Low Gradient, Cool, Headwaters and Creeks

Macrogroup: Headwaters and Creeks

Description:

Cool, slow-moving, headwaters and creeks of low-moderate elevation flat, marshy settings. These small streams of moderate to low elevations occur on flats or very gentle slopes in watersheds less than 39 sq.mi in size. The cool slow-moving waters may have high turbidity and be somewhat poorly oxygenated. Instream habitats are dominated by glide-pool and ripple-dune systems with runs interspersed by pools and a few short or no distinct riffles. Bed materials are predominently sands, silt, and only isolated amounts of gravel. These low-gradient streams may have high sinuosity but are usually only slightly entrenched with adjacent floodplain and riparian wetland ecosystems. Cool water temperatures in these streams means the fish community contains a higher proportion of cool and warm water species relative to coldwater species. Additional variation in the stream biological community is associated with acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota. The habitat can be further subdivided into 1) headwaters that drain watersheds less than 4 sq.mi, and have an average bankfull width of 16 feet or 2) Creeks that include larger streams with watersheds up to 39 sq.mi. and have an average bankfull width of 32 feet.

Similar Habitat Types:

Headwaters and creeks also occur at higher elevations and on higher slopes, but these tend to have coarser substrates and faster water. Cool low gradient streams typically flow into low gradient cool rivers.

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Blacklog Creek, Tuscarora State Forest | PA Black Creek, Genesee Valley Greenway Trail | NY Beaver Brook, Beaver Brook Reservation | MA Canoe River headwaters, Maple Park Conservation Area | MA Blackledge River headwaters, Salmon River State Forest | CT
Associated Fish:
Most Abundant: white sucker, fallfish, common shiner, tessellated darter, creek chub, common shiner, centralstoneroller, longnose dace, bluntnose minnow, fathead minnow, mottled sculpin, eastern blacknose dace, smallmouth bass. Less Abundant: cutlip minnow, pumpkinseed, margined madtom, rock bass, brook trout, fantail darter, northern hog sucker, largemouth bass, redbreast sunfish, bluegill, banded killifish, spottail shiner, johnny darter, green sunfish, silverjaw minnow, brown bullhead, river chub, redside dace, swallowtail shiner, greenside darter, pearl dace, chain pickerel, yellow perch, redfin pickerel, pearl dace, yellow bullhead, golden shiner, american brook lamprey, swamp darter, creek chubsucker, banded sunfish, eastern mudminnow

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):
Fishes: redside dace, mountain brook lamprey, pugnose shiner, bridle shiner, kanawha minnow, black sculpin, northern brook lamprey, american brook lamprey, ironcolor shiner, blacknose shiner, new river shiner, appalachia darter, stripeback darter
Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: brook floater, dwarf wedgemussel, tennessee heelsplitter, triangle floater, slippershell mussel, eastern pondmussel, eastern pearlshell, vernal physa
See Appendix 2 for scientific names

Crosswalk to State Names:

Low Gradient, Cool, Headwaters and Creeks
http://nature.ly/HabitatGuide
Low Gradient, Warm, Headwaters and Creeks

Macrogroup: Headwaters and Creeks

Description:
Warm, slow-moving, headwaters and creeks of low-elevation flat, marshy settings. These small streams of the Mid-Atlantic region occur at moderate to low elevations on flats or very gentle slopes in watersheds less than 39 sq.mi in size. The warm slow-moving waters may have high turbidity and be somewhat poorly oxygenated. Instream habitats are dominated by glide-pool and ripple-dune systems with runs interspersed by pools and a few short or no distinct riffles. Bed materials are predominately sands, silt, and only isolated amounts of gravel. Some examples flow through wetlands and these segments may be dominated by silt, muck, peat, marl deposits, organic matter, and woody or leafy debris. These low-gradient streams may have high sinuosity, but are usually only slightly entrenched with adjacent floodplain and riparian wetland ecosystems. Warm water temperatures in these streams means the fish community will contain a higher proportion of warmwater species relative to coolwater species, and are unlikely to support any resident coldwater species. Additional variation in the stream biological community is associated with acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota. The habitat can be further subdivided into 1) headwaters that drain watersheds less than 4 sq.mi, and have an average bankfull width of 16 feet or 2) Creeks that include larger streams with watersheds up to 39 sq.mi. and have an average bankfull width of 32 feet.

Similar Habitat Types:
Headwaters and creeks also occur at higher elevations and on higher slopes, but these tend to have coarser substrates, faster, and cooler water. Warm low gradient streams typically flow into low gradient warm rivers.

Places to Visit this Habitat:
North Branch Metedeconk River headwaters, Turkey Swamp | NJ Manasquan River headwaters, Manasquan River Linear Park | NJ South Branch Rahway River headwaters, Merrill Park | NJ Little Gunpowder Falls, Gunpowder Falls State Park | MD Wolf Den Branch, Cedarville State Forest | MD
Associated Fish:
**Most Abundant:** white sucker, pumpkinseed, redbreast sunfish, golden shiner, eastern blacknose dace, bluntnose minnow, tessellated darter, mottled sculpin, longnose dace, central stoneroller, fantail darter, bluehead chub, bluegill, black crappie, creek chub, common shiner, striped shiner, american eel, emerald shiner, spottail shiner, rosside dace, swallowtail shiner, banded killifish, yellow perch, chain pickerel, brown bullhead, yellow bullhead, swamp darter.
**Less Abundant:** creek chubsucker, redfin pickerel, banded sunfish, satinfin shiner, pearl dace, fallfish, eastern mudminnow, rock bass, green sunfish, mummichog, margined madtom, northern hog sucker, banded sculpin, crescent shiner, golden shiner, creek chubsucker, greensidedarter, johnny darter, river chub, smallmouth bass, mountain redbelly dace, spotfin shiner, rainbow darter, silverjaw minnow, pirate perch, longear sunfish, fathead minnow, torrent sucker, largemouth bass, cutlip minnow, rosylace shiner, bluespotted sunfish, sandshiner, saffron shiner, roanoke darter, bigeye chub.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):
**Fishes:** carolina darter, kanawha minnow, tennessee dace, potomac sculpin, blackbanded sunfish, glassy darter, tonguetied minnow, speckled killifish, american brook lamprey, whitemouth shiner, ironcolor shiner, new river shiner, appalachia darter, stripeback darter
**Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails:** chowanoke crayfish, dwarf wedgemussel, cumberland bean, yellow lance, tennessee clubshell, tennessee pigtoe, roanoke slabshell, tennessee heelsplitter, slippershell mussel, eastern pondmussel, kidneyshell

*See Appendix 2 for scientific names*

Crosswalk to State Names:
**New York:** Marsh headwater stream, Coastal plain stream. **Maryland:** Coastal Plain Streams, Blackwater Streams, Limestone Streams. **Pennsylvania:** Atlantic Basin Fish Warmwater Community 1, Ohio-Great Lakes Basins Fish Warmwater Stream Community

**http://nature.ly/HabitatGuide**

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**Legend:**
- **Percent GAP 1 - 2**
- **Percent GAP 3**
- **Unsecured**

