

Ohio EPA Stream Monitoring for the Kokosing River Watershed (2007)

*"Electroshocking"
for fish*



What is Ohio EPA doing in the streams?

Each year Ohio EPA collects data from streams and rivers. During these studies, Ohio EPA scientists collect chemical samples, examine and count fish and aquatic insects, and take measurements of the stream. There are three major objectives for the studies:

- To determine how the stream is doing compared to goals
- To determine if the goals assigned to the river or stream are appropriate and attainable
- To determine if the stream's condition has changed since the last time the stream was studied.

*Sampling for
aquatic insects*



Who analyzes the samples?

Most fish sampling occurs in the field and the fish are returned to the stream alive. The macroinvertebrate (aquatic insect) samples are returned to Ohio EPA for processing over the next year. Most of the chemical samples are analyzed at Ohio EPA's laboratory in Columbus, although local laboratories may be used for some analyses.

How long will Ohio EPA be working here?

Most of the sampling will be completed between June and October of this year. Chemical samples for a few sites in your watershed may be collected through next year. If we find that the stream is not meeting water quality goals, then additional measurements may also be made next summer.

What does Ohio EPA do with the data?

The data are analyzed to determine how healthy the stream is and whether the water quality goals established for the stream are appropriate. If the stream is not meeting water quality goals, it is said to be "impaired." The state is required to prepare a cleanup plan for waters that are impaired; this restoration plan is called a *Total Maximum Daily Load*. If the goals for the stream are not appropriate, Ohio EPA may change the goals through an administrative rule-making. The findings and conclusions of the study are typically documented in a biological and water quality report. The findings of each study may be used in regulatory actions taken by Ohio EPA. The information also is used to report on the statewide condition of Ohio's waters.

Streamside demonstration



How can I find out the results of the study?

Over the next several months, the data will be processed, evaluated, and synthesized into tables and written summaries. Frequently, a public meeting about the findings of the study is held in the local area, probably late next year. Typically, a report is written about the survey's findings and will be available to read. Announcements about the study and its findings are usually sent to local newspapers. If you want to make sure you know about public meetings and generally stay informed as the process continues, please send your contact information to DSW_TMDL@epa.state.oh.us. In the subject line of your e-mail, please identify the Kokosing watershed.

For more information, contact Jeff Lewis at 614-728-3852, Jeff.Lewis@epa.state.oh.us
Or go to http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/tmdl/monitoring_KokosingRiver.html

