

Appendix L
Priority Waterbodies List (PWL)

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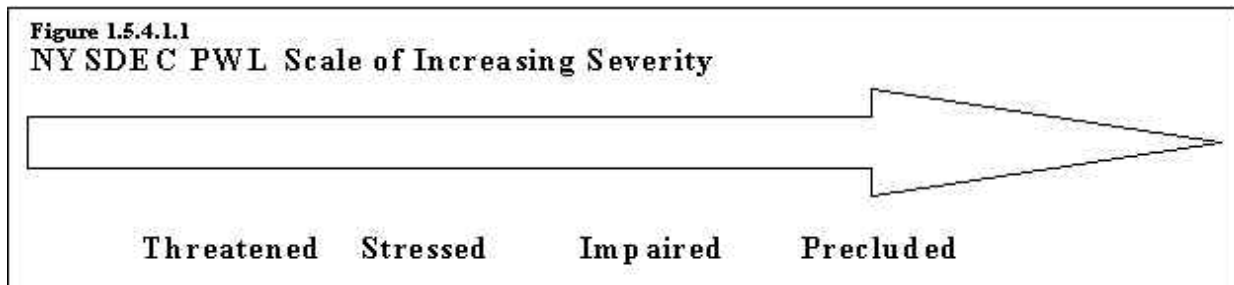
Periodically, the NYSDEC Division of Water publishes a list of surface waters that either cannot be fully used as a resource, or have problems that can damage their environmental integrity. This list – The Priority Waterbodies List (PWL) – is used as a base resource for Division of Water program management. The listing of the PWL includes individual waterbody data sheets describing the conditions, causes, and sources of water quality problems in a given basin. The conditions use a scale of increasing severity ranging from threatened to stressed to impaired to precluded (see Figure 1.5.4.1.1). Users of the information contained in the PWL are reminded of the following special considerations:

The PWL is a reflection of priority waterbodies at a specific moment in time.

In many cases, surface water systems are highly interrelated.

Resolution potential can be noted as high, medium, or low. High resolution potential indicates that the water quality problem has been deemed to be worthy of the expenditure of available resources (time and dollar) because of the level of public interest and the expectation that the commitment of these resources will result in a measurable improvement in the situation. Medium resolution generally indicates that the resources necessary to address the problem are beyond what is currently available. Segments with low potential for resolution indicate water quality problems so persistent that improvements are expected to require an unrealistically high commitment of resources, not likely to become available (e.g. acid rain lakes).

The latest PWL that includes the Cayuga Lake Watershed is called *The 1996 Priority Waterbodies List for the Oswego-Seneca-Oneida River Basin*. An update of the *1996 Priority Waterbodies List for the Oswego-Seneca-Oneida River Basin* is planned for 2003. County Water Quality Coordinating Committees and other interested parties will be asked to participate in this update.



**Priority Waterbodies List
Cayuga Lake and Watershed**

Name	Resolution Potential	Use Impairment(s)	Severity	Documentation	Type of Pollutant(s)	Source(s) of Pollutant(s)	County
Big Salmon Creek	Medium	Fishing*	Threatened	Some	Nutrients* Thermal Changes Silt (Sediment) Water Level/Flow Oxygen Demand Pathogens	Agriculture* Streambank Erosion Roadbank Erosion	Cayuga
		Fish Propagation	Threatened	Some			
		Fish Survival	Threatened	Some			
		Aesthetics	Stressed	Good			
		Boating	Stressed	Poor			
Cayuga Lake (Cayuga County Portion)	Medium	Water Supply	Stressed	Good	Nutrients* Silt (Sediment)*	On-Site Septic* Agriculture Roadbank Erosion Municipal Urban Runoff Acid Rain Streambank Erosion	Cayuga
		Bathing	Stressed	Some			
		Fishing	Impaired	Good			
		Fish Propagation	Stressed	Good			
		Aesthetics	Impaired	Some			
		Boating*	Impaired	Some			
Cayuga Lake (Seneca County Portion)	Medium	Water Supply	Stressed	Some	Nutrients* Oxygen Demand Pesticides Silt (Sediment)	On-Site Septic* Acid Rain Land Disposal Industrial Agricultural Streambank Erosion Municipal Urban Runoff Roadbank Erosion	Seneca
		Bathing	Impaired	Some			
		Fishing	Impaired	Some			
		Fish Propagation	Stressed	Good			
		Aesthetics	Impaired	Some			
		Boating*	Impaired	Some			
Cayuga Lake (Tompkins County Portion)	Medium	Water Supply	Threatened	Some	Silt (Sediment)* Nutrients	Streambank Erosion* Urban Runoff Agriculture Roadbank Erosion Construction	Tompkins
		Bathing	Stressed	Good			
		Fish Propagation	Stressed	Some			
		Aesthetics	Stressed	Some			
Little Salmon Creek	Medium	Fishing*	Threatened	Some	Nutrients* Thermal Changes Silt (Sediment) Water Level/Flow Oxygen Demand Pathogens	Agriculture* Streambank Erosion Roadbank Erosion	Cayuga
		Fish Propagation	Threatened	Some			
		Fish Survival	Threatened	Some			
		Aesthetics	Stressed	Good			
Yawger Creek	High	Fish Propagation*	Impaired	Good	Silt (Sediment)* Nutrients	Agriculture* Streambank Erosion	Cayuga

Bolter Brook Trib	Medium	Fish Propagation*	Threatened	Some	Silt (Sediment)* Metals*	Resource Extraction* Land Disposal*	Schuyler Seneca
		Fish Survival	Threatened	Some			
Black Brook	High	Fishing*	Threatened	Some	Unknown Toxicity* Nutrients	Land Disposal* Agriculture On-Site Septic	Seneca
		Aesthetics	Stressed	Some			
White Brook	High	Fishing*	Stressed	Poor	Nutrients* Oxygen Demand	Agriculture* On-Site Septic	Seneca
		Aesthetics	Stressed	Poor			
Cascadilla Creek	Low	Fish Propagation	Threatened	Some	Silt (Sediment)* Nutrients	Streambank Erosion* Urban Runoff Agriculture Roadbank Erosion Construction	Tompkins
		Aesthetics*	Stressed	Poor			
Cayuga Inlet	High	Fish Propagation*	Stressed	Some	Silt (Sediment)* Unknown Toxicity Nutrients	Agriculture* Land Disposal Roadbank Erosion Construction On-Site Septic Urban Runoff Streambank Erosion	Tompkins
Fall Creek	High	Water Supply	Threatened	Some	Silt (Sediment)* Pathogens Nutrients Thermal Changes	Streambank Erosion* On-Site Septic Agriculture Roadbank Erosion Construction	Tompkins
		Bathing	Threatened	Poor			
		Fish Propagation*	Stressed	Some			
		Fish Survival	Stressed	Some			
Six Mile Creek	High	Water Supply*	Stressed	Good	Silt (Sediment)* Aesthetics Pesticides Nutrients	Streambank Erosion* Private Storm Sewers Roadbank Erosion Industrial Agriculture On-Site Septic Municipal Urban Runoff Hydromodification	Tompkins
		Fish Propagation	Stressed	Some			

*Primary Use Impairment/Pollutant/Source
Source: NYSDEC, 1996