**Legend:**
- **Forest**
- **Open/Grass**
- **Wetland**
- **Cultivated**
- **Developed**

**Legend:**
- **Flood Control**
- **Hydroelectric**
- **Recreation**
- **Water Supply**
- **Other**
- **Unknown**

**Legend:**
- **Class 1:** Undisturbed: 0 < 0.5% impervious
- **Class 2:** Low impacts: >= 0.5 < 2% impervious
- **Class 3:** Moderately impacted: >= 2 < 10% impervious
- **Class 4:** Highly impacted: >= 10% impervious

**Legend:**
- **Density of Dams by Primary Purpose**
- **Density of Dams/100 stream miles**
- **Cumulative Upstream Impervious Surfaces**

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**Low Gradient, Warm, Headwaters and Creeks**
Description:

Cold, moderately fast-moving, headwaters and creeks of hills and gentle slopes. These small streams of northern regions or high elevations, occur on hills and slopes at moderate to high elevations in watersheds less than 39 sq.mi in size. They have cold moderately fast-moving waters with good oxygenation. Instream habitats are dominated by riffle-pool development with low sinuosity, moderately entrenched, and moderately narrow valleys. They have substrates dominated by cobble, gravel, and sand with occasional small patches of boulders. The predominant source of energy to the stream is terrestrial leaf litter or organic matter (these are allochthonous streams). Permanent cold water temperatures in these streams means coldwater fish species, such as brook trout, likely represent over half of the fish community. Additional variation in the stream biological community is associated with acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota. The habitat can be further subdivided into 1) headwaters that drain watersheds less than 4 sq.mi, and have an average bankfull width of 16 feet or 2) Creeks that include larger streams with watersheds up to 39 sq.mi. and have an average bankfull width of 32 feet.

Similar Habitat Types:

These moderate gradient streams are transitional types and often exhibit some characteristics of both the higher and lower gradient streams. Cold moderate gradient streams typically flow into moderate or low gradient cold and cool rivers in areas of less topography.

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Sucker Brook, Boughton Park | NY Stony Brook, State Game Land 57 in Tunkhannock | PA Houghton Brook, Mount Blue | ME Boody Brook, Baxter State Park | ME North Branch Nulhegan River, Wenlock WMA | VT
**Associated Fish:**

*Most Abundant:* brook trout, slimy sculpin, longnose dace, eastern blacknose dace, creek chub, white sucker, common shiner.  
*Less Abundant:* central stoneroller, mottled sculpin, fathead minnow, fallfish, bluntnose minnow, brook stickleback, tessellated darter, fantail darter, blue ridge sculpin, atlantic salmon, mountain redbelly dace, trout-perch, river chub, spottail shiner, northern hog sucker, finescale dace, rainbow darter, burbot, longnose sucker

**Species of Concern (G1 - G4):**

*Fishes:* mountain brook lamprey, bridle shiner, american brook lamprey  
*Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails:* eastern pearlshell, vernal physa  
*See Appendix 2 for scientific names*

**Crosswalk to State Names:**

*Vermont:* Brook trout, Brook trout-slimy sculpin, Blacknose dace-Slimy sculpin.  
*New Hampshire:* Lower gradient cold-water streams; High gradient, very cold streams.  
*New York:* Rocky headwater stream, Marsh headwater stream.  
*Maryland:* Cold Water Streams, Highland Streams.  
*Pennsylvania:* Atlantic Basin Fish Coldwater Community, Ohio-Great Lakes Basins Fish Coldwater Community.
Description:

Cool, moderately fast-moving, headwaters and creeks of low elevation hills and gentle slopes. These small streams of the Southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic occur on hills and slopes at low to moderate elevations in watersheds less than 39 sq.mi in size. They have cool moderately fast-moving waters with good oxygenation. Instream habitats are dominated by riffle-pool development with low sinuosity, moderately entrenched, and moderately narrow valleys. They have substrates dominated by cobble, gravel, and sand with occasional small patches of boulders. The predominant source of energy to the stream is terrestrial leaf litter or organic matter (these are allochtonous streams). Cool water temperatures in these streams means the fish community will contain a higher proportion of cool and warm water species relative to coldwater species. Additional variation in the stream biological community is associated with acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota. The habitat can be further subdivided into 1) headwaters that drain watersheds less than 4 sq.mi, and have an average bankfull width of 16 feet or 2) Creeks that include larger streams with watersheds up to 39 sq.mi. and have an average bankfull width of 32 feet.

Similar Habitat Types:

These moderate gradient streams are transitional types and often exhibit some characteristics of both the higher and lower gradient streams. Similarly cool streams are transitional between cold and warm systems and may include biota found in both colder and warmer types. Cool moderate gradient streams typically flow into moderate or low gradient cool and warm rivers in areas of less topography.

Places to Visit this Habitat:

White Deer Creek, Bald Eagle State Forest | PA Pine Brook, Pine Brook Falls - Haase | CT Breakheart Brook, Arcadia Management Area | RI Right Fork Laurel Fork, Holly River State Park | WV Honey Creek, Reeds Gap State Park | PA
Associated Fish:
Most Abundant: white sucker, fallfish, common shiner, tesselated darter, eastern blacknose dace, mottled sculpin, central stoneroller, creek chub, longnose dace, fantail darter, pearl dace, rosayside dace, fathead minnow, smallmouth bass. Less Abundant: slimy sculpin, mountain redbelly dace, torrent sucker, bluntnose minnow, potomac sculpin, cutlip minnow, river chub, northern hog sucker, bluehead chub, green sunfish, rock bass, bluegill, greenside darter, rainbow darter, american eel, striped shiner, banded sculpin, margined madtom, crescent shiner, johnny darter, brook trout, creek chubsucker, pumpkinseed, fathead minnow, redbreast sunfish, southern redbelly dace.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):
Fishes: cheat minnow, clinch dace, redside darter, candy darter, mountain brook lamprey, bridie shiner, kanawha minnow, tennessee dace, rusty side sucker, black sculpin, potomac sculpin, checkered sculpin, greenfin darter, tonguetied minnow, american brook lamprey, bigmouth chub, ironcolor shiner, blacknose shiner, new river shiner, mirror shiner, appalachia darter, stripeback darter
Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: elk river crayfish, big sandy crayfish, new river crayfish, littliewing pearlymussel, tennessee heelsplitter, eastern pearleashell, kidneyshell, appalachian springsnail, vernal physa
See Appendix 2 for scientific names

Crosswalk to State Names:
**Moderate Gradient, Warm, Headwaters and Creeks**

**Description:**
Warm, moderately fast-moving, headwaters and creeks of low-elevation hills and gentle slopes. These small streams of the Mid-Atlantic region occur on hills and slopes at low to moderate elevations in watersheds less than 39 sq.mi in size. They have warm, moderately fast moving water with good oxygenation. Instream habitats are dominated by riffle-pool development with low sinuosity, moderately entrenched, and moderately narrow valleys. They have substrates dominated by cobble, gravel, and sand with occasional small patches of boulder. The predominant source of energy to the stream is terrestrial leaf litter or organic matter (these are allochtonous streams). Warm water temperatures in these streams means the fish community will contain a higher proportion of warmwater species relative to coolwater species. These systems are unlikely to support any resident coldwater species. Additional variation in the stream biological community is associated with acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota. The habitat can be further subdivided into 1) headwaters that drain watersheds less than 4 sq.mi, and have an average bankfull width of 16 feet or 2) Creeks that include larger streams with watersheds up to 39 sq.mi. and have an average bankfull width of 32 feet.

