



WATER QUALITY STANDARDS DIGEST  
A COMPILATION OF FEDERAL/STATE STANDARDS ON  
**GENERAL STREAM USE  
DESIGNATIONS**



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
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## STREAM USE CLASSIFICATIONS

### Alabama

- Class I Source of water supply for drinking or food processing purposes.
- Class II Swimming and other whole body contact sports.
- Class III Propagation and harvesting of shellfish for sale or use as food product.
- Class IV Fishing, propagation of fish, aquatic life and wildlife and any other uses except for swimming and water contact sports or as a source of water supply for drinking or food processing purposes.
- Class V Agricultural irrigation, livestock watering, industrial cooling and process water supplies, fish survival and any other usage, except fishing, bathing, recreational activities including water contact supports or as a source of water supply for drinking or food processing purposes.
- Class VI Navigation
- Class VII Transportation of sewage, industrial waste or other waste which have received the best practical treatment or control.

### Alaska

- Class A - Water supply, drinking, culinary and food processing without treatment other than simple disinfection and removal of naturally present impurities.
- Class B - Water Supply, drinking, culinary and food processing. With adequate treatment equal to coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, disinfection, and any additional treatment necessary to remove naturally present impurities.
- Class C - Bathing, swimming, recreation.
- Class D - Growth and propagation of fish and other aquatic life including water fowl, furbearers and other aquatic and semi aquatic life.
- Class E - Shellfish growth and propagation.
- Class F - Agricultural water supply including irrigation, stock watering and truck farming.

	Class G - Industrial water supply, other than food processing.
Arizona	<p>Class A - Domestic and industrial supply.</p> <p>Class B - Recreation.</p> <p>Class C - Fish and wildlife.</p> <p>Class D - Agriculture.</p>
Arkansas	The Arkansas Pollution Control Commission has taken into consideration the use and value of the streams for public water supplies, commercial, industrial, agricultural and other beneficial uses, recreational purposes, and propagation of fish and wildlife, and the view expressed at public hearings. It is the purpose of these criteria to preserve and enhance the quality of this water so that it shall be reasonably available for all beneficial uses and thus promote the social welfare and economic well being of the people of the state.
California	<p>Each of the regional water quality boards has its own beneficial uses, many of them are quite detailed. A sample of listings includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water contact sports.</li> <li>2. Boating.</li> <li>3. Sport fishing.</li> <li>4. Propagation and sustenance of marine life.</li> <li>5. Recreation.</li> <li>6. Aesthetic enjoyment.</li> <li>7. Industrial cooling water supply.</li> <li>8. Harborage purposes.</li> <li>9. Shipping, navigation and anchoring.</li> </ol>
Connecticut	<p>Class A - Suitable for water supply and all other water uses.</p> <p>Class B - Suitable for bathing, other recreational purposes, agricultural uses, certain industrial processes and cooling, excellent fish and wildlife habitat; good aesthetic value; acceptable for public water supply with appropriate treatment.</p>



Class C - Suitable for fish and wildlife habitat, recreational boating, and certain industrial processes and cooling; under some conditions acceptable for public water supply with appropriate treatment; good aesthetic value.

Class D - Suitable for navigation, power, certain industrial processes and cooling, and migration of fish; good aesthetic value.

Class SA - Suitable for all sea water uses, including shellfish harvesting for direct human consumption (approved shellfish areas), bathing and other water contact sports.

Class SB - Suitable for bathing, other recreational purposes, industrial cooling and shellfish harvesting for human consumption after depuration; excellent fish and wildlife habitat; good aesthetic value.

Class SC - Suitable fish, shellfish and wildlife habitat; suitable for recreational boating and industrial cooling, good aesthetic value.

Class SD - Suitable for navigation, power, and certain industrial cooling waters; migration of fish; good aesthetic value.

#### Colorado

Class A - Potable water supply.

Class B1 - Fish and wildlife - cold water fishery.

Class B2 - Fish and wildlife - Warm water fishery.

Class B3 - Recreation waters and body contact sports, such as but not limited to swimming and water skiing.

Class C - Industrial use.

Class D - Irrigation.

#### Delaware

Class A - Public water supply after reasonable treatment.

Class B - Industrial water supply after reasonable treatment.

