound? And what is the breakdown by source?



How do the current discharges of nitrogen and phosphorus compare to the limits that are in place?



What are the possible physical strategies (BMPs) that could be followed in order to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus from entering Long Island Sound?



What are the costs of these strategies, and how do the costs of these strategies compare to the cost of treatment facility upgrades?



What are the possible “wedges” between supply and demand?



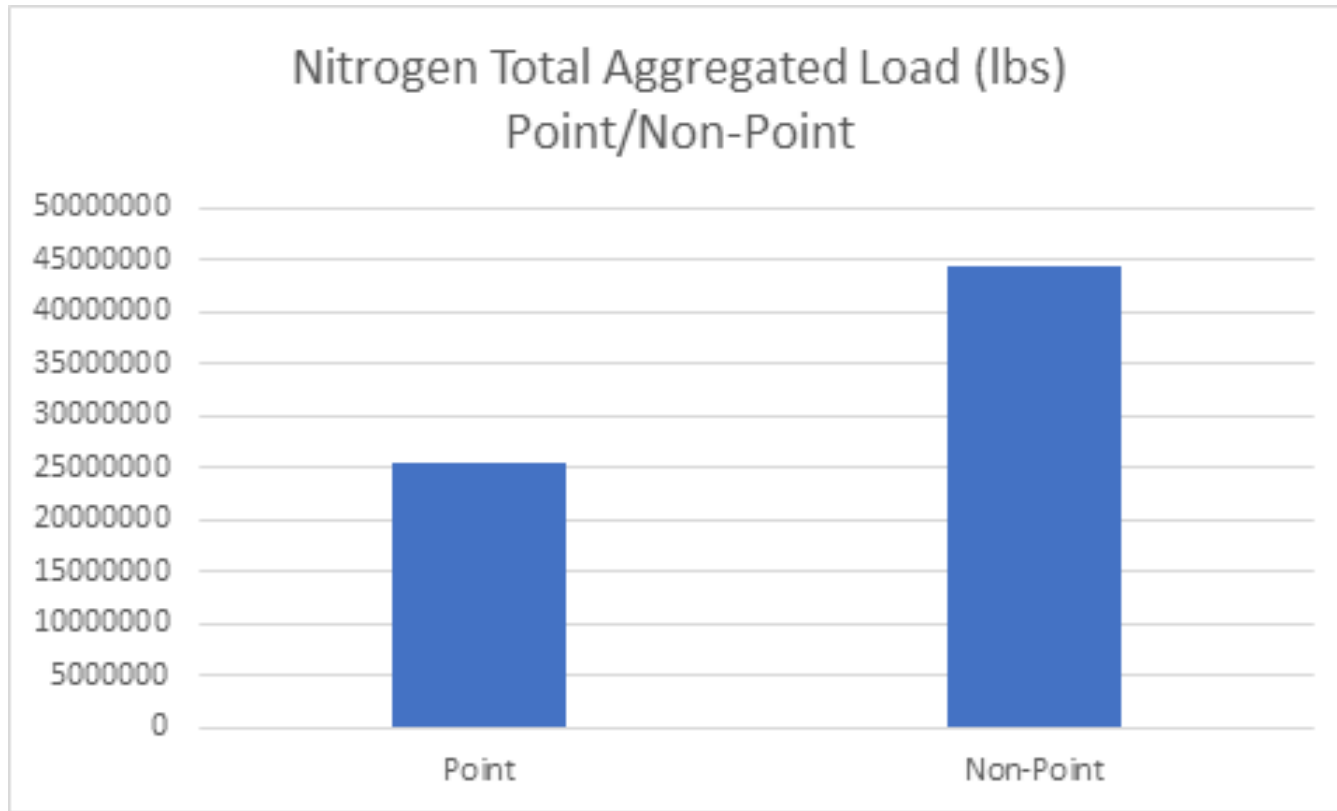
What trends are likely to affect these economic factors in the future?

Thought Experiment Methodology and Limitations

- ▶ We used a report written by the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science (Price et al., 2019).
- ▶ They collected data (types, efficacy, and cost) on 353 BMPs from the Chesapeake Bay Partnership's Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST).
- ▶ Data on cost include construction, engineering, land acquisition and opportunity cost, installation, operations and maintenance, annualized over the lifespan of each BMP.
- ▶ Data on efficacy come from CAST, and are presented in edge-of-tide terms.
- ▶ **CAVEAT:** Dollar figures are average annualized costs. Actual BMP costs can vary widely. Actual BMP efficacy can vary widely. Edge-of-tide depends on geographic area. **Results are suggestive, not conclusive.**

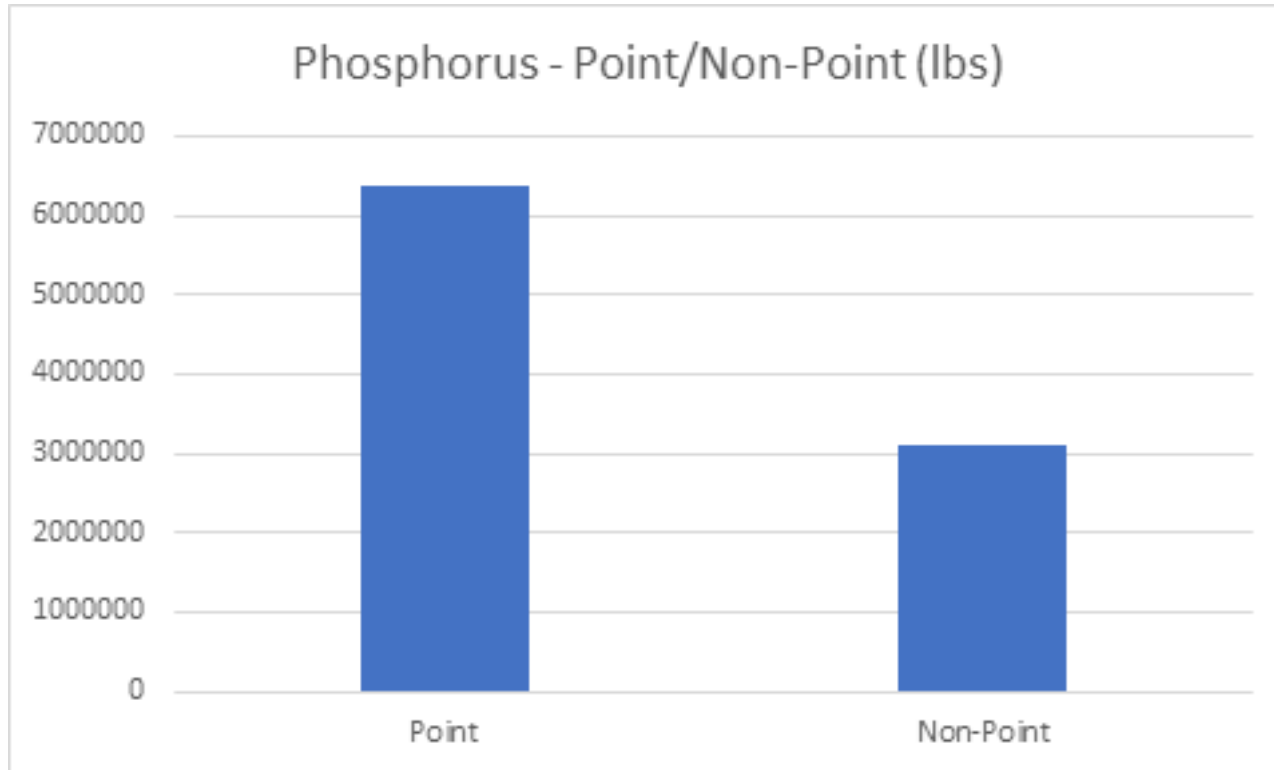
Question 1: How many pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus are currently being discharged into Long Island Sound? And what is the breakdown by source?

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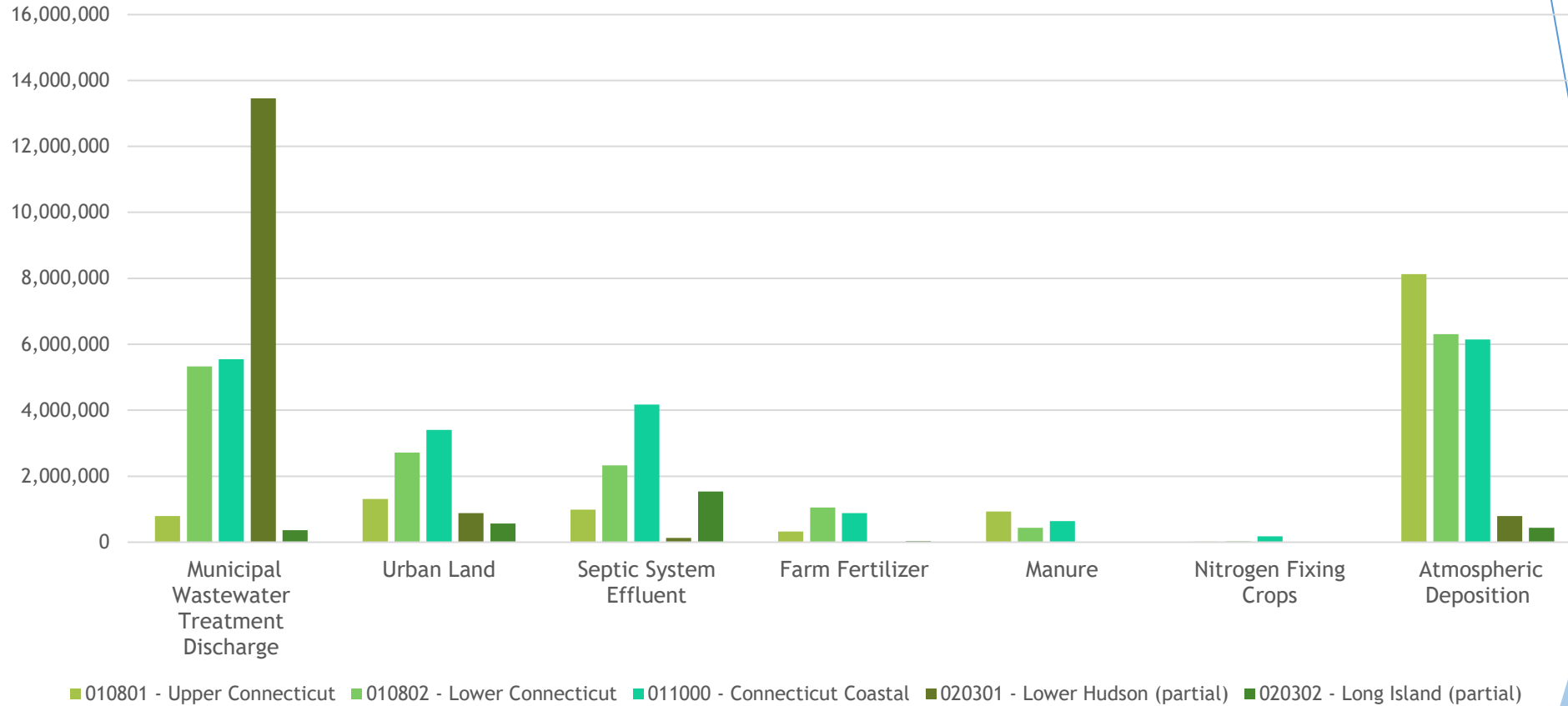
Point and non-point nitrogen load for the Long Island Sound watershed (United States Geological Survey, 2020)

Question 1: How many pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus are currently being discharged into Long Island Sound? And what is the breakdown by source?



Point and non-point phosphorus load for the Long Island Sound watershed (United States Geological Survey, 2020)

Nitrogen Total Aggregated Load (lbs)

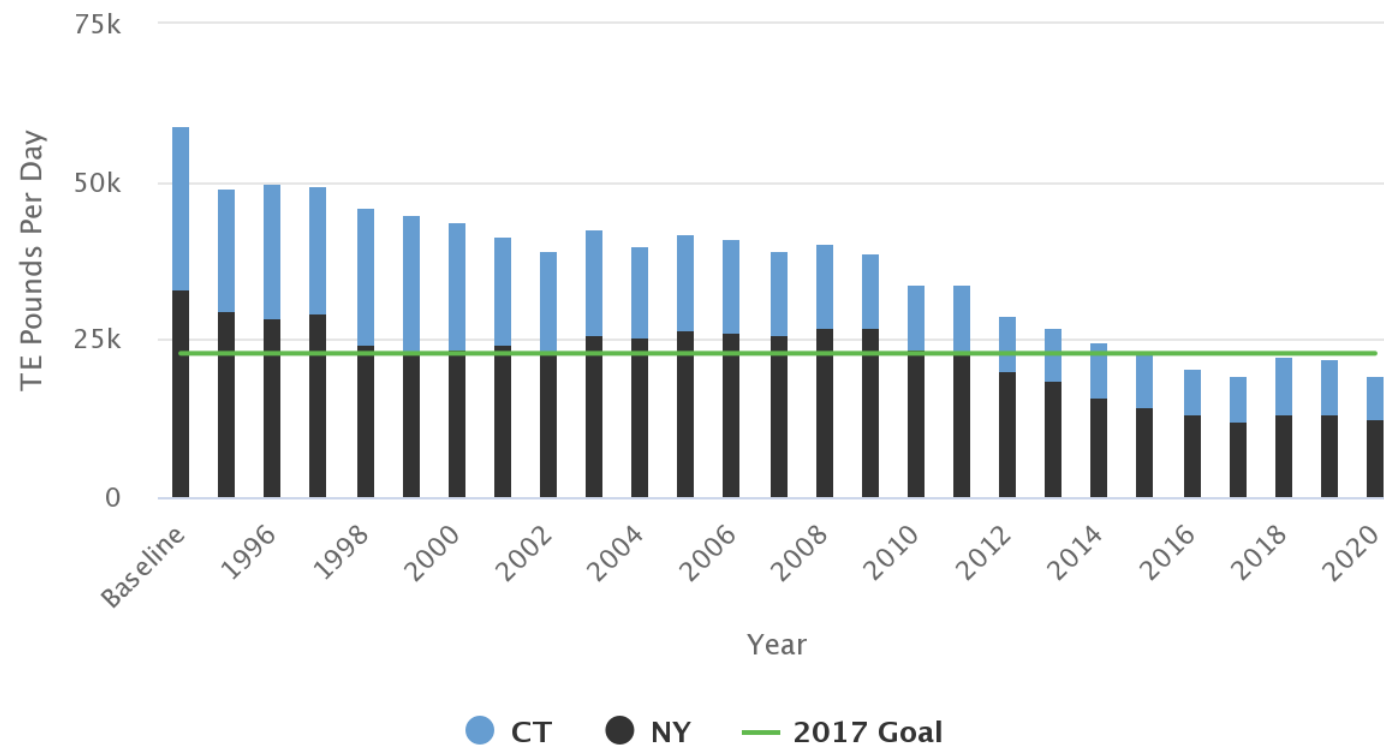


Source: United States Geological Survey, 2020.

Question 2: How do the current discharges of nitrogen and phosphorus compare to the limits that are in place?

Question 2: How do the current discharges of nitrogen and phosphorus compare to the limits that are in place?

Wastewater Treatment Plant Point Sources–Nitrogen Trade Equalized (TE) Loads, 1995–2020



Highcharts.com



(Source: Long Island Sound Study, 2020)

Point sources discharging into impaired waterways: percent over NPDES limits

Year	Nitrogen Load Over Limit	% Total Load	Phosphorus Load Over Limit	% Total Load
2012	14,549	0.07%	801	0.08%
2013	3,786	0.02%	1,094	0.02%
2014	4,679	0.03%	577	0.02%
2015	2,887	0.02%	1,555	0.07%
2016	2,127	0.01%	349	0.01%
2017	12,718	0.01%	908	0.02%
2018	7,784	0.05%	385	0.01%
2019	10,955	0.07%	40,418	1.02%
2020	3,755	0.00%	10,680	0.24%

Question 2 (continued): How do the current discharges of nitrogen and phosphorus compare to the limits that are in place?

- ▶ Addressing nitrogen and phosphorus reductions from nonpoint sources will be more challenging.
- ▶ 75 percent of nitrogen loads in the Long Island Sound Study area comes from non-point sources, while reverse is true for phosphorus.
- ▶ Very few cases of WWTPs in the watershed exceeding their allocated load.
- ▶ Atmospheric deposition is an issue.

Question 3: What are the possible physical strategies (BMPs) that could be followed in order to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus from entering Long Island Sound?

Question 3 (continued): What are the possible physical strategies that could be followed in order to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus from entering Long Island Sound?

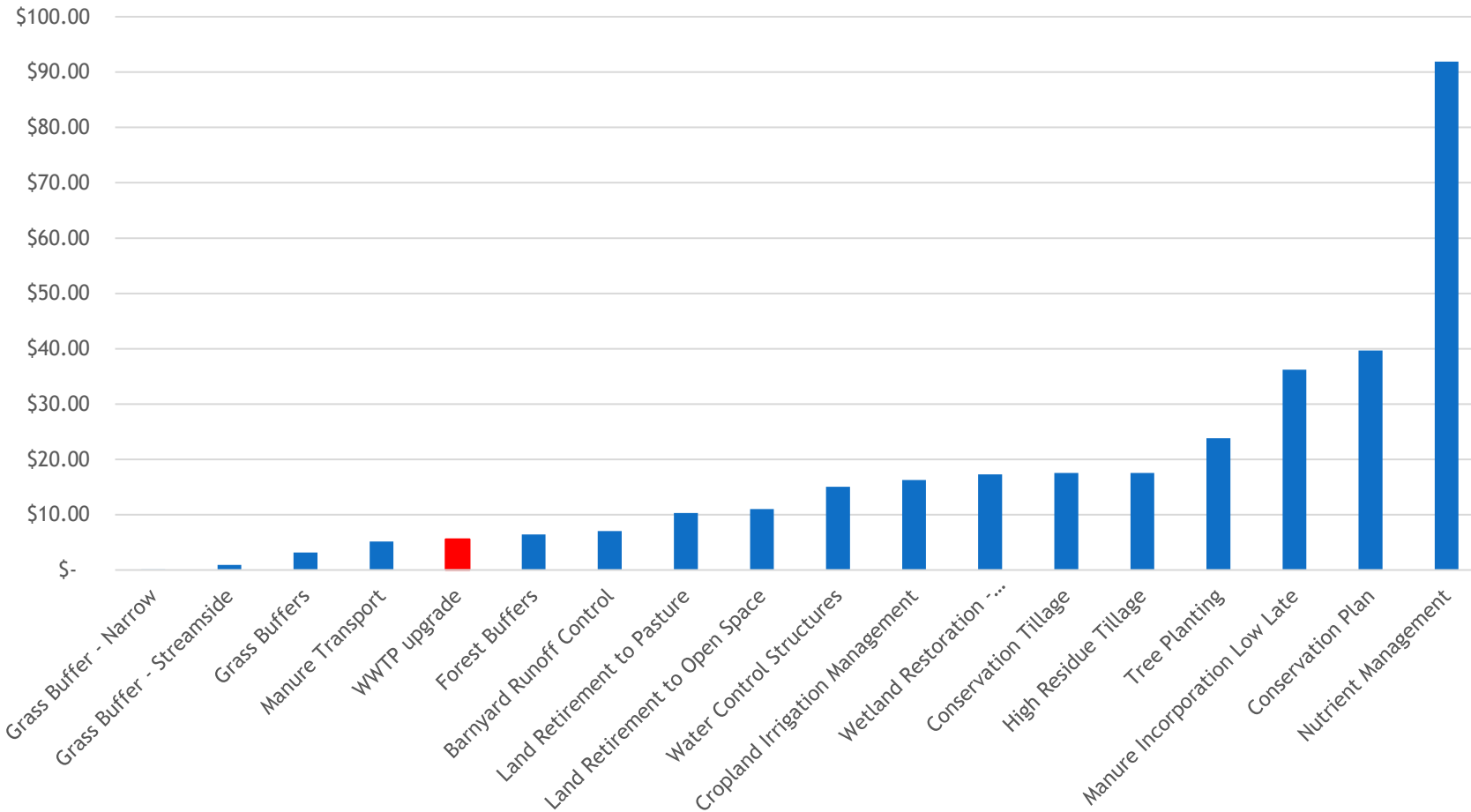
- ▶ Rain gardens
- ▶ Bioretention
- ▶ Bio-swale
- ▶ Filters
- ▶ Tree Planting
- ▶ Infiltration Basins or Trenches
- ▶ Catch Basin Cleaning
- ▶ Stream Restoration
- ▶ Wet Ponds and Wetlands
- ▶ And others...



