

Summary of Ohio's Beneficial Use Designations

(OAC 3745-1-07) – August 2018

Beneficial Use Designation	Key Attributes, or why a water would be designated the beneficial use	Practical Impacts (comparisons to Warmwater Habitat baseline)
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Designations for the protection of aquatic life

Coldwater Habitat 300 waterbodies	Native cold water or cool water species; put-and-take trout stocking	More stringent ammonia, cyanide, dissolved oxygen, phenol, pH, silver, and temperature criteria; may result in additional wastewater treatment requirements; 1,594 miles
Exceptional Warmwater Habitat 380 waterbodies	Unique and diverse assemblages of fish and invertebrates	More stringent temperature, dissolved oxygen and ammonia criteria; may result in additional wastewater treatment requirements; 3,329 miles
Seasonal Salmonid Habitat 28 waterbodies	Supports lake run steelhead trout fisheries	More stringent ammonia, cyanide, dissolved oxygen, phenol, pH, silver, and temperature; slightly more restrictive chlorine disinfection practices; 228 miles
Warmwater habitat 3,320 waterbodies	Typical assemblages of fish and invertebrates, similar to least impacted reference conditions	Baseline regulatory requirements in line with Clean Water Act "fishable goal" expectations; 23,082 miles
Limited Warmwater Habitat 2 waterbodies	Temporary designations based on 1978 WQS and not subjected to use attainability analysis; being phased out	Exempt from TDS criteria and may also be exempt from Ph, iron, and zinc criteria as well; 5 miles
Modified Warmwater Habitat 241 waterbodies	Tolerant assemblages of fish and macro-invertebrates, but otherwise similar to WWH; irretrievable condition precludes complete recovery to reference condition	Less restrictive requirements for dissolved oxygen and ammonia; may result in less restrictive wastewater treatment requirements; 1,617 miles
Limited Resource Waters 181 waterbodies	Fish and macroinvertebrates severely limited by physical habitat or other irretrievable condition	Less restrictive aquatic life criteria for majority of pollutants; may result in less restrictive wastewater treatment requirements; 660 miles

Designations for the protection of recreational activities

Bathing Waters	Bathing beach with lifeguards/bath house; greatest potential exposure to bacteria	Lowest risk of swimmer's illness after exposure; greater disinfection of wastewater
Primary Contact Recreation	Water depth allows full body immersion; high proximity to residential areas; intermediate potential exposure to bacteria	Intermediate risk of swimmer's illness after exposure; baseline level of disinfection
Secondary Contact Recreation	Water depth precludes full body immersion; low proximity to residential areas; lowest potential exposure to bacteria	Greatest risk of swimmer's illness after exposure; slightly less disinfection of wastewater

Designations for the protection of water supplies

Public Water Supply	All waters within 500 yards of all public water supply surface water intakes, all publicly owned lakes and reservoirs, all privately owned lakes and reservoirs used as a drinking water source, all emergency water supplies	Maintain or improve potable water supplies, reduce water treatment costs; upstream dischargers may face more stringent limits in order to meet PWS criteria at point of water withdrawal
Agricultural Water Supply	Water used, or potentially used, for livestock watering and/or irrigation	Limited impact; as a practical matter, other standards are generally protective of this use, except for a limited number of heavy metals in unique situations
Industrial Water Supply	Water used for industrial purposes	No impact; no criteria contained in rule; criteria may be established on case specific basis but as a practical matter this has never been needed because other standards are protective of this use