Class C - Recreation.

Class D - Maintenance and propagation of fish and aquatic life and wildlife preservation.

Class E - Navigation.

NOTE: In Delaware the water use designations vary slightly in wording from basin to basin.

Florida

Class I - Public water supply.

Class II- Shellfish harvesting.

Class III - Recreation - propagation and management of fish and wildlife.

Class IV - Agricultural and industrial water supply.

Class V - Navigation, utility and industrial use.

Georgia

Class A - Drinking water supply.

Class B - Recreation.

Class C - Fishing, propagation of fish, shellfish, game and other aquatic life.

Class D - Agricultural.

Class E - Industrial.

Class F - Navigation.

Hawaii

Classification for coastal water uses.

Class AA - oceanographic research, propagation of shellfish and marine life, conservation of coral reefs and wilderness areas and aesthetic enjoyment.

Class A - Recreational, including fishing, swimming, bathing and other water contact sports and aesthetic enjoyment.

Class B - Small boat harbors, commercial, shipping, and industrial, bait fishing and aesthetic enjoyment.

Classifications of fresh water uses.

Class I - Drinking water supply and food processing.

Class II - Bathing, swimming, recreation, growth and propagation of fish and other aquatic life and agricultural and industrial water supply.

Idaho

Domestic water supply.

Industrial water supply

Irrigation

Livestock watering

Salmonid fish

Spawning

Salmonid fish rearing

Other fishing and aquatic life

Hunting and wildlife

Water skiing and swimming

Pleasure boating

Aesthetic qualities

Illinois

1. General Use (aquatic life, agricultural use, primary and secondary contact use, most industrial uses, and aesthetic).
2. Public and Food Processing Water Supply

Indiana

Public water supply and food processing.

Industrial water supply.

Aquatic life.

Recreation.

Agricultural or stock watering.

Iowa

Class A - Public water supply.

Class B - Maintenance and propagation of well balanced fish population.

Class C - Whole body contact recreation.

Kansas

Public water supply.

Industrial water supply.

Recreation including sport fishing.

Agricultural purposes.

Receipt of treated waste.

Kentucky

Class I - Public water supply and food processing industries.

Class II - Industrial water supply.

Class III - Aquatic life.

Class IV - Water contact recreation.

Louisiana

Class I - Carriage of treated municipal and industrial waste.

Class II - Propagation of aquatic life for commercial and sport fishery, including shellfish.

Class III - Limited agricultural uses.

Class IV - Navigation.

Class V - Water contact recreation.

Class VI - Municipal water supply.

## Maine

### Fresh Water

Class A - Recreational purposes, including bathing, and for public water supplies after disinfection.

Class B1- Recreational purposes, including water contact recreation, for use as potable water supply after adequate treatment and for a fish and wildlife habitat.

Class B2 - Water contact recreation, industrial and potable water supplies after adequate treatment, and for a fish and wildlife habitat.

Class C - Recreational boating and fishing, fish and wildlife habitat and for other uses except potable water supplies and water contact recreation unless such waters are adequately treated.

Class D - Power generation, navigation and industrial process waters after adequate treatment.

### Tidal or Marine Waters

Class SA - Suitable for all clean water usages, including water contact recreation, and fishing. Such waters shall be suitable for the harvesting and propagation of shellfish and for fish and wildlife habitat.

Class SB1 - Suitable for all clean water usages including water contact recreation, and fishing. Such waters shall be suitable for the harvesting and propagation of shellfish, and for a fish and wildlife habitat.

Class SB2- Suitable for recreational uses, including water contact and fishing. Such waters shall be suitable for the harvesting and propagation of shellfish, for a fish and wildlife habitat, and suitable for industrial cooling and process uses.

Class SC - Satisfactory for recreational boating, fishing and other similar uses except primary water contact. Such waters may be used for the propagation of indigenous shellfish to be harvested for depuration purposes, for a fish and wildlife habitat, and for industrial cooling and process uses.

Class SD - Power generation, navigation, industrial process waters or cooling waters, and for migration of fish.

## Maryland

Class I - Shellfish Harvesting

Class II - Public or municipal water supply.

Class III - Water contact recreation.

Class IV - Propagation of fish, other aquatic life and wildlife.