By Drm310 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3355077>

Question 4: What are the costs per pound of these strategies, and how do the costs of these strategies compare to the cost per pound of treatment facility upgrades?

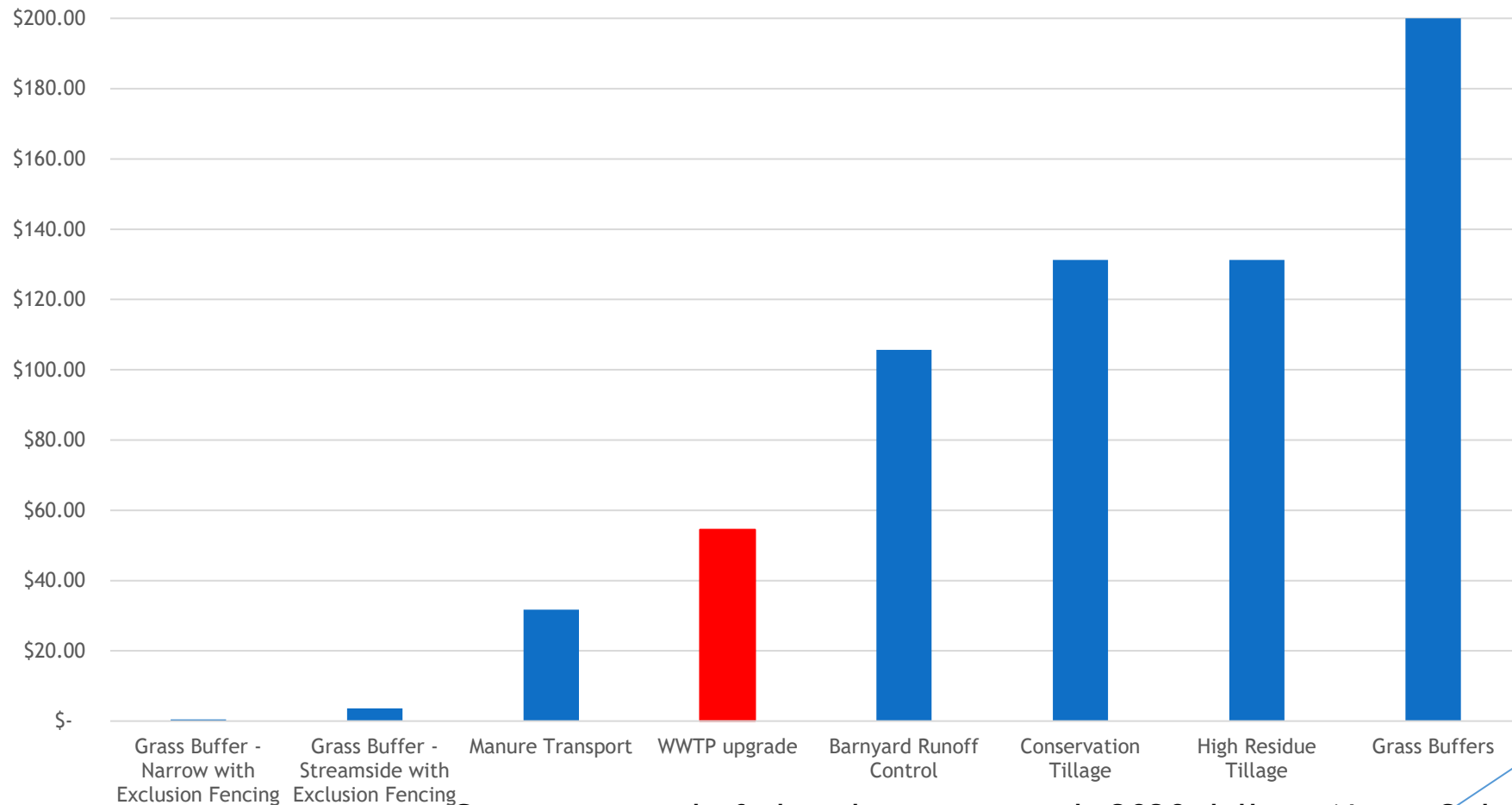
Question 4, part 1: What are the costs per pound of BMPs for **nitrogen**, and how do the costs of these strategies compare to the cost per pound of treatment facility upgrades?



Cost per pound of nitrogen removal. 2020 dollars. Note: Only those less than \$100 per pound are included in the table. (Source: Price et al, 2019)



Question 4, part 1: What are the costs per pound of BMPs for **phosphorus**, and how do the costs of these strategies compare to the cost per pound of treatment facility upgrades?

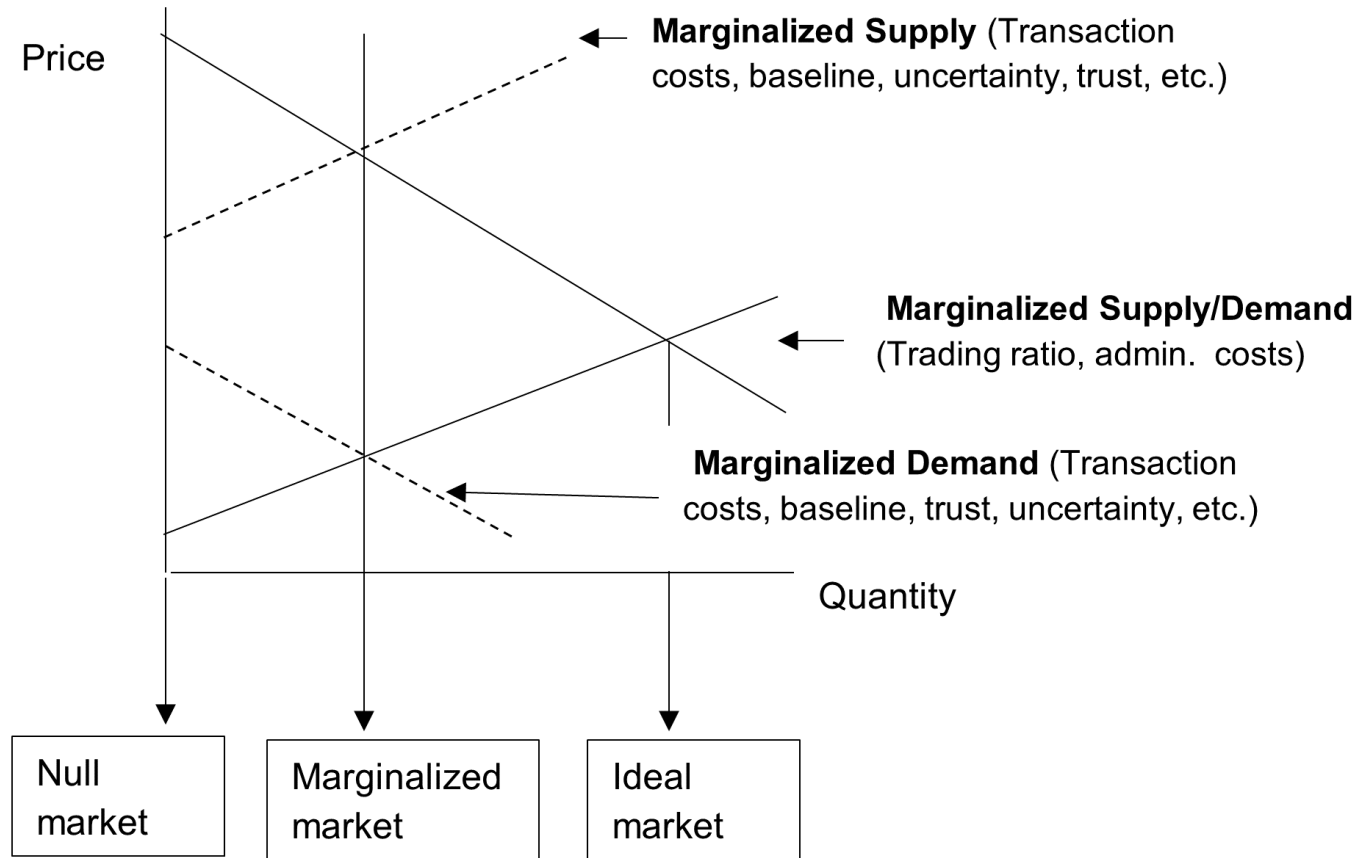


Cost per pound of phosphorus removal. 2020 dollars. Note: Only those less than \$200 per pound are included in the table. (Source: Price et al, 2019)



*Question 5: What are the likely
“wedges” between supply and demand?*

Question 5: What are the likely “wedges” between supply and demand?



“Wedges” Between Supply and Demand

Farmers’ willingness to participate

Trust and perceived fairness

Administrative costs (regulatory design, credit creation, market transaction, monitoring and enforcement)

Trading ratio

Uncertainty

Question 6: What trends are likely to affect these economic factors in the future?

Factors Influencing Potential Demand

Regulatory pressure

Population growth

Growth in impervious surface area

Transactions costs

Cost of alternatives to trading

Geographic area

Factors Influencing Potential Supply

Share of land cover in agriculture

Shellfish and seaweed aquaculture

Opportunity cost of installing BMPs

Baseline

Geographic restrictions

Conclusions/Implications

- ▶ Under current conditions, potential for trading is marginal at best.
- ▶ Point sources generally meeting their allocated loads.
- ▶ In other trading schemes, demand seems to be the “limiting reagent” in any trades. Scenario seems to be similar here.
- ▶ Supply is a wildcard - we don’t know how much potential supply is out there without a comprehensive survey of farms / MS4s to determine how much they are discharging, what kind of BMPs are in place (if any), and what reductions are possible.
- ▶ We also don’t know how willing the “sellers” are going to be.
- ▶ Interstate trading has never arisen in the Chesapeake Bay. Not likely to be politically viable, even if it were ecologically sound (also not likely).
- ▶ Personally (and this is an opinion, rather than something I can demonstrate), stormwater may be the best bet for trading, rather than ag. But there’s a **difference between economically viable and ecologically viable.**

THANK YOU!

- ▶ Rachel Bouvier, PhD, President rachel@rbouvierconsulting.com
- ▶ Joie Grandbois, Research Associate / Project Manager
joie@rbouvierconsulting.com
- ▶ Averil Varney, Research Assistant averil@rbouvierconsulting.com
- ▶ Claire James, Research Assistant claire@rbouvierconsulting.com

- ▶ www.rbouvierconsulting.com
- ▶ 207-272-8692

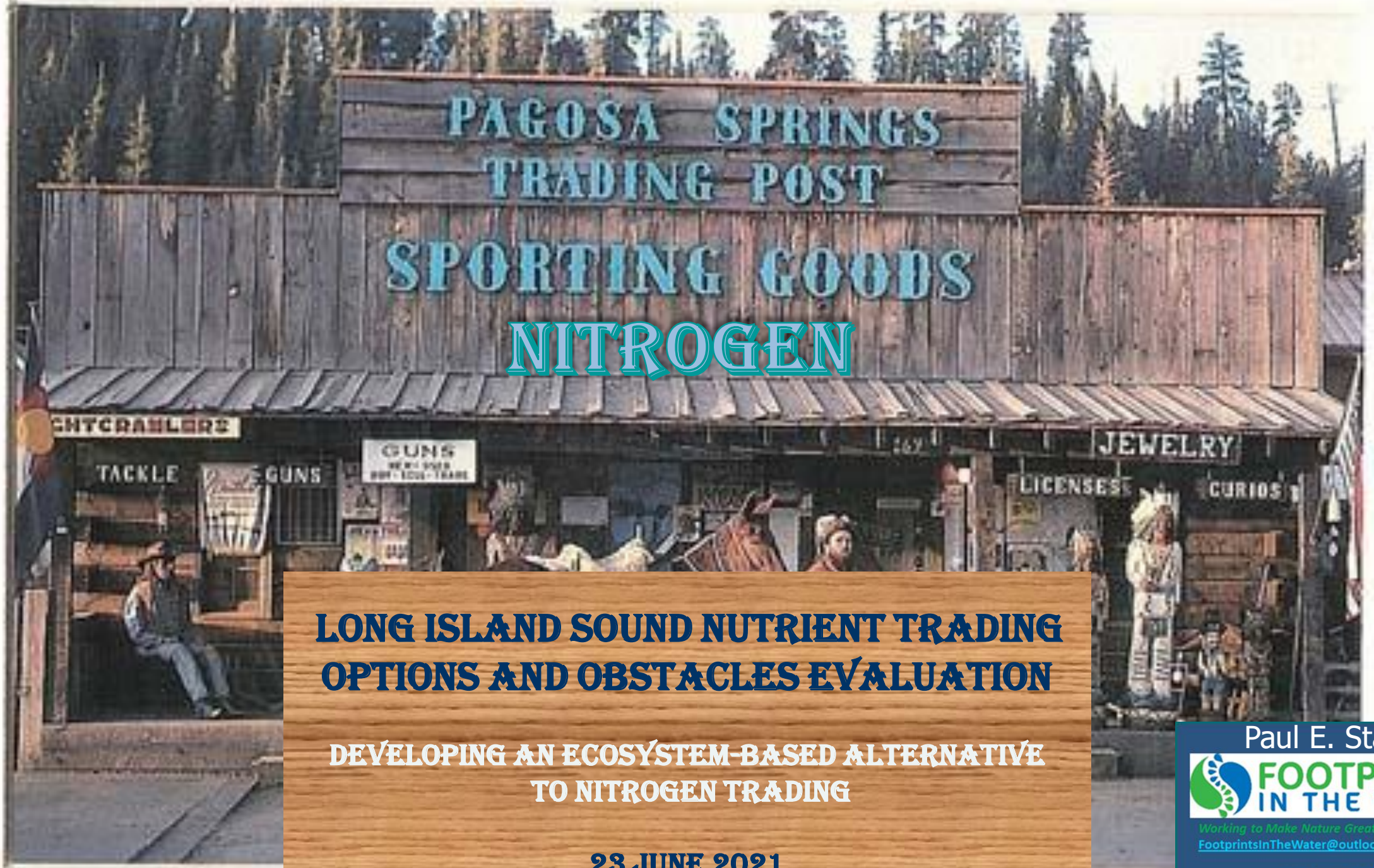
References

- ▶ Chesapeake Bay Program. (2020). *CAST - Home Page*. Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool. <https://cast.chesapeakebay.net/>.
- ▶ Hoag, D. L. K., Arabi, M., Osmond, D., Ribaud, M., Motallebi, M., & Tasdighi, A. (2017). Policy Utopias for Nutrient Credit Trading Programs with Nonpoint Sources. *JAWRA Journal of the American Water Resources Association*, 53(3), 514-520. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1752-1688.12532>
- ▶ Long Island Sound Study. (2020). *Nitrogen Loading*. Long Island Sound Study. <https://longislandsoundstudy.net/ecosystem-target-indicators/nitrogen-loading/>.
- ▶ Price, E., Holladay, T., & Waigner, L. (2019). *Cost Analysis of Stormwater and Agricultural Practices for Reducing Nitrogen and Phosphorus Runoff in Maryland*. University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.
- ▶ United State Environmental Protection Agency. (2021). Various Discharge Monitoring Reports. Enforcement Compliance History Online Water Pollution Search Tool | ECHO | US EPA. EPA. <https://echo.epa.gov/trends/loading-tool/water-pollution-search>.
- ▶ United States Geological Survey. (2020). 2012 SPARROW Models for the Northeast: Total Phosphorus, Total Nitrogen, Suspended Sediment, and Streamflow. Retrieved from USGS.gov: <https://sparrow.wim.usgs.gov/sparrow-northeast-2012/>

TRADING IN THE ECOSYSTEM CONTEXT

Paul Stacey, Footprints in the Water, LLC





NITROGEN

LONG ISLAND SOUND NUTRIENT TRADING OPTIONS AND OBSTACLES EVALUATION

DEVELOPING AN ECOSYSTEM-BASED ALTERNATIVE
TO NITROGEN TRADING

23 JUNE 2021

Paul E. Stacey



**FOOTPRINTS
IN THE WATER**

Working to Make Nature Great Again
FootprintsInTheWater@outlook.com

23 June 2021

A Work in Progress:



Long Island Sound Study

A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

LISS Enhancement Project

*Development of a Watershed and Nonpoint Source
Decision Support Framework and Tool at a Local Scale
using a Conservation Approach*

UCONN

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Center for Land Use Education & Research



Chet Arnold
Emily Wilson
Qian (Rachel) Lei-Parent

Cary Chadwick
David Dickson

Chris Bellucci
Mary Becker



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Management Challenges:

ENGAGE +
INSPIRE AND SHARE

- Media campaigns
- Publicity, Web, and Content
- Lead program events and special events

LEAD +
PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

- Data Analysis & Target Mapping
- Knowledge Platform
- Model Conservation Work

RESEARCH +
GET THE SCIENCE RIGHT

- Champion Biodiversity Research
- Support and Perpetuate Conservation Efforts
- Honorary Scholarship for Future Stewardship

half-earth project
half the earth for the rest of life

If we conserve half the land and sea, 85% of all species will be protected from extinction and life on Earth enters the safe zone.

— E.O. Wilson

What problem are we trying to fix?

LONG ISLAND SOUND

NY CITY

What's causing it?

Ecosystem Management Goal:

The 1972 Clean Water Act aimed to collectively "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters."

