

## INTRODUCTION

The Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with State agencies, obtains a large amount of data pertaining to the water resources of Maine each water year. These data, accumulated during many water years, constitute a valuable data base for developing an improved understanding of the water resources of the State. To make these data readily available to interested parties outside the Geological Survey, the data are published annually in this report series entitled "Water Resources Data - Maine." This report series includes records of stage, discharge, and water quality of streams; stage, contents, and water quality of lakes and reservoirs; water levels and water quality of ground-water wells; precipitation quantity; and snow quantity. This volume contains records for water discharge at 64 gaging stations, gage-height at 6 gaging stations, water quality data at 9 gaging stations, water levels at 23 observation wells, precipitation totals for 16 sites, and snow quantity for 74 sites. Locations of these sites are shown on figures 1, 2, 3, and 4. Additional water data were collected at various sites not involved in the systematic data-collection program, and are published as special study data. These data represent that part of the National Water Data System collected by the U.S. Geological Survey and cooperating State and Federal agencies in Maine.

This series of annual reports for Maine began with the 1961 water year with a report that contained only data relating to the quantities of surface water. For the 1965 water year, the report included data relating to water quality. Beginning with the 1968 water year, the report format was changed to present, in one volume, data on quantities of surface water, quality of surface and ground water, and ground-water levels.

Prior to introduction of this series and for several water years concurrent with it, water-resources data for Maine were published in U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Papers. Data on stream discharge and stage and on lake or reservoir contents and stage, through September 1960, were published annually under the title "Surface Water Supply of the United States, Part 1A." For the 1961 through 1970 water years, the data were published in two 5-year reports. Data on chemical quality, temperature, and suspended sediment for the 1941 through 1970 water years were published annually under the title "Quality of Surface Waters of the United States." Records of ground water levels for the 1935 through 1955 water years were published under the title "Water Levels and Artesian Pressures in Observation Wells in the United States" and from 1956 through 1974 water years were published under the title "Ground-Water Levels in the United States." The above mentioned Water-Supply Papers may be consulted in the libraries of the principal cities of the United States or may be purchased from Books and Open-File Reports Section, U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Center, Box 25425, Denver, CO 80225.

Publications similar to this report are published annually by the U.S. Geological Survey for all States. These reports have an identification number consisting of the two-letter State abbreviation, the last two digits of the water year, and

the volume number. For example, this volume is identified as "U.S. Geological Survey Water-Data Report ME-05-1." These water-data reports are for sale in paper copy or in microfiche by the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161.

Additional information, including current prices, for ordering specific reports may be obtained from the USGS Water Science Center at the address given on the back of the title page or by telephone (207) 622-8201.

Data published in these water-data reports is also available at the USGS homepage:

<http://me.water.usgs.gov>

## COOPERATION

The U.S. Geological Survey and organizations of the State of Maine have had cooperative agreements for the systematic collection of surface-water records since 1909, and for water-quality and ground-water records since 1957. Organizations that assisted in collecting the data in this report through cooperative agreement with the Survey are:

*Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians*  
*Brenda Commander, Tribal Chief*  
*Houlton Water Company*  
*John Clark, General Manager*  
*Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission*  
*Patrick Keliher, Executive Director*  
*Maine Department of Conservation,*  
*Patrick McGowan, Commissioner*  
*Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency*  
*Management,*  
*John Libby, Commissioner*  
*Maine Department of Environmental Protection*  
*Dawn Gallagher, Commissioner*  
*Maine Department of Transportation,*  
*David Cole, Commissioner*  
*Passamaquoddy Tribe*  
*Melvin Francis, Tribal Governor*  
*Piscataquis County*  
*Woodruffe Bartley Jr., County Commissioner*  
*Town of Jay,*  
*Ruth Marden, Town Manager*  
*Town of Windham,*  
*Tony Plante, Town Manager*  
*University of Maine,*  
*Robert Kennedy, President*

Assistance with funds or services was given by the U.S. Department of State in collecting records for 2 gaging stations and 1 water-quality station.

The following organizations contributed funds and services through the requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

*New Page Corp.*  
*Ridgewood Renewable Power*  
*FPL Energy - Maine*  
*Domtar Incorporated*  
*Kennebec Water Power Company*  
*Penobscot Hydro*  
*SAPPI Fine Paper*

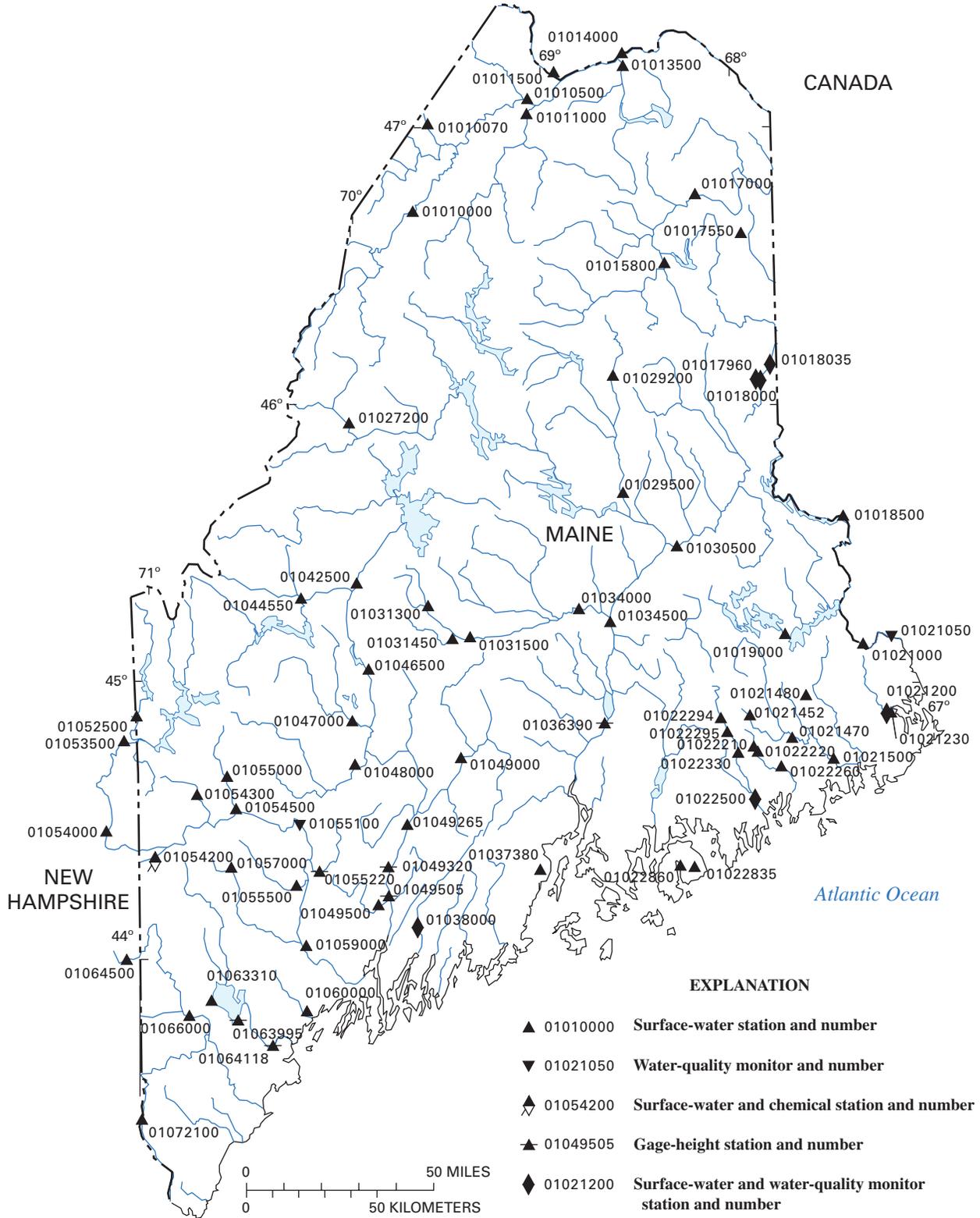


Figure 1. Location of active surface-water and water-quality gaging stations.



Figure 2. Location of active ground-water data collection stations.