Class V - Agricultural water supply.

Class VI - Industrial water supply.

## Massachusetts

Class A - Public water supply.

Class B - Suitable for bathing and recreational purposes including water contact sports. Acceptable for public water supply with appropriate treatment. Suitable for agricultural, and certain industrial cooling and process waters; excellent fish and wildlife habitat; excellent aesthetic value.

Class C - Suitable for recreational boating; habitat for wildlife and common and food and game fishes indigenous to the region; certain industrial cooling and process uses; under some conditions acceptable for public water supply with appropriate treatment. Suitable for irrigation of crops used for consumption after cooking. Good aesthetic value.

Class D - Suitable for aesthetic enjoyment, power, navigation, and certain industrial and cooling and process uses.

### Coastal and Marine Waters

Class SA - Suitable for any high quality water use including bathing and water contact sports. Suitable for approved shellfish areas.



Class SB - Suitable for bathing and recreational purposes including water contact sports; industrial cooling; excellent fish habitat; good aesthetic value; and suitable for certain shellfisheries with depuration.

Class SC - Suitable for aesthetic enjoyment; for recreational boating; habitat for wildlife and common food and game fishes indigenous to the region; industrial cooling and process uses.

Michigan

Class A1 - Water supply domestic.

Class A2 - Industrial.

Class B1 - Total body contact recreation.

Class B2 - Partial body contact recreation.

Class C - Fish, wildlife, and other aquatic life.

Class D - Agricultural.

Class E - Commercial.

Minnesota

Class I - Domestic consumption

Class II - Fisheries and recreation to include fishing, fish culture, bathing or other recreational purposes.

Class III - Industrial consumption.

Class IV - Agricultural and wildlife.

Class V - Navigation and waste disposal.

Class VI - Other.

Mississippi

Class I - Public Water Supply

Class II - Shellfish harvesting areas.

Class III - Water contact recreation.

Class IV - Propagation of fish, aquatic life and wildlife and fishing.

Class V - Agricultural and industrial water supplies.

Class VI - Navigation and utility use.

Missouri

Class I - Irrigation.

Class II - Livestock watering.

Class III - Propagation of commercial fish.

Class IV - Propagation of warm water sport fish.

Class V - Propagation of cold water sport fish.

Class VI - Wildlife watering.

Class VII - Industrial cooling water.

Class VIII - Industrial process water.

Class IX - Drinking water supply.

Class X - Hydroelectric power.

Class XI - Boating and canoeing.

Class XII - Fishing.

Class XIII - Whole body contact recreation.

Class XIV - Aesthetic value.

Class XV - Receive effluents.

Class XVI - Navigation.

Class XVII - Receive surface runoff.

Montana

Class A-Closed - Water supply for drinking, culinary, and food processing purposes, suitable for use after simple disinfection.

Class A-Open-B1 - Water supply drinking, culinary, in food processing purposes suitable for use after simple disinfection, and removal of naturally present impurities. Water quality shall also be maintained suitable for the use of these waters for bathing, swimming and recreation.

Class B-B1 - Suitable for drinking, culinary and food processing purposes after adequate treatment equal to coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, disinfection, and any additional treatment necessary to remove naturally present impurities; bathing, swimming, and recreation; growth and propagation of

salmonid fishes and associated aquatic life, water fowl and furbears; agricultural and industrial water supply.

Class B-B2 - The quality of these waters shall be maintained suitable for the uses described for B-B1 except that the fisheries use shall be described as follows; growth and marginal propagation of salmonid fishes and associated aquatic life, water fowl and furbearers.

Class B-B3 - Suitable for the uses described for B-B1 waters except that the fisheries use shall be described as follows; growth and propagation of non salmonid fishes and associated aquatic life, water fowl and furbearers.

Class C-D2 - Suitable for bathing, swimming, and recreation; growth and marginal propagation of salmonid fishes and associated aquatic life, water fowl and furbearers agricultural and industrial water supply.

Class D2 - Growth and marginal propagation of salmonid fishes and associated aquatic life, water fowl and furbearers, agricultural and industrial water supply.

Class E - Agricultural and industrial water supply uses.

Class F - Suitable for industrial water supply uses, other than food processing.