Identifying and Protecting Healthy Watersheds

Concepts, Assessments, and Management Approaches

February 2012

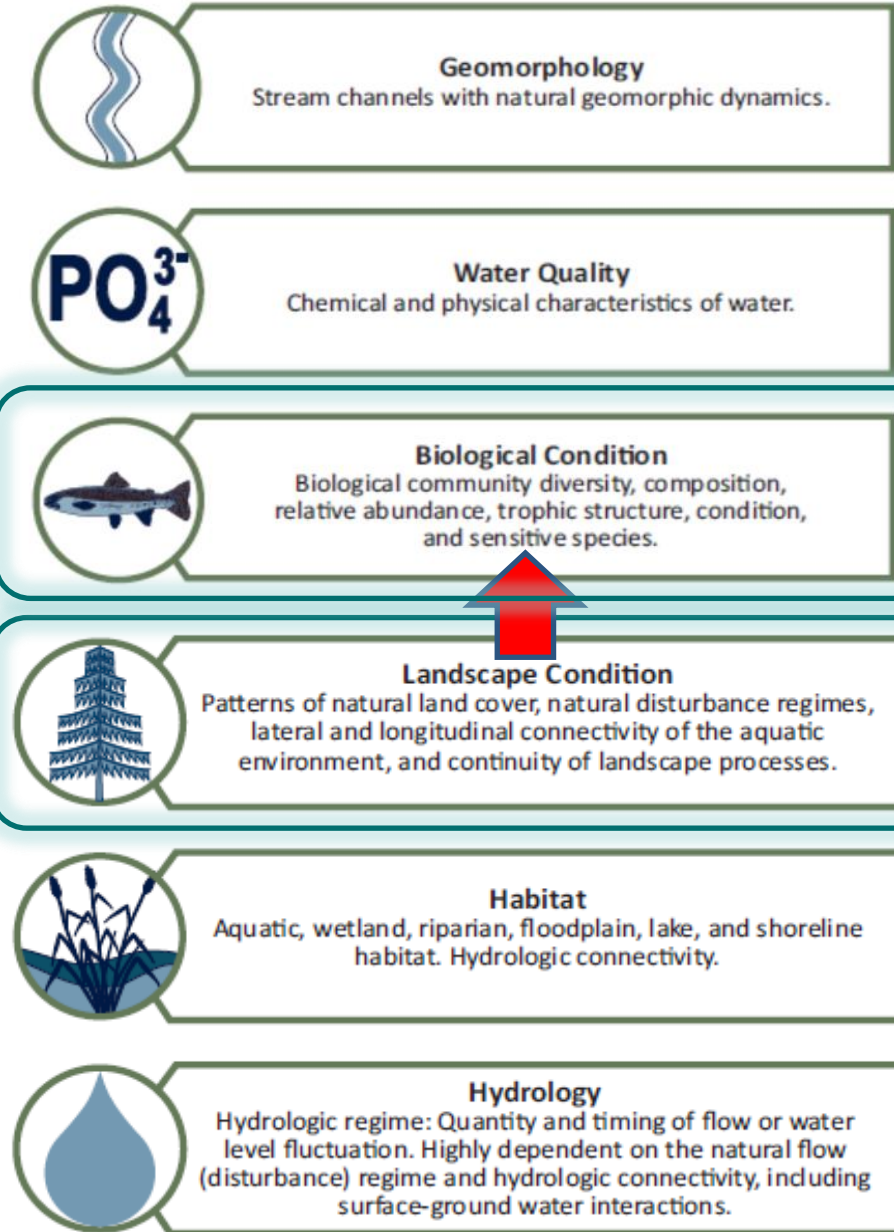
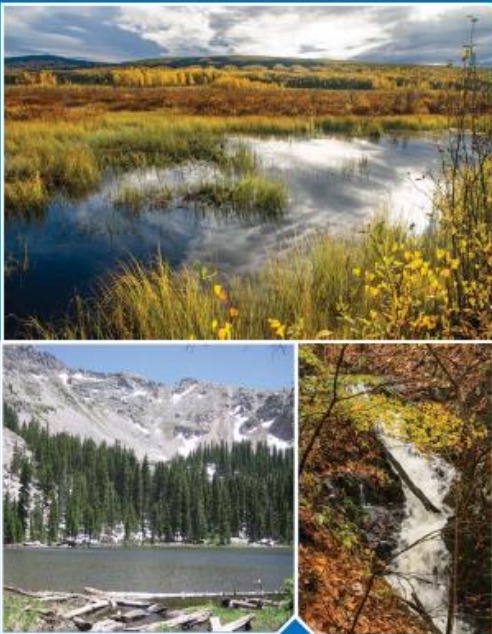


Figure 2-4 Healthy watersheds assessment components

Making the Connection:

Connectivity of Streams & Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review & Synthesis of the Scientific Literature



DRIVERS

CLIMATE FACTORS

- Annual water surplus
- Seasonality
- Rainfall intensity
- Temperature

LANDSCAPE FACTORS

- Topography
- Landform
- Soil type
- Aquifer permeability
- Spatial distribution

SPECIES' TRAITS

- Life cycle
- Dispersal capability
- Dispersal cues
- Dispersal behavior

HUMAN ACTIVITIES

HYDROLOGIC
CONNECTIVITY

CHEMICAL
CONNECTIVITY

BIOLOGICAL
CONNECTIVITY

STRUCTURE & FUNCTION

FUNCTIONS

MATERIAL FLUX

ENERGY FLUX

POPULATION
DYNAMICS

COMMUNITY
DYNAMICS

EVOLUTIONARY
DYNAMICS

RESPONSES

PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL INTEGRITY

- Habitat quality
- Water quality
- Toxicity

BIOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

- Community structure
- Indicator species
- Functional groups
- Population attributes

**ECOSYSTEM INTEGRITY,
SUSTAINABILITY, RESILIENCY**

INFLUENCING FACTORS →

CONNECTIONS →

PROCESSES →

EFFECTS →

ASSESSMENT
ENDPOINTS & METRICS



December 2013

CLEAN WATER ACT

Changes Needed If
Key EPA Program Is
to Help Fulfill the
Nation's Water Quality
Goals

- **Pollutants had been reduced in many waters, but few impaired water bodies have fully attained water quality standards.**



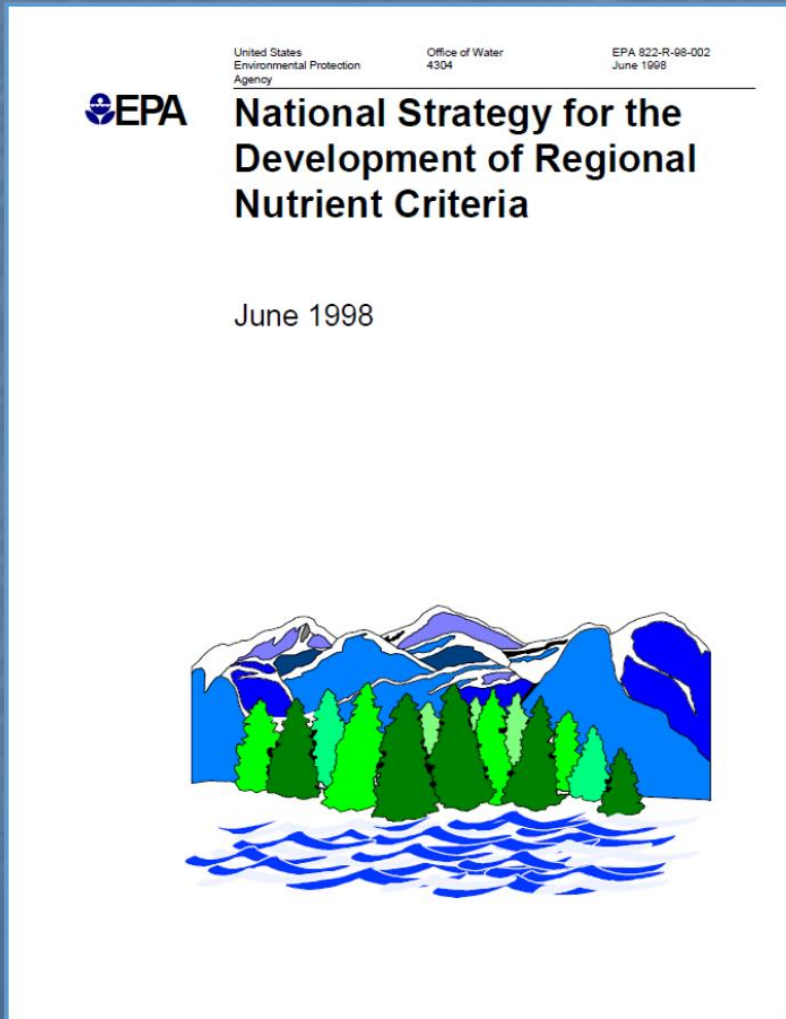
October 2017

WATER POLLUTION

Some States Have
Trading Programs to
Help Address Nutrient
Pollution, but Use Has
Been Limited

- ***The importance of nutrient discharge limits***
- ***The challenges and uncertainties of nonpoint source nutrient reductions***

What Ever Happened to Nutrient Criteria?



The goal was for the States/Tribes to establish these criteria as part of their water quality standards *within three years of completion of the guidance* i.e., by the end of the calendar year *2003*

Nitrogen:

Nutrient Criteria Adoption Status

States with Total Nitrogen or Total Phosphorus Criteria

1998 2008 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 Current

Vermont

2015 2019 2020 Current

Some waters with N and/or P criteria (Level 2)

Lakes/Reservoirs	Partial P Criteria
Rivers/Streams	Partial P Criteria

Other Related Parameters: Nitrate

Massachusetts

2020 Current

Some waters with N and/or P criteria (Level 2)

Lakes/Reservoirs	Partial P Criteria
Rivers/Streams	No N/P Criteria
Estuaries	Partial N Criteria

Other Related Parameters: none

Rhode Island

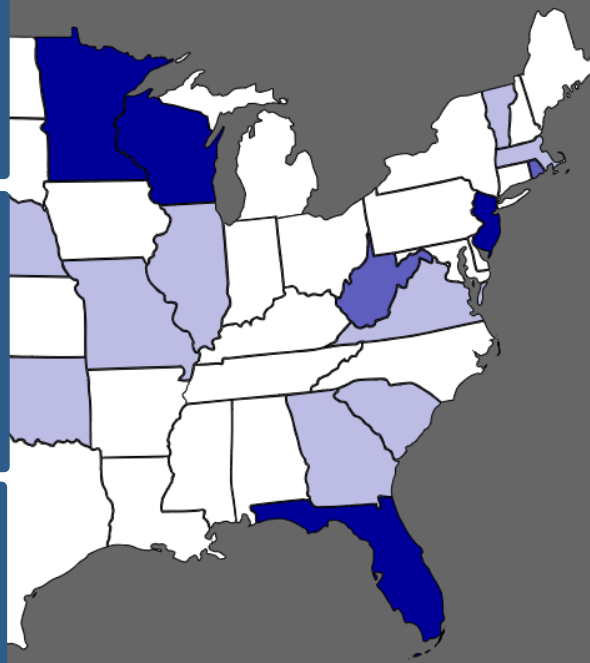
1 watertype with N and/or P criteria (Level 3)

Lakes/Reservoirs	Statewide P Criteria
Rivers/Streams	No N/P Criteria
Estuaries	No N/P Criteria

Other Related Parameters: none

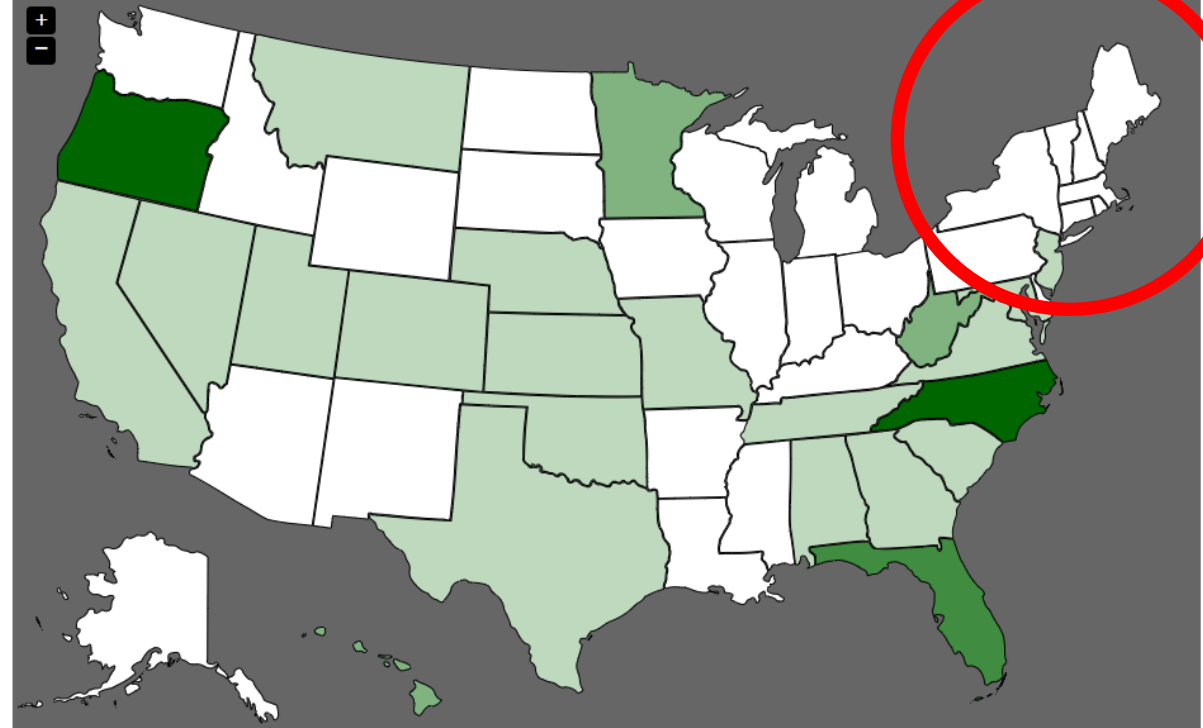
Commonwealth of Northern Marianas
Guam
Puerto Rico
US Virgin Islands

Level 5	Complete set of N and P criteria for all watertypes*
Level 4	2 or more watertypes with N and/or P criteria
Level 3	1 watertype with N and/or P criteria
Level 2	Some waters with N and/or P criteria
Level 1	No N and/or P criteria



* "Watertypes" on the national maps and tables within this webpage refers to three watertypes: lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries. Criteria for additional watertypes are included under the State/Territory Details tab.

States with Chlorophyll-a Criteria



District of Columbia
American Samoa
Commonwealth of Northern Marianas
Guam
Puerto Rico
US Virgin Islands

Level C5	Complete set of chlor-a criteria for all watertypes*
Level C4	2 or more watertypes with chlor-a criteria
Level C3	1 watertype with chlor-a criteria
Level C2	Some waters with chlor-a criteria
Level C1	No chlor-a criteria

* "Watertypes" on the national maps and tables within this webpage refers to three watertypes: lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries. Criteria for additional watertypes are included under the State/Territory Details tab.

Trading Fundamentals

- Common water quality problem
- Technically feasible to meet pollutant reduction target
- Compelling member benefits, especially economic
- Ability to quantify and track pollutant loads
- Credit costs based upon agreed protocols
- Diverse market, viable supply and demand
- Reduce overall cost
- Transaction costs low relative to price

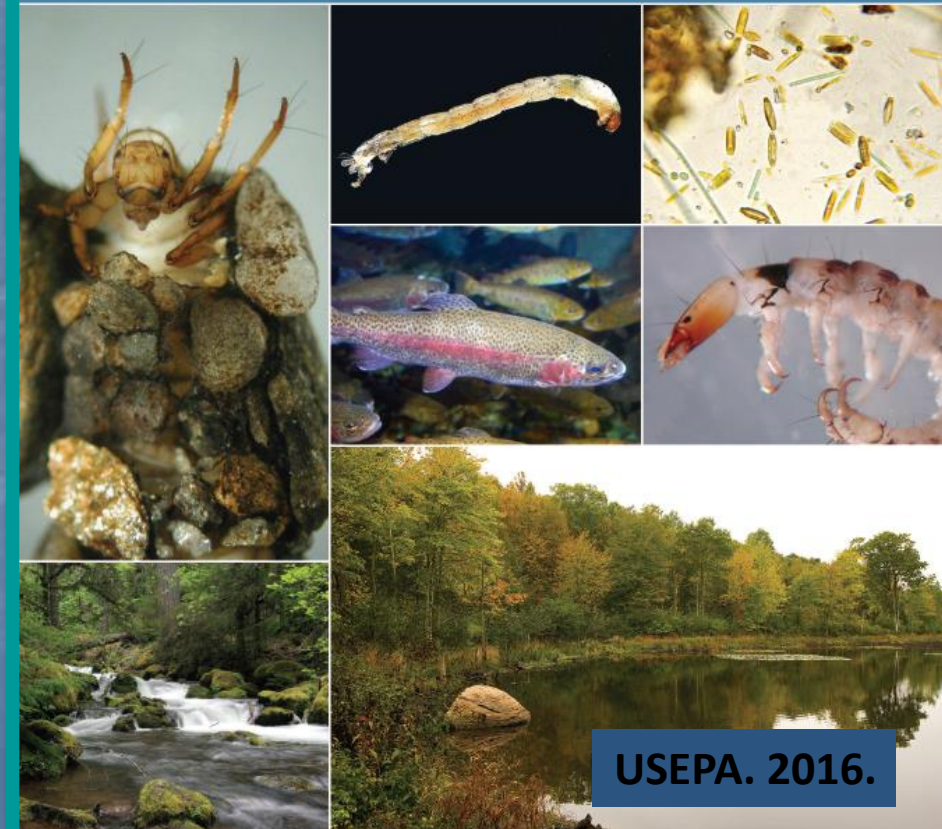
Causal Analysis:



EPA 842-R-16-001

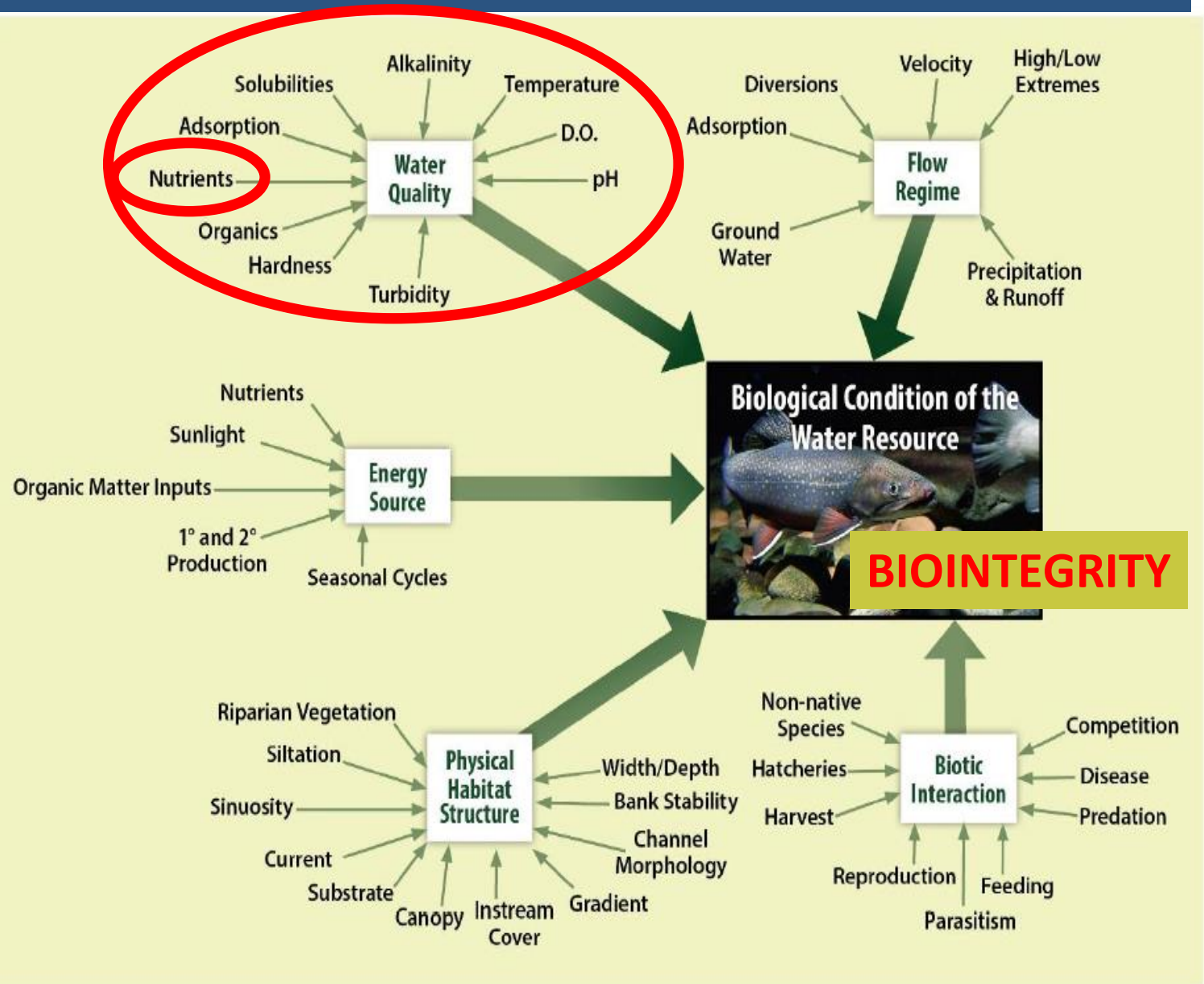
A Practitioner's Guide to the Biological Condition Gradient: A Framework to Describe Incremental Change in Aquatic Ecosystems

February 2016



USEPA. 2016.

