

Various Definitions by State

Connecticut

"Interbasin transfer" means any transfer of waters for use from one subregional drainage basin to another. Subregional drainage basins are those basins delineated on a map compiled by the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey and entitled "Natural Drainage Basins in Connecticut, 1981", as amended;

"Regional drainage basins" means those basins delineated on a map compiled by the Connecticut geological and natural history survey and entitled "Natural Drainage Basins in Connecticut, 1981", as amended;

Massachusetts

“Interbasin Transfer” means any transfer of the surface waters and groundwaters, including wastewater, of the Commonwealth outside a river basin. If a city or town partially situated within a river basin takes water from that basin, extension of the water services to a portion of the same city or town outside the basin shall not be deemed an interbasin transfer of water.

“River Basin” means a geographic area within the Commonwealth determined by a body of water and its surrounding drainage area as defined and determined by the Commission and as described in 313CMR 4.03.

(They also define the publication that will be used to determine the precise location of boundary)

“Stressed Basin” means a basin or sub-basin in which the quantity of streamflow has been significantly reduced, or the quality of the streamflow is degraded, or the key habitat factors are impaired.

Quantity: A significant reduction in streamflow is defined as a decrease in key low and high streamflow statistics. Low flows in most of Massachusetts reflect ground water levels and are a good indicator of the health of a system. Reduced low flows can impact aquatic habitat and water quality. In addition, low flows are often the first indicator of environmental impacts. However, where flood skimming operations or dam regulations occur, reductions in high flow statistics can be also be significant.

Quality: A degraded water quality is defined as water in a stream that does not meet surface water quality standards.

Habitat Factors: A degraded habitat is defined as a river reach in which key habitat factors, such as temperature, quality, cover, substrate and accessibility, necessary to sustain a biologically diverse community are degraded. The stress can be due to a lack of streamflow, quality degradation, presence of dams, channel modifications, culverting and other factors. Indicators of stressed habitat include the absence or degradation of a target fish or other aquatic community or the absence of the ability of fish to move between multiple habitats necessary to

their life cycles. Factors that limit movement include lack of flow, or reaches with no flow, and the presence of dams or other restrictions that prevent passage.

In developing the stress definition, the committee reviewed many types of raw data as well as existing methods used to evaluate environmental impacts (a summary of the data and methods is included in Appendix 1). The committee put together the indicators of stress for which data is currently available or for which easy to use methods are available. The committee determined that there is sufficient information to use the quantity, quality and habitat criteria in a matrix to define sub-basin stress on a case by case basis. A sub-basin for which 1 or more of the criteria are met, would be determined to be stressed. Other factors which are important to quality, quantity and habitat have not been included in this definition because they are not currently available except through site specific field work. For example, habitat can be characterized by assessing cover, substrate riffles and temperature, however this data is only available through intensive field work.

New Hampshire

“Watershed” means an 11-digit HUC code unit

“Drainage Basin” means the entire portion of a drainage basin under NH jurisdiction (the entire Merrimack, Connecticut, Saco, Lamprey, Exeter, etc)

"Interbasin transfer" means any transfer of water for use from one river drainage basin to another.

"River drainage basin" means the Androscoggin, Coastal, Connecticut, Merrimack, Piscataqua, and Saco river basins as delineated on a map compiled by the department.

Maine

“Watershed” means the geographic area where all water running off the land drains to a given stream, river, lake, wetland or coastal water.

New York

(Great Lakes Water Conservation and Management Act)

“Interbasin Diversion” means a transfer of water out of the Great Lakes Basin through any mechanism such as a pipe or canal and including a change in ground water flow caused by pumping.

"Interbasin diversion" means a transfer of water out of the Great Lakes basin through any mechanism, including but not limited to, pumps, pipes, conduits, ditches, canals, vessels, vehicles, or rolling stock. An interbasin diversion includes changes in groundwater flow caused by pumping that would divert groundwater naturally destined to discharge to the Great Lakes basin.

"Great Lakes basin" is the watershed of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, upstream from Trois Rivieres, Quebec, consisting in New York State of the Lake Erie-Niagara River, Lake Ontario minor tributaries, Genesee River, Seneca-Oneida-Oswego River, Black River, St. Lawrence River and Lake Champlain drainage basins.

Georgia

"Interbasin transfer" means the withdrawal, diversion, or pumping of surface water from one river basin or the withdrawal of groundwater from a point located within or beneath one river basin and release of all or any part of the water in a river basin different from the basin of origin.

An interbasin transfer that crosses more than two adjacent counties is prohibited, except to satisfy critical needs, which are temporary, short-term needs such as equipment failure, source contamination, or severe drought impacting public health and safety.