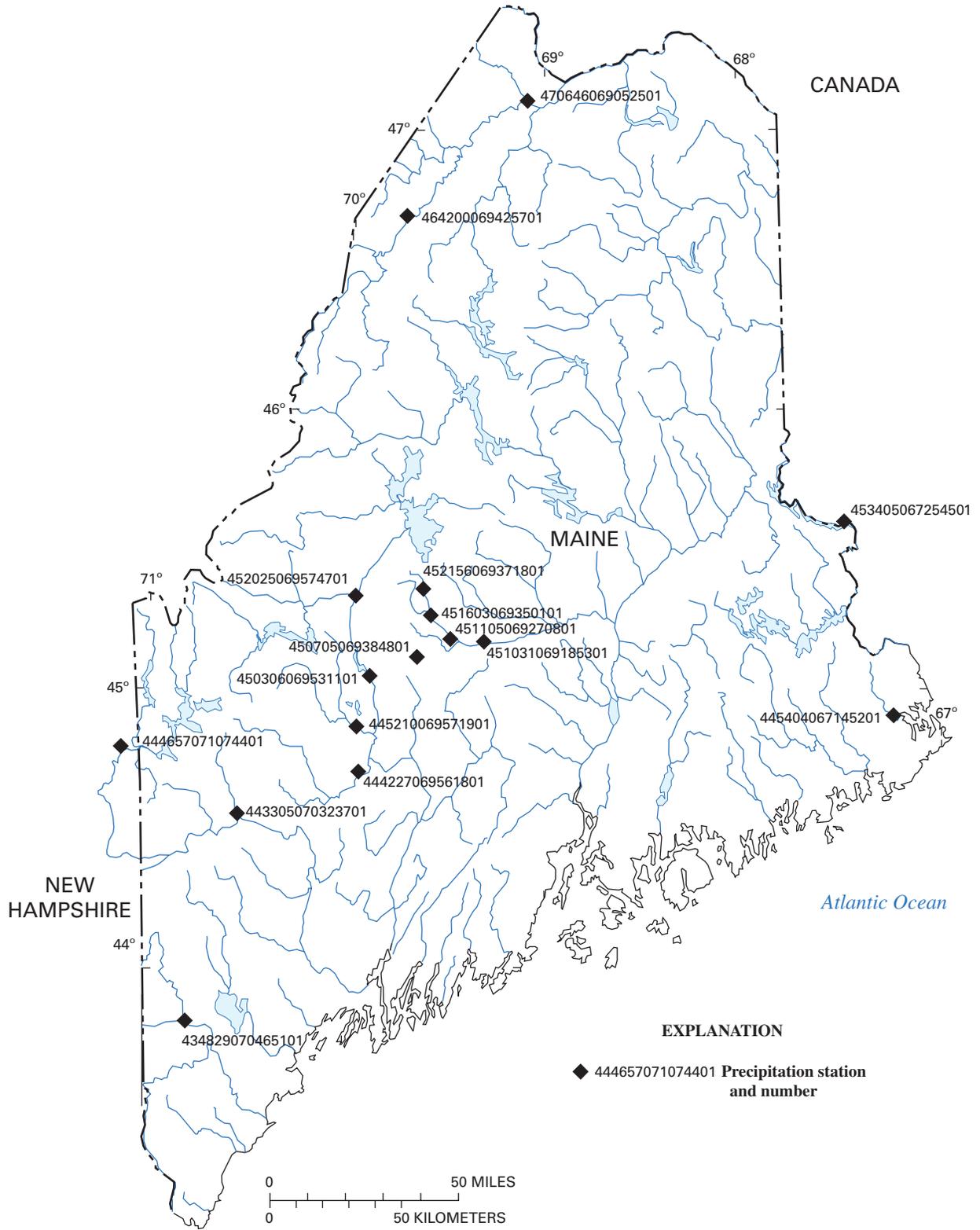


Figure 3. Location of active precipitation quantity stations.



Organizations that provided data are acknowledged in station descriptions.

On waters adjacent to the international boundary, certain gaging stations are maintained by the United States (or Canada) under agreement with Canada (or the United States) and records are obtained and compiled in a manner equally acceptable to both countries. These stations are designated herein as "International gaging stations".

## SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

### Streamflow

Runoff for the 2005 water year was characterized by flows in the normal to above normal range throughout Maine (above normal refers to the upper 25 percent of the record, below normal refers to the lower 25 percent of the record, and normal refers to the middle 50 percent of the record). Annual runoff was in the above normal range at 33 of 42 sites (79 percent) and in the normal range at 9 sites (21 percent). Sites in the normal range were primarily in the northern portion of the state. No sites were in the below normal range. The 2005 monthly and annual mean discharges and the median monthly and annual discharges for the 1971-2000 reference period are shown in figure 5 for three long-term index stations.

### Floods and Droughts

Two significant precipitation events caused wide-spread flooding in April 2005. An additional precipitation event in late May also caused flooding primarily in the eastern portion of the state. Annual peak flows had a 2-year to 5-year recurrence interval at 15 sites, a 5-year to 10-year recurrence interval at 13 sites, a 10-year to 25-year recurrence interval at 10 sites, and a 25-year to 50-year recurrence interval at 2 sites. The greatest recurrence interval peak flows were in the St. John basin in the northern portion of the state, the coastal basins in the central portion of the state, the Penobscot basin in the northern and central portion of the state, and in the Androscoggin basin in the western portion of the state.

Monthly surface water conditions for seven long term index sites were in the above normal range 36 percent of the year, in the normal range 46 percent of the year, and in the below normal range 8 percent of the year (above normal refers to the upper 25 percent of the record, below normal refers to the lower 25 percent of the record, and normal refers to the middle 50 percent of the record). Record high monthly means occurred in April 2005 for two index stations in the central part of the state with the remainder of the state in the upper 90 percent of the record.

Minimum flows at most sites occurred in mid to late August in the northern and central portions of the state or late August to early September in the remainder of the state. A near record low monthly mean (lower 10 percent of the record) occurred in August in the very northern part of the state. The lowest recurrence interval low flows occurred in the northern portion of the state.

### Water Quality

Eight continuous recording monitoring stations were operated in water-year 2005. Five stations recorded specific conductance, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH. Two stations recorded water temperature only. One station recorded specific conductance, water temperature, and pH.

Water samples were collected at 20 wells in a sand and gravel aquifer as part of an ongoing cooperative monitoring program with the town of Windham. Water samples were also collected at the gaging station on the Wild River at Gilead (see "Special Networks and Programs" below).

### Ground-Water Levels

The ground-water observation well network consisted of 23 wells during the 2005 water year. Monthly ground-water levels for eight index wells were above normal 30% of the time, normal 62% of the time, and below normal 8% of the time in water year 2005. Record high monthly ground-water levels, at the eight index wells, were recorded in 1 well in April, 3 wells in May, and 4 wells in June.

Record high ground-water levels were recorded during the water year at wells FW 916 and HW 1A on December 26-27, 2003 and November 22, 2003 respectively. All other levels were within the previous extremes for wells where continuous data have been collected for at least 10 years.

## SPECIAL NETWORKS AND PROGRAMS

Hydrologic Bench-Mark Network is a network of 50 sites in small drainage basins around the country whose purpose is to provide consistent data on the hydrology, including water quality, and related factors in representative undeveloped watersheds nationwide, and to provide analyses on a continuing basis to compare and contrast conditions observed in basins more obviously affected by human activities. The gaging station on the Wild River at Gilead (01054200) is in this network. Additional information can be found at the following web page:

<http://ny.cf.er.usgs.gov/hbn/>

DISCHARGE, IN CUBIC FEET PER SECOND

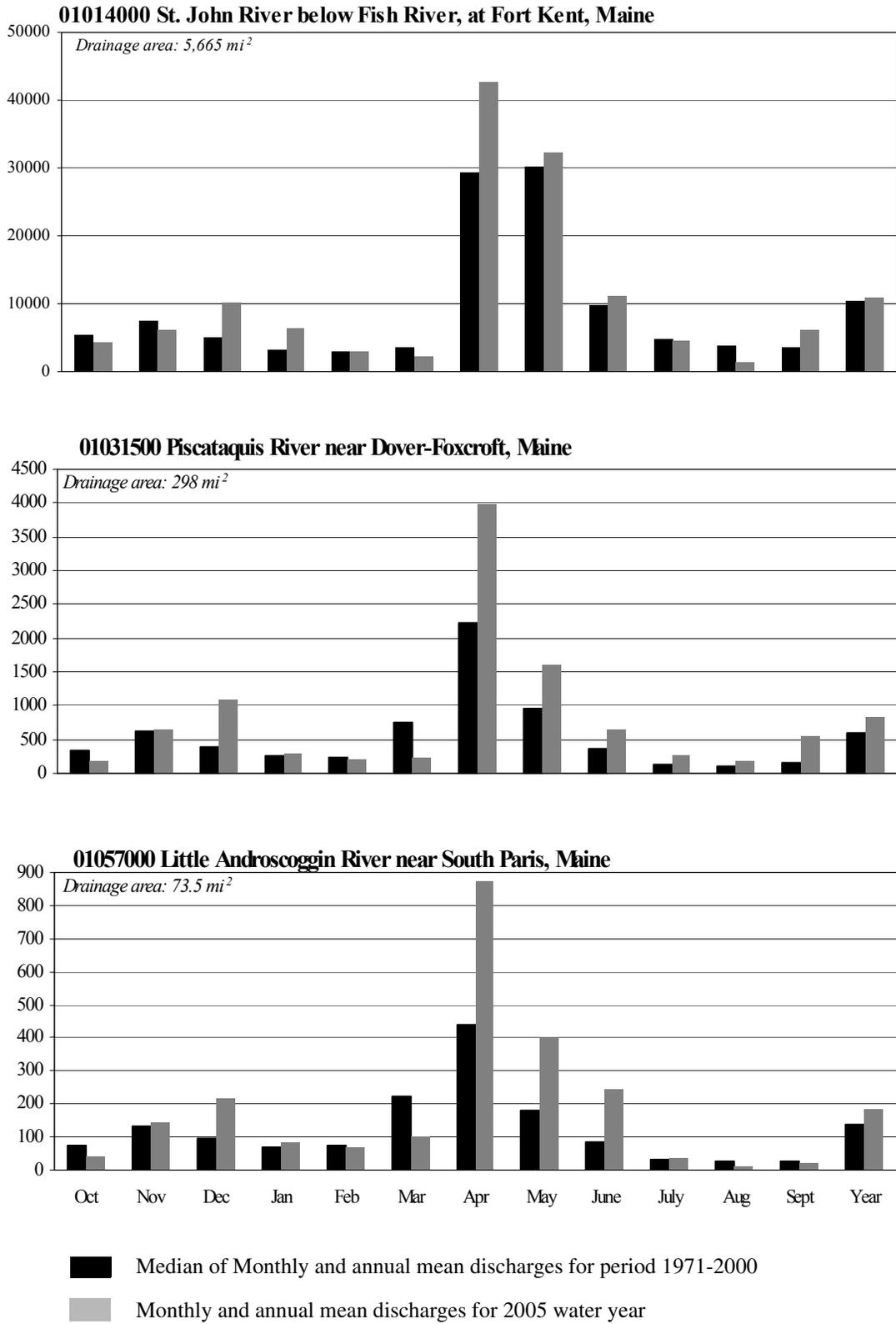


Figure 5. Comparison of mean discharge at three long-term gaging stations during 2005 water year with median discharge for period 1971-2000.