**Similar Habitat Types:**
These moderate gradient streams are transitional types and often exhibit some characteristics of both the higher and lower gradient streams. Warm moderate gradient streams typically flow into moderate or low gradient warm rivers in areas of less topography.

**Places to Visit this Habitat:**
Hammond Branch, Hammond Park | MD Lockatong Creek, Westcott Nature Preserve | NJ Patterson Creek, George Washington And Jefferson National Forest | VA Pimmit Run, Potomac Hills City Park | VA Panther Creek, Panther State Forest | WV

**State Distribution:**

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This map is based on a model and has had little field checking. Contact your State Natural Heritage Ecologist or State Fish and Game Agency for more information about this habitat.
Associated Fish:
Most Abundant: eastern blacknose dace, creek chub, bluehead chub, mountain redbelly dace, central stoneroller, rosy dace, fantail darter, striped shiner, crescent shiner, bluntnose minnow, white sucker. Less Abundant: rainbow darter, tesselated darter, silverjaw minnow, torrent sucker, bluegill, longnose dace, margined madtom, green sunfish, johnny darter, redbreast sunfish, mottled sculpin, northern hog sucker, banded sculpin, rock bass, cutlip minnow, fallfish, american eel, pumpkinseed, greenside darter, common shiner, roanoke hog sucker, roselin shiner, creek chubsucker, highscale shiner, golden shiner, smallmouth bass, rosych face shiner, fantail darter

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):
Fishes: clinch dace, blackside dace, redside dace, tennessee dace, rustyside sucker, blackbanded sunfish, speckled killifish, bigmouth chub, new river shiner, appalachia darter, stripeback darter Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails; elk river crayfish, spiny scale crayfish, littleweing pearlymussel, tennessee heelsplitter, kidneyshell, appalachian springsnail
See Appendix 2 for scientific names

Crosswalk to State Names:
Maryland: Piedmont Streams, Pennsylvania: Atlantic Basin Fish Warmwater Community 1, Ohio-Great Lakes Basins Fish Warmwater Stream Community.
High Gradient, Cold, Headwaters and Creeks

Macrogroup: Headwaters and Creeks

Description:
Cold, fast-moving headwaters and creeks of steeper slopes at moderate to high elevations. These small streams of northern regions or high elevations occur on steep slope in watersheds less than 39 sq.mi in size. The cold fast moving water has high water clarity and is well oxygenated. Instream habitats are dominated by riffles and cascade and step-pool systems. Channels are usually narrowly confined, high-gradient, and surrounded by upland forests. Bed materials often consist of bedrock, boulders, cobbles, and coarse gravel. The predominant source of energy to the stream is terrestrial leaf litter or organic matter (these are allochthonous streams). Permanent cold water temperatures in these streams means coldwater fish species, such as brook trout, likely represent over half of the fish community. Additional variation in the stream biological community is associated with acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota. The habitat can be further subdivided into 1) headwaters that drain watersheds less than 4 sq.mi, and have an average bankfull width of 16 feet or 2) Creeks that include larger streams with watersheds up to 39 sq.mi. and have an average bankfull width of 32 feet.

Similar Habitat Types:
Headwaters and creeks may also occur at lower elevations but these tend to be warmer, flatter, and slower. Coastal examples of high gradient headwaters are rare. Cold high gradient streams typically flows into moderate or low gradient cold and cool rivers in areas of less topography.

Places to Visit this Habitat:
Dry Brook, Satans Kingdom WMA | MA Warner Creek, Phoenicia Wild Forest | NY Lamentation Run, Allegheny National Forest Non-Reserved | PA Dish Mill Brook, Victory State Forest | VT Leatherwood Creek, Monongahela National Forest | WV
Associated Fish:
Most Abundant: brook trout, slimy sculpin, longnose dace, longnose sucker, eastern blacknose dace, creek chub
Less Abundant: mottled sculpin, white sucker, fantail darter, common shiner, lake chub, fallfish, atlantic salmon.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):
Fish: black sculpin
Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: eastern pearlshell
See Appendix 2 for scientific names

Crosswalk to State Names:
High Gradient, Cool, Headwaters and Creeks

Macrogroup: Headwaters and Creeks

Description:
Cool, fast-moving headwaters and creeks occur on steep slopes at low to moderate elevations. These small streams of the Mid-Atlantic, less than 39 sq.mi in size, have high water clarity and are well oxygenated. High-gradient instream habitats are dominated by riffles and cascade and step-pool systems. Channels are usually confined, high-gradient, and surrounded by upland forests. Bed materials often consist of bedrock, boulders, cobbles, and coarse gravel. The predominant source of energy to the stream is terrestrial leaf litter or organic matter. Cool water temperatures in these streams means the fish community will contain a higher proportion of cool and warm water species relative to coldwater species. Additional variation in the stream biological community is associated with acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota. The habitat can be further subdivided into 1) headwaters that drain watersheds less than 4 sq.mi, and have an average bankfull width of 16 feet or 2) Creeks that include larger streams with watersheds up to 39 sq.mi, and have an average bankfull width of 32 feet.

Similar Habitat Types:
Headwaters and creeks may also occur at lower elevations but these tend to be warmer, flatter, and slower. Coastal examples of high gradient headwaters are rare. Cool high gradient streams typically flow into moderate or low gradient cool and warm rivers in areas of less topography.

Places to Visit this Habitat:
Deep Run, Green Ridge State Forest | MD Passage Creek, George Washington And Jefferson National Forest | VA Edricks Creek, Gauley River National Recreation Area | WV Seneca Creek, Monongahela National Forest | WV Jeremys Run, Shenandoah National Park | VA
Associated Fish:

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):
Fishes: black sculpin, checkered sculpin, tonguetied minnow, mirror shiner
Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: elk river crayfish, big sandy crayfish, kidneyshell, appalachian springsnail
See Appendix 2 for scientific names

Crosswalk to State Names:
High Gradient, Warm, Headwaters and Creeks

Macrogoup: Headwaters and Creeks

Description:
Warm, fast-moving, headwaters and creeks of steeper slopes at low-elevation. These small streams of the Mid-Atlantic region occur on steep slopes at low to moderate elevations in watersheds less than 39 sq.mi in size. The warm fast-moving water has high water clarity and is well oxygenated. High-gradient instream habitats are dominated by riffles and cascade and step-pool systems. Channels are usually narrowly confined, high gradient, and surrounded by upland forests. Bed materials often consist of bedrock, boulders, cobbles, and coarse gravel. The predominant source of energy to the stream is terrestrial leaf litter or organic matter (these are allochtonous streams). Warm water temperatures in these streams means the fish community will contain a higher proportion of warmwater species relative to coolwater species. These systems are unlikely to support any resident coldwater species. Additional variation in the stream biological community is associated with acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota. The habitat can be further subdivided into 1) headwaters that drain watersheds less than 4 sq.mi, and have an average bankfull width of 16 feet or 2) Creeks that include larger streams with watersheds up to 39 sq.mi. and have an average bankfull width of 32 feet.

Similar Habitat Types:
Headwaters and creeks may also occur on more moderate and gentle slopes and in settings with cooler water temperatures. Coastal examples of high gradient headwaters are rare. Warm high gradient streams typically flow into moderate or low gradient warm rivers in areas of less topography.

