

## **National Rivers and Streams Survey: Indicators and Field Methodologies**

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### **Abstract:**

The Rivers and Streams Assessment is one of a series of water surveys being conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, states, tribes, and other partners. Field crews will begin sampling for this two year effort in June 2008, and a report will be available in 2011. Over the past year, states, tribes, and federal partners have participated in workgroups to determine indicators and field methodologies that will be used in this survey. Indicators examined by the workgroups included fish, benthic macroinvertebrates, periphyton, physical habitat, water chemistry and recreational indicators. Workgroups were tasked to develop standardized methods for selected indicators that would be repeatable, span one sampling day and effectively assess river and stream conditions across broad geographic areas. Recommendations were vetted through a state Steering Committee before being finalized. This presentation will present the final methodologies and indicators that will be used in the National Rivers and Streams assessment. It will focus on the field methods, rationale behind their selection, and enhancements by state agencies. In addition, there will be some discussion on general implementation of the methods, trainings and quality assurance associated with a national survey.

**Key Words:** Indicators, methods, comparability, probabilistic survey, rivers, streams, bioassessment