

New Jersey Water Monitoring Inventory:

The Who, What, When, Where and Why of Water Monitoring Activities in New Jersey

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ABSTRACT

The New Jersey Water Monitoring Council, formed in 2003, serves as a statewide body to promote and facilitate the coordination, collaboration and communication of scientifically sound, ambient water quality and quantity information to support effective water resource management. One of the Council's initial products was a directory of monitoring activities of member organizations. Although a useful resource tool for the water monitoring community, this document was difficult to update and not searchable. In order to efficiently capture, share and update this information, the Council initiated development of an electronic, online Water Monitoring Inventory. The Inventory will contain information regarding who is doing what type of water monitoring, when and where in NJ, as well as why the monitoring is being conducted. Information will be sorted and queried by the above categories. In some cases, if the organization is providing data for NJ's Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, users will also be able to acquire the monitoring data through a data portal in the Inventory in addition to the metadata about the monitoring. Otherwise, a URL for additional information will be provided. There will also be a geospatial component for additional search capability. Contributors will be responsible for updating and maintaining their Inventory information, with oversight by an Inventory Administrator.

Inventory development has occurred via input from the NJ Council through needs assessments, functional requirements and design sessions. The inventory is being designed as part of the NJ Water Quality Data Exchange project, funded by an EPA National Environmental Information Exchange Network grant. In designing the NJ Inventory, existing inventories were explored (NASA's Global Change Master Directory, The Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science's (CUAHSI) Hydrological Information System, ECOS' Environmental Exchange Network, other state inventories, etc) and appropriate functions/fields emulated. Directly linking the NJ Inventory to some of these other national/international inventories is also being explored. This poster will include planned fields and functionalities of the NJ Inventory.

KEYWORDS

Water Monitoring Inventory, NJ Water Monitoring Council, Water Monitoring Information, Data Exchange Network, Environmental Information Exchange