Places to Visit this Habitat:
Miller Run, Patapsco Valley State Park | MD Rock Creek, Gambrill State Park | MD Donaldson Run, Donaldson Run Park | VA Left Fork Lynn Creek, East Lynn Lake Wildlife Management Area | WV Dancing Creek, Blue Ridge Parkway National Park | VA

State Distribution: DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV

Total Habitat (mi): 2,681
% Conserved: 6.0  Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

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<th>State</th>
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Source: 1:100k NHD+ (USGS 2006), >= 1 sq.mi. drainage area
Associated Fish:
**Most Abundant:** mountain redbelly dace, rosypside dace, eastern blacknose dace, creek chub, longnose dace, rock bass, banded sculpin, fantail darter, bluehead dace. **Less Abundant:** central stoneroller, smallmouth bass, fallfish, mottled sculpin, pumpkinseed, white sucker, green sunfish, redbreast sunfish, torrent sucker, tennessee shiner.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):
Fishes: tennessee dace, bluebreast darter
Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: spiny scale crayfish, tennessee heelsplitter, kidneysnail, appalachian springsnail
See Appendix 2 for scientific names

Crosswalk to State Names:
**Maryland:** Piedmont Streams: high gradient variant, Highland Streams.

**http://nature.ly/HabitatGuide**
Low Gradient, Cool, Small River

Macrogroup: Small River

Description:
Cool, slow-moving, small rivers of flat, marshy settings at low to moderate elevations. These small rivers drain small watersheds of up to 200 sq.mi. in size and have an average bankfull width of 65 feet. The slow-moving waters are dominated by runs with interspersed pool sections and a few short or no distinct riffles. Their substrate is usually dominated by silt, sand, and fine gravel, and they may exhibit high turbidity and be somewhat poorly oxygenated. These low-gradient rivers are often described as unconfined and have moderate to high sinuosity with broader valleys. They are typically surrounded by floodplain forest, wetlands, or eroded sand or clay banks or fine sediment bars. Cool water temperatures in these rivers means the fish community will contain a higher proportion of cool and warm water species relative to coldwater species. There will be less habitat with cool enough temperatures to support coldwater species year round. Additional variation in the biological community is expected in acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota.

Similar Habitat Types:
Small rivers also occur at higher elevations and on higher slopes, but these tend to have coarser substrates, cooler, and faster water. Warm low gradient small rivers typically flow into low gradient cool or warm medium rivers.

Places to Visit this Habitat:
Charles River, Elm Bank | MA Sudbury River, Great Meadows NWR | MA West River, High Tor Wilderness Management Area | NY Oak Orchard Creek, Iroquois National Game Refuge | NY Tohickon Creek, Nockamixon State Park | PA
**Associated Fish:**

**Most Abundant:** bluegill, white sucker, eastern blacknose dace, silverjaw minnow, longnose dace, pumpkinsseed, yellow perch, central stoneroller, bluntnose minnow, cutlip minnow, creek chub, tessellated darter, rock bass. **Less Abundant:** fallfish, largemouth bass, telescope shiner, american eel, common shiner, spottail shiner, river chub, greenside darter, brown bullhead, golden shiner, smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, redbreast sunfish, banded darter, brook silverside, green sunfish.

**Species of Concern (G1 - G4):**

**Fishes:** blotchside logperch, sickle darter, ohio lamprey, mountain brook lamprey, pugnose shiner, , bridle shiner, longhead darter, kanawha minnow, eastern sand darter, gravel chub, northern brook lamprey, american brook lamprey, blacknose shiner, new river shiner, tangerine darter, gill darter, appalachia darter

**Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails:** oyster mussel, shiny pigtoe, littlewing pearlymussel, purple bean, clubshell, tennessee clubshell, tennessee pigtoe, fluted kidneyshell, rayed bean, brook floater, snuffbox, longsolid, yellow lampmussel, tennessee heelsplitter, green floater, tidewater mucket, elktoe, triangle floater, slippershell mussel, eastern pondmussel, eastern pearlshell, round pigtoe, kidneyshell, spiny riversnail

*See Appendix 2 for scientific names*

**Crosswalk to State Names:**

**Vermont:** Blacknose dace-Bluntnose minnow, White sucker-
Tessellated darter, Tessellated darter-Fallfish. **New York:** Marsh headwater stream, Unconfined river, Backwater slough.

**Pennsylvania:** Atlantic Basin Fish Coolwater Community 1, Ohio-
Great Lakes Basins Fish Coolwater Stream Community

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Low Gradient, Cool, Small River

[Image of bluegill]
Low Gradient, Warm, Small River

Description:

Warm, slow-moving, small rivers of flat, marshy settings at low elevations and throughout the southern Mid-Atlantic. These small rivers of southern regions, drain watersheds up to 200 sq.mi and have an average bankfull width of 62 feet. The slow-moving waters are dominated by runs with interspersed pool sections and a few short or no distinct riffles. Their substrate is usually dominated by silt, sand, and fine gravel, and they may exhibit high turbidity and be somewhat poorly oxygenated. These low-gradient rivers are often described as unconfined and have moderate to high sinuosity with broader valleys. They are typically surrounded by floodplain forest, wetlands, or eroded sand or clay banks or fine sediment bars. Warm water temperatures in these rivers means the fish community will contain a higher proportion of warmwater species relative to coolwater species. These systems are unlikely to support any resident coldwater species. Additional variation in the biological community is expected in acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota.

Similar Habitat Types:

Small rivers also occur at higher elevations and on higher slopes, but these tend to higher slopes, coarser substrates, faster, and cooler water. Warm low gradient small rivers typically flow into low gradient warm medium rivers.

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Crosswicks Creek, Crosswicks Creek Greenway | NJ Mad Horse Creek, Mad Horse Creek | NJ Great Egg Harbor River, Winslow | NJ Tuckahoe Creek, Tuckahoe Creek Park | VA Blackwater River, Blackwater Creek Natural Area | WV
**Associated Fish:**

**Most Abundant:** redbreast sunfish, white sucker, common shiner, swallowtail shiner, spottail shiner, tessellated darter, bluntnose minnow, american eel, greenside darter, longnose dace, banded killifish, satinfish shiner, green sunfish. **Less Abundant:** rock bass, central stoneroller, margined madtom, pumpkinseed, eastern blacknose dace, bluegill, largemouth bass, fallfish, rosylace shiner, creek chub, northern hog sucker, yellow bullhead, smallmouth bass, river chub, golden redhorse, redfin pickerel, banded darter, variegate darter, johnny darter, sand shiner.

**Species of Concern (G1 - G4):**

Fish: duskytail darter, yellowfin madtom, roanoke logperch, ashy darter, golden darter, roughhead shiner, orangefin madtom, blotchside logperch, sickle darter, ohio lamprey, mountain brook lamprey, popeye shiner, longhead darter, eastern sand darter, potomac sculpin, glassy darter, tonguetied minnow, speckled killifish, american brook lamprey, river redhorse, ironcolor shiner, new river shiner, tanager darter, channel darter, gill darter, appalachia darter, stripeback darter.

Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: chowanoke crayfish, shiny pigtoe, finerayed pigtoe, littlewing pearly mussel, james spinymussel, purple bean, cumberland bean, yellow lance, atlantic pigtoe, clubshell, tennessee clubshell, tennessee pigtoe, slabside pearly mussel, fluted kidneyshell, brook floater, atlantic spike, roanoke slabshell, snuffbox, longsolid, yellow lampmussel, green floater, tidewater mucket, salamander mussel, rough rabbitsfoot, elktoe, triangle floater, slippershell mussel, eastern pondmussel, round pigtoe, kidneyshell, spiny riversnail.

See Appendix 2 for scientific names.

**Crosswalk to State Names:**

**New York:** Marsh headwater stream, Unconfined river, Backwater slough. **Maryland:** Piedmont Streams: low gradient variant; Coastal Plain Streams, Black Water Streams. **Pennsylvania:** Atlantic Basin Fish Warmwater Community 1, Ohio-Great Lakes Basins Fish Warmwater Stream Community.

**http://nature.ly/HabitatGuide**
**Moderate Gradient, Cool, Small River**

**Macrogroup:** Small River

**State Distribution:** CT, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, VA, WV

**Total Habitat (mi):** 6,343

**% Conserved:** 11.1

**Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer**

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**Description:**

Cool, moderately fast-moving, small rivers at moderate to low elevations in the north and at higher elevations in the south. These small rivers drain watersheds up to 200 sq.mi and have an average bankfull width of 62 feet. The moderately fast-moving waters are dominated by a well-defined pattern of alternating pools, riffles, and runs. Their substrate is composed of sand, gravel, and cobble, and they often have high water clarity and are well oxygenated. These moderate gradient rivers exhibit moderate to low sinuosity with moderately narrow valleys and adjacent riverside upland communities. Cool water temperatures in these rivers means the fish community will support few permanent coldwater species and will contain a higher proportion of cool and warm water species relative to coldwater species. Additional variation in the biological community is expected in acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota.

**Similar Habitat Types:**

These moderate gradient small rivers are transitional types and often exhibit some characteristics of both the higher and lower gradient small rivers. Similarly cool rivers are transitional between cold and warm systems and may include biota found in both colder and warmer types. Cool moderate gradient small rivers typically flow into moderate or low gradient cool and warm larger rivers in areas of less topography.

**Places to Visit this Habitat:**

Westfield River, Streeter | MA Musconetcong River, Allamuchy | NJ Bush Kill, Delaware State Forest | PA Little Connewango River, Connewango Swamp WMA | NY Shavers Fork, Monongahela National Forest | WV
Associated Fish:

**Most Abundant:** eastern blacknose dace, longnose dace, white sucker, common shiner, central stoneroller, tessellated darter, cutlip minnow, slimy sculpin, fallfish, telescope shiner, creek chub, rock bass, american eel. **Less Abundant:** mottled sculpin, smallmouth bass, margined madtom, river chub, fantail darter, bluntnose minnow, tennessse shiner, brook trout, northern hog sucker, spottail shiner, pumpkinseed, rosylace shiner, bluehead chub, redbreast sunfish, fathead minnow, mountain redbelly dace, bigmouth chub, white shiner, shield darter, atlantic salmon, yellow perch, banded sculpin, striped shiner, greenside darter.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):

Fishes: clinch sculpin, cheat minnow, spotted darter, roughhead shiner, orangefin madtom, blotchside logperch, sickle darter, redside dace, candy darter, ohio lamprey, mountain brook lamprey, bridge shiner, longhead darter, kanawha minnow, eastern sand darter, black sculpin, gravel chub, bluebreast darter, greenfin darter, bluespar darter, swannanoa darter, tonguetied minnow, northern brook lamprey, american brook lamprey, greater redhorse, bigmouth chub, blacknose shiner, new river shiner, mirror shiner, channel darter, appalachia darter, stripeback darter

Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: elk river crayfish, new river crayfish, oyster mussel, shiny pigtoe, finerayed pigtoe, jame spinnermussel, cumberland bean, yellow lance, atlantic pigtoe, clench sculpin, new river crayfish, oyster mussel, shiny pigtoe, finerayed pigtoe, jame spinnermussel, cumberland bean, yellow lance, atlantic pigtoe, clinch sculpin, cheat minnow, spotted darter, roughhead shiner, orangefin madtom, blotchside logperch, sickle darter, redside dace, candy darter, ohio lamprey, mountain brook lamprey, bridge shiner, longhead darter, kanawha minnow, eastern sand darter, black sculpin, gravel chub, bluebreast darter, greenfin darter, bluespar darter, swannanoa darter, tonguetied minnow, northern brook lamprey, american brook lamprey, greater redhorse, bigmouth chub, blacknose shiner, new river shiner, mirror shiner, channel darter, appalachia darter, stripeback darter

See Appendix 2 for scientific names

Crosswalk to State Names:


**Relative Risk of Flow Alteration from Dams**

Class 1: <2% Very low  
Class 2: 2% < 10% Low  
Class 3: 2% < 30% Moderate  
Class 4: 2% < 50% High  
Class 5: >= 50% Severe

**Density of Dams by Primary Purpose**

**Landcover Classes**

**Securement**

**% of Riparian Buffer**

**Densities of dams/100 stream miles**

**Overall Dam Density/100 stream miles:** 13.4

**Associated Fish: Common shiner, © Jon Cloutier**

**http://nature.ly/HabitatGuide**

Moderate Gradient, Cool, Small River
**Moderate Gradient, Warm, Small River**

**Macrogroup:** Small River

**Description:**
Warm, moderately fast-moving, small rivers of the southern Mid-Atlantic region. These small rivers of the south drain watersheds up to 200 sq.mi and have an average bankfull width of 69 feet. The moderately fast-moving waters are dominated by a well-defined pattern of alternating pools, riffles, and runs. Their substrate is composed of sand, gravel, and cobble, and they often have high water clarity and are well oxygenated. These moderate gradient rivers exhibit moderate to low sinuosity with moderately narrow valleys and adjacent riverside upland communities. Warm water temperatures in these rivers mean the fish community will contain a higher proportion of warmwater species relative to coolwater species. These systems are unlikely to support any resident coldwater species. Additional variation in the biological community is expected in acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota.

**Similar Habitat Types:**
These moderate gradient rivers are transitional types and often exhibit some characteristics of both the higher and lower gradient streams. Warm moderate gradient small rivers typically flow into moderate or low gradient warm larger rivers in areas of less topography.