The Statewide Cooperative Snow Survey involves international, Federal and State agencies and private companies. Approximately 217 snow courses have been established in Maine and adjacent parts of New Brunswick, Quebec and New Hampshire. This report presents data from 79 of these sites collected by the U.S. Geological Survey and cooperative observers. Additional information, including state snow maps and data can be obtained from the USGS Maine Water Science Center.

The National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program of the U.S. Geological Survey is a long-term program with goals to describe the status and trends of water-quality conditions for a large, representative part of the Nations ground- and surface-water resources; provide an improved understanding of the primary natural and human factors affecting these observed conditions and trends; and provide information that supports development and evaluation of management, regulatory, and monitoring decisions by other agencies.

The New England Coastal Basins (NECB) NAWQA study unit encompasses 23,000 square miles in western and central Maine, eastern New Hampshire, eastern Massachusetts, most of Rhode Island, and a small part of eastern Connecticut.

## EXPLANATION OF THE RECORDS

The surface-water and ground-water records published in this report are for the 2005 water year that began October 1, 2004, and ended September 30, 2005. A calendar of the water year is provided on the inside of the front cover. The records contain streamflow data, stage data for streams, water-quality data for surface water and ground-water, ground-water level data, precipitation quantity, and snow quantity. The locations of the stations and wells where the data were collected are shown in figures 1, 2, 3, and 4. The following sections of the introductory text are presented to provide users with a more detailed explanation of how the hydrologic data published in this report were collected, analyzed, computed, and arranged for presentation.

### Station Identification Numbers

Each data station, whether stream site, well, precipitation station, or snow station in this report is assigned a unique identification number. This number is unique in that it applies specifically to a given station and to no other. The number usually is assigned when a station is first established and is retained for that station indefinitely. The systems used by the U.S. Geological Survey to assign identification numbers for surface-water stations and for ground-water well sites differ, but both are based on geographic location. The

“downstream order” system is used for regular surface-water stations and the “latitude-longitude” system is used for wells, snow stations, and precipitation stations.

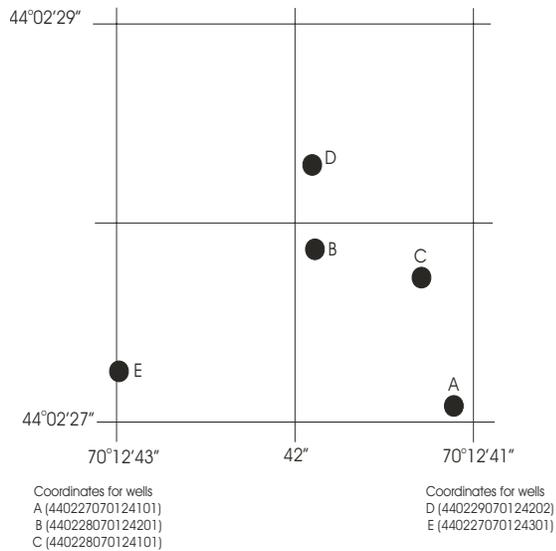
### **Downstream Order System**

Since October 1, 1950, the order of listing hydrologic-station records in Survey reports is in a downstream direction along the main stream. All stations on a tributary entering upstream from a mainstream station are listed before that station. A station on a tributary that enters between two mainstream stations is listed between them. A similar order is followed in listing stations on first rank, second rank, and other ranks of tributaries. The rank of any tributary with respect to the stream to which it is immediately tributary is indicated by an indentation in the “List of Stations” in the front of this report. Each indentation represents one rank. This downstream order and system of indentation shows which stations are on tributaries between any two stations and the rank of the tributary on which each station is situated.

The station-identification number is assigned according to downstream order. In assigning station numbers, no distinction is made between partial-record stations and other stations; therefore, the station number for a partial-record station indicates downstream-order position in a list made up of both types of stations. Gaps are left in the series of numbers to allow for new stations that may be established; hence, the numbers are not consecutive. The complete eight-digit number for each station, such as 01031500, which appears just to the left of the station name, includes the two-digit Part number “01” plus the six-digit downstream-order number “031500.” The Part number designates the major river basins; for example, Part “01” is for the North Atlantic Slope basins.

### **Latitude-Longitude System**

The identification numbers for wells, snow sampling, and precipitation stations are assigned according to the grid system of latitude and longitude. The number consists of 15 digits. The first six digits denote the degrees, minutes, and seconds of latitude, the next seven digits denote degrees, minutes, and seconds of longitude, and the last two digits (assigned sequentially) identify the wells or other sites within a 1-second grid. This site-identification number, once assigned, is a pure number and has no locational significance. In the rare instance where the initial determination of latitude and longitude are found to be in error, the station will retain its initial identification number; however, its true latitude and longitude will be listed in the LOCATION paragraph of the station description. (See figure 6.)



**Figure 6.** System for numbering wells and special study sites (latitude and longitude).

### **Records of Stage and Water Discharge**

Records of stage and water discharge may be complete or partial. Complete records of discharge are those obtained using a continuous stage-recording device through which either instantaneous or mean daily discharges may be computed for any time, or any period of time, during the period of record. Complete records of lake or reservoir content, similarly, are those for which stage or content may be computed or estimated with reasonable accuracy for any time, or period of time. They may be obtained using a continuous stage-recording device, but need not be. Because daily mean discharges and end-of-day contents commonly are published for such stations, they are referred to as “daily stations.”

By contrast, partial records are obtained through discrete measurements without using a continuous stage-recording device and pertain only to a few flow characteristics, or perhaps only one. The nature of the partial record is indicated by table titles such as “Crest-stage partial records,” or “Low-flow partial records.” Records of measurements from special studies, such as low-flow seepage studies, may be considered as partial records, but they are presented separately in this report. Location of all complete-record stations for which data are given in this report are shown in figure 1.

### **Data Collection and Computation**

The data obtained at a complete-record gaging station on a stream or canal consist of a continuous record of stage, individual measurements of discharge throughout a range of stages, and notations regarding factors that may affect the relationships between stage and discharge. These data, together with supplemental information, such as weather

records, are used to compute daily discharges. The data obtained at a complete-record gaging station on a lake or reservoir consist of a record of stage and of notations regarding factors that may affect the relationship between stage and lake content. These data are used with stage-area and stage-capacity curves or tables to compute water-surface areas and lake storage.

Continuous records of stage are obtained with electronic data loggers which collect, store, and transmit data via satellite. Measurements of discharge are made with current meters using methods adopted by the Geological Survey as a result of experience accumulated since 1880. These methods are described in standard textbooks, Water-Supply Paper 2175, and U.S. Geological Survey Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations (TWRI's), Book 3, Chapter A1 through A19 and Book 8, Chapters A2 and B2. The methods are consistent with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards and generally follow the standards of the International Organization for Standards (ISO).

In computing discharge records, results of individual measurements are plotted against the corresponding stages, and stage-discharge relation curves are then constructed. From these curves, rating tables indicating the approximate discharge for any stage within the range of the measurements are prepared. If it is necessary to define extremes of discharge outside the range of the current-meter measurements, the curves are extended using: (1) logarithmic plotting; (2) velocity-area studies; (3) results of indirect measurements of peak discharge, such as slope-area or contracted-opening measurements, and computations of flow over dams or weirs; or (4) step-backwater techniques.

Daily mean discharges are computed by applying the stages (gauge heights) to the stage-discharge curves or tables. If the stage-discharge relation is subject to change because of frequent or continual change in the physical features that form the control, the daily mean discharge is determined by the shifting-control method, in which correction factors based on the individual discharge measurements and notes of the personnel making the measurements are applied to the gauge heights before the discharges are determined from the curves or tables. This shifting-control method also is used if the stage-discharge relation is changed temporarily because of aquatic growth or debris on the control. For many stations, formation of ice in the winter may so obscure the stage-discharge relations that daily mean discharges must be estimated from other information such as temperature and precipitation records, notes of observations, discharge measurements, and records for other stations in the same or nearby basins for comparable periods.

At some stream-gaging stations, the stage-discharge relation is affected by the backwater from reservoirs, tributary streams, or other sources. This necessitates the use of the slope method in which the slope or fall in a reach of the

stream is a factor in computing discharge. The slope or fall is obtained by means of an auxiliary gage set at some distance from the base gage. At some stations the stage-discharge relation is affected by changing stage; at these stations the rate of change in stage is used as a factor in computing discharge.

In computing records of lake or reservoir contents, it is necessary to have available from surveys, curves or tables which define the relationship between stage and content. The application of stage to the stage-content curves or tables gives the contents from which daily, monthly, or yearly changes then are determined. Periodic resurveys may be necessary to determine if the stage-content relationship changes because of deposition of sediment in a lake or reservoir. Even when this is done, the contents computed may become increasingly in error as the lapsed time since the last survey increases. Discharges over lake or reservoir spillways are computed from stage-discharge relationships much as other stream discharges are computed.

For some gaging stations, there are periods when no gage-height record is obtained, or the recorded gage height is so faulty that it cannot be used to compute daily discharge or contents. This happens when the recorder stops or otherwise fails to operate properly, intakes are plugged, the float is frozen in the well, or for various other reasons. For such periods, the daily discharges are estimated from the recorded range in stage, previous or following record, discharge measurements, weather records, and comparison with other station records from the same or nearby basins. Likewise, daily contents may be estimated from operator's logs, previous or following record, inflow-outflow studies, and other information. Information explaining how estimated daily-discharge values are identified in station records is included in the next two sections, "Data Presentation" (REMARKS paragraph) and "Identifying Estimated Daily Discharge."

### **Data Presentation**

The records published for each continuous-record surface-water discharge station (gaging station) consist of five parts, the manuscript or station description; the data table of daily mean values of discharge for the current water year with summary data; a tabular statistical summary of monthly mean flow data for a designated period, by water year; a summary statistics table that includes statistical data of annual, daily, and instantaneous flows as well as data pertaining to annual runoff, 7-day low-flow minimums, and flow duration; and a hydrograph of the daily mean values of discharge for the current water year.

