

NJ DEP C-1 Designation

A 1.5 mile long portion of Lubbers Run was designated as Category One (C-1) on June 16, 2008. This portion is from Lackawanna Lake downstream to the confluence of Cowboy Creek. Lubbers Run provides the ideal habitat for the state threatened Triangle Floater*, which is found in high numbers in this portion of the stream. Lubbers Run's wide riparian areas, good water quality, an abundance of host fishes and a combination of suitable substrates make it one of the best streams for Triangle Floaters in the State. Therefore, NJ determined C-1 designation based on Exceptional Ecological Significance (see #1 below).

Excerpts/summary (this is not verbatim) from this proposal include the below:

DEP proposed to amend the definition of "Category One Waters" and introduced new definitions for

- Exceptional Ecological Significance, see #1
- Exceptional Fisheries Resource(s), see #2
- Exceptional Water Supply Significance, see #3 and
- HUC 14 see #4

Based on these new definitions, the total river miles would be increased by approximately 910 miles.

Category One (C-1) waters are defined as waters protected from measurable changes in water quality characteristics because of their clarity, color, scenic setting, other characteristics of aesthetic value, exceptional ecological significance, exceptional water supply significance, or exceptional fisheries resources. Most of the C-1 waters were designated in 1985 and did not specify the basis used. Between 1985-2002, waterbodies were designated as C-1 based on trout production.

1. Exceptional Ecological Significance - now includes two ecological bases. The first is documented presence of a listed endangered or threatened species and its habitat. The second is based on the presence of an exceptional aquatic community. These two rely on data to demonstrate this.

Endangered or Threatened Species (E&T) include Bog Turtle, Dwarf Wedgemussel, Brook Floater, Triangle Floater, Green Floater, Eastern Pondmussel or Eastern Lampmussel. Water quality, quantity and habit changes could adversely affect these organisms.

Exceptional Aquatic Community - if there are no Endangered or Threatened Species present, a waterbody may still be considered C-1 based on its ability to support an exceptional aquatic community, which is a good indication of a healthy aquatic ecosystem. There are key factors/indicators for this including Benthic Macroinvertebrate, Instream Habitat, Fish Community, Water Quality and Impervious Surface and must be supported by data.

2. Exceptional Fisheries Resource(s) - now includes waterbodies that have been confirmed as supporting trout production and classified as FW2-TP. This classification indicates trout can complete their life cycle, including reproducing, in a natural habitat. In addition, this now includes waterbodies that have been approved for unrestricted shellfish harvesting (based on water quality).

3. **Exceptional Water Supply Significance** - now indicates a water supply system that supports a population greater than 100,000 and includes any reservoirs and their natural tributaries.

4. **Hydrologic Unit Code 14 (HUC14)** - is a drainage area or sub-watershed with a hydrologic unit code designation with 14 numbers. This code system starts with the largest possible drainage area and delineates progressively smaller subdivisions of the drainage area.

The full version of this document is available on the NJ DEP website.

*Triangle Floater - freshwater mussel

<http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/species/fieldguide/view/Alasmidonta%20undulata/>