Five Major Factors that Determine Biological Condition



Ecosystem Context:

Benefits of an Ecosystem Approach

- ***A single pressure index*** for assessment, planning and decision support
- ***Integrates and harmonizes*** multiple external drivers and pressures
- Relates to a robust ***response indicator*** of aquatic ecosystem ***health, and vulnerability***
- Incorporates a range of ecosystem ***functional outcomes*** reflective of ***structural health*** or condition to guide management
- ***Widely applicable*** throughout the trading domain
- Provides a ***simple and salient*** platform and currency for trading

Causal Analysis:



A Practitioner's Guide to the Condition Gradient: A Framework for Incremental Change in Aquatic Ecosystems

February 2016

EPA 842-R-16-001

The Biological Condition Gradient (BCG)

The Biological Condition Gradient: Biological Response to Increasing Levels of Stress

Levels of Biological Condition

Level 1. Natural structural integrity, taxonomic composition, and taxonomic integrity is maintained.

Level 2. Structure & function to natural community with additional taxa & biomass; level functions are fully maintained.

Level 3. Evident changes due to loss of some rare taxa; shifts in relative abundance; level functions fully maintained.

Level 4. Moderate changes due to replacement of some ubiquitous taxa by more tolerant taxa; ecosystem functions maintained.

Level 5. Sensitive taxa markedly diminished; conspicuous distribution of major taxonomic groups; ecosystem function shows complexity & redundancy.

Level 6. Extreme changes and ecosystem function; changes in taxonomic composition; extreme alterations in densities.

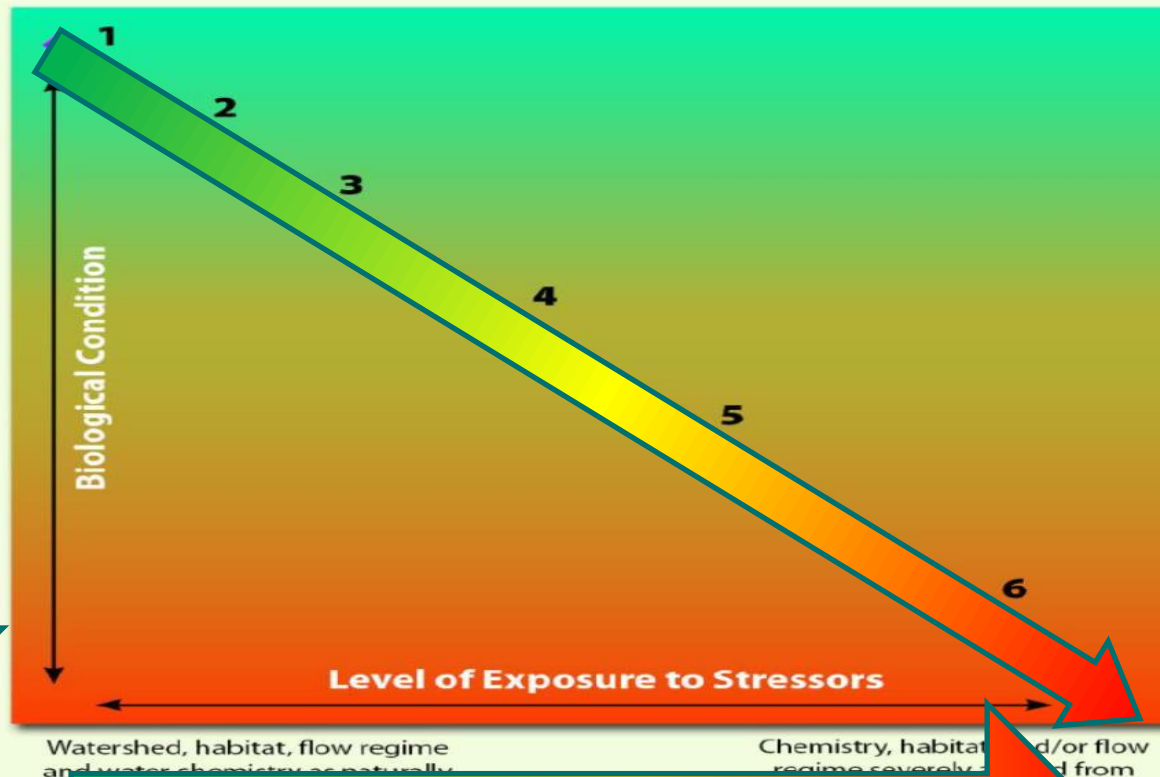
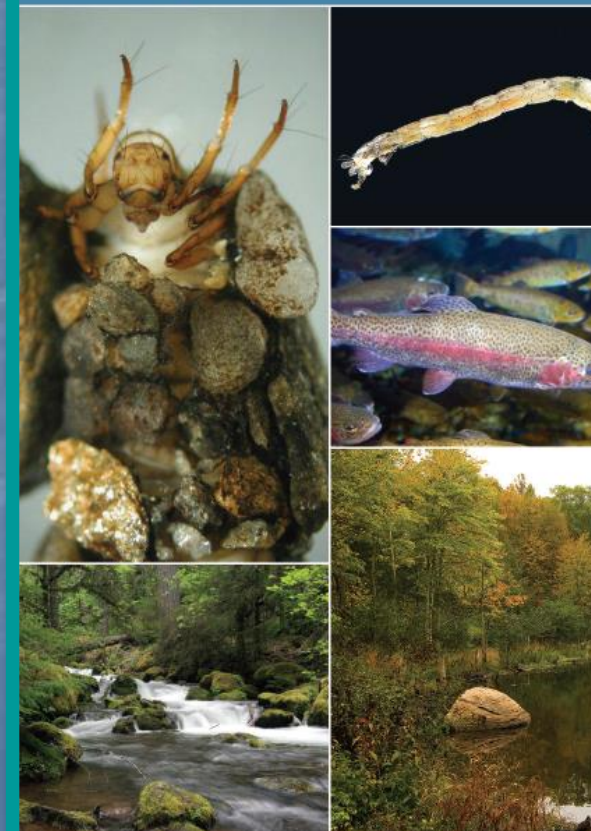


Figure 2. Conceptual model of the BCG. While the cumulative effects of stressors on the biota is likely nonlinear, the relationship is presented as such to illustrate the concept.



Stress Exposure Index (Watershed Condition)

Response Index (Biological Condition)

Macroinvertebrate Response Indicator:

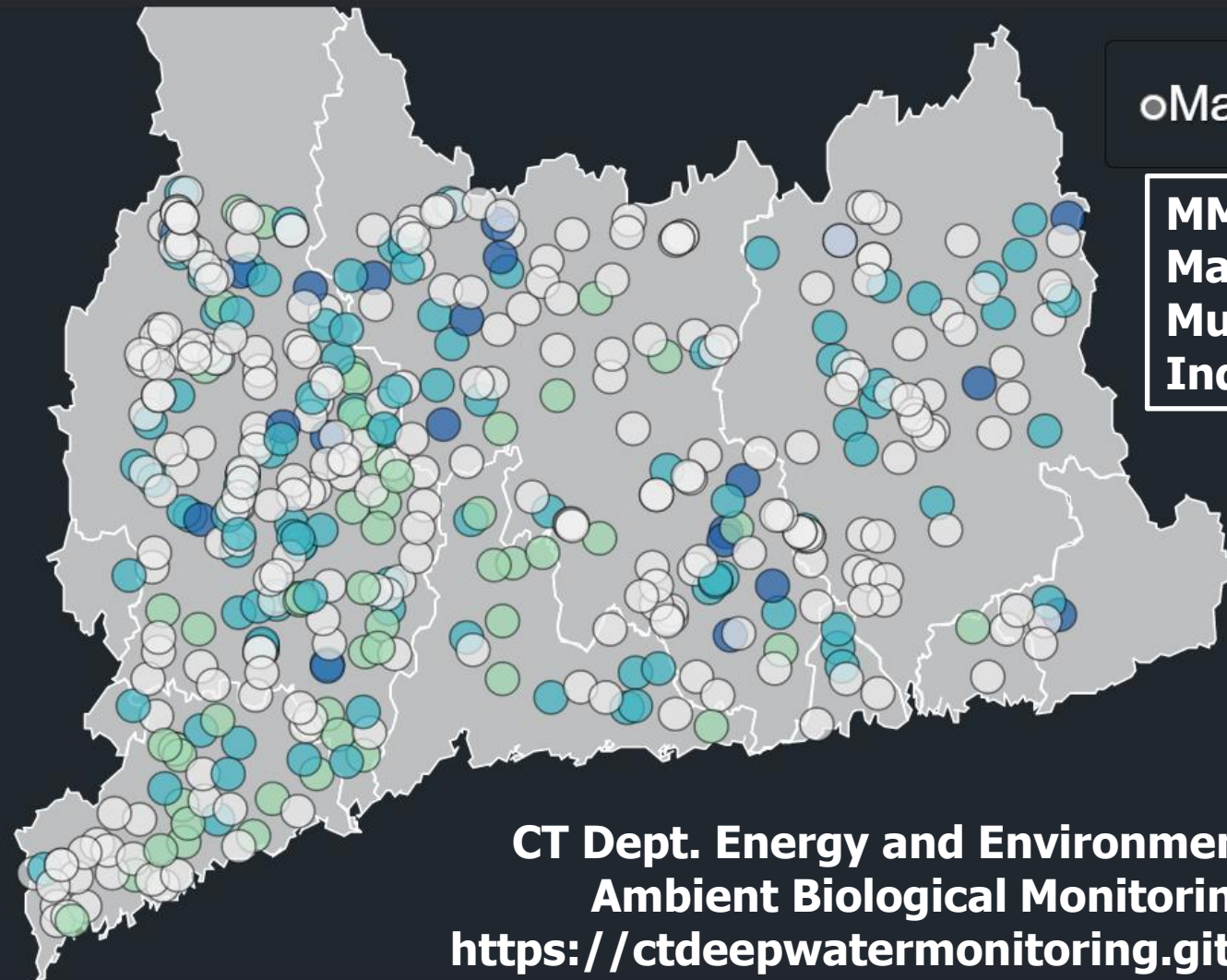
Biological Condition Gradient (BCG) Data 2020 Assessments

BCG Value

- 1 to 2 (Low Stress)
- 3 to 4 (Moderate Stress)
- 5 to 6 (High Stress)
- No data for selected taxa

○ Macroinvertebrates

**MMI =
Macroinvertebrate
Multimetric
Index**



160 Samples

**From 144
1st – 3rd Order Streams**

**CT Dept. Energy and Environmental Protection
Ambient Biological Monitoring Network
<https://ctdeepwatermonitoring.github.io/BCGMap/>**

Land Cover Pressure Indicator:

Table 1. Aggregation of land cover classifications into three categories for data sets used in the analysis.

Aggregated Class	30-meter NLCD - 2011 WikiWatershed.org	30-meter CCAP - 2016 CLEAR	10-meter CCAP - 2016 CLEAR	1-meter CCAP - 2016 CLEAR
Natural	Deciduous Forest Evergreen Forest Mixed Forest Shrub/Scrub Woody Wetlands Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands Open Water	Grassland Deciduous Evergreen Mixed Forest Scrub/Shrub Bare Land <u>Palustrine</u> Forested Wetland Scrub/Shrub Wetland Emergent Wetland Aquatic Bed <u>Estuarine</u> Scrub/Shrub Wetland Emergent Wetland Aquatic Bed Unconsolidated Shore Bare Land Open Water	Upland Forest Scrub/Shrub Bare Land <u>Palustrine</u> Forested Wetland Scrub/Shrub Wetland Emergent Wetland Aquatic Bed <u>Estuarine</u> Scrub/Shrub Wetland Emergent Wetland Aquatic Bed Unconsolidated Shore Bare Land Open Water	Grassland Deciduous Evergreen Mixed Forest Scrub/Shrub Bare Land <u>Palustrine</u> Forested Wetland Scrub/Shrub Wetland Emergent Wetland Aquatic Bed <u>Estuarine</u> Scrub/Shrub Wetland Emergent Wetland Aquatic Bed Unconsolidated Shore Bare Land Open Water
Agriculture-Like*	Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay) Grassland/Herbaceous Pasture/Hay Cultivated Crops	Developed Open Space Cultivated Land Pasture/Hay	Upland Herbaceous	Developed Open Space Cultivated Land Pasture/Hay
Developed*	Developed Open Space Low Intensity Medium Intensity High Intensity	High Intensity Medium Intensity Low Intensity	Impervious Cover	Impervious Cover

*Originally comprised the "Non-Natural" category.

1-Meter Resolution!



CT High Res Land Cover (NOAA CCAP)

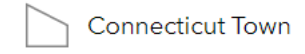
- **Combined Condition Index (CCI)**

- **Watershed Condition (WCI)**
- **Buffer Condition (BCI)**

$$CCI = WCI \times (1 + (BCI - WCI))$$

Legend

CT Towns



Water

CT High Res Landcover (NOAA CCAP)

NOAA CCAP 2016 High Res Landcover

- Impervious
- Developed Open Space
- Cultivated Land
- Pasture/Hay
- Grassland
- Mixed Forest
- Scrub/Shrub
- Palustrine Forested Wetland
- Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Wetland
- Palustrine Emergent Wetland
- Estuarine Scrub/Shrub Wetland
- Estuarine Emergent Wetland
- Unconsolidated Shore
- Bare Land
- Open Water
- Palustrine Aquatic Bed
- Estuarine Aquatic Bed

The CCI Puts on Some Weight:

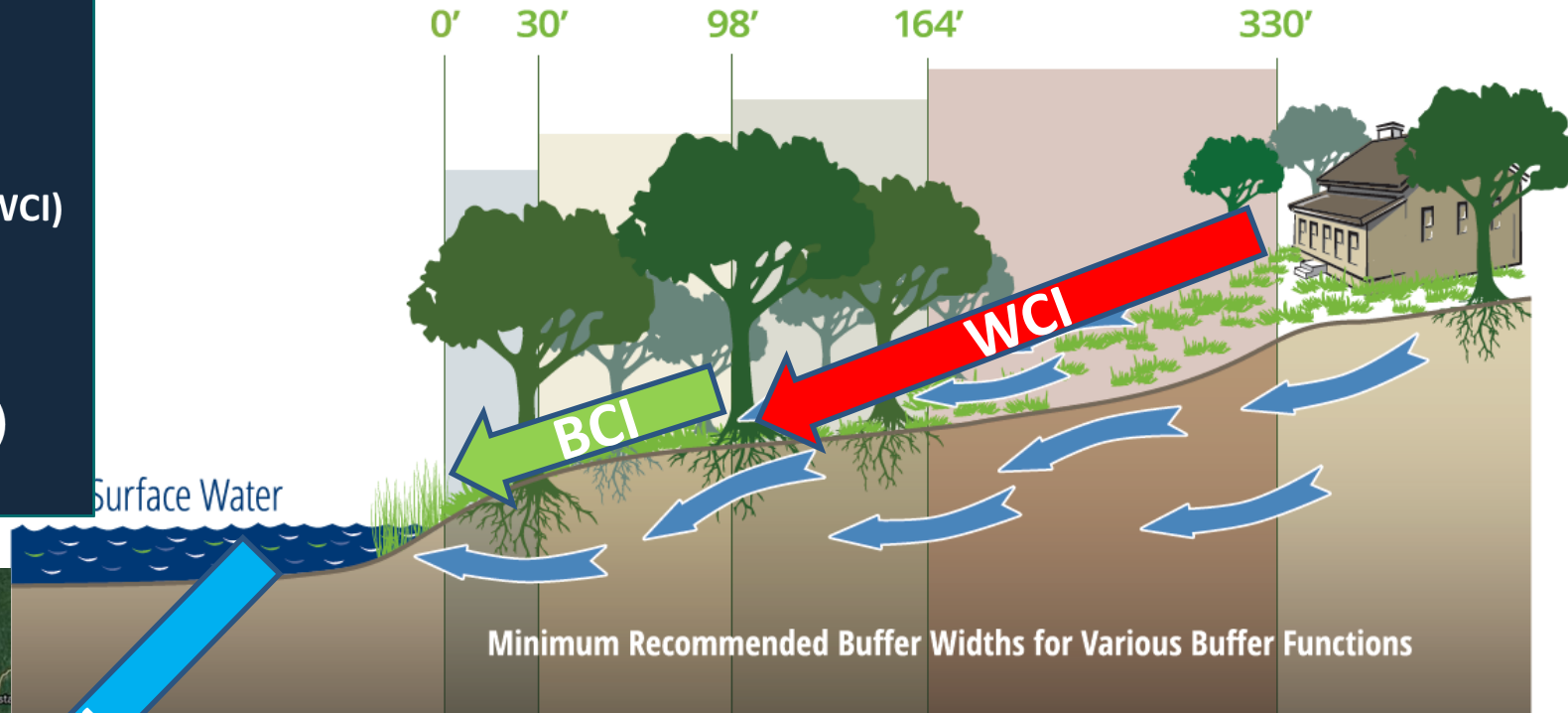
Land Class	Weight
Natural	1
Ag-Like	2
Developed/ Impervious	7

Indicator	Equation
Watershed Condition Index (WCI)	$\text{WCI} = \text{Natural acres} / (\text{Natural acres} + (\text{Ag-Like acres} * 2) + (\text{Developed acres} * 7))$
Buffer Condition Index (BCI)	$\text{BCI} = \text{Natural acres} / (\text{Natural acres} + (\text{Ag-Like acres} * 2) + (\text{Developed acres} * 7))$
Weighted Combined Condition Index (CCI)	$\text{Weighted CCI} = \text{WCI} * (1 + (\text{BCI} - \text{WCI}))$

Buffer Structure & Function:

- Combined Condition Index (CCI)
- Watershed Condition (WCI)
- Buffer Condition (BCI)

$$CCI = WCI \times (1 + (BCI - WCI))$$



30 FT Influence Water Temperature

98 FT Remove Pollutants. Habitat for Aquatic Macroinvertebrates & Fish

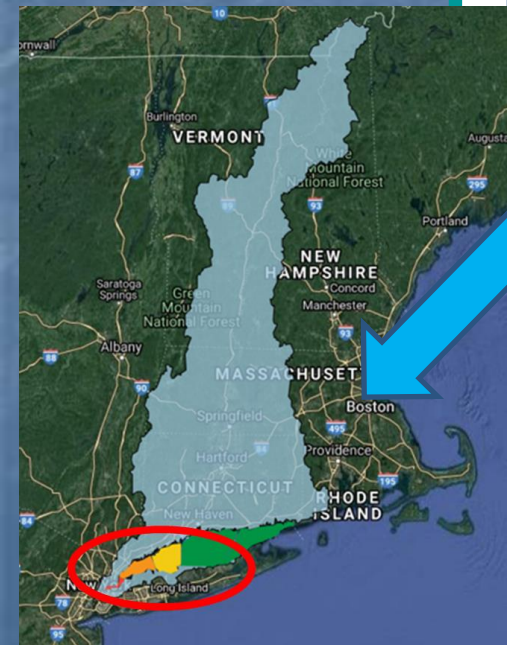
164 FT Reduce Runoff & Stabilize Channel Bank

