

Health of U.S. Streams Reduced by Streamflow Modifications and Contaminants

Friday, July 19, 2013
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
SVC Room 209-208 Capitol Visitor Center
Washington, D.C.

Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) along with the Water Environment Federation and the Northeast Midwest Institute invite you to a briefing on new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) findings about the ecological health of the Nation's streams.

The USGS National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program will describe the results of a national assessment of stream health that was unprecedented in the breadth of the measurements that were made—including assessments of the condition of three biological communities (algae, macroinvertebrates, and fish) as well as streamflow, pesticides, nutrients, and other factors. At the briefing, USGS will explain the importance of assessing all of these factors, and the implications the findings have for priorities in protection and restoration actions.

Speakers with experience in state programs that assess aquatic life impairment and develop protection and restoration strategies will describe their challenges and successes.

Speakers for this event include:

- *Bill Wilber, Chief, USGS NAWQA Program, Moderator*
- *Daren Carlisle, Ecology Studies Coordinator, USGS NAWQA Program*
- *David McKinney, Chief of Environmental Services, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency*
- *Peter Ode, Director, Water Pollution Control Laboratory, California Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Healthy streams bring many benefits -- food, drinking water, recreation, flood control, water purification, aesthetic pleasure, and economic growth. Sport fishing alone generates an estimated \$125 billion in annual economic output and more than a million jobs in the U.S. Given growing populations, increasing water and chemical use, and our changing land uses and climate, the stress on streams is likely to increase. The scientific understanding NAWQA findings provide can help to inform decisions necessary to protect and restore aquatic life, taking these different factors into account.

This briefing is held in cooperation with the USGS [Office of Water Quality](#) and its [National Water-Quality Assessment Program](#) and is free and open to the public.

Please RSVP to cbarbour@usgs.gov. If you do not respond, you must show a picture ID. For more information, contact **Bill Wilber at wqwilber@usgs.gov or 703-648-6878.**

*****Please forward this notice to others interested in stream ecology.*****