## Nebraska

1. Potable water supply suitable for treatment by coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and chlorination to yield a finished water suitable for human consumption.

2. Full body contact sports.

3. Partial body contact sports.

4. Fish, wildlife, and other aquatic and semi-aquatic life.

5. Agricultural irrigation, livestock watering and other agriculturally similar uses.

6. Industrial uses.

Nevada

1. Municipal water supply.
2. Industrial water processing and cooling.
3. Body contact recreation.
4. Fish and wildlife.
5. Aesthetics.
6. Waste water assimilation.
7. Irrigation and stock watering.
8. Power generation.

New Hampshire

Class A - Public Water Supply.

Class B - Bathing and other recreational purposes and, after adequate treatment, for use as water supplies.

Class C - Secondary contact recreation, fishing, or for industrial water supply use.

Class D - Aesthetically acceptable, also suitable for industrial purposes, power and generation.

New Jersey

Fresh Water

Class FW1 - Natural aquatic environment.

Class FW2 - Public Water Supply.

Class FW3 - Recreation.

Class FW4 - Maintenance, migration and propagation of natural and established biota.

Class FW5 - Industrial water supply.

Class FW6 - Agricultural water supply.

Class FW7 - Navigation.

Tidal Waters

Class TW1 - Shellfish harvesting.

Class TW2 - Public Water Supply.

Class TW3 - Recreation

Class TW4 - Maintenance, migration and propagation of the natural and established biota.

Class TW5 - Fish passage and survival.

Class TW6 - Industrial water supply.

Class TW7 - Agricultural water supply.

Class TW8 - Navigation.

#### Coastal Waters

Class CW1 - Recreation.

Class CW2 - Maintenance, migration and propagation of the natural and established biota.

#### New Mexico

1. Recreation.
2. Irrigation.
3. Fish and wildlife propagation.
4. Industrial water supply.
5. Municipal water supply.
6. Trout waters.

#### New York

Class AA - Drinking, culinary or food processing purposes.

Class A - Same as above.

Class B - Bathing and any other usages except AA or A.

Class C - Fishing and any other usages except AA, A, B.

Class D - Agricultural or industrial cooling water.

Class SA - Shellfishing.

Class SB - Bathing.

Class SC - Fishing.

Class SD - Any uses except SA, SB and SC.

#### North Carolina

Class A1 - Source of water supply for drinking, culinary, or food processing purposes or any other usage requiring water of lower quality.

Class A2 - Source of water supply for drinking, culinary or food processing purposes and any other best usage requiring waters of lower quality.

Class B - Bathing and any other best usage except the source of water supply for classes A1 and 2.

Class C - Fishing, boating, wading and any other usage except classes A or B.

Class D - Agriculture, industrial cooling and process water supply, fish survival, navigation and any other usage except classes A, B and C.

Tidal Salt Waters

Class SA - Shellfish for market purposes and any other usage requiring waters of lower quality.

Class SB - Bathing and any other usage except class SA.

Class SC - Fishing and any other usage except classes SA and SB.

North Dakota

1. Municipal.
2. Industrial.
3. Recreation.
4. Agricultural.
5. Waste treatment.

Ohio

1. Public water supply.
2. Industrial water supply.
3. Aquatic life.
4. Recreation - primary contact.
5. Agricultural use.

Oklahoma

Class A - Public and private water supply.

Class B - Emergency public and private water supplies.

Class C - Fish and wildlife propagation.

Class D - Agricultural.

Class E - Hydroelectric power.

Class F - Industrial and municipal uses.

Class F1 - Cooling waters.

Class F2 - Receiving treated wastes.

Class G - Recreation (which may or may not include body contact aquatic sports).



Class H - Navigation.

Class I - Aesthetics.

Class J - Smallmouth bass fishery, excluding lake waters.

Class K - Trout fishery for in put and take.

Oregon

1. Domestic water supply.
2. Industrial water supply.
3. Irrigation.
4. Livestock watering.
5. Anadromous fish passage.
6. Salmonid fish rearing.
7. Salmonid fish spawning.
8. Resident fish and other aquatic life.
9. Hunting and wildlife.
10. Fishing.
11. Water skiing and swimming.
12. Pleasure boating.
13. Aesthetic qualities.
14. Navigation.