#### Station manuscript

The manuscript provides, under various headings, descriptive information, such as station location; period of record; historical extremes outside the period of record; record accuracy; and other remarks pertinent to station

operation and regulation. The following information, as appropriate, is provided with each continuous record of discharge or lake content. Comments to follow clarify information presented under the various headings of the station description.

**LOCATION.**--Information on locations is obtained from the most accurate maps available. The location of the gage with respect to the cultural and physical features in the vicinity and with respect to the reference place mentioned in the station name is given. River mileages, given for only a few stations, were determined by methods given in "River Mileage Measurement," Bulletin 14, Revision of October 1968, prepared by the Water Resources Council.

**DRAINAGE AREA.**--Drainage areas are measured using the most accurate maps available. Because the type of maps available varies from one drainage basin to another, the accuracy of drainage areas likewise varies. Drainage areas are updated as better maps become available.

**PERIOD OF RECORD.**--This indicates the period for which there are published records for the station or for an equivalent station. An equivalent station is one that was in operation at a time that the present station was not, and whose location was such that records from it can reasonably be considered equivalent with records from the present station.

**REVISED RECORDS.**--Published records, because of new information, occasionally are found to be incorrect, and revisions are printed in later reports. Listed under this heading are all the reports in which revisions have been published for the station and the water years to which the revisions apply. If a revision did not include daily, monthly, or annual figures of discharge, that fact is noted after the year dates as follows: "(M)" means that only the instantaneous maximum discharge was revised; "(m)" that only the instantaneous minimum was revised; and "(P)" that only peak discharges were revised. If the drainage area has been revised, the report in which the most recently revised figure was first published is given.

**GAGE.**--The type of gage in current use, the datum of the current gage referred to National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (see glossary), and a condensed history of the types, locations, and datums of previous gages are given under this heading.

**REMARKS.**--All periods of estimated daily-discharge record will either be identified by date in this paragraph of the station description for water-discharge stations or flagged in the daily-discharge table. (See next section, "Identifying Estimated Daily Discharge.") If a REMARKS statement is used to identify estimated record, the paragraph will begin with this information presented as the first entry. The paragraph is also used to present information relative to the accuracy of the records, to special methods of computation,

to conditions that affect natural flow at the station and, possibly, to other pertinent items. For reservoir stations, information is given on the dam forming the reservoir, the capacity, and purpose and use of the reservoir.

**COOPERATION.**--Records provided by a cooperating organization or obtained for the Geological Survey by a cooperating organization are identified here.

**EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD.**--Extremes may include maximum and minimum stages and maximum and minimum discharges or content. Unless otherwise qualified, the maximum discharge or content is the instantaneous maximum corresponding to the highest stage that occurred. The highest stage may have been obtained from a digital recorder, a crest-stage gage, or by direct observation of a nonrecording gage. If the maximum stage did not occur on the same day as the maximum discharge or content, it is given separately. Similarly, the minimum is the instantaneous minimum discharge, unless otherwise qualified, and was determined and is reported in the same manner as the maximum.

**EXTREMES OUTSIDE PERIOD OF RECORD.**--Included here is information concerning major floods or unusually low flows that occurred outside the stated period of record. The information may or may not have been obtained by the U.S. Geological Survey.

**EXTREMES FOR CURRENT YEAR.**--Extremes given here are similar to those for the period of record, except the peak discharge listing may include secondary peaks. For stations meeting certain criteria, all peak discharges and stages occurring during the water year and greater than a selected base discharge are presented under this heading. The peaks greater than the base discharge, excluding the highest one, are referred to as secondary peaks. Peak discharges are not published for canals, ditches, drains, or streams for which the peaks are subject to substantial control by man. The time of occurrence for peaks is expressed in 24-hour local standard time. For example, 12:30 a.m. is 0030, and 1:30 p.m. is 1330. The minimum for the current water year appears below the table of peak data.

**REVISIONS.**--If a critical error in published records is discovered, a revision is included in the first report published following discovery of the error.

Although rare, occasionally the records of a discontinued gaging station may need revision. Because, for these stations, there would be no current or, possibly, future station manuscript published to document the revision in a "Revised Records" entry, users of data for these stations who obtained the record from previously published data reports may wish to contact the offices whose addresses are given on the back of the title page of this report to determine if the published records were ever revised after the station was discontinued. Of course, if the data were obtained by computer retrieval,

the data would be current and there would be no need to check because any published revision of data is always accompanied by revision of the corresponding data in computer storage.

Manuscript information for lake or reservoir stations differs from that for stream stations in the nature of the "Remarks" and in the inclusion of a skeleton stage-capacity table when daily contents are given.

#### Data table of daily mean values

The daily table of discharge records for stream-gaging stations gives mean discharge for each day of the water year. In the monthly summary for the table, the line headed "TOTAL" gives the sum of the daily figures for each month; the line headed "MEAN" gives the average flow in cubic feet per second for the month; and the lines headed "MAX" and "MIN" give the maximum and minimum daily mean discharges, respectively, for each month. Discharge for the month also is usually expressed in cubic feet per second per square mile (line head "CFSM"); or in inches (line headed "IN"). Figures for cubic feet per second per square mile and runoff in inches may be omitted if there is extensive regulation or diversion or if the drainage area includes large noncontributing areas.

#### Statistics of monthly mean data

A tabular summary of the mean (line headed "MEAN"), maximum (line headed "MAX"), and minimum (line headed "MIN") of monthly mean flows for each month for a designated period is provided below the mean values table. The water years of the first occurrence of the maximum and minimum monthly flows are provided immediately below those figures. The designated period will be expressed as "FOR WATER YEARS \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_, BY WATER YEAR (WY)," and will list the first and last water years of the range of years selected from the PERIOD OF RECORD paragraph in the station manuscript. It will consist of all of the station record within the specified water years, inclusive, including complete months of record for partial water years, if any, and may coincide with the period of record for the station. The water years for which the statistics are computed will be consecutive, unless a break in the station record is indicated in the manuscript.

#### Summary statistics

A table titled "SUMMARY STATISTICS" follows the statistics of monthly mean tabulation. This table consists of four columns, with the first column containing the line headings of the statistics being reported. The table provides a statistical summary of yearly, daily, and instantaneous flows, not only for the current water year but also for the previous calendar year and for a designated period, as appropriate. The designated period selected, "WATER YEARS \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_", will consist of all of the station record within the

specified water years, inclusive, including months of record for partial water years, if any, and may coincide with the period of record for the station. The water years for which the statistics are computed will be consecutive, unless a break in the station record is indicated in the manuscript. All of the calculations for the statistical characteristics designated ANNUAL (see line headings below), except for the "ANNUAL 7-DAY MINIMUM" statistic, are calculated for the designated period using complete water years. The other statistical characteristics may be calculated using partial water years.

The date or water year, as appropriate, of the first occurrence of each statistic reporting extreme values of discharge is provided adjacent to the statistic. Repeated occurrence may be noted in the EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD or EXTREMES FOR CURRENT YEAR paragraphs of the manuscript. Because the designated period may not be the same as the station period of record published in the manuscript, occasionally the dates of occurrence listed for the daily and instantaneous extremes in the designated-period column may not be within the selected water years listed in the heading. When this occurs, it will be noted in the REMARKS paragraph or in footnotes. Selected streamflow duration curve statistics and runoff are also given. Runoff data may be omitted if there is extensive regulation or diversion of flow in the drainage basin.

The following summary statistics data, as appropriate, are provided with each continuous record of discharge. Comments to follow clarify information presented under the various line headings of the summary statistics table.

**ANNUAL TOTAL.**--The sum of the daily mean values of discharge for the year.

**ANNUAL MEAN.**--The arithmetic mean for the individual daily mean discharges for the year noted or for the designated period.

**HIGHEST ANNUAL MEAN.**--The maximum annual mean discharge occurring for the designated period.

**LOWEST ANNUAL MEAN.**--The minimum annual mean discharge occurring for the designated period.

**HIGHEST DAILY MEAN.**--The maximum daily mean discharge for the year or for the designated period.

**LOWEST DAILY MEAN.**--The minimum daily mean discharge for the year or for the designated period.

**ANNUAL 7-DAY MINIMUM.**--The lowest mean discharge for 7 consecutive days for a calendar year or a water year. Note that most low-flow frequency analyses of annual 7-day minimum flows use a climatic year (April 1-March 31). The date shown in the summary statistics table is the initial date of the 7-day period. (This value should not be confused with the 7-day 10-year low-flow statistic).

**INSTANTANEOUS PEAK FLOW.**--The maximum instantaneous discharge occurring for the water year or for the designated period. Note that secondary instantaneous peak discharges above a selected base discharge are stored in USGS Water Science Center computer files for stations meeting certain criteria. Those discharge values may be obtained by writing to the USGS Water Science Center. (See address on back title page of this report.)

**INSTANTANEOUS PEAK STAGE.**--The maximum instantaneous stage occurring for the water year or for the designated period. If the dates of occurrence for the instantaneous peak flow and instantaneous peak stage differ, the EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD or EXTREMES FOR CURRENT YEAR paragraphs of the manuscript may be used to provide further information.

**INSTANTANEOUS LOW FLOW.**--The minimum instantaneous discharge occurring for the water year or for the designated period.

**ANNUAL RUNOFF.**--Indicates the total quantity of water in runoff for a drainage area for the year. Data reports may use any of the following units of measurement in presenting annual runoff data:

Acre-foot (AC-FT) is the quantity of water required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot and is equal to 43,560 cubic feet or about 326,000 gallons or 1,233 cubic meters.

Cubic feet per second per square mile (CFSM) is the average number of cubic feet of water flowing per second from each square mile area drained, assuming the runoff is distributed uniformly in time and area.

Inches (INCHES) indicates the depth to which the drainage area would be covered if all of the runoff for a given time period were uniformly distributed on it.