**Places to Visit this Habitat:**
Deer Creek, Rocks State Park | MD Gunpowder Falls, Gunpowder Falls State Park | MD Sideling Hill Creek, Sideling Hill Wildlife Management Area | PA Pennypack Creek, Penny Pack Park | PA Cranberry River, Monongahela National Forest | WV

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**State Distribution:** DE, DC, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV

**Total Habitat (mi):** 3.664

**% Conserved:** 8.3  Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

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Associated Fish:
Most Abundant: central stoneroller, bluntnose minnow, white sucker, redbreast sunfish, river chub, american eel, eastern blacknose dace, warpaint shiner, rock bass, common shiner, northern hog sucker, greenside darter, tennessee shiner, telescope shiner, rosyle darter, tesselated darter, creek chub, crescent shiner, redline darter, bigeye chub, longnose dace, striped shiner. Less Abundant: rainbow darter, mimic shiner, smallmouth bass, mottled sculpin, cutlip minnow, banded sculpin, banded darter, whitetail shiner, fantail darter, mountain shiner, margined madtom, bluehead chub, gizzard shad, fallfish, black redhorse, bigmouth chub, green sunfish, spotfin shiner, johnny darter, bluegill, creek chubsucker, rosetin shiner, spottail shiner, longear sunfish, tallmouth bass, shield darter, golden redhorse.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):
Fishes: duskytail darter, yellowfin madtom, cheat minnow, roanoke logperch, roughhead shiner, orangefin madtom, blotchside logperch, sickle darter, sharphead darter, candy darter, tippecanoe darter, ohio lamprey, mountain brook lamprey, popeye shiner, longhead darter, fatlaps minnow, kanawha minnow, potomac sculpin, gravel chub, bluebreast darter, greenfin darter, bluespar darter, swananoa darter, glassy darter, tongueled minnow, american brook lamprey, river redhorse, bigmouth chub, new river shiner, mirror shiner, tangerine darter, channel darter, gill darter, appalachia darter, stripeback darter Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: elk river crayfish, big sandy crayfish, spiny scale crayfish, new river crayfish, cumberlandian combshell, shiny pigtoe, littlewing pearlymussel, purple bean, yellow lance, atlantic pigtoe, clubshell, tennessee clubshell, tennessee pigtoe, slabside pearlymussel, fluted kidneyshell, brook floaters, atlantic spike, snuffbox, yellow lampmussel, tennessee heelsplitter, green floaters, salamander mussel, tan rippleshell, elktoe, triangle floaters, slippershell mussel, northern lance, eastern pondmussel, round hickorynut, round pigtoe, kidneyshell, spiny riversnail
See Appendix 2 for scientific names

Crosswalk to State Names:
Cool, Medium River

**Description:**
Cool, medium-sized rivers of the moderate elevation northern region. These medium sized rivers drain watersheds up to 1000 sq.mi. in size and have an average bankfull width of 115 feet. Slower moving, lower gradient sections of these rivers are expected to be more unconfined with higher sinuosity, broader floodplain valleys, more riparian wetlands, and lower width/depth ratios than the more moderate gradient portions. Cool water temperatures in these rivers means the fish community will support few permanent coldwater species and will contain a higher proportion of cool and warm water species relative to coldwater species. Examples of this type in the region include the Missisquoi, Lamoille, Saranac, Saint Regis, Upper Saco, Grass, Oswegatchie, Otter Creek, Hoosic, Schoharie Creek, Chenango, Housatonic, Genesee, Pine Creek, and Clarion River.

**Similar Habitat Types:**
Cool rivers are transitional between cold and warm systems and may include biota found in both colder and warmer types. Cool medium rivers typically flow into larger cool or warm rivers.

**Places to Visit this Habitat:**
Saint Croix River, Spednick Saint Croix International Waterway | ME Cattaraugus Creek, Zoar Valley Mua | NY West Branch Saint Regis River, Southville State Forest | NY Clarion River, Allegheny National Forest Non-Reserved | PA Lehigh River, Lehigh Gorge State Park | PA
**Associated Fish:**

**Species of Concern (G1 - G4):**
Fish: lake sturgeon, ohio lamprey, mountain brook lamprey, bridle shiner, longhead darter, eastern sand darter, gravel chub, bluebreast darter, northern brook lamprey, american brook lamprey, greater redhorse, blacknose shiner, channel darter
Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: rayed bean, brook floater, longsolid, yellow lampmussel, green floater, tidewater mucket, elktoe, triangle floater, eastern pondmussel, eastern pearlshell, round pigtoe
See Appendix 2 for scientific names

**Crosswalk to State Names:**
New York: Confined river, Unconfined river, Backwater slough.
Pennsylvania: Atlantic Basin Fish Warmwater Community 1, Ohio-Great Lakes Basins Fish Warmwater Stream Community

**Relative Risk of Flow Alteration from Dams**

Class 1: <2% Very low
Class 2: >= 2 < 10% Low
Class 3: >= 10 <30% Moderate
Class 4: >= 30 < 50% High
Class 5: >= 50% Severe

**Density of Dams by Primary Purpose**
Overall Dam Density/100 stream miles: 11.8

**Landcover Classes**

**Securement**

**% of Riparian Buffer**

**% Mean Annual Flow Stored Upstream Behind Dams**
Warm, Medium River

Macrogroup: Medium River

Description:
Warm, medium-sized rivers of the low elevation north and of the Mid-Atlantic. These medium sized rivers drain watersheds up to 1000 sq.mi. in size and have an average bankfull width of 115 feet. Slower moving, lower gradient sections of these rivers are expected to be more unconfined with higher sinuosity, broader floodplain valleys, more riparian wetlands, and lower width/depth ratios than the more moderate gradient portions. Warm water temperatures in these rivers means the fish community will contain a higher proportion of warmwater species relative to coolwater species. These systems are unlikely to support any resident coldwater species. Examples of this type in the region include French Creek, Conodoguinet Creek, North Branch Potomac, Cacapon, North Fork Shenandoah, Lieelt Kanawah, Elk, Mattaponi, Greenbrier, Appomattox, Guyardote, Tug Fork, Meherrin, Clinch, and North Fork Holston.

Similar Habitat Types:
Cool and cold medium rivers are also found in the region. Warm medium rivers typically flow into larger warm rivers or directly to the coast.

Places to Visit this Habitat:
Patuxent River, Patuxent River State Park | MD Patapsco River, Patapsco Valley State Park | MD Roanoke River, Wasena | VA French Creek, French Creek State Park | PA Greenbrier River, Monongahela National Forest | WV
**Associated Fish:**

**Most Abundant:** bluntnose minnow, redbreast sunfish, rock bass, central stoneroller, spottail shiner, white sucker, smallmouth bass, american eel, northern hog sucker, greenside darter, spotfin shiner, white shiner, pumpkinseed, common shiner, river chub, bluegill, telescope shiner, margined madtom, mimic shiner, swallowtail shiner, bluehead chub, tessellated darter, redline darter, roseface shiner.

**Less Abundant:** tennessee shiner, largemouth bass, fantail darter, ro Kane bass darter, longnose dace, banded darter, cutlip minnow, satinfin shiner, yellow bullhead, golden redhorse, striped shiner, green sunfish, yellow perch, creek chub, bigmouth chub, rainbow darter, fallfish, gizzard shad, banded sculpin, whitetail shiner, banded killifish, eastern silvery minnow, shield darter, johnny darter, white perch, longear sunfish, variegate darter, warpaint shiner, bull chub, logperch, black redhorse, comely shiner.

**Species of Concern (G1 - G4):**

**Fishes:** slender chub, yellowfin madtom, cheat minnow, roanoke logperch, spotfin chub, ashy darter, golden darter, spotted darter, roughhead shiner, orangefin madtom, blotchside logperch, sickle darter, western sand darter, sharphead darter, candy darter, tippecanoe darter, ohio lamprey, mountain brook lamprey, popeye shiner, northern madtom, longhead darter, fattips minnow, kanawha minnow, eastern sand darter, black sculpin, potomac sculpin, bluehead chub, bluespotted darter, swannanoa darter, new river shiner, mirror shiner, mountain madtom, tangerine darter, channel darter, gilt darter, appalachia darter, stripeback darter, paddlefish.

**Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails:** elk river crayfish, big sandy crayfish, fanshell, demedary pearlymussel, cumberlandian combshell, oyster mussel, finerayed pigtoe, cracking pearlymussel, birdwing pearlymussel, virginia pigtoe, littlewing pearlymussel, james spiny mussel, rough pigtoe, cumberland monkeyface, appalachian monkeyface, purple bean, cumberland bean, yellow lance, atlantic pigtoe, pink mucket, clubshell, tennessee clubshell, pyramid pigtoe, tennessee pigtoe, slabside pearlymussel, black sandshell, fluted kidneyshell, rayed bean, brook floater, spectaclecase, roanoke slabshell, snuffbox, longsolid, yellow lampmussel, tennessee heelshelter, green floater, sheenpore, rabbitsfoot, salamander mussel, purple lilliput, tan riffleshell, northern riffleshell, rough rabbitsfoot, green blossom, elktoe, triangle floater, slippershell mussel, northern lance, eastern pondmussel, round hickorynut, ohio pigtoe, round pigtoe, kidneyshell, pistolgrip spiny rivernail

See Appendix 2 for scientific names

**Crosswalk to State Names:**

**New York:** Confined river, Unconfined river, Backwater slough.

**Pennsylvania:** Atlantic Basin Fish Warmwater Community 2, Ohio-Great Lakes Basins Fish Warmwater Stream Community
**Warm, Large River**

**Macrogroup:** Large River

**Description:**
Large, deep, warmwater rivers of the Mid-Atlantic and low elevations in the north. These very large and deep rivers drain watersheds >1000 sq.mi and have an average bankfull width of 250 feet. Slower moving, lower gradient sections of these rivers are expected to be more unconfined with higher sinuosity, broader floodplain valleys, more riparian wetlands, and lower width/depth ratios than the more moderate gradient portions. Species diversity is high in these large rivers, and assemblages characteristic of runs, pools, and the pelagic zone dominate the community. Profundal areas without effective light penetration are also found and support populations of bacteria, fungi, and other decomposers that break down organic matter reaching the bottom. In coastal connected river sections, anadromous species are often found. Warm water temperatures in these streams means the fish community will contain a higher proportion of warmwater species relative to coolwater species. These systems are unlikely to support any resident coldwater species. Examples of this type in the region include the lower Merrimack, Mohawk, Delaware, Susquehanna, West Branch Susquehanna, Allegheny, Juniata, Ohio, Monongahela, Potomac, South Fork Shenandoah, Kanawha, James, New, and Roanoke.

**Similar Habitat Types:**
Warm large rivers typically have a number of cool and warm medium sized or small river sized tributary systems draining into them.

**Places to Visit this Habitat:**
Potomac River, C & O Canal National Historical Park | MD West Branch Susquehanna River, Bucktail State Park Natural Area | PA Youghiogheny River, Ohiopyle State Park | PA Ohio River, Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area | WV Gauley River, Gauley River National Recreation Area | WV

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**State Distribution:**

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**Total Habitat (mi):** 3,853

**% Conserved:** 12.0 Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

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[Map of Warm, Large River habitats in the Mid-Atlantic region]
Associated Fish:
Most Abundant: smallmouth bass, emerald shiner, spotfin shiner, redbreast sunfish, northern hog sucker, rock bass, bluntnose minnow, spottail shiner, mimic shiner, white sucker, rosyface shiner, fallfish, telescope shiner, bluegill, gizzard shad, pumpkinseed, logperch, black redhorse, greenside darter, streamline chub, banded darter, yellow perch, american eel, shield darter, tesselated darter, swallowtail shiner, channel catfish, golden redhorse. Less Abundant: roanoke darter, walleye, satinfish shiner, margined madtom, sand shiner, largemouth bass, central stoneroller, shorthead redhorse, longhead darter, river chub, yellow bullhead, silver redhorse, bigmouth chub, silver shiner, longnose dace, whitetail shiner, longear sunfish, variegated darter, blueback herring, rainbow darter, green sunfish, golden shiner, common shiner, sharpnose darter, redline darter, white perch, white shiner, freshwater drum, banded killifish, flathead catfish.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):
Fishes: duskytail darter, cheat minnow, roanoke logperch, ashy darter, golden darter, spotted darter, orangefin madtom, blotchside logperch, shortnose sturgeon, lake sturgeon, atlantic sturgeon, western sand darter, candy darter, tippecanoe darter, ohio lamprey, popeye shiner, northern madtom, longhead darter, kanawha minnow, eastern sand darter, highfin carpsucker, streamline chub, gravel chub, bluebreast darter, blueline darter, american brook lamprey, river redhorse, bigmouth chub, new river shiner, mountain madtom, tangerine darter, channel darter, gilt darter, appalachia darter, stripeback darter, paddlefish
Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: fanshell, dromedary pearlymussel, birdwing pearlymussel, virginia pigtoe, orangefoot pimpleback, james spinymussel, rough pigtoe, yellow lance, atlantic pigtoe, pink mucket, clubshell, pyramid pigtoe, tennessee pigtoe, rayed bean, brook floater, spectaclecase, atlantic spike, roanoke slabshell, snuffbox, longsolid, yellow lampmussel, green floater, tidewater mucket, sheepnose, rabbitsfoot, salamander mussel, northern riffleshell, elktoe, triangle floater, butterfly, ebonyshell, hickorynut, round hickorynut, ohio pigtoe, round pigtoe, kidneyshell, monkeyface, pistolgrip
See Appendix 2 for scientific names

Crosswalk to State Names:
New York: Deepwater river. Pennsylvania: Atlantic Basin Fish River & Impoundment Community, Ohio-Great Lakes Basins Fish Large River Community

http://nature.ly/HabitatGuide
Tidal Headwaters and Creeks

Macrogroup: Tidal Headwaters and Creeks

State Distribution: CT, DE, DC, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA

Total Habitat (mi): 7,835
% Conserved: 13.2
Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

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Description:

Slow-moving, shallow, tidally influenced creeks and headwater streams. These tidal creeks and streams connect directly to the ocean or to large tidal rivers estuaries and have watersheds under 39 square miles. The water flow and level in these streams fluctuates with the tides creating subtidal habitat which is permanently flooded and an intertidal habitat exposed at low tide. Salinity typically ranges between 30 and 0.5 ppt and grades into a freshwater system in the upper portions of many of these reaches. Most tidal streams have moderately firm, sandy channel bottoms and vertical banks that are regularly eroded and slump into the creek bottom. Many have a very sinuous pattern as they wind through large salt marshes along the coast. Others have smaller associated brackish or salt marshes along their length and/or intertidal sand and mud flats in their lower portions. These streams and their associated estuaries support a rich diversity of plant and animals and serve as the primary nursery area for many marine fishes. The ecological importance of small tidal streams has historically been undervalued, but recent research is showing their collective influence on estuarine ecosystem function may equal or exceed that of larger tidal rivers.

Similar Habitat Types:

Tidal headwaters and creeks may drain directly to the coast or into larger tidal rivers and their estuaries. High gradient examples of tidal creeks and streams are rare but do occur occasionnally along the northern rocky coast of the region.

