



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Rebecca Jascot
Water Planning and Management Division
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Ms. Jascot,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) offers the following comments in response to the request for public comment on the DRAFT 2022 Connecticut Integrated Water Quality Report (Report) prepared by DEEP.

The Council notes that while there has been some improvement in water quality, identified as an increase in the segments/miles of assessed rivers that are “Fully Supporting” the designated use of Aquatic Life Use Support (ALUS), in the 2022 Draft Report compared to the 2020 Final Report, there has been a significant decrease in the number of river segments/miles that support the designated use of recreation. This might be due to elevated levels of bacteria. The Council recommends that DEEP include information in the 2022 Final Report explaining why there was such a dramatic decrease in river segments that support the designated use of recreation. The Council also recommends that DEEP assess whether the geographic distribution of rivers that did not support the designated use of recreation are concentrated in a particular area of Connecticut, and if so, to briefly explain the cause(s) of the clustering.

There is one administrative issue that the Council wishes to note:

- The river segment CT6800-05_01 that was identified in the 2020 Final Report has been changed to two segments totaling the same length but identified as CT6800-05_01a and CT6800-05_01b in the 2022 Draft Report. The Council supports such changes to better track water quality in waterbodies, but recommends that the 2022 Draft Report explicitly identify changes in the “Waterbody Segment ID” from recent years.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta
Executive Director