**10 PERCENT EXCEEDS.**--The discharge that has been exceeded 10 percent of the time for the designated period.

**50 PERCENT EXCEEDS.**--The discharge that has been exceeded 50 percent of the time for the designated period.

**90 PERCENT EXCEEDS.**--The discharge that has been exceeded 90 percent of the time for the designated period.

### Hydrograph

The hydrograph gives a graphical presentation of the mean discharge for each day of the water year. Where possible, the same scale is used between gaging stations in order to facilitate visual comparison.

### **Identifying Estimated Daily Discharge**

Estimated daily-discharge values published in the water-discharge tables of annual State data reports are identified by flagging individual daily values with the letter symbol "e" and printing a table footnote, "e Estimated."

### Accuracy of the Records

The accuracy of streamflow records depends primarily on: (1) The stability of the stage-discharge relation or, if the control is unstable, the frequency of discharge measurements; and (2) the accuracy of measurements of stage, measurements of discharge, and interpretation of records.

The accuracy attributed to the records is indicated under "REMARKS." "Excellent" means that about 95 percent of the daily discharges are within 5 percent of their true values; "good," within 10 percent; and "fair," within 15 percent. Records that do not meet the criteria mentioned are rated "poor." Different accuracies may be attributed to different parts of a given record.

Daily mean discharges in this report are given to the nearest hundredth of a cubic foot per second for values less than 1 ft<sup>3</sup>/s; to the nearest tenth between 1.0 and 10 ft<sup>3</sup>/s; to whole numbers between 10 and 1,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s; and to 3 significant figures for more than 1,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s. The number of significant figures used is based solely on the magnitude of the discharge value.

Discharges listed for partial-record stations and special study sites are given to the nearest hundredth of a cubic foot per second for values less than 10 ft<sup>3</sup>/s and to 3 significant figures for more than 10 ft<sup>3</sup>/s. Exceptions are made for discharge measurements made with volumetric techniques (see TWRI, Book 3, Chapter A8) and flume techniques (see TWRI, Book 3, Chapter A14) which are given to the nearest thousandth of a cubic foot per second for values less than 0.10 ft<sup>3</sup>/s. Measurements made using volumetric techniques are footnoted in the table of special study measurements.

Discharge at many stations, as indicated by the monthly mean, may not reflect natural runoff due to the effects of diversion, consumption, regulation by storage, increase or decrease in evaporation due to artificial causes, or to other factors. For such stations, figures of cubic feet per second per square mile and of runoff, in inches, are not published unless satisfactory adjustments can be made for diversions, for changes in contents to reservoirs, or for other changes incident to use and control. Evaporation from a reservoir is not included in the adjustments for changes in reservoir contents, unless it is so stated. Even at those stations where adjustments are made, large errors in computed runoff may occur if adjustments or losses are large in comparison with the observed discharge.

### Special Study Records

Data collected at special study sites are presented in a table following the information for continuous sites. This table summarizes discharge measurements made at sites other than continuous-record sites.

### Other Records Available

Information used in the preparation of the records in this publication, such as discharge-measurement notes, gage-height records, temperature measurements, and rating tables are on file in the USGS Maine Water Science Center. Also, most of the daily mean discharges are in computer readable form and have been analyzed statistically. Information on the availability of the unpublished information or on the results of statistical analyses of the published records may be obtained from the USGS Maine Water Science Center.

### Records of Surface-Water Quality

Records of surface-water quality ordinarily are obtained at or near stream-gaging stations because interpretation of records of surface-water quality nearly always requires corresponding discharge data. Records of surface-water quality in this report may involve a variety of types of data and measurement frequencies.

### Classification of Records

Water-quality data for surface-water sites are grouped into one of three classifications. A **continuing-record station** is a site where data are collected on a regularly scheduled basis. Frequency may be once or more times daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly. A **partial-record station** is a site where limited water-quality data are collected systematically over a period of years. Frequency of sampling is usually less than quarterly. A **special study sampling site** is a location other than a continuing or partial-record station where random samples are collected to give better areal coverage to define water-quality conditions in the river basin.

A careful distinction needs to be made between "continuing records", as used in this report, and "continuous recordings," which refers to a continuous graph or a series of discrete values recorded at short intervals. Some records of water quality, such as temperature and specific conductance, may be obtained through continuous recordings; however, because of costs, most data are obtained only monthly or less frequently. In this report, continuing-record stations where data are collected on a continuous basis are referred to as **continuous-recording stations**. Locations of stations for which records on the quality of surface water appear in this report are shown in figure 1.

### Data Presentation

For continuing-record stations, information pertinent to the history of station operation is provided in descriptive headings preceding the tabular data. These descriptive headings give details regarding location, drainage area, period of record, type of data available, instrumentation, general remarks, and extremes for parameters currently measured daily. Tables of water-quality data, including chemical, physical, biological, radiochemical data, and so forth, obtained at a frequency less than daily are presented first.

Tables of “daily values” of specific conductance, pH, water temperature, and dissolved oxygen data from water-quality monitor recorders follow in sequence.

In the descriptive headings, if the location is identical to that of the discharge gaging station, neither the LOCATION nor the DRAINAGE AREA statements are repeated. The following information, as appropriate, is provided with each continuing-record station. Comments that follow clarify information presented under the various headings of the station description.

**LOCATION.**--See Data Presentation under “Records of Stage and Water Discharge;” same comments apply.

**DRAINAGE AREA.**--See Data Presentation under “Records of Stage and Water Discharge;” same comments apply.

**PERIOD OF RECORD.**--This indicates the periods for which there are published water-quality records for the station. The periods are shown separately for records of parameters measured daily or continuously and those measured less than daily. For those measured daily or continuously, periods of daily record are given for the parameters individually.

**INSTRUMENTATION.**--Information on instrumentation is given only if a water-quality monitor, or temperature recording device is in operation at a station.

**REMARKS.**--Remarks provide added information pertinent to the collection, analysis, or computation of the records.

**EXTREMES.**--Maximums and minimums are given only for parameters measured daily or more frequently. Extremes are provided for both the period of daily record and for the current water year. If a value from a special study measurement from outside the period of daily record has higher maximum or lower minimum, that value is reported in a descriptive heading for extremes outside the period of daily record.

**REVISIONS.**--If errors in published water-quality records are discovered after publication, appropriate updates are made to the Water-Quality File in the U.S. Geological Survey's computerized data system, NWIS, and subsequently by monthly transfer of update transactions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's STORET system. Because the usual volume of updates makes it impractical to document individual changes in the State data-report series or elsewhere, potential users of U.S. Geological Survey water-quality data are encouraged to obtain all required data from the appropriate computer file to insure the most recent updates.

The surface-water-quality records for special study sampling sites are published in separate tables following the table of discharge measurements at special study sites. No descriptive statements are given for these records. Each station is published with its own station number and name in the regular downstream-order sequence.

#### Accuracy of the Records

The accuracy attributed to the records is indicated under “REMARKS.” The values for rating each physical property are listed in table 1.

**Table 1.** Rating continuous water-quality records.

[≤, less than or equal to; ±, plus or minus value shown; °C, degree Celsius; >, greater than; %, percent; mg/L, milligram per liter; pH unit, standard pH unit]

Measured physical property	Ratings			
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Water temperature	≤ ± 0.2 °C	> ± 0.2 - 0.5 °C	> ± 0.5 - 0.8 °C	> ± 0.8 °C
Specific conductance	≤ ± 3%	> ± 3 - 10%	> ± 10 - 15%	> ± 15%
Dissolved oxygen	≤ ± 0.3 mg/L or ≤ ±5%, whichever is greater	> ± 0.3 - 0.5 mg/L or > ± 5 - 10%, whichever is greater	> ± 0.5 - 0.8 mg/L or > ± 10 - 15%, whichever is greater	> ± 0.8 mg/L or > ± 15%, whichever is greater
pH	≤ ± 0.2 units	> ± 0.2 to 0.5 units	> ± 0.5 to 0.8 units	> ± 0.8 units
Turbidity	≤ ± 0.5 turbidity units or ≤ ±5%, whichever is greater	> ± 0.5 - 1.0 turbidity units or > ± 5 - 10%, whichever is greater	> ± 1.0 - 1.5 turbidity units or > ± 10 - 15%, whichever is greater	> ± 1.5 turbidity units or > ± 15%, whichever is greater

### Remark Codes

The following remark codes may appear with the water-quality data in this section:

Printed Output	Remark
E	Value is estimated.
>	Actual value is known to be greater than the value shown.
<	Actual value is known to be less than the value shown.
M	Presence of material verified, but not quantified.
N	Presumptive evidence of presence of material.
U	Material specifically analyzed for, but not detected.
A	Value is an average.
V	Analyte was detected in both the environmental sample and the associated blanks.
S	Most probable value.

### Records of Ground-Water Levels

Only water-level data from a national network of observation wells are given in this report. These data are intended to provide a sampling and historical record of water-level changes in the Nation's most important aquifers. Locations of the observation wells in this network in Maine are shown in figure 2.

#### Data Collection and Computation

Measurements of water levels are made in many types of wells under varying conditions, but the methods of measurement are standardized to the extent possible. The equipment and measuring techniques used at each observation well ensure that measurements at each well are of consistent accuracy and reliability.

Tables of water-level data are presented by counties arranged in alphabetical order. The primary identification number for a given well is the 15-digit number that appears in the upper left corner of the table. The secondary identification number is the local well number, an alphanumeric number, composed of an abbreviation of the county name and sequential number.

Water-level records are obtained from direct measurements with a steel or electric tape or from the electronic water-stage recorders. The water-level measurements in this report are given in feet with reference to land-surface datum (lsd). Land-surface datum is a datum plane that is approximately at land surface at each well. If known, the elevation of the land-surface datum is given in the well description.

The height of the measuring point (MP) above or below land-surface datum is given in each well description. Daily-mean water levels are reported for wells equipped with recording gages.