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Associated Fish:
**Most Abundant:** alewife, blueback herring, atlantic silverside, mummichog, striped killifish, sheepshead minnow, fourspine stickleback, three-spined stickleback, american eel, winter flounder, black sea bass, bluefish, striped bass, naked goby, northern pipefish.
**Less Abundant:** eastern mudminnow, white sucker, tessellated darter, pumpkinseed, redfin pickerel, eastern mosquitofish, swallowtail shiner, redbreast sunfish, largemouth bass, brook trout, satinfin shiner, banded killifish, sea lamprey, golden shiner, banded sunfish.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):
**Fish:** bridle shiner, glassy darter, spotfin killifish, american brook lamprey, ironcolor shiner
**Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails:** tidewater mucket, eastern pondmussel, new england siltsnail
*See Appendix 2 for scientific names*

Crosswalk to State Names:
**New York:** Brackish interdunal swales, Brackish intertidal mudflats, Brackish intertidal shore, Brackish meadow, Brackish subtidal aquatic bed, Brackish tidal marsh, Coastal salt pond, Freshwater intertidal mudflats, Freshwater intertidal shore, Freshwater tidal creek, Freshwater tidal marsh, Freshwater tidal swamp, High salt marsh, Low salt marsh, Salt panne, Salt shrub, Saltwater tidal creek.
**Maryland:** Tidal Streams, Coastal Plain Streams, Blackwater Streams.

![Alewife, © USDA Forest Service](image)
Tidal Small and Medium River

Description:
Slow moving, small to medium, tidally influenced rivers. These small to medium sized rivers connect directly to the ocean or to large estuaries and their water flow and level fluctuates with the tides. They drain watersheds up to 1,000 sq.mi.in size and have an average bankfull width of 89 feet. In the river there is a vertical salinity gradient, with a surface layer of fresh water (salinity less than 0.5 ppt) floating over a deeper layer of brackish water (salinity between 0.5 and 18.0ppt). Salinities at any one place in the river may fluctuate as the tides flow in and out because the "salt wedge" of brackish water alternately rises and falls with the tides. Vegetational and faunal communities found in and along the river are determined by both depth and salinity. Commonly associated communities include brackish and salt marshes, swamps, and mudflats. These rivers and their associated estuaries support a rich diversity of plant and animals and serve as the primary nursery area for many marine, estuarine, and anadromous fishes.

Similar Habitat Types:
Tidal rivers typically have a number of connected smaller tidal creeks and may drain directly to the coast or into larger tidal rivers and their estuaries.

Places to Visit this Habitat:
Quinnipiac River, Quinnipiac River State Park, CT Nanticoke River, Nanticoke River Watershed Conservancy | DE Transquaking River, Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Area | MD Northwest River, Northwest River | VA Mattaponi River, Sandy Point State Forest | VA
**Associated Fish:**

*Most Abundant:* alewife, blueback herring, american shad, hickory shad, gizzard shad, striped bass, atlantic tomcod, american eel, rainbow smelt, sea lamprey, white perch, hogchoker, striped bass, banded killifish, spottail shiner, tesselated darter, pumpkinseed, bay anchovy.  *Less Abundant:* pumpkinseed, white sucker, yellow perch, largemouth bass, redbreast sunfish, spottail shiner, chain pickerel, golden shiner, eastern silver minnow, common shiner, satinfish shiner, shorthead redhorse, redfin pickerel.

**Species of Concern (G1 - G4):**

*Fishes:* shortnose sturgeon, atlantic sturgeon, glassy darter, spotfin killifish, ironcolor shiner  
*Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails:* tidewater mucket, eastern pondmussel, new england siltsnail  
*See Appendix 2 for scientific names*

**Crosswalk to State Names:**

*New York:* Brackish interdunal swales, Brackish intertidal mudflats, Brackish intertidal shore, Brackish meadow, Brackish subtidal aquatic bed, Brackish tidal marsh, Coastal salt pond, Freshwater intertidal mudflats, Freshwater intertidal shore, Freshwater tidal creek, Freshwater tidal marsh, Freshwater tidal swamp.  *High salt marsh, Low salt marsh, Salt panne, Salt shrub, Saltwater tidal creek, Tidal river.*  
*Maryland:* Tidal Streams, Coastal Plain Streams, Blackwater Streams.
Tidal Large River

Macrogroup: Tidal Large River

Description:
Slow moving, large, deep, tidally influenced rivers. These very large rivers connect directly to the ocean or to large estuaries and their water flow and level fluctuates with the tides. They have large upstream watersheds >1000 sq.mi and average bankfull widths of over 300 feet. In the river there is a vertical salinity gradient, with a surface layer of fresh water (salinity less than 0.5 ppt) floating over a deeper layer of brackish water (salinity between 0.5 and 18.0ppt). Salinities at any one place in the river may fluctuate as the tides flow in and out because the “salt wedge” of brackish water alternately rises and falls with the tides. Vegetational and faunal communities found in and along the river are determined by both depth and salinity. Commonly associated communities include brackish and salt marshes, swamps, and mudflats. Most of these rivers have extensive salt marshes an/or intertidal sand and mud flats at their mouths. These rivers and their associated estuaries support a rich diversity of plant and animals and serve as the primary nursery area for many marine, estuarine, and anadromous fishes.

Similar Habitat Types:
Large tidal rivers typically have a number of connected smaller tidal rivers and creeks.

Places to Visit this Habitat:
Connecticut River, Windsor Meadows State Park | CT
Hudson River, Peebles Island | NY
Schuylkill River, Fairmont Park | PA
James River, James River National Wildlife Refuge | VA
Delaware River, Supawna Meadows NWR | NJ

State Distribution: CT, DE, DC, ME, MD, MA, NJ, NY, PA, VA

Total Habitat (mi): 1,026
% Conserved: 15.9
Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

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Source: 1:100k NHD+ (USGS 2006), >= 1 sq.mi. drainage area

This map is based on a model and has had little field-checking. Contact your State Natural Heritage Ecologist or State Fish Game Agency for more information about this habitat.
**Associated Fish:**

**Most Abundant:** atlantic sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon, atlantic salmon, alewife, blueback herring, american shad, hickory shad, gizzard shad, striped bass, atlantic tomcod, american eel, sea lamprey, hogchoker, banded killifish, spottail shiner, tesselated darter, pumpkinseed, bay anchovy, white perch. **Less Abundant:** spottail shiner, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, redbreast sunfish, largemouth bass, eastern silvery minnow, white sucker, fallfish, inland silverside.

**Species of Concern (G1 - G4):**

Fishes: shortnose sturgeon, atlantic sturgeon Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: tidewater mucket, eastern pondmussel, new england siltsnail

*See Appendix 2 for scientific names*

**Crosswalk to State Names:**

New York: Brackish interdunal swales, Brackish intertidal mudflats, Brackish intertidal shore, Brackish meadow, Brackish subtidal aquatic bed, Brackish tidal marsh, Coastal salt pond, Freshwater intertidal mudflats, Freshwater intertidal shore, Freshwater tidal marsh, Freshwater tidal swamp, High salt marsh, Low salt marsh, Salt panne, Salt shrub, Tidal river.

**Relative Risk of Flow Alteration from Dams**

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<td>Class 5:</td>
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**Relative Risk of Flow Alteration from Dams**

- Class 1: <2% Very low
- Class 2: >= 2 < 10% Low
- Class 3: >= 10 <30% Moderate
- Class 4: >= 30 < 50% High
- Class 5: >= 50% Severe

**Tidal Large River**

http://nature.ly/HabitatGuide