330 FT Habitat for Terrestrial Wildlife

CCI

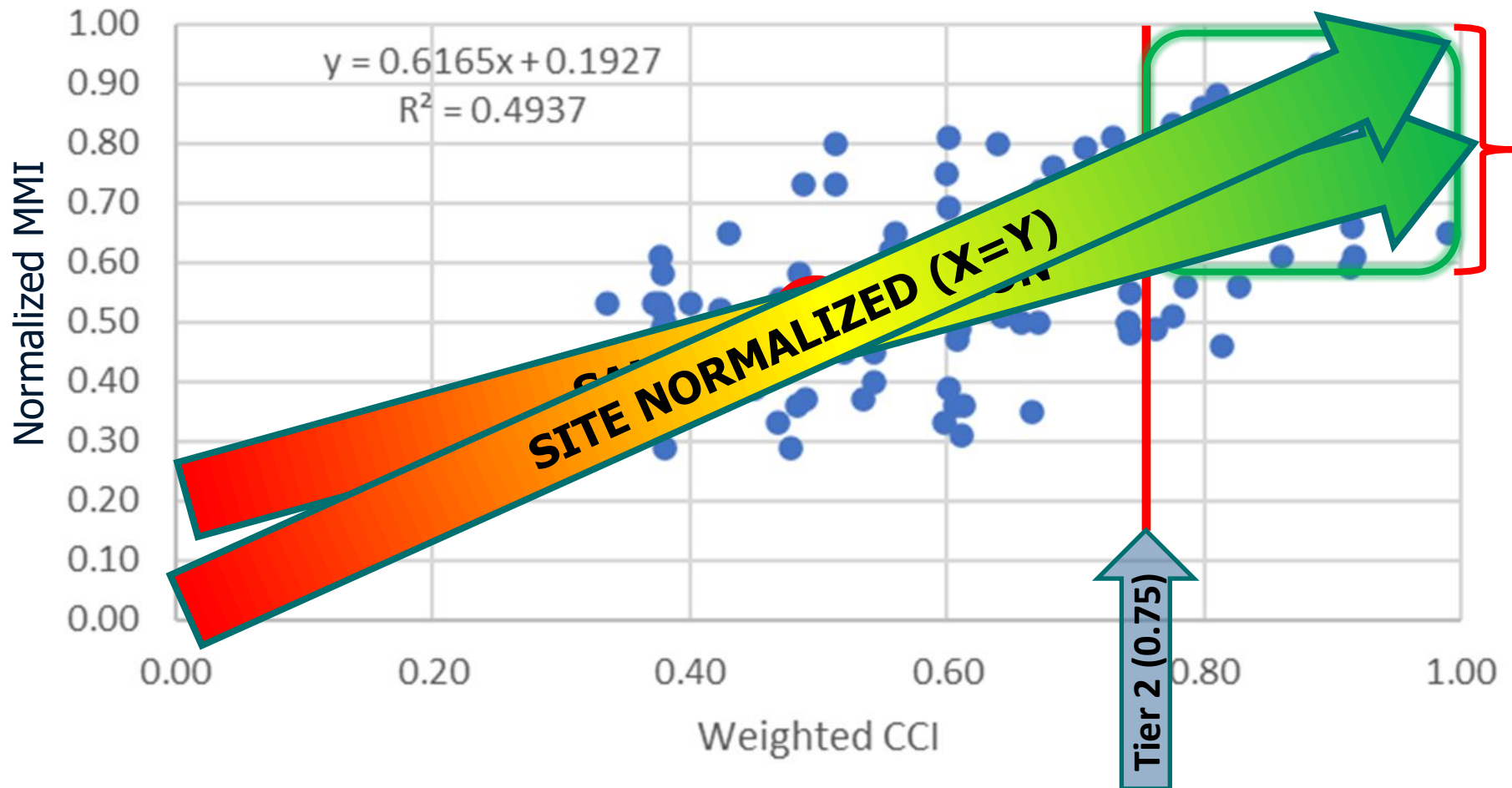
Buffer Options for the Bay

www.bufferoptionsnh.org



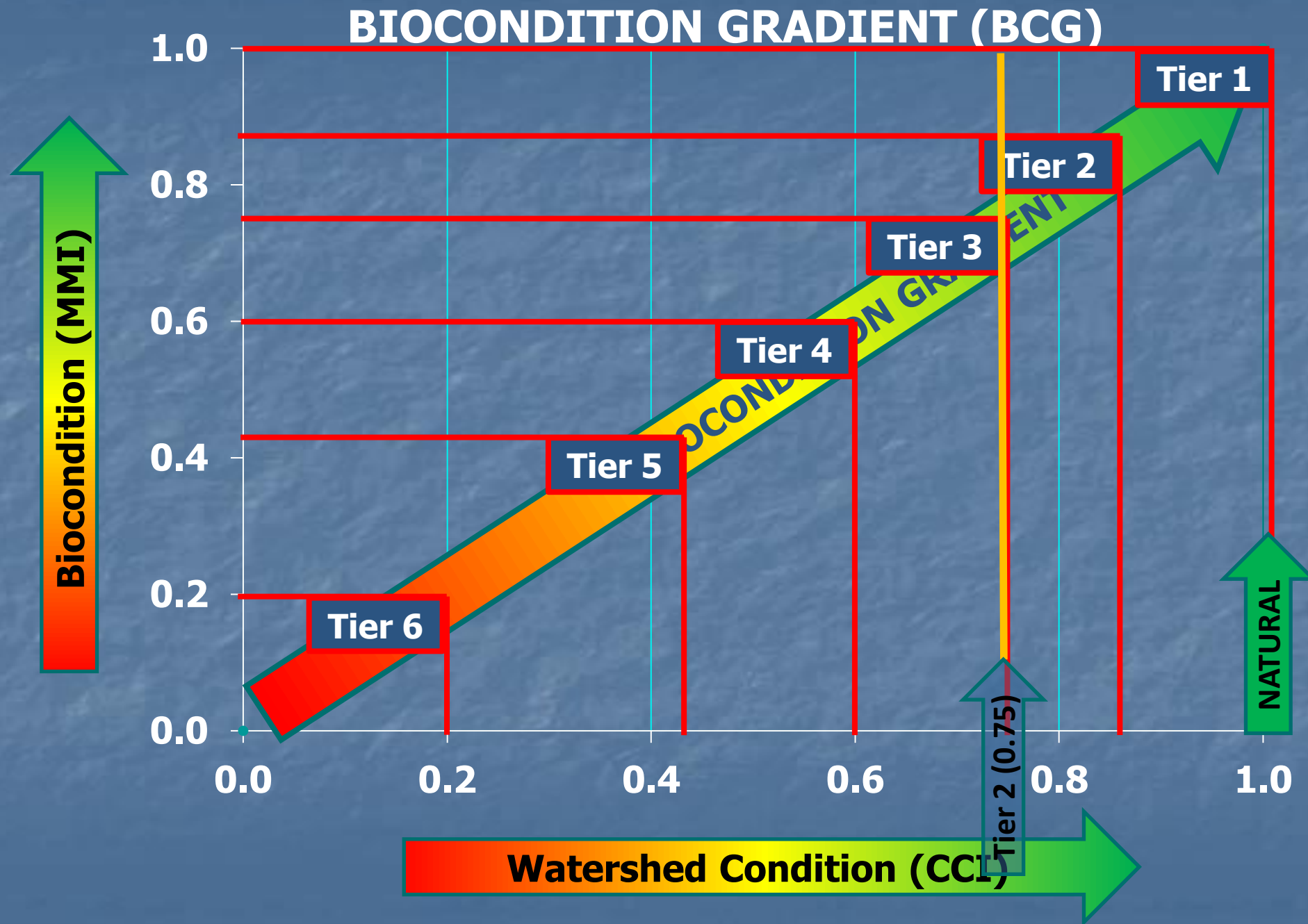
The Combined Condition Index:

Weighted CCI, 1-m, 100' Buffer w/o Outliers



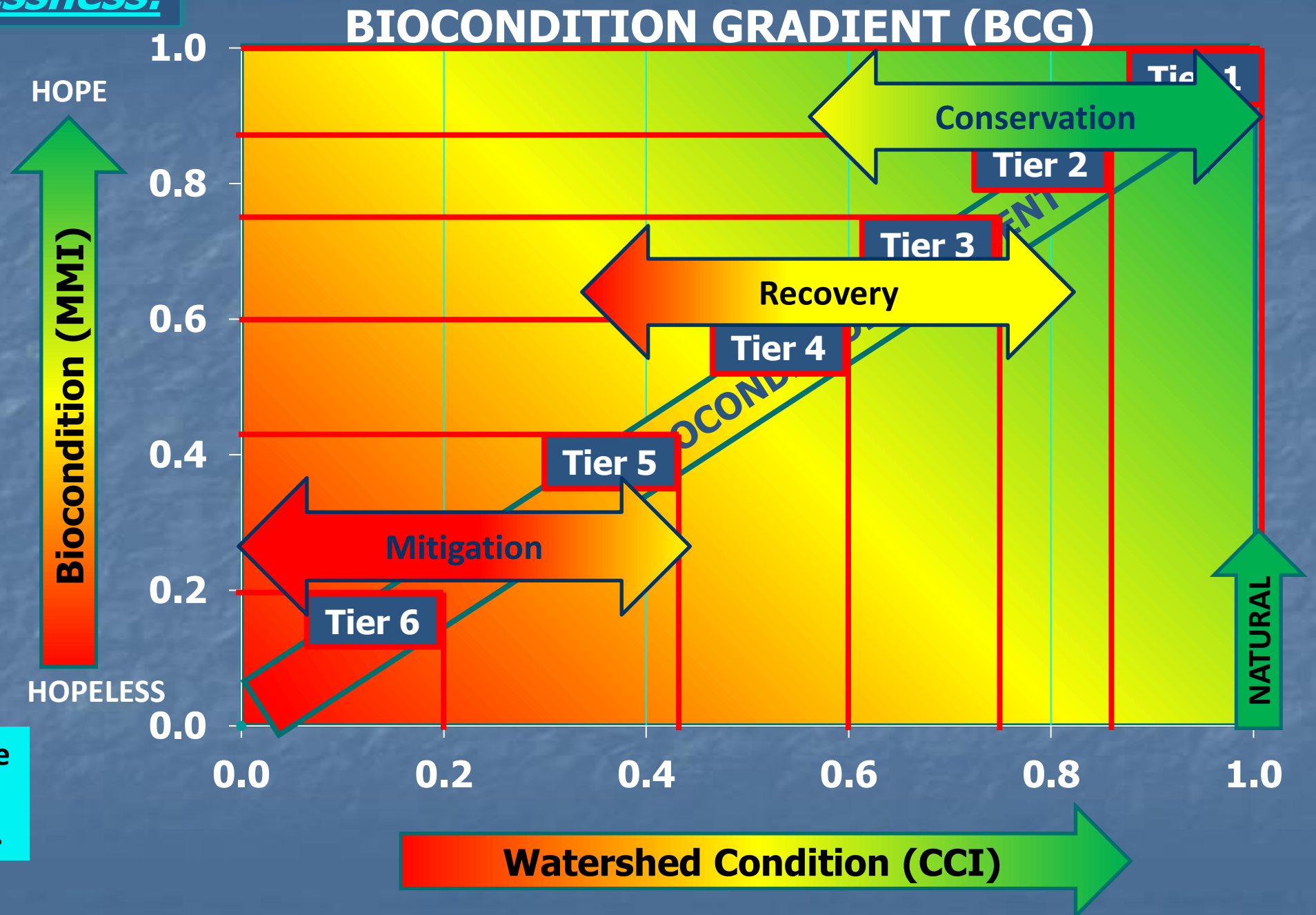
Benchmarking:

Tier	Benchmark
1	0.88
2	0.75
3	0.60
4	0.43
5	0.20
6	0.00



Hope and Hopelessness:

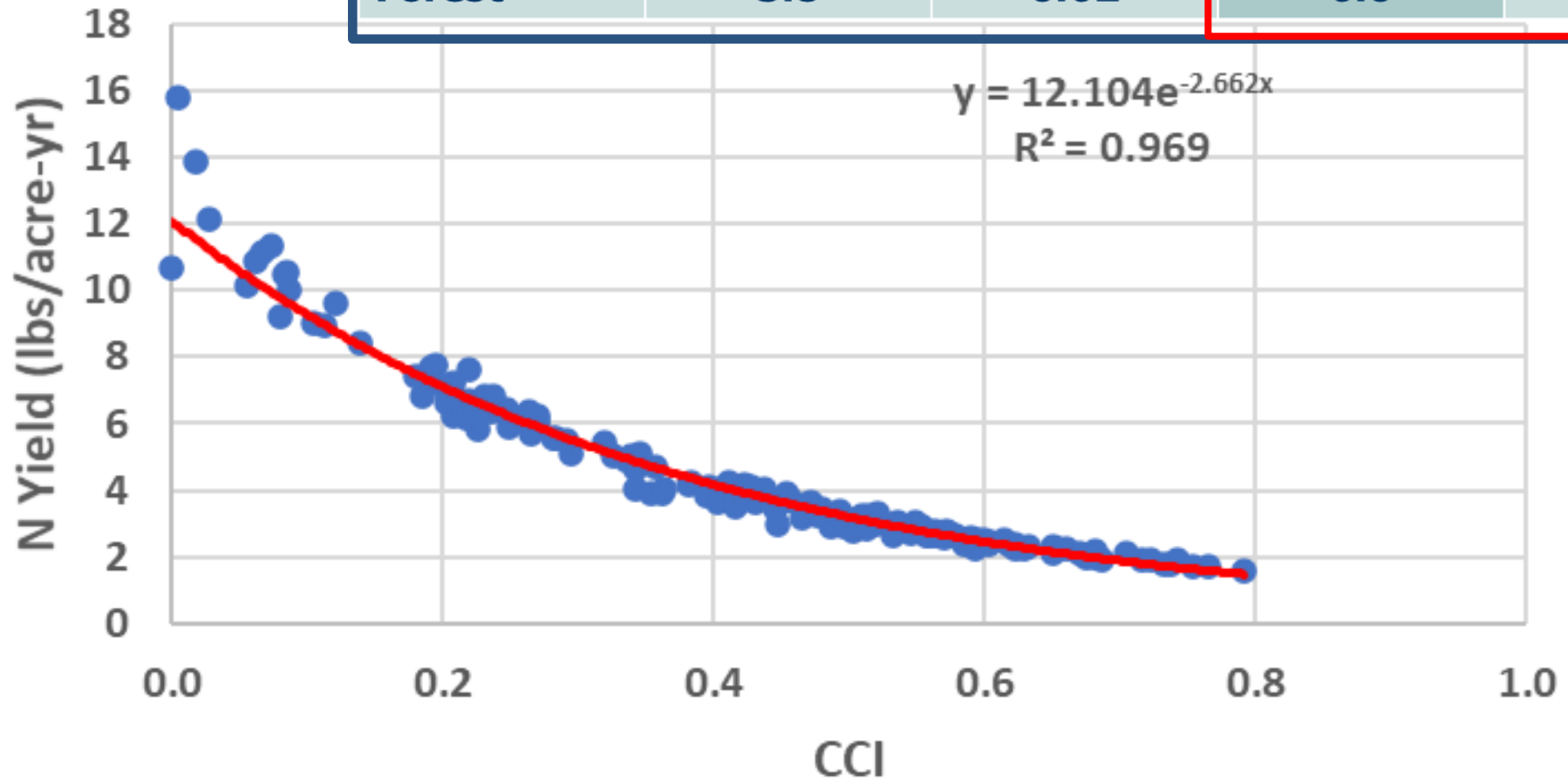
Tier	Benchmark
1	0.88
2	0.75
3	0.60
4	0.43
5	0.20
6	0.00



*After Bellucci, Beauchene and Becker (2008)
Streams of Hope concept.

Nitrogen and the CCI:

Land Cover	LIS TMDL	Literature	CCI Input	CCI Export
Urban	12	14	20	12
Ag-Like	6.8	4.0	12	3.6
Forest	3.8	0.62	6.0	0.84

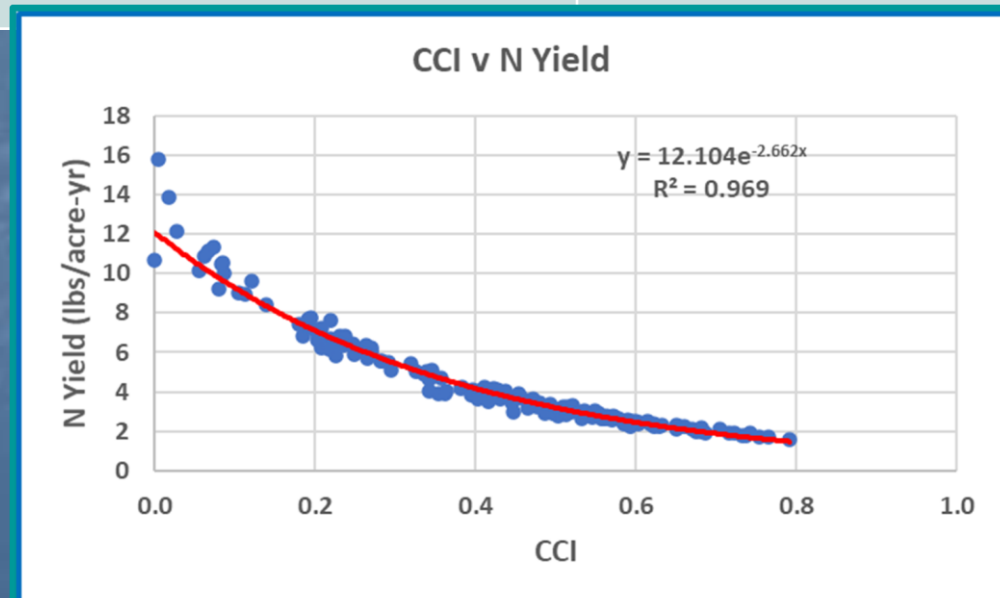


Trading Ground Rules

- Consistent with EPA Trading Policies and Guidance
- Consistent with State and Federal Regulations
- Performed on a Watershed Scale that Assures Connectivity
- Meets Water Quality Standards in each Trading Sub-Unit
- Consistent with Antidegradation Policies
- Meets Most Sensitive Designated Use, i.e., Aquatic Life Use
- Integrates and Balances Ecosystem Goods & Service Benefits
- Fair and Equitable Accounting and Accountability

Currencies:

Currency	Units	Credit Calculation
Biocondition or Biointegrity	Acres	CCI * area in acres
Total Nitrogen	Pounds/yr	$(12.104e^{-2.66(\text{CCI})}) * \text{acres}$
Enrichment Factor (EF) (Proportional Dose) UNDER DEVELOPMENT	TN Normalized Yield	TN Yield/0.84



EF = Enrichment Factor (Becker, 2014)

Proportional Dosing:

Nitrogen Loads (Tons N/Year) by Source Delivered to Long Island Sound

Baseline Load =
61,351 tons N/Year

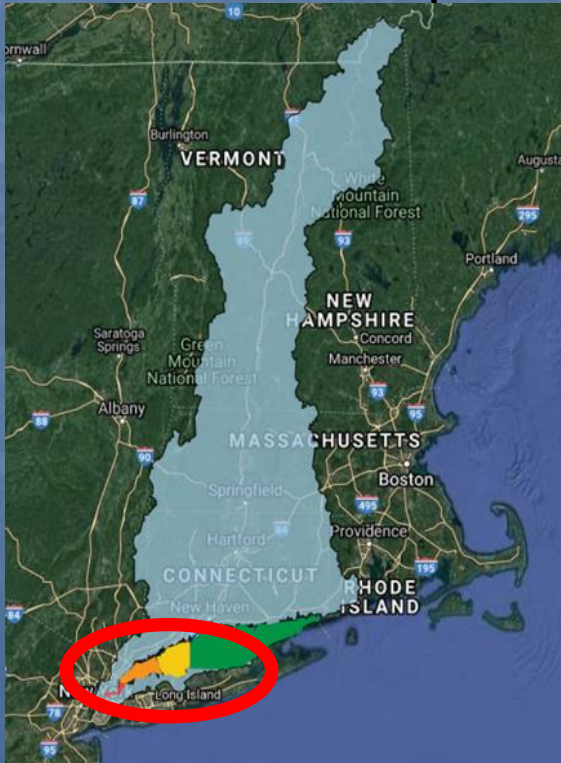
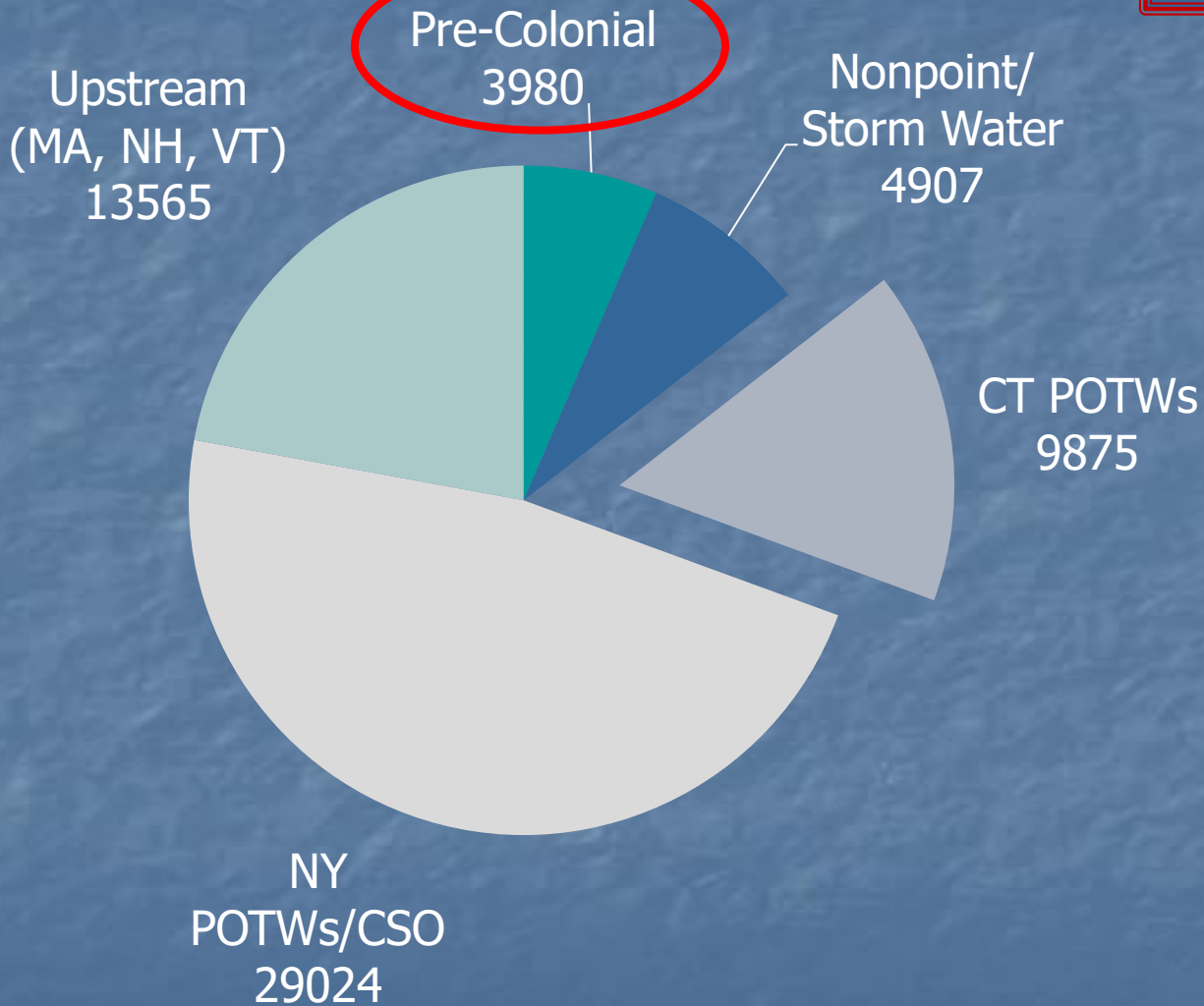
Baseline
Enrichment Factor =
Total Load/
Pre-Colonial Load =
~ 15

Enrichment Factor =
Load/Natural Load

58.5% Reduction =
24,570 tons N/Year

TMDL Load =
36,781 tons N/Year

TMDL
Enrichment Factor =
TMDL Load/
Pre-Colonial Load =
~ 9

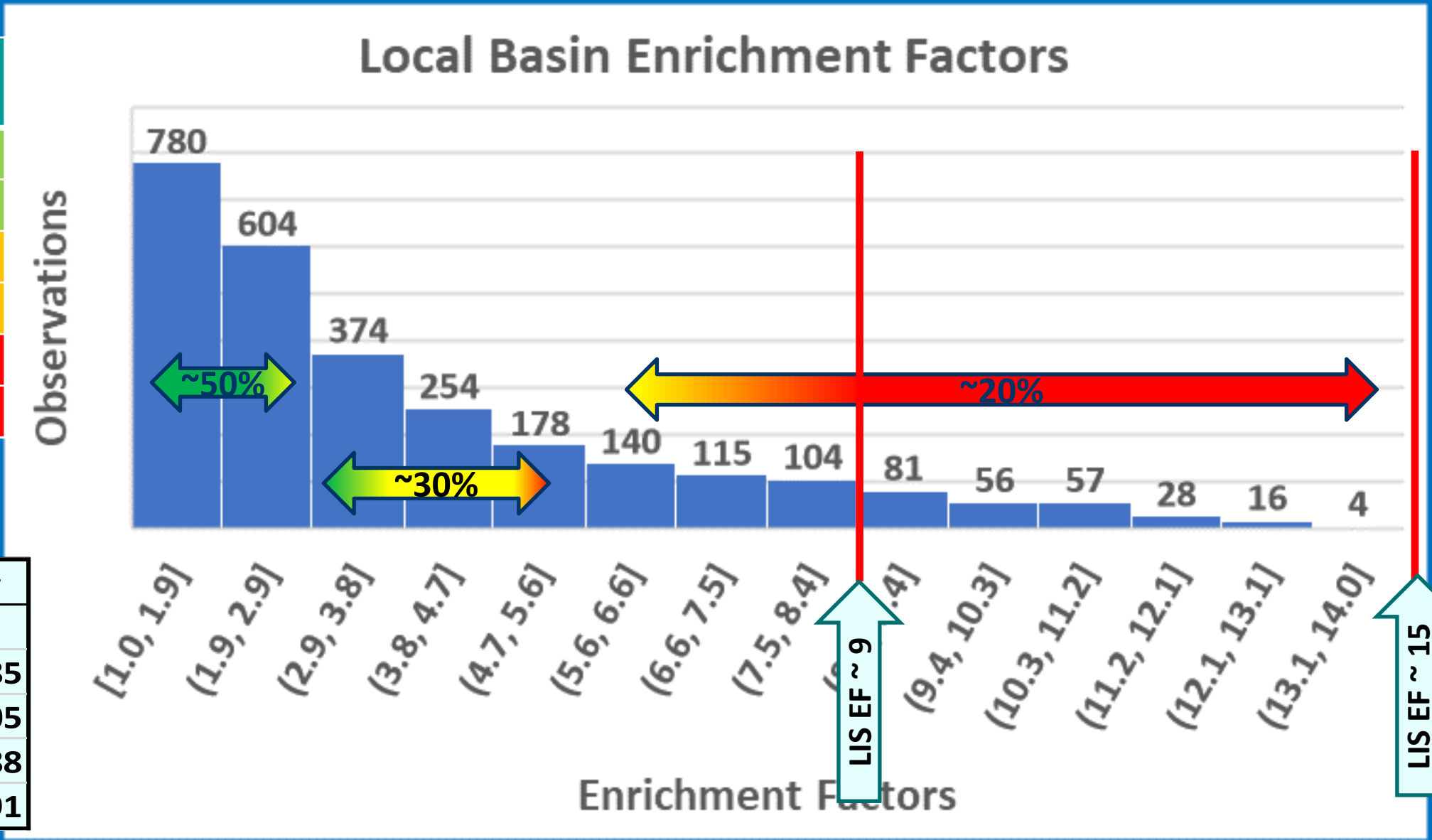


EF = Enrichment Factor (Becker, 2014)

Translation to Nitrogen:

Tier	CCI	EF
1	0.88	<1.4
2	0.75	2.0
3	0.60	2.9
4	0.43	4.6
5	0.20	8.5
6	0.00	>8.5

Enrichment Factors	
Mean	3.85
S.E.	0.05
Median	2.88
Count	2791



Watershed Scale:

November 2020



Water Quality Trading on a Watershed Scale

Executive Summary

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) 2019 memorandum *Updating the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Trading Policy to Promote Market-Based Mechanisms for Improving Water Quality* identifies six broad market-based principles that, if implemented, will help modernize and promote the development of environmental markets. The first of those principles is that "states, tribes, and stakeholders should consider implementing water quality trading and other market-based programs

"Establishing an appropriately defined trading area is necessary to provide a viable trading market and to ***ensure that targeted water quality concerns are addressed throughout the trading area.***


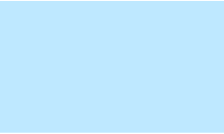

"EPA recommends that the scale of a market-based water quality improvement program, including water quality trading, be ***informed by the hydrology and ecology of the watershed in conjunction with the effects and the extent of the pollutants of concern.***"

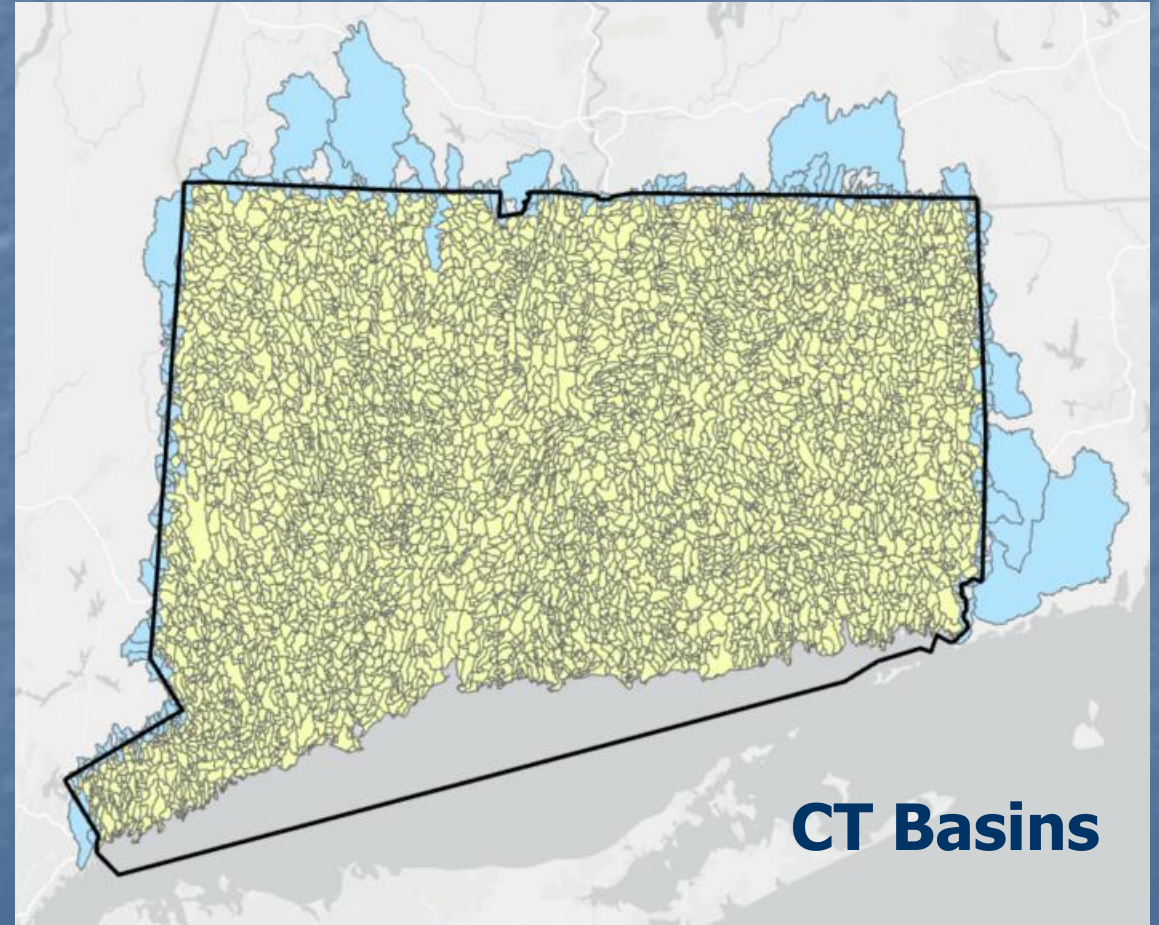
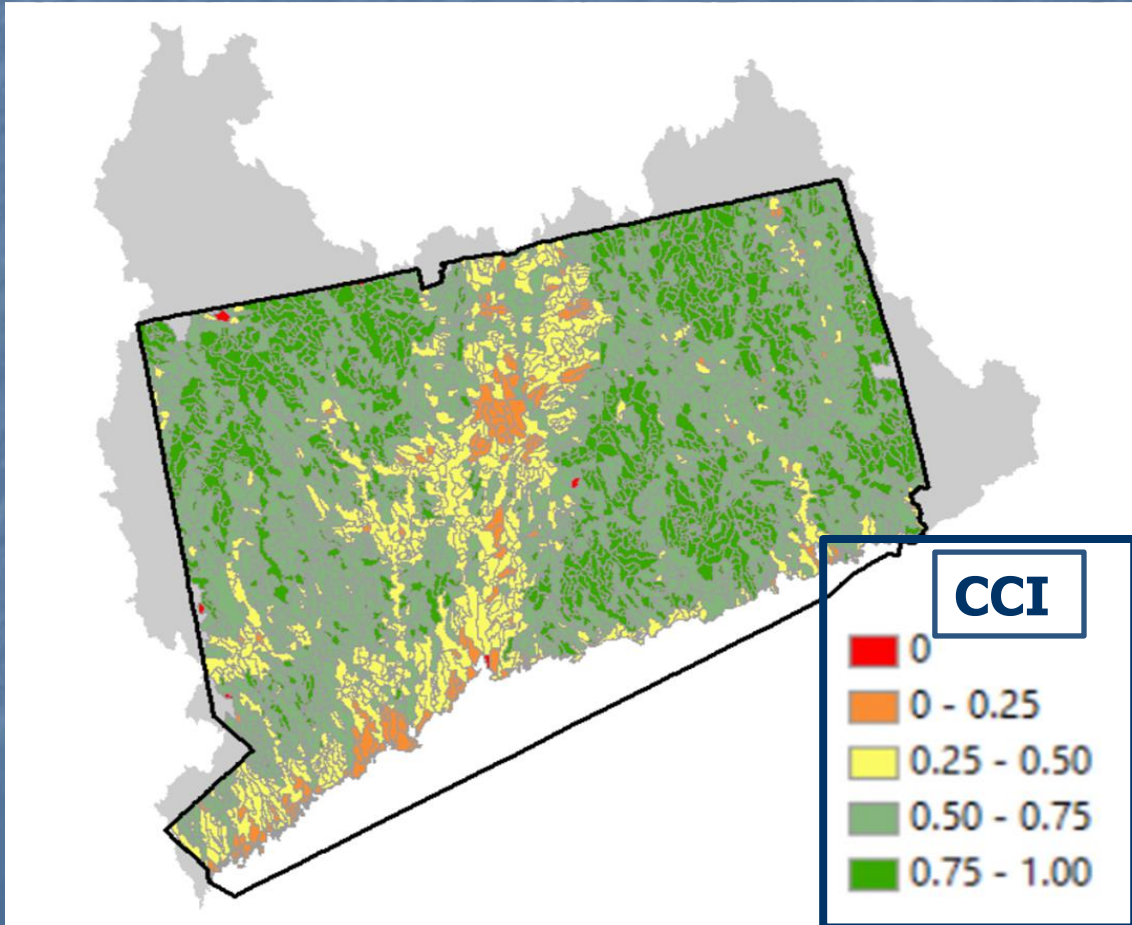
Water Quality Goals, Connectivity and Pollutant Processing

- ✓ Identify water quality goals, including pollutants of concern and their sources, and waters targeted for improvement.
- ✓ Determine how upstream and downstream waters are connected using the best available maps and tools for the watershed of interest.
- ✓ Determine the upstream and downstream extent of impact for the pollutant of concern.
- ✓ Identify watershed features that may inform the trading area.