Water levels are reported to as many significant figures as can be justified by the local conditions. For example, in a measurement of a depth to water of several hundred feet, the error of determining the absolute value of the total depth to water may be a few tenths of a foot, whereas the error in determining the net change of water level between successive measurements may be only a hundredth or a few hundredths of a foot. For lesser depths to water, the accuracy is greater. Accordingly, most measurements are reported to a hundredth of a foot, but some are given to a tenth of a foot.

#### Data Presentation

Each well record consists of three parts: The station description, data table of water levels observed during the water year, and a hydrograph of water levels observed during the past decade. The description of the well is presented first, through use of descriptive headings, preceding the tabular data. The comments to follow clarify information presented under the various headings.

**LOCATION.**--This paragraph follows the well-identification number and reports the latitude and longitude (given in degrees, minutes, and seconds); the hydrologic-unit number; the distance and direction from a geographic point of reference; and the owner's name.

**AQUIFER.**--This entry designates by name (if a name exists) and geologic age (if known) the aquifer(s) open to the well.

**WELL CHARACTERISTICS.**--This entry describes the well in terms of depth, diameter, casing depth and/or screened interval.

**INSTRUMENTATION.**--This paragraph provides information on both the frequency of measurement and the collection method used, allowing the user to better evaluate the reported water-level extremes by knowing whether they are based on weekly, monthly, or some other frequency of measurement. It is also used to identify wells measured by local (non-Survey) observers.

**DATUM.**--This entry describes both the measuring point and the land-surface elevation at the well. The measuring point is described physically (such as top of collar, notch in top of casing, plug in pump base and so on) and in relation to land surface (such as 1.3 ft above land-surface datum). The elevation of the land-surface datum is described in feet above (or below) National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD of 1929); it is reported with a precision depending on the method of determination.

**REMARKS.**--This entry describes factors that may influence the water level in a well or the measurement of the water level. It should identify wells that also are water-quality observation wells.

**REVISIONS.**--This entry lists the reports in which revised water-level data have been published, each followed by the water years for which figures were revised.

**PERIOD OF RECORD.**--This entry indicates the period for which there are published records for the well. It reports the month and year of the start of publication of water-level records by the U.S. Geological Survey and the words "to current year" if the records are to be continued into the following year. Periods for which water-level records are available, but are not published by the U. S. Geological Survey, may be noted.

**EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD.**--This entry contains the highest and lowest water levels of the period of published record, with respect to land-surface datum, and the dates of their occurrence.

A table of water levels follows the station description for each well. Water levels are reported in feet below land-surface datum. Direct measurements obtained with a steel tape are listed. For wells equipped with recorders, tables of daily-mean water levels are published. The highest and lowest water levels of the water year and their dates of occurrence are shown on a line below the daily-mean table. Because all values are not published for wells with recorders (hourly values are not published but are available in the files of the U. S. Geological Survey) the extremes may be values that are not listed in the table. Missing records are indicated by dashes in place of the water level.

A hydrograph of water levels observed during the past decade follows the table of water levels for each well. The water levels presented are referenced to both the land-surface datum at the site and to the NGVD of 1929. Because all values are not used to produce the hydrographs, the extremes listed in the station description may not be reflected in the hydrographs. Periods of missing records are indicated by blank spaces in the hydrograph.

### **Records of Ground-Water Quality**

Water samples were collected at four observation bedrock wells, three domestic bedrock wells, one public supply well, and twenty observation wells in a sand and gravel aquifer. Samples were analyzed at the U.S. Geological Survey laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado.

#### **Classification of Records**

Classification of ground-water quality records are arranged as described in "Records of Surface-Water Quality", located in this report.

### **Arrangement of Records**

Water-quality records collected at a ground-water daily record station are published immediately following that record, except for one site, CW 1983, which is included with 19 other sites in the 'Ground-Water Quality Analyses at Special Study Stations' section in this report. Station number and name are the same for both records.

### **Laboratory Measurements**

Samples were analyzed in the U. S. Geological Survey laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado. Methods used by the U.S. Geological Survey laboratory are given in Fishman, M.J., 1993, Methods of analysis by the U. S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Laboratory--Determination of inorganic and organic constituents in water and fluvial sediments: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 93-125.

### **Data Presentation**

The ground-water-quality records for special study sampling sites are published in separate tables following the continuous ground water records.

### **Remark Codes**

The following remark codes may appear with the water-quality data in this section:

<b>Printed Output</b>	<b>Remark</b>
E	Value is estimated.
>	Actual value is known to be greater than the value shown.
<	Actual value is known to be less than the value shown.
M	Presence of material verified, but not quantified.
N	Presumptive evidence of presence of material.
U	Material specifically analyzed for, but not detected.
A	Value is an average.
V	Analyte was detected in both the environmental sample and the associated blanks.
S	Most probable value.

### **Records of Precipitation Quantity**

Only precipitation data which is collected as part of long-term monitoring projects are given in this report. These data are intended or used in flood forecasting or other streamflow modeling applications. Locations of the precipitation quantity stations included in this report are shown in figure 3.

### **Data Collection and Computation**

Precipitation data in this report is collected using one of two methods. A weighing bucket collector measures precipitation by recording the weight of accumulated precipitation in a container. The precipitation total for each day is simply the difference in recorded values from the 12:00 am the previous day to 12:00 am the published day. During winter months the collector is charged with an antifreeze solution to melt incoming snow or ice. Precipitation data from weighing bucket gages is reported to the nearest 0.1 in. Alternately, a tipping-bucket collector measures precipitation through the use of two equal-sized chambers which alternately fill and drain. As each chamber fills, it tips, simultaneously draining it, bringing the second bucket under the collector and recording a known amount of precipitation, usually 0.01 in. The precipitation total for each day is computed by summing the number of tips during the day. During winter months a heater or adaptor is used to melt incoming snow or ice. Precipitation data from tipping-bucket gages is reported to the nearest 0.01 in.

Several factors can affect the precipitation recorded at a site, including the elevation of the collector above the land surface, the presence of vegetation, buildings or other barriers near the collector, or the use of a wind shield around the collector.

### **Data Presentation**

Each precipitation record consists of two parts: The station description and a data table of daily precipitation observed during the water year. The description of the station is presented first, through use of descriptive headings, preceding the tabular data. The comments to follow clarify information presented under the various headings.

**LOCATION.**--Information on locations is obtained from the most accurate maps available. The location of the gage with respect to the cultural and physical features in the vicinity and with respect to the reference place mentioned in the station name is given.

**PERIOD OF RECORD.**--This entry indicates the period for which there are published records for the station. It reports the month and year of the start of publication by the U.S. Geological Survey and the words "to current year" if the records are to be continued into the following year.

**INSTRUMENTATION.**--This paragraph provides information on the type of instrumentation used at the station, including its height above land surface and elevation above National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD of 1929); it is reported with a precision dependent on the method of determination.

**REMARKS.**--This entry describes any ancillary information about the station, including any real-time data telemetry capability.

A table of precipitation totals follows the station description for each station. Precipitation totals for each day are reported in inches of water. The total precipitation for each month is shown on a line below the daily-sum table. Missing records are indicated by dashes in place of the precipitation total.

### **Records of Snow Quantity**

Only snow data which is collected as part of long-term monitoring projects are given in this report. These data are intended or used in flood forecasting or other streamflow modeling applications. Locations of the snow sampling stations included in this report are shown in figure 4.

### **Data Collection and Computation**

Snow data were collected with snow tubes with graduations on the outside to measure the total depth of the snowpack. The inside diameter of the tube is such that one ounce of core in the tube equals one inch of water equivalent. At each sample point, the snow tube is used to record the total depth, and a core sample is removed and weighed to determine the water content.

At each snow course the reported values are the average of ten readings of snow depth and ten readings of water equivalent. Methods used are described in the Snow Survey Sampling Guide, Agriculture Handbook number 169, published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### **Data Presentation**

Snow depth and water content records for snow sampling sites are published in inches for each sample date, in separate tables following the precipitation quantity records.

### **ACCESS TO USGS WATER DATA**

The USGS provides near real-time stage and discharge data for many of the gaging stations equipped with the necessary telemetry and historic daily mean and peak-flow discharge data for most current or discontinued gaging stations on the internet. These data may be accessed at

<http://me.water.usgs.gov>

Some water-quality and ground-water data also are available through the internet. In addition, data can be provided in various machine-readable formats on CD or 3-1/2 inch floppy disk. Information about the availability of specific types of data or products, and user charges, can be obtained locally from each of the USGS Water Science Centers. (See address on the back of the title page.)

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

Specialized technical terms related to streamflow, water-quality, and other hydrologic data, as used in this report, are defined below. Terms such as algae, water level, and precipitation are used in their common everyday meanings, definitions of which are given in standard dictionaries. Not all terms defined in this alphabetical list apply to every State. See also table for converting English units to International System (SI) Units. Other glossaries that also define water-related terms are accessible from <http://water.usgs.gov/glossaries.html>.

**Acid neutralizing capacity (ANC)** is the equivalent sum of all bases or base-producing materials, solutes plus particulates, in an aqueous system that can be titrated with acid to an equivalence point. This term designates titration of an “unfiltered” sample (formerly reported as alkalinity).

**Acre-foot (AC-FT, acre-ft)** is a unit of volume, commonly used to measure quantities of water used or stored, equivalent to the volume of water required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot and equivalent to 43,560 cubic feet, 325,851 gallons, or 1,233 cubic meters. (See also “Annual runoff”)

**Adenosine triphosphate (ATP)** is an organic, phosphate-rich compound important in the transfer of energy in organisms. Its central role in living cells makes ATP an excellent indicator of the presence of living material in water. A measurement of ATP therefore provides a sensitive and rapid estimate of biomass. ATP is reported in micrograms per liter.

**Adjusted discharge** is discharge data that have been mathematically adjusted (for example, to remove the effects of a daily tide cycle or reservoir storage).

