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Recommended Citation

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership. (2010). Inland and Estuarine Water Quality (2010 State of the Bay Poster). [Poster]. Portland, ME: University of Southern Maine, Muskie School of Public Service, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership.

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Inland and Estuarine Water Quality

Impaired Waters in the Casco Bay Watershed

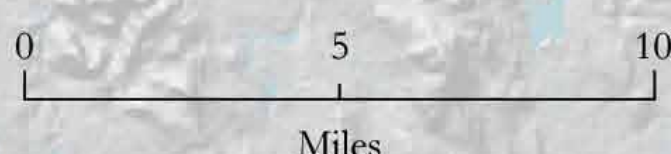
Marine waters of Casco Bay and streams and rivers in its watershed that do not meet water quality standards are called "impaired waters." All streams in Maine are impaired because of elevated levels of mercury, derived primarily from sources outside the state. All marine waters are impaired because the possible presence of toxic chemicals has led to recommendations that people limit consumption of certain fish and of lobster tomalley. Waters shown on the map have additional water quality problems. Marine waters impaired because of bacteria are displayed as DMR's 2006 Legal Notice Areas; in some cases only a portion of the legal notice area is impaired.

Impaired Waters

-  Impaired river or stream
-  Bacteria 2006 DMR Legal Notice Area









Consumption advisories and consumer guidance have been issued by Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC) for all fish caught in Maine fresh waters, including white perch, pictured above, because of mercury pollution.



Lake Water Transparency

The map illustrates the average transparency of lakes in the Casco Bay watershed monitored by the citizen-based Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP). Among the larger monitored lakes and ponds that Maine DEP considers to be at risk of future impairment by development in the watershed are Bay of Naples Lake, Highland Lake, Little Sebago Lake, Thomas Pond, Sabbathday Lake, Woods Pond, Panther Pond, Long Lake, Raymond Pond and Sebago Lake (Maine DEP 2006).

2009 Secchi Disk Transparency (m)

-  under 2
-  6 - 8
-  2 - 4
-  over 8
-  4 - 6
-  Secchi depth sometimes equal to water depth



Stonefly larvae are sensitive to pollution and are one of the organisms that disappear from polluted streams.

