

Acknowledgments

The index development process was funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Southeast New England Program (SNEP). The contract to Tetra Tech was facilitated by Maryann Dugan of NEIWPC. The index development team consisted of biologists from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) (James Meek, Allyson Yarra, Robert Nuzzo) and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) (Katie DeGoosh, Jane Sawyers). Michael Cole of Cole Ecological, Inc. provided feedback on taxa attribute assignments and nomenclature questions, and worked with Kelly Nolan and Natalie Ohl (Watershed Assessment Associates) on the taxonomic identification quality control process. In addition, several state partners from the Northeast provided low gradient data that were used in the regional taxa tolerance analyses. Regional partners included Ansel Aarrestad and Chris Bellucci from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Aaron Moore from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets (AAFM), Steve Fiske (retired, formerly of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation), and Gavin Lemley, Brian Duffy and Zachary Smith from New York Department of Environmental Conservation. We are very grateful for the hard work and enthusiasm of all the project participants.

Project authors and analysts included Ben Jessup, Ben Block, and Jen Stamp of Tetra Tech. An appropriate citation for this report is as follows:

Jessup, B., B. D. Block, and J. Stamp. 2021. Development of an Index of Biotic Integrity for Macroinvertebrates in Freshwater Low Gradient Wadeable Streams in Southern New England Prepared for NEIWPC, Worcester, MA. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Montpelier, VT.

Acronyms

Acronym	Description
BFI	Base Flow Index
BPJ	Best Professional Judgement
Cat	Catchment
CT DEEP	Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
CV	Coefficient of Variation
CWA	Clean Water Act
DE	Discrimination Efficiency
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
FFG	Functional Feeding Group
GIS	Geographic Information System
IBI	Index of Biotic Integrity
ICI	Indices of Catchment Integrity
IWI	Indices of Watershed Integrity
MassDEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
MSST	Mean Summer Stream Temperature
NBL	Narragansett-Bristol Lowlands
NLCD	National Land Cover Database
NMS	Non-metric multidimensional scaling
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	Superfund National Priority List
NRSA	U.S EPA National Rivers and Streams Assessment
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
PCA	Principle components analysis
PRISM	PRISM Data Explorer
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
QC	Quality Control
RBP	Rapid Bioassessment Protocol
RI DEM	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
RMN	Regional Monitoring Network
SNECPAH	Southern New England Coastal Plains and Hills
SNEP	Southeast New England Program
SWQS	Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
VT DEC	Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Ws	Watershed