**Algal growth potential (AGP)** is the maximum algal dry weight biomass that can be produced in a natural water sample under standardized laboratory conditions. The growth potential is the algal biomass present at stationary phase and is expressed as milligrams dry weight of algae produced per liter of sample. (See also “Biomass” and “Dry weight”)

**Alkalinity** is the capacity of solutes in an aqueous system to neutralize acid. This term designates titration of a “filtered” sample.

**Annual runoff** is the total quantity of water that is discharged (“runs off”) from a drainage basin in a year. Data reports may present annual runoff data as volumes in acre-feet, as discharges per unit of drainage area in cubic feet per second per square mile, or as depths of water on the drainage basin in inches.

**Annual 7-day minimum** is the lowest mean value for any 7-consecutive-day period in a year. Annual 7-day minimum values are reported herein for the calendar year and

the water year (October 1 through September 30). Most low-flow frequency analyses use a climatic year (April 1-March 31), which tends to prevent the low-flow period from being artificially split between adjacent years. The date shown in the summary statistics table is the initial date of the 7-day period. (This value should not be confused with the 7-day, 10-year low-flow statistic.)

**Aroclor** is the registered trademark for a group of polychlorinated biphenyls that were manufactured by the Monsanto Company prior to 1976. Aroclors are assigned specific 4-digit reference numbers dependent upon molecular type and degree of substitution of the biphenyl ring hydrogen atoms by chlorine atoms. The first two digits of a numbered aroclor represent the molecular type, and the last two digits represent the percentage weight of the hydrogen-substituted chlorine.

**Artificial substrate** is a device that purposely is placed in a stream or lake for colonization of organisms. The artificial substrate simplifies the community structure by standardizing the substrate from which each sample is collected. Examples of artificial substrates are basket samplers (made of wire cages filled with clean streamside rocks) and multi-plate samplers (made of hardboard) for benthic organism collection, and plexiglass strips for periphyton collection. (See also “Substrate”)

**Ash mass** is the mass or amount of residue present after the residue from a dry-mass determination has been ashed in a muffle furnace at a temperature of 500 °C for 1 hour. Ash mass of zooplankton and phytoplankton is expressed in grams per cubic meter ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), and periphyton and benthic organisms in grams per square meter ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ ). (See also “Biomass” and “Dry mass”)

**Aspect** is the direction toward which a slope faces with respect to the compass.

**Bacteria** are microscopic unicellular organisms, typically spherical, rodlike, or spiral and threadlike in shape, often clumped into colonies. Some bacteria cause disease, whereas others perform an essential role in nature in the recycling of materials; for example, by decomposing organic matter into a form available for reuse by plants.

**Bankfull stage**, as used in this report, is the stage at which a stream first overflows its natural banks formed by floods with 1- to 3-year recurrence intervals.

**Base discharge** (for peak discharge) is a discharge value, determined for selected stations, above which peak discharge data are published. The base discharge at each station is selected so that an average of about three peak flows per year will be published. (See also "Peak flow")

**Base flow** is sustained flow of a stream in the absence of direct runoff. It includes natural and human-induced streamflows. Natural base flow is sustained largely by ground-water discharge.

**Bed material** is the sediment mixture of which a streambed, lake, pond, reservoir, or estuary bottom is composed. (See also "Bedload" and "Sediment")

**Bedload** is material in transport that primarily is supported by the streambed. In this report, bedload is considered to consist of particles in transit from the bed to the top of the bedload sampler nozzle (an elevation ranging from 0.25 to 0.5 foot). These particles are retained in the bedload sampler. A sample collected with a pressure-differential bedload sampler also may contain a component of the suspended load.

**Bedload discharge** (tons per day) is the rate of sediment moving as bedload, reported as dry weight, that passes through a cross section in a given time. NOTE: Bedload discharge values in this report may include a component of the suspended-sediment discharge. A correction may be necessary when computing the total sediment discharge by summing the bedload discharge and the suspended-sediment discharge. (See also "Bedload," "Dry weight," "Sediment," and "Suspended-sediment discharge")

**Benthic organisms** are the group of organisms inhabiting the bottom of an aquatic environment. They include a number of types of organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, insect larvae and nymphs, snails, clams, and crayfish. They are useful as indicators of water quality.

**Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)** is a measure of the quantity of dissolved oxygen, in milligrams per liter, necessary for the decomposition of organic matter by microorganisms, such as bacteria.

**Biomass** is the amount of living matter present at any given time, expressed as mass per unit area or volume of habitat.

**Biomass pigment ratio** is an indicator of the total proportion of periphyton that are autotrophic (plants). This also is called the Autotrophic Index.

**Blue-green algae** (*Cyanophyta*) are a group of phytoplankton and periphyton organisms with a blue pigment in addition to a green pigment called chlorophyll. Blue-green algae can cause nuisance water-quality conditions in lakes and slow-flowing rivers; however, they are found commonly in streams throughout the year. The abundance of blue-green algae in phytoplankton samples is expressed as the number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) or biovolume in cubic micrometers per milliliter ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{mL}$ ). The abundance of blue-green algae in periphyton samples is given in cells per square centimeter (cells/cm<sup>2</sup>) or biovolume per square centimeter ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{cm}^2$ ). (See also "Phytoplankton" and "Periphyton")

**Bottom material** (See "Bed material")

**Bulk electrical conductivity** is the combined electrical conductivity of all material within a doughnut-shaped volume surrounding an induction probe. Bulk conductivity is affected by different physical and chemical properties of the material including the dissolved-solids content of the pore water, and the lithology and porosity of the rock.

**Canadian Geodetic Vertical Datum 1928** is a geodetic datum derived from a general adjustment of Canada's first order level network in 1928.

**Cell volume** (biovolume) determination is one of several common methods used to estimate biomass of algae in aquatic systems. Cell members of algae are used frequently in aquatic surveys as an indicator of algal production. However, cell numbers alone cannot represent true biomass because of considerable cell-size variation among the algal species. Cell volume ( $\mu\text{m}^3$ ) is determined by obtaining critical cell measurements or cell dimensions (for example, length, width, height, or radius) for 20 to 50 cells of each important species to obtain an average biovolume per cell. Cells are categorized according to the correspondence of their cellular shape to the nearest geometric solid or combinations of simple solids (for example, spheres, cones, or cylinders). Representative formulae used to compute biovolume are as follows:

$$\text{sphere } \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \quad \text{cone } \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h \quad \text{cylinder } \pi r^2 h.$$

$\pi$  ( $\pi$ ) is the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle;  $\pi = 3.14159\dots$

From cell volume, total algal biomass expressed as biovolume ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{mL}$ ) is thus determined by multiplying the number of cells of a given species by its average cell volume and then summing these volumes for all species.

**Cells/volume** refers to the number of cells of any organism that is counted by using a microscope and grid or counting cell. Many planktonic organisms are multicelled and are counted according to the number of contained cells per

sample volume, and generally are reported as cells or units per milliliter (mL) or liter (L).

**Cfs-day** (See “Cubic foot per second-day”)

**Channel bars**, as used in this report, are the lowest prominent geomorphic features higher than the channel bed.

**Chemical oxygen demand** (COD) is a measure of the chemically oxidizable material in the water and furnishes an approximation of the amount of organic and reducing material present. The determined value may correlate with BOD or with carbonaceous organic pollution from sewage or industrial wastes. [See also “Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)”]

***Clostridium perfringens*** (*C. perfringens*) is a spore-forming bacterium that is common in the feces of human and other warmblooded animals. Clostridial spores are being used experimentally as an indicator of past fecal contamination and the presence of microorganisms that are resistant to disinfection and environmental stresses. (See also “Bacteria”)

**Coliphages** are viruses that infect and replicate in coliform bacteria. They are indicative of sewage contamination of water and of the survival and transport of viruses in the environment.

**Color unit** is produced by 1 milligram per liter of platinum in the form of the chloroplatinate ion. Color is expressed in units of the platinum-cobalt scale.

**Confined aquifer** is a term used to describe an aquifer containing water between two relatively impermeable boundaries. The water level in a well tapping a confined aquifer stands above the top of the confined aquifer and can be higher or lower than the water table that may be present in the material above it. In some cases, the water level can rise above the ground surface, yielding a flowing well.

**Contents** is the volume of water in a reservoir or lake. Unless otherwise indicated, volume is computed on the basis of a level pool and does not include bank storage.

**Continuous-record station** is a site where data are collected with sufficient frequency to define daily mean values and variations within a day.

**Control** designates a feature in the channel that physically affects the water-surface elevation and thereby determines the stage-discharge relation at the gage. This feature may be a constriction of the channel, a bedrock outcrop, a gravel bar, an artificial structure, or a uniform cross section over a long reach of the channel.

**Control structure**, as used in this report, is a structure on a stream or canal that is used to regulate the flow or stage of the stream or to prevent the intrusion of saltwater.

**Cubic foot per second** (CFS, ft<sup>3</sup>/s) is the rate of discharge representing a volume of 1 cubic foot passing a given point in 1 second. It is equivalent to approximately 7.48 gallons per second or approximately 449 gallons per minute, or 0.02832 cubic meters per second. The term “second-foot” sometimes is used synonymously with “cubic foot per second” but is now obsolete.

**Cubic foot per second-day** (CFS-DAY, Cfs-day, [(ft<sup>3</sup>/s)/d]) is the volume of water represented by a flow of 1 cubic foot per second for 24 hours. It is equivalent to 86,400 cubic feet, 1.98347 acre-feet, 646,317 gallons, or 2,446.6 cubic meters. The daily mean discharges reported in the daily value data tables numerically are equal to the daily volumes in cfs-days, and the totals also represent volumes in cfs-days.

**Cubic foot per second per square mile** [CFSM, (ft<sup>3</sup>/s)/mi<sup>2</sup>] is the average number of cubic feet of water flowing per second from each square mile of area drained, assuming the runoff is distributed uniformly in time and area. (See also “Annual runoff”)

**Daily mean suspended-sediment concentration** is the time-weighted mean concentration of suspended sediment passing a stream cross section during a 24-hour day. (See also “Sediment” and “Suspended-sediment concentration”)

**Daily record station** is a site where data are collected with sufficient frequency to develop a record of one or more data values per day. The frequency of data collection can range from continuous recording to data collection on a daily or near-daily basis.