Appropriate Scale:

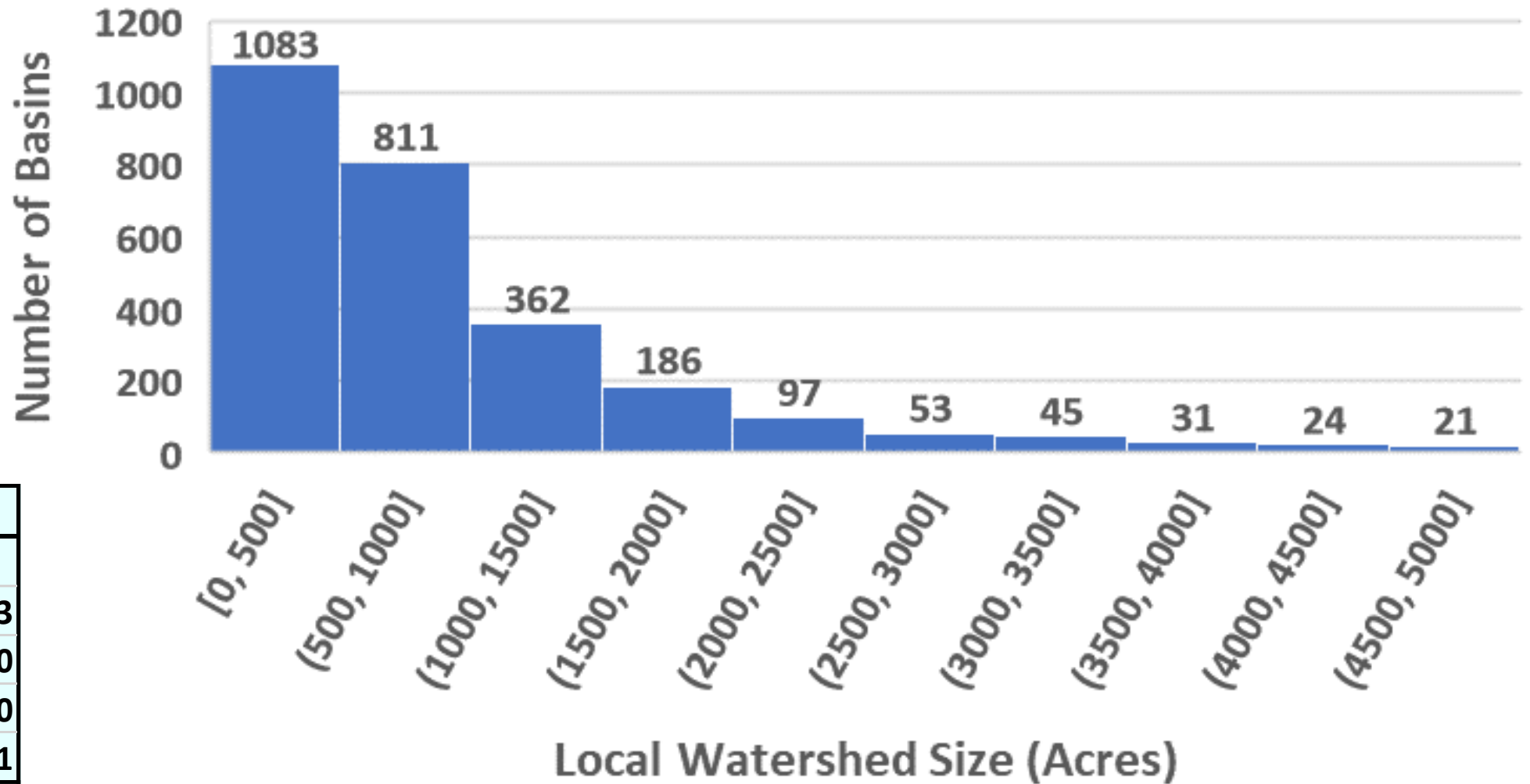
Study Area

	Full coverage within CT
	Partial coverage within CT, flagged and no quantitative analysis
	Basins included that are not part of LIS watershed



Application to Local Basins:

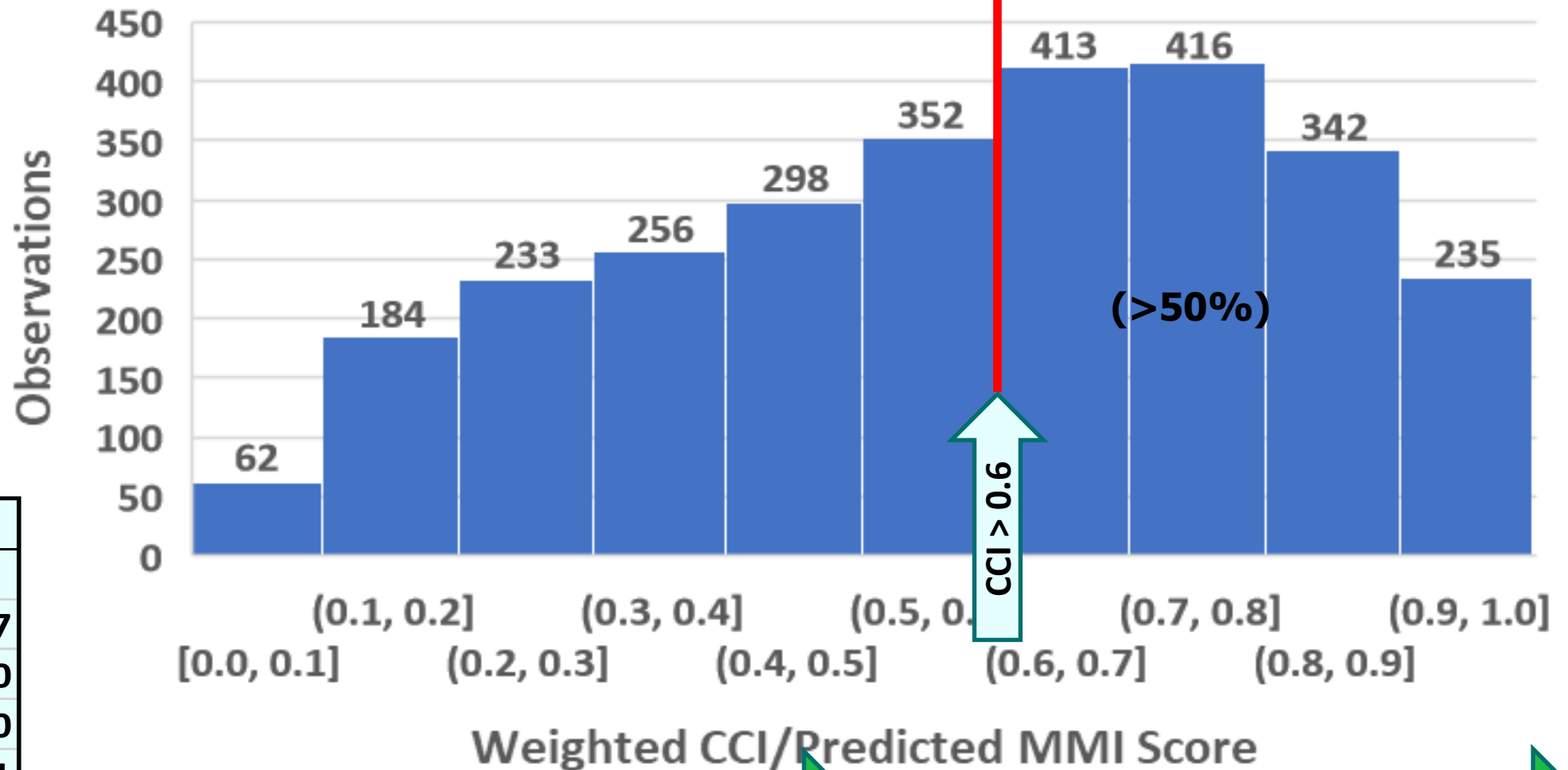
Local Basin Areas (< 5000 acres) (>97%)



Area (acres)	
Mean	1393
S. E.	140
Median	640
Count	2791

Stream Ecosystem Health:

CCI/Predicted MMI 1m, 100' Buffer Local Basins



<i>Weighted CCI</i>	
Mean	0.57
S.E.	0.00
Median	0.60
Count	2791

Watershed Condition (CCI)

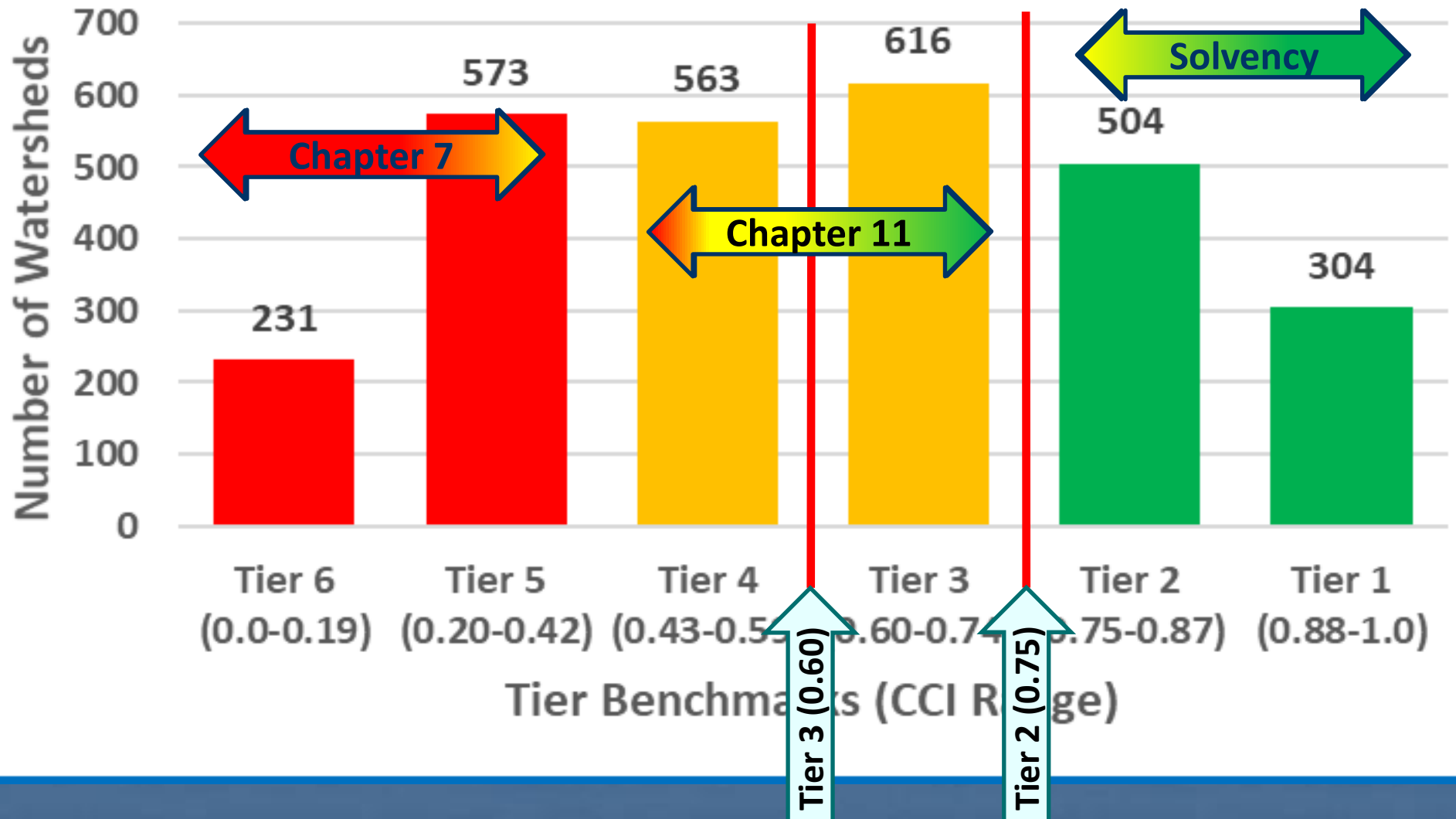
Biocondition (MMI)

Shed No Tiers:

Tier	Benchmark
1	0.88
2	0.75
3	0.60
4	0.43
5	0.20
6	0.00

Weighted CCI	
Mean	0.57
S.E.	0.00
Median	0.60
Count	2791

Local Watershed Count by Tier Benchmarks

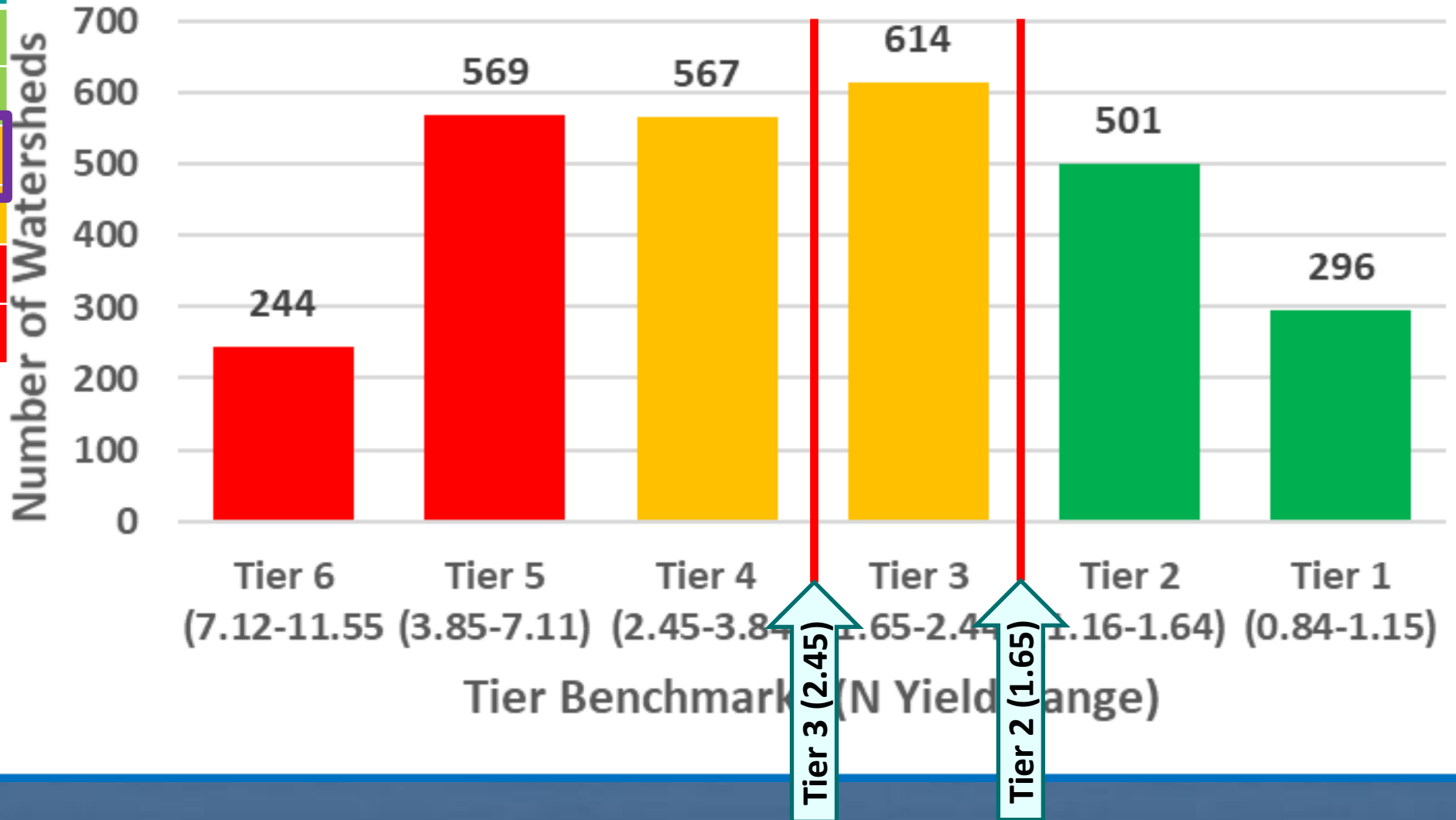


Nitrogen Yield Benchmarks:

Tier	CCI	N Yield
1	0.88	<1.16
2	0.75	1.65
3	0.60	2.45
4	0.43	3.85
5	0.20	7.12
6	0.00	>7.12

<i>N Yield (lbs/acre-yr)</i>	
Mean	3.26
S.E.	0.04
Median	2.44
Count	2791

Local Watershed Count by Tier Benchmarks



Salmon River Example:

Salmon River Watershed

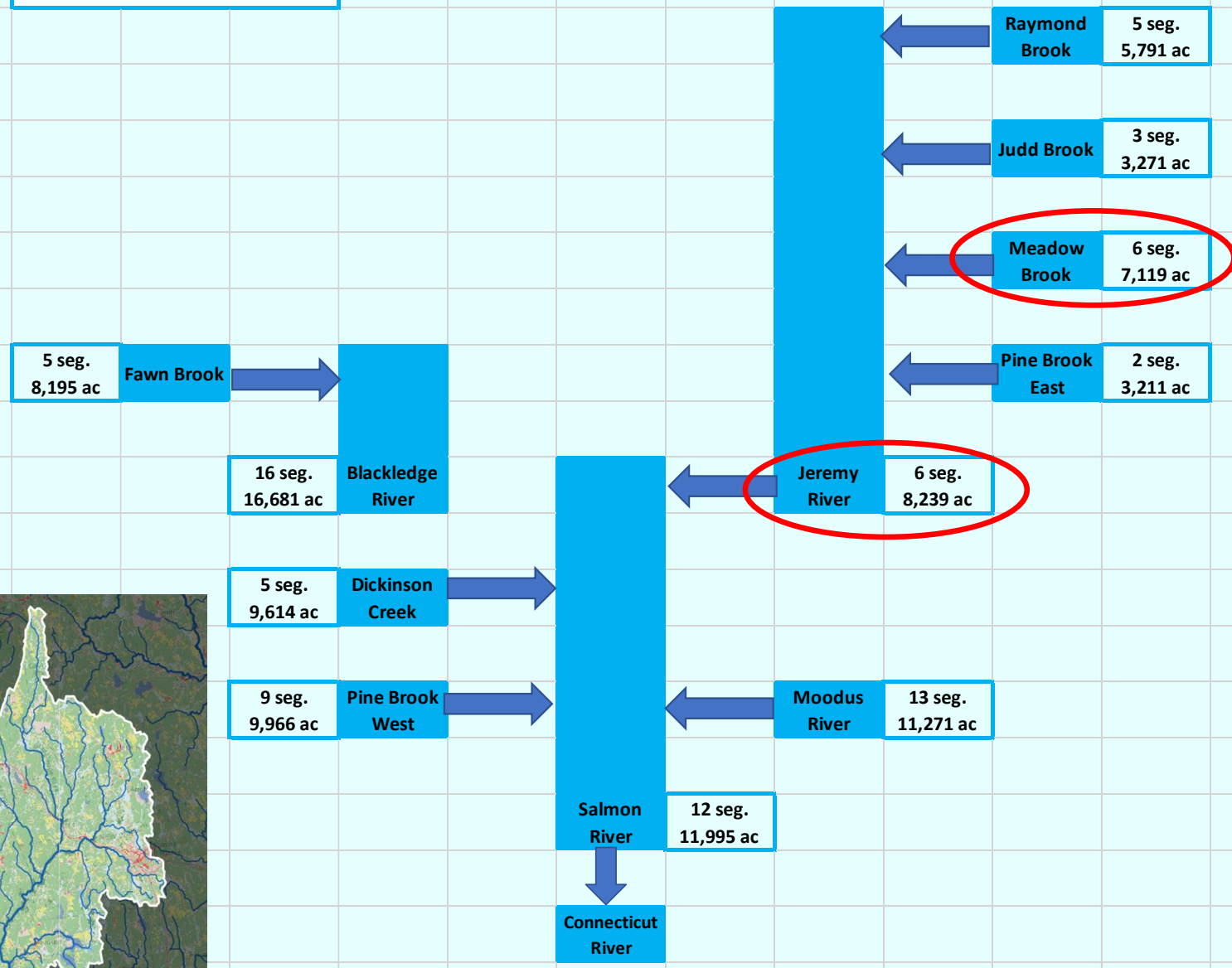
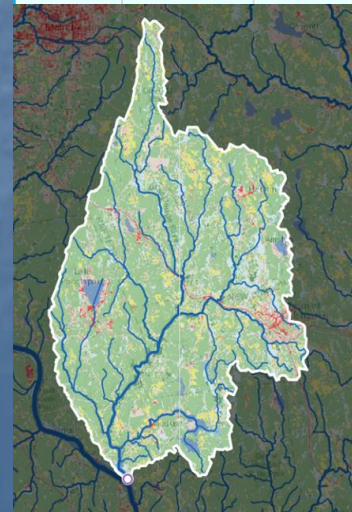
- 95,353 acres (150 sq. mi)
- 11 sub-basin trading units
- 82 segments (local basins)

Tier	CCI	N Yield
1	0.88	<1.16
2	0.75	1.65
3	0.60	2.45
4	0.43	3.85
5	0.20	7.12
6	0.00	>7.12

Tier 3 Benchmark = 0.60

Sub-Basin	Area (acres)	Segments	WCI	BCI	CCI
Raymond	5,791	5	0.55	0.68	0.62
Judd	3,271	3	0.58	0.80	0.70
Meadow	7,119	6	0.43	0.70	0.54
Pine East	3,211	2	0.63	0.93	0.82
Jeremy	8,239	6	0.59	0.83	0.73
Fawn	8,195	5	0.58	0.88	0.76
Blackledge	16,681	16	0.55	0.79	0.68
Dickinson	9,614	5	0.63	0.80	0.74
Pine West	9,966	9	0.57	0.70	0.64
Moodus	11,271	13	0.58	0.72	0.66
Salmon	11,995	12	0.73	0.85	0.81
Total	95,353	82	0.58	0.78	0.70

