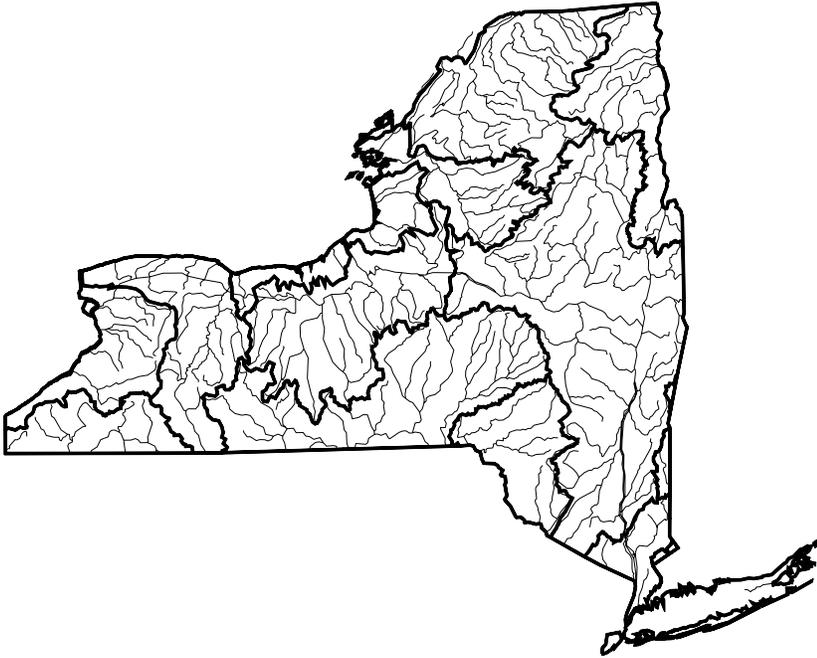


# New York



Basin Boundaries  
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the New York 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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## Surface Water Quality

Ninety-nine percent of New York's rivers and streams, 95% of the state's lake acres, all of the state's Great Lakes shoreline, and 99% of the bays and tidal waters have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses. Swimming is fully supported in over 99% of rivers, 87% of lakes, 94% of the Great Lakes shoreline, and more than 93% of estuarine waters. Sixty-five percent of New York's Great Lake's shoreline does not fully support fish consumption use because of a fish consumption advisory.

Agriculture is a major source of nutrients and silt that impair New York's rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. Land disposal, hydrologic modification, and habitat modification are

also major sources of water quality impairment in rivers and lakes. Urban runoff is a major source of pollution in the state's estuaries. Bacteria from urban runoff and other sources close about 104,000 acres (11%) of potential shellfishing beds in the New York City-Long Island region.

Contaminated sediments are a primary source of impaired rivers, lakes, Great Lake's shoreline, and estuarine waters in New York State. Sediments are contaminated with PCBs, chlorinated organic pesticides, mercury, cadmium, mirex, and dioxins that bioconcentrate in the food chain and result in fish consumption advisories.

Improvements to industrial and municipal discharges have had a significant impact on water quality. Since 1972, the size of rivers impacted by point sources has declined from about 2,000 miles to 230 miles.

New York did not report on the condition of wetlands.

## Ground Water Quality

Approximately 6 million people in New York State use ground water as a source of drinking water. The state reports that 312 wells or springs statewide have been contaminated to some degree by organic pollutants. About 3% of the state's public water supply system wells (160 wells) are closed or abandoned due to contamination from organic chemicals. The most common contaminants are synthetic solvents and degreasers, gasoline and other petroleum products, and agricultural pesticides and herbicides (primarily aldicarb and carbofuran). The most common sources of contaminants include spills, septic systems, landfills, and abandoned hazardous waste sites.

## Programs to Restore Water Quality

New York's nonpoint source control program depends on the cooperation of many individuals, groups, and agencies to make it work. The Nonpoint Source Coordinating Committee is composed of 17 federal, state, and local agencies that meet regularly to communicate, cooperate, and coordinate New York State's nonpoint source program. Coordination at the local level takes place through county committees composed of local agencies, representatives from state and federal agencies, and public interest groups.