**Data collection platform** (DCP) is an electronic instrument that collects, processes, and stores data from various sensors, and transmits the data by satellite data relay, line-of-sight radio, and/or landline telemetry.

**Data logger** is a microprocessor-based data acquisition system designed specifically to acquire, process, and store data. Data usually are downloaded from onsite data loggers for entry into office data systems.

**Datum** is a surface or point relative to which measurements of height and/or horizontal position are reported. A vertical datum is a horizontal surface used as the zero point for measurements of gage height, stage, or elevation; a horizontal datum is a reference for positions given in terms of latitude-longitude, State Plane coordinates, or Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates. (See also “Gage datum,” “Land-surface datum,” “National Geodetic Verti-

cal Datum of 1929,” and “North American Vertical Datum of 1988”)

**Diatoms** (*Bacillariophyta*) are unicellular or colonial algae with a siliceous cell wall. The abundance of diatoms in phytoplankton samples is expressed as the number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) or biovolume in cubic micrometers per milliliter ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{mL}$ ). The abundance of diatoms in periphyton samples is given in cells per square centimeter ( $\text{cells}/\text{cm}^2$ ) or biovolume per square centimeter ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{cm}^2$ ). (See also “Phytoplankton” and “Periphyton”)

**Diel** is of or pertaining to a 24-hour period of time; a regular daily cycle.

**Discharge, or flow**, is the rate that matter passes through a cross section of a stream channel or other water body per unit of time. The term commonly refers to the volume of water (including, unless otherwise stated, any sediment or other constituents suspended or dissolved in the water) that passes a cross section in a stream channel, canal, pipeline, and so forth, within a given period of time (cubic feet per second). Discharge also can apply to the rate at which constituents, such as suspended sediment, bedload, and dissolved or suspended chemicals, pass through a cross section, in which cases the quantity is expressed as the mass of constituent that passes the cross section in a given period of time (tons per day).

**Dissolved** refers to that material in a representative water sample that passes through a 0.45-micrometer membrane filter. This is a convenient operational definition used by Federal and State agencies that collect water-quality data. Determinations of “dissolved” constituent concentrations are made on sample water that has been filtered.

**Dissolved oxygen (DO)** is the molecular oxygen (oxygen gas) dissolved in water. The concentration in water is a function of atmospheric pressure, temperature, and dissolved-solids concentration of the water. The ability of water to retain oxygen decreases with increasing temperature or dissolved-solids concentration. Photosynthesis and respiration by plants commonly cause diurnal variations in dissolved-oxygen concentration in water from some streams.

**Dissolved-solids concentration** in water is the quantity of dissolved material in a sample of water. It is determined either analytically by the “residue-on-evaporation” method, or mathematically by totaling the concentrations of individual constituents reported in a comprehensive chemical analysis. During the analytical determination, the bicarbonate (generally a major dissolved component of water) is converted to carbonate. In the mathematical calculation, the bicarbonate value, in milligrams per liter, is multiplied by 0.4917 to convert it to carbonate. Alterna-

tively, alkalinity concentration (as mg/L  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) can be converted to carbonate concentration by multiplying by 0.60.

**Diversity index (H)** (Shannon index) is a numerical expression of evenness of distribution of aquatic organisms. The formula for diversity index is:

$$\bar{d} = - \sum_{i=1}^s \frac{n_i}{n} \log_2 \frac{n_i}{n},$$

where  $n_i$  is the number of individuals per taxon,  $n$  is the total number of individuals, and  $s$  is the total number of taxa in the sample of the community. Index values range from zero, when all the organisms in the sample are the same, to some positive number, when some or all of the organisms in the sample are different.

**Drainage area** of a stream at a specific location is that area upstream from the location, measured in a horizontal plane, that has a common outlet at the site for its surface runoff from precipitation that normally drains by gravity into a stream. Drainage areas given herein include all closed basins, or noncontributing areas, within the area unless otherwise specified.

**Drainage basin** is a part of the Earth’s surface that contains a drainage system with a common outlet for its surface runoff. (See “Drainage area”)

**Dry mass** refers to the mass of residue present after drying in an oven at 105 °C, until the mass remains unchanged. This mass represents the total organic matter, ash and sediment, in the sample. Dry-mass values are expressed in the same units as ash mass. (See also “Ash mass,” “Biomass,” and “Wet mass”)

**Dry weight** refers to the weight of animal tissue after it has been dried in an oven at 65 °C until a constant weight is achieved. Dry weight represents total organic and inorganic matter in the tissue. (See also “Wet weight”)

**Embeddedness** is the degree to which gravel-sized and larger particles are surrounded or enclosed by finer-sized particles. (See also “Substrate embeddedness class”)

**Enterococcus bacteria** commonly are found in the feces of humans and other warmblooded animals. Although some strains are ubiquitous and not related to fecal pollution, the presence of enterococci in water is an indication of fecal pollution and the possible presence of enteric pathogens. Enterococcus bacteria are those bacteria that produce pink to red colonies with black or reddish-brown precipitate after incubation at 41 °C on mE agar (nutrient medium for bacterial growth) and subsequent transfer to EIA medium.

Enterococci include *Streptococcus feacalis*, *Streptococcus faecium*, *Streptococcus avium*, and their variants. (See also "Bacteria")

**EPT Index** is the total number of distinct taxa within the insect orders Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera. This index summarizes the taxa richness within the aquatic insects that generally are considered pollution sensitive; the index usually decreases with pollution.

***Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)** are bacteria present in the intestine and feces of warmblooded animals. *E. coli* are a member species of the fecal coliform group of indicator bacteria. In the laboratory, they are defined as those bacteria that produce yellow or yellow-brown colonies on a filter pad saturated with urea substrate broth after primary culturing for 22 to 24 hours at 44.5 °C on mTEC medium (nutrient medium for bacterial growth). Their concentrations are expressed as number of colonies per 100 mL of sample. (See also "Bacteria")

**Estimated (E) value** of a concentration is reported when an analyte is detected and all criteria for a positive result are met. If the concentration is less than the method detection limit (MDL), an E code will be reported with the value. If the analyte is identified qualitatively as present, but the quantitative determination is substantially more uncertain, the National Water Quality Laboratory will identify the result with an E code even though the measured value is greater than the MDL. A value reported with an E code should be used with caution. When no analyte is detected in a sample, the default reporting value is the MDL preceded by a less than sign (<). For bacteriological data, concentrations are reported as estimated when results are based on non-ideal colony counts.

**Euglenoids (*Euglenophyta*)** are a group of algae that usually are free-swimming and rarely creeping. They have the ability to grow either photosynthetically in the light or heterotrophically in the dark. (See also "Phytoplankton")

**Extractable organic halides (EOX)** are organic compounds that contain halogen atoms such as chlorine. These organic compounds are semivolatiles and extractable by ethyl acetate from air-dried streambed sediment. The ethyl acetate extract is combusted, and the concentration is determined by microcoulometric determination of the halides formed. The concentration is reported as micrograms of chlorine per gram of the dry weight of the streambed sediment.

**Fecal coliform bacteria** are present in the intestines or feces of warmblooded animals. They often are used as indicators of the sanitary quality of the water. In the laboratory, they are defined as all organisms that produce blue colonies within 24 hours when incubated at 44.5 °C plus or minus 0.2 °C on M-FC medium (nutrient medium for bacterial

growth). Their concentrations are expressed as number of colonies per 100 mL of sample. (See also "Bacteria")

**Fecal streptococcal bacteria** are present in the intestines of warmblooded animals and are ubiquitous in the environment. They are characterized as gram-positive, cocci bacteria that are capable of growth in brain-heart infusion broth. In the laboratory, they are defined as all the organisms that produce red or pink colonies within 48 hours at 35 °C plus or minus 1.0 °C on KF-streptococcus medium (nutrient medium for bacterial growth). Their concentrations are expressed as number of colonies per 100 mL of sample. (See also "Bacteria")

**Filtered** pertains to constituents in a water sample passed through a filter of specified pore diameter, most commonly 0.45 micrometer or less for inorganic analytes and 0.7 micrometer for organic analytes.

**Filtered, recoverable** is the amount of a given constituent that is in solution after the part of a representative water-suspended sediment sample that has passed through a filter has been extracted. Complete recovery is not achieved by the extraction procedure and thus the analytical determination represents something less than 95 percent of the total constituent concentration in the sample. To achieve comparability of analytical data, equivalent extraction procedures are required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different procedures are likely to produce different analytical results.

**Fire algae (*Pyrrhophyta*)** are free-swimming unicells characterized by a red pigment spot. (See also "Phytoplankton")

**Flow-duration percentiles** are values on a scale of 100 that indicate the percentage of time for which a flow is exceeded. For example, the 90th percentile of river flow is the streamflow exceeded 90 percent of the time in the period of interest.

**Gage datum** is a horizontal surface used as a zero point for measurement of stage or gage height. This surface usually is located slightly below the lowest point of the stream bottom such that the gage height is usually slightly greater than the maximum depth of water. Because the gage datum is not an actual physical object, the datum is usually defined by specifying the elevations of permanent reference marks such as bridge abutments and survey monuments, and the gage is set to agree with the reference marks. Gage datum is a local datum that is maintained independently of any national geodetic datum. However, if the elevation of the gage datum relative to the national datum (North American Vertical Datum of 1988 or National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929) has been determined, then the gage readings can be converted to eleva-

tions above the national datum by adding the elevation of the gage datum to the gage reading.

**Gage height** (G.H.) is the water-surface elevation, in feet above the gage datum. If the water surface is below the gage datum, the gage height is negative. Gage height often is used interchangeably with the more general term “stage,” although gage height is more appropriate when used in reference to a reading on a gage.

**Gage values** are values that are recorded, transmitted, and