Pennsylvania

1.0 Aquatic Life

- 1.1 cold water fish.
- 1.2 warm water fish.
- 1.3 Migratory fish.

2.0 Water Supply

- 2.1 Domestic.
- 2.2 Industrial.
- 2.3 Livestock.
- 2.4 Wildlife.
- 2.5 Irrigation

### 3.0 Recreation

3.1 Boating.

3.2 Fishing.

3.3 Water contact sports.

3.4 Natural area.

### 4.0 Other

4.1 Power.

4.2 Navigation.

4.3 Treated waste assimilation.

## Rhode Island

### Fresh Water

Class A - Suitable for water supply and all other water uses.

Class B - Suitable for bathing, other recreational purposes, agricultural uses, industrial processes, and cooling; excellent fish and wildlife habitat; good aesthetic value; acceptable for public water supply with appropriate treatment.

Class C - Suitable for fish and wildlife habitat; recreational boating, and industrial processes and cooling; under some conditions acceptable for public water supply with appropriate treatment; good aesthetic value.

Class D - Suitable for navigation, power, certain industrial processes and cooling, and migration of fish; good aesthetic value.

### Sea Water

Class SA - Suitable for all sea water uses, including shellfish harvesting for direct consumption, bathing, and other water contact sports.

Class SB - Suitable for bathing, other recreational purposes, industrial cooling and shellfish harvesting for human consumption after depuration; excellent fish and wildlife habitat; good aesthetic value.

Class SC - Suitable fish, shellfish and wildlife habitat; suitable for recreational boating, and industrial cooling; good aesthetic value.

Class SD - Suitable for navigation, industrial cooling and migration of fish; good aesthetic value.

#### South Carolina

Class A - Waters suitable for use as swimming waters. Suitable also for other uses requiring waters of lesser quality.

Class B - Suitable for domestic supply after complete treatment in accordance with requirements of the South Carolina state board of health. Suitable also for propagation of fish, industrial and agricultural uses and other uses requiring water of lesser quality.

Class C - Water suitable for fish survival, industrial and agricultural uses and other uses requiring water of lesser quality.

#### Tidal and Salt Water

Class SA - Water suitable for shellfishing, for market purposes and any other usages. Suitable also for uses requiring water of lesser quality.

Class SB - Water suitable for bathing and any other usages except shellfishing for market purposes. Suitable also for uses requiring water of lesser quality.

Class SC - Water suitable for crabbing, commercial fishing and any other usages except bathing or other shellfishing for market purposes. Suitable also for uses requiring water of lesser quality.

#### South Dakota

1. Domestic water supply.
2. Fish life propagation.
3. Recreation -
  - a. Primary contact.
  - b. Secondary contact.
4. Wildlife propagation and stock watering.
5. Irrigation.
6. Commerce and industry.
7. Intermittent stream.

Tennessee

1. Domestic raw water supply.
2. Industrial water supply.
3. Fish and aquatic life.
4. Recreation.
5. Irrigation.
6. Livestock watering and wildlife.
7. Navigation.

Texas

1. Contact recreation.
2. Industrial supply.
3. Non contact recreation.
4. Propagation of fish and wildlife.
5. Fishing.
6. Aesthetics.
7. Mining and recovery of minerals.
8. Hydroelectric.
9. Irrigation.
10. Industrial cooling water.
11. Domestic raw water supply.

Utah

Class A - Shall be so protected against controllable pollution, including heat, as to be suitable at all times without treatment for domestic water supplies, irrigation, stock watering, fish and wildlife propagation, recreation, as a source of industrial supplies and for other uses as may be determined by the boards.

Class B - Shall be so protected against controllable pollution, including heat, as to be suitable at all times for domestic water supplies which are treated before use by disinfection only. Class B waters shall be suitable without treatment for

irrigation, stock watering, fish and wildlife propagation, recreation, as a source of industrial supplies. and for other uses as may be determined by the boards.

Class C - Shall be suitable at all times for domestic water supplies which are treated before use by coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Class C waters shall be suitable without treatment for aesthetics, irrigation, stock watering, propagation and **perpetuation** of fish, other aquatic, and wildlife, recreation (except swimming), as a source for industrial supplies and for other uses as may be determined by the boards.

Class D - Suitable for limited irrigation, not including the irrigation of lawns, recreational areas, pastures used for dairy cattle, root crops, or any low growing crops produced for human consumption. Class D waters shall be suitable as a source for industrial supplies and for other uses as may be determined by the boards.

Class E - Uses shall be limited to those determined by the boards.

#### Vermont

Class A - Suitable for public water supply with disinfection when necessary.

Class B - Suitable for bathing and recreation, irrigation and industrial uses; good fish habitat; good aesthetic value, acceptable for public water supply with filtration and disinfection.

Class C - Suitable for recreational boating, irrigation of crops not used for consumption without cooking, habitat for wildlife and for common food and game fishes indigenous to the regions; and such industrial uses are consistent with other Class C uses.

Class D - Suitable for supporting aerobic aquatic life, for power, navigation and certain industrial process needs consistent with other Class D uses and for restricted zones of water to assimilate appropriately treated wastes.

#### Virginia

Class I - Open Ocean (Seaside of the land mass)

Class II- Estuarine (Tidal water-coastal zone to fall line).

Class III - Free flowing streams (coastal zone and piedmont zone to the crest of the mountains).

Class IV - Mountainous zone.

Class V - Put and take trout waters.

Class VI - Natural trout waters.

#### Subclasses

Class A - Public or municipal water supply, secondary contact recreation, propagation of fish and aquatic life, and other beneficial uses.

Class B - Public or municipal water supply, primary contact recreation, propagation of fish and other aquatic life, and other beneficial uses.

#### Washington

Class AA - Water Supply (domestic, industrial, agricultural). Wildlife habitat, stock watering, general recreation and aesthetic enjoyment (picnicing, hiking, fishing, swimming, skiing and boating). general marine recreation and navigation, fish and shellfish reproduction, rearing and harvest.

Class A - Water supply (domestic, industrial, agricultural), wildlife habitat, stock watering, general recreation and aesthetic enjoyment (picnicing, hiking, fishing, swimming, skiing and boating), commerce and navigation, fish and shellfish reproduction, rearing and harvest.

Class B - General recreation and aesthetic enjoyment (fishing, swimming, skiing, and boating), fishery and wildlife habitat, industrial and agricultural water supply, stock watering, commerce and navigation, shellfish reproduction and rearing, and crustacea harvest.

Class C - Commerce and navigation, cooling water, boating, fish passage.

#### Wisconsin

1. Public water supply.
2. Fish and other aquatic life.
3. Recreation.
  - a. Whole body contact.
  - b. Partial body contact.
4. Industrial and cooling water use.

#### West Virginia

Class A - Water contact recreation.

Class B1 - Public water supply.

Class B2 - Industrial water supply.



Class B3 - Agricultural water supply.

Class C - Propagation of fish and other aquatic life.

Class D - Water transport, cooling and power.

Wyoming

1. Municipal water supply.
2. Fish and wildlife propagation.
3. Agricultural.
4. Industrial.
5. Whole body contact recreation.
6. Limited body contact recreation.
7. Aesthetics.
8. Waste assimilation.

District of Columbia

1. Recreational boating.
2. Fish and wildlife propagation.
3. Industrial water supply.
4. Maintenance of fish life.
5. Water contact recreation.
6. Wading.
7. Fish and wildlife propagation.

Puerto Rico

Class SA - Preservation of existing natural phenomena.

Class SB - Coastal waters destined for or may be destined for the growth and fishing of shellfish for market purposes.

Class SC - Coastal bathing waters.

Class SD - Coastal waters destined for the propagation of marine life.

Class SE - Industrial coastal waters.

Guam

Class A - Domestic water supply.

Class B - Industrial water supply.

Class C - Agricultural water supply.

Class D - Propagation of fish and other aquatic life and wildlife.

Special Classes - Waters reserved for conservation of native marine biota, shellfish propagation, commercial and sports fishing.

Class E - Aesthetic enjoyment.

Class F - Recreation.

Special Class - Primary water contact.

Class G - Navigation, including harbors, small boat harbors, marinas and waters adjacent to piers and docks.

Virgin Islands

Class A - Preservation of natural phenomena.

Class B - Propagation of marine life.

Class C - Water contact recreation.

Class D - Harbors and docking facilities.