



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Office of Water Management

Trout Water Classifications and Redesignation Qualifications

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Authority

The major authorities that require Pennsylvania to protect its surface waters:

Federal Clean Water Act

- Goal: to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters.

Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law

- Goals are similar to Clean Water Act but specific to Pa

Chapter 93.4a – Antidegradation Program

Uses

- *Designated uses* - Those uses specified in §§ 93.4(a) and 93.9a—93.9z for each water body or segment whether or not they are being attained.
- *Existing uses* - Those uses actually attained in the water body on or after November 28, 1975, whether or not they are included in the water quality standards.

Protected Water Uses

- **Trout Stocking**
- **Cold Water Fishes**
- **High Quality**
- **Exceptional Value**



Trout Stocking (TSF)

Chapter 93.3 Definition – Maintenance of stocked trout from February 15 to July 31 and maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna which are indigenous to a warm water habitat.



The Department will evaluate a stream for TSF if designated a trout stocked stream by PFBC.

Cold Water Fishes (CWF)

Chapter 93.3 Definition – Maintenance and propagation, or both, of fish species including the family Salmonidae and additional flora and fauna which are indigenous to cold water habitat.

The Department will evaluate a stream for CWF if designated a wild trout stream by PFBC.



High Quality Waters (HQ)

Chapter 93.4b(a)(2)(ii) – Class A wild trout stream qualifier. The surface water has been designated a Class A wild trout stream by the Fish and Boat Commission following public notice and comment.



The Department will evaluate a stream for High Quality if the stream has been found to have a Class A wild trout population.

▶ Exceptional Value Waters (EV)

Chapter 93.4b(b)(1)(vi) – The water is designated as a “wilderness trout stream” by the Fish and Boat Commission following public notice and comment.

The Department will evaluate a stream for an exceptional value designation if the stream has been designated as a wilderness trout stream by PFBC.



Wetlands

Chapter 105.17(1)(iii) – Wetlands that are located in or along the floodplain of the reach of a wild trout stream or waters listed as exceptional value under Chapter 93.....

Review

PFBC Classifications

Trout Stocked Stream

Wild Trout Stream

Class A Trout Stream

Wilderness Trout Stream

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DEP Protected Uses

Trout Stocking

Cold Water Fishes

**High Quality – Cold
Water Fishes**

Exceptional Value

Rulemaking Process (condensed version)

- **A stream report listing all proposed stream segments is drafted and sent for Agency review**
- **The Department requests public comment on the draft stream report**
- **The stream report package is presented to the EQB for proposed regulatory change**
- **EQB requests public comment on the proposed stream package**
- **EQB Makes Final rulemaking decision**

Stream Packages

1st Class A package (2002) – over 200 stream miles

2nd Class A package (2017) - 207 stream miles

3rd Class A package (2018?) – 171.5 stream miles



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