Salmon River Trading



Jeremy River Trading Ledger:

Jeremy River Watershed – Current Status

BIOCONDITION CREDITS

BASIN_UID	Name	Watershed Area (acres)	WCI Developed (acres)	WCI Ag-like (acres)	WCI Natural (acres)	Weighted WCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	BCI Developed (acres)	BCI Ag-like (acres)	BCI Natural (acres)	Weighted BCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	Weighted CCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)
4705-00	Jeremy River	5420	263	607	4075	0.57	10	10	455	0.84	0.72
4705-01	Jeremy River	826	40	92	640	0.58	1	1	52	0.86	0.74
4705-02	Jeremy River	533	8	8	475	0.87	0	0	42	0.94	0.93
4705-03	Jeremy River	545	21	59	411	0.61	1	3	51	0.79	0.72
4705-04	Jeremy River	333	10	23	258	0.69	1	1	40	0.79	0.76
4705-05	Jeremy River	581	40	59	420	0.51	2	4	56	0.72	0.62
4705-SUM	Jeremy River Tot	8239	382	848	6280	0.59	15	20	695	0.83	0.73

Tier 3 Benchmark = 0.6



BASIN_UID	Name	Watershed Area (acres)	Weighted CCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	CCI Target = 0.6	CCI Surplus(+)/ Deficit(-)	Credit(+)/ Deficit(-) (acres)	Cumulative Credit Balance
4705-00	Jeremy River	5420	0.72	0.60	0.12	662	662
4705-01	Jeremy River	826	0.74	0.60	0.14	116	778
4705-02	Jeremy River	533	0.93	0.60	0.33	175	953
4705-03	Jeremy River	545	0.72	0.60	0.12	65	1018
4705-04	Jeremy River	333	0.76	0.60	0.16	54	1072
4705-05	Jeremy River	581	0.62	0.60	0.02	10	1082
4705-SUM	Jeremy River Tot	8239	0.73	0.60	0.13	1060	1082

- Combined Condition Index (CCI)
 - Watershed Condition (WCI)
 - Buffer Condition (BCI)
- CCI =
WCI x (1+(BCI-WCI))

Jeremy River Trading Ledger:

Jeremy River Watershed – Managed Status

BIOCONDITION CREDITS

BASIN_UID	Name	Watershed Area (acres)	WCI Developed (acres)	WCI Ag-like (acres)	WCI Natural (acres)	Change Must = 0	Weighted WCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	BCI Developed (acres)	BCI Ag-like (acres)	BCI Natural (acres)	Change Must = 0	Weighted BCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	Weighted CCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)
4705-00	Jeremy River	5420	0	0	0	0	0.57	-10	0	10	0	0.96	0.79
4705-01	Jeremy River	826	0	0	0	0	0.58	-1	0	1	0	0.97	0.81
4705-02	Jeremy River	533	0	0	0	0	0.87	0	0	0	0	0.99	0.98
4705-03	Jeremy River	545	0	0	0	0	0.61	-1	0	1	0	0.90	0.78
4705-04	Jeremy River	333	0	0	0	0	0.69	-1	0	1	0	0.93	0.86
4705-05	Jeremy River	581	0	0	0	0	0.51	-2	0	2	0	0.87	0.70
4705-SUM	Jeremy River Tot	8239	0	0	0	0	0.59	-15	0	15	0	0.95	0.80

BASIN_UID	Name	Watershed Area (acres)	Weighted CCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	CCI Target = 0.6	Current State			Managed State		
					CCI Surplus(+)/ Deficit(-)	Credit(+)/ Deficit(-) (acres)	Cumulative Credit Balance	CCI Surplus(+)/ Deficit(-)	Credit(+)/ Deficit(-) (acres)	Cumulative Credit Balance
4705-00	Jeremy River	5420	0.72	0.60	0.12	662	662	0.19	1045	1045
4705-01	Jeremy River	826	0.74	0.60	0.14	116	778	0.21	172	1217
4705-02	Jeremy River	533	0.93	0.60	0.33	175	953	0.38	200	1418
4705-03	Jeremy River	545	0.72	0.60	0.12	65	1018	0.18	101	1518
4705-04	Jeremy River	333	0.76	0.60	0.16	54	1072	0.26	87	1605
4705-05	Jeremy River	581	0.62	0.60	0.02	10	1082	0.10	56	1661
4705-SUM	Jeremy River Tot	8239	0.73	0.60	0.13	1060	1082	0.20	1656	1661



Meadow Brook Trading Ledger:

Meadow Brook Watershed – Managed Status

BIOCONDITION CREDITS

BASIN_UID	Name	Watershed Area (acres)	WCI Developed (acres)	WCI Ag-like (acres)	WCI Natural (acres)	Change Must = 0	Weighted WCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	BCI Developed (acres)	BCI Ag-like (acres)	BCI Natural (acres)	Change Must = 0	Weighted BCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	Weighted CCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)
4703-00	Meadow Brook	1961	0	0	0	0	0.44	-5	0	5	0	0.91	0.65
4703-01	Meadow Brook	1193	0	0	0	0	0.38	-7	0	7	0	0.88	0.57
4703-02	Meadow Brook	1569	0	0	0	0	0.50	-3	0	3	0	0.92	0.71
4703-03	Meadow Brook	316	0	0	0	0	0.19	-4	0	4	0	0.81	0.31
4703-04	Meadow Brook	417	0	0	0	0	0.20	-3	0	3	0	0.66	0.30
4703-05	Meadow Brook	1663	0	0	0	0	0.56	-1	0	1	0	0.95	0.78
4703-SUM	Meadow Brook	7118	0	0	0	0	0.43	-23	0	23	0	0.90	0.63

Current State

Managed State

BASIN_UID	Name	Watershed Area (acres)	WCI Developed (acres)	WCI Ag-like (acres)	WCI Natural (acres)	Weighted WCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	BCI Developed (acres)	BCI Ag-like (acres)	BCI Natural (acres)	Weighted BCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	Weighted CCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)
4703-00	Meadow Brook	1961	177	260	1383	0.44	5	7	129	0.72	0.56
4703-01	Meadow Brook	1193	118	194	761	0.38	7	8	105	0.62	0.48
4703-02	Meadow Brook	1569	106	189	1115	0.50	3	7	149	0.80	0.65
4703-03	Meadow Brook	316	77	58	157	0.19	4	2	17	0.37	0.23
4703-04	Meadow Brook	417	90	97	213	0.20	3	3	10	0.27	0.22
4703-05	Meadow Brook	1663	83	198	1264	0.56	1	3	115	0.88	0.74
4703-SUM	Meadow Brook	7118	652	996	4892	0.43	23	30	525	0.70	0.54

Meadow Brook Nitrogen Trading Ledger:

Meadow Brook Watershed – Managed Status

NITROGEN CREDITS

Current State

BASIN_UID	Name	Watershed Area (acres)	Weighted WCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	Weighted BCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	Weighted CCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	N Yield (lbs/acre-yr)	N Yield Target = 2.45	N Yield Surplus(+)/ Deficit(-) (lbs/ac-yr)	N Load Credit(+)/ Deficit(-) (lbs/yr)	Cumulative N Load Credit Balance
4703-00	Meadow Brook	1961	0.44	0.72	0.56	2.71	2.45	-0.26	-517	-517
4703-01	Meadow Brook	1193	0.38	0.62	0.48	3.40	2.45	-0.95	-1132	-1649
4703-02	Meadow Brook	1569	0.50	0.80	0.65	2.15	2.45	0.30	466	-1183
4703-03	Meadow Brook	316	0.19	0.37	0.23	6.62	2.45	-4.17	-1318	-2501
4703-04	Meadow Brook	417	0.20	0.27	0.22	6.76	2.45	-4.31	-1798	-4299
4703-05	Meadow Brook	1663	0.56	0.88	0.74	1.67	2.45	0.78	1296	-3003
4703-SUM	Meadow Brook	7118	0.43	0.70	0.54	2.84	2.45	-0.39	-2786	-3003

Managed State

BASIN_UID	Name	Watershed Area (acres)	Weighted WCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	Weighted BCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	Weighted CCI (N=1; AL=2; IC=7)	N Yield (lbs/acre-yr)	N Yield Target = 2.45	N Yield Surplus(+)/ Deficit(-) (lbs/ac-yr)	N Load Credit(+)/ Deficit(-) (lbs/yr)	Cumulative N Load Credit Balance
4703-00	Meadow Brook	1961	0.44	0.91	0.65	2.17	2.45	0.28	548	548
4703-01	Meadow Brook	1193	0.38	0.88	0.57	2.63	2.45	-0.18	-210	338
4703-02	Meadow Brook	1569	0.50	0.92	0.71	1.84	2.45	0.61	957	1295
4703-03	Meadow Brook	316	0.19	0.81	0.31	5.27	2.45	-2.82	-890	405
4703-04	Meadow Brook	417	0.20	0.66	0.30	5.48	2.45	-3.03	-1262	-857
4703-05	Meadow Brook	1663	0.56	0.95	0.78	1.51	2.45	0.94	1568	711
4703-SUM	Meadow Brook	7118	0.43	0.90	0.63	2.27	2.45	0.18	1313	711

Salmon River Watershed Summary:

Current State

Managed State

Tier 3 Benchmark = 0.60							
Sub-Basin	Area (acres)	Segments	WCI	BCI	CCI	Biocondition Credits	Nitrogen Credits
Raymond	5,791	5	0.55	0.68	0.62	368	1,097
Judd	3,271	3	0.58	0.80	0.70	406	1,748
Meadow	7,119	6	0.43	0.70	0.54	314	711
Pine East	3,211	2	0.63	0.93	0.82	715	3,514
Jeremy	8,239	6	0.59	0.83	0.73	1,661	5,789
Fawn	8,195	5	0.58	0.88	0.76	1,338	6,809
Blackledge	16,681	16	0.55	0.79	0.68	1,625	6,602
Dickinson	9,614	5	0.63	0.80	0.74	1,324	7,000
Pine West	9,966	9	0.57	0.70	0.64	764	2,005
Moodus	11,271	13	0.58	0.72	0.66	756	3,485
Salmon	11,995	12	0.73	0.85	0.81	2,533	12,494
Total	95,353	82	0.58	0.78	0.70	11,804	51,253

Quinnipiac River Example:

Quinnipiac River Watershed

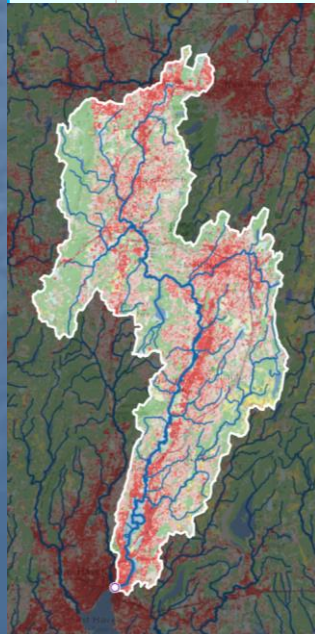
- 105,955 acres (165 sq. mi)
- 9 sub-basin trading units
- 73 segments (local basins)

Tier	CCI	N Yield
1	0.88	<1.16
2	0.75	1.65
3	0.60	2.45
4	0.43	3.85
5	0.20	7.12
6	0.00	>7.12

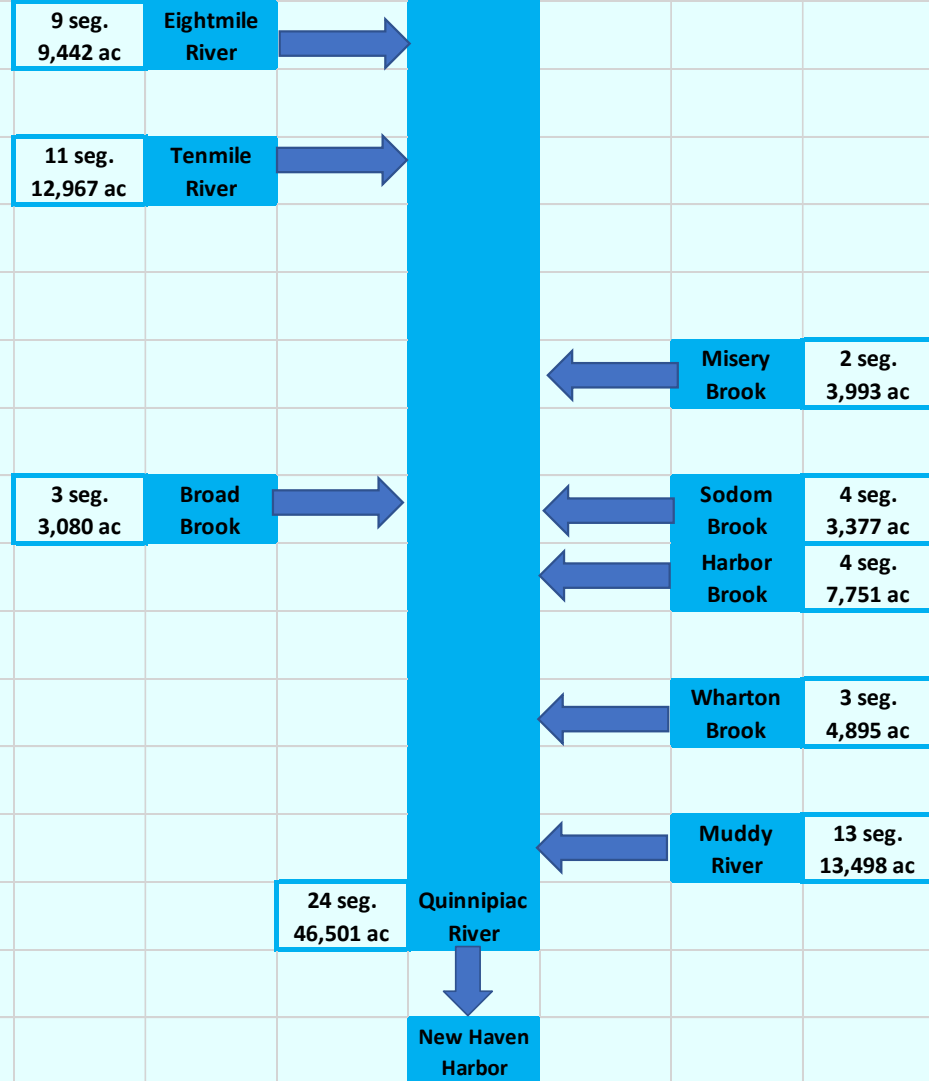
Tier 3 Benchmark = 0.60

Tier 4 Benchmark = 0.43

Sub-Basin	Area (acres)	Segments	WCI	BCI	CCI
Eightmile	9,442	9	0.35	0.60	0.44
Tenmile	12,967	11	0.35	0.59	0.43
Misery	3,993	2	0.25	0.56	0.32
Broad	3,080	3	0.52	0.87	0.70
Sodom	3,377	4	0.24	0.26	0.25
Harbor	7,752	4	0.16	0.31	0.19
Wharton	4,895	3	0.16	0.10	0.15
Muddy	13,948	13	0.30	0.58	0.39
Quinnipiac	46,501	24	0.18	0.40	0.22
Total	105,955	73	0.23	0.47	0.28



Quinnipiac River Trading



Quinnipiac River Watershed Summary:



Tier 3 Benchmark = 0.60			Tier 4 Benchmark = 0.43				
Sub-Basin	Area (acres)	Segments	WCI	BCI	CCI	Biocondition Credits	Nitrogen Credits
Eightmile	9,442	9	0.35	0.60	0.44	-1,248	-13,922
Tenmile	12,967	11	0.35	0.59	0.43	-1,777	-17,720
Misery	3,993	2	0.25	0.56	0.32	-1,099	-10,776
Broad	3,080	3	0.52	0.87	0.70	312	1,763
Sodom	3,377	4	0.24	0.26	0.25	-1,210	-13,286
Harbor	7,752	4	0.16	0.31	0.19	-2,928	-36,380
Wharton	4,895	3	0.16	0.10	0.15	-1,891	-21,618
Muddy	13,948	13	0.30	0.58	0.39	-2,708	-26,519
Quinnipiac	46,501	24	0.18	0.40	0.22	-17,198	-196,639
Total	105,955	73	0.23	0.47	0.28	-29,747	-335,097

NOT INCLUDING POINT SOURCES!

Put You in the Driver's Seat:

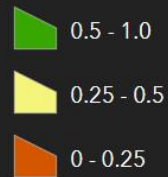
Combined Watershed Condition Index Dashboard

An Interactive Tool to Monitor Watershed Health



Combined Watershed Condition Index

Watershed Condition Index



Local Basin Boundary

What does Watershed Condition Index mean?

Watershed Condition Index (WCI) is an index that describes the probable health of a watershed. WCI is calculated based on [C-CAP High Resolution](#)

Click the Select tool (upper left corner of the map) and then select watershed(s) of your interest on the map. The selected watershed(s) will be highlighted in blue. The charts will be interactively updated for the selected watershed(s).



Watershed 4010-00

Combined Watershed Condition Index: **0.28**

Watershed Recovery Category: **Recovery**

Acre: **4,262.62**

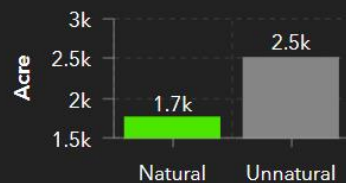
Percent Natural Land Cover

in the whole basin: **41.02%**
inside riparian zone: **71.77%**
outside riparian zone: **39.24%**

What is Watershed Recovery Category?

Watershed Recovery Category indicates the suggested land use strategy for a watershed based on the current CWCI value. Recovery Category is considered:

Natural vs. Unnatural



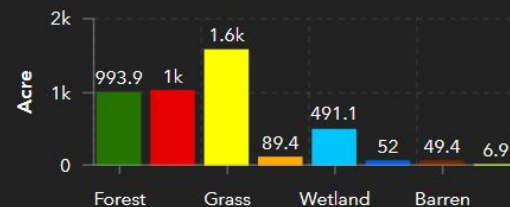
This bar chart represents acreage of natural and unnatural land cover within a whole watershed.

Natural vs. Unnatural



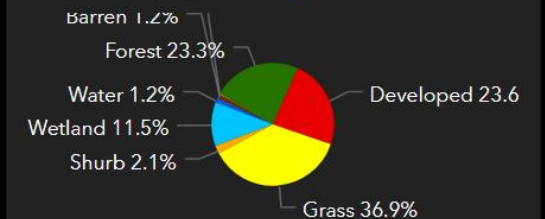
This pie chart represents percent area of natural and unnatural land cover within a whole watershed. Natural land cover includes forest, wetland, and water.

Land Cover



This bar chart represents acreage of each land cover type within a whole watershed.

Land Cover



This pie chart represents percent area of each land cover type within a whole watershed.

CREDIT: Q. Lei-Parent

In Conclusion:

Making Nature Great Again

(Occam's Razor – the rationality of simple explanations)

A Viable Method!

- **Applications:**
 - **Assessment**
 - **Diagnostics/Feasibility**
 - **Biointegrity Endpoints**
 - **Nutrient Targets**
 - **Management Planning/TMDLs**
 - **Watershed Management**
 - **Buffer Management**
 - **Biocondition and Nutrient Trading**

In an Ecosystem Context!

Whole Ecosystem Outcomes!

- **Natural Recovery is:**
 - **Functional**
 - **Adaptive**
 - **Transitional**
 - **Resilient**
 - **Low Cost**
 - **Aimed at Well-being Outcomes**

**A Stable Platform for
a Changing World!**

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QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, FEEDBACK?

Online form: <http://bit.ly/LIS-Trading-Feedback> *(case sensitive!)*

Send feedback directly to egildesgame@neiwpc.org