## Programs to Assess Water Quality

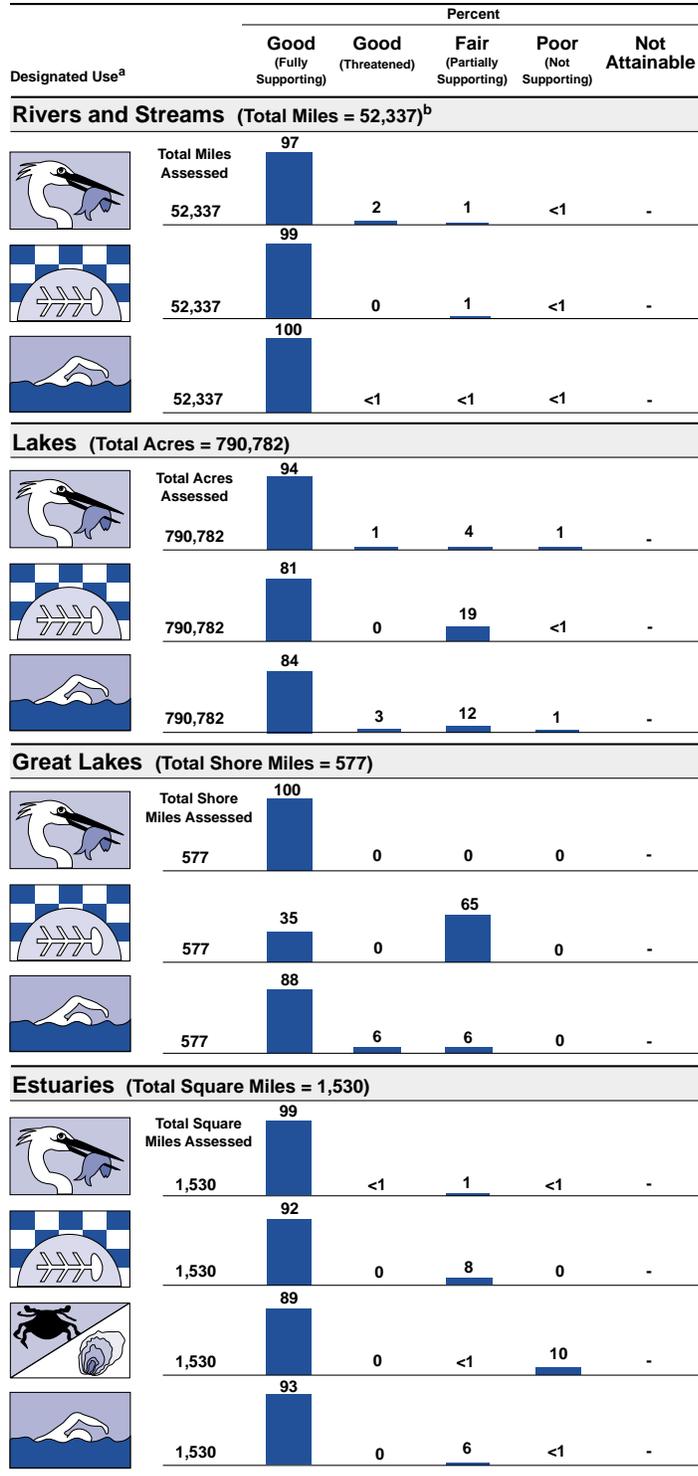
In 1987, New York State implemented the Rotating Intensive Basin Studies (RIBS), an ambient monitoring program that concentrates monitoring activities on one-third of the state's hydrologic basins for 2-year periods. The DEC monitors the entire state every 6 years. The RIBS strategy employs a tiered approach in which rapid biological screening methods are applied at a large number of sites during the first year of a 2-year study, and more intensive chemical monitoring is used to follow up the results of this biological effort in the second year.

- Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

<sup>a</sup> A subset of New York's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

<sup>b</sup> Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

## Individual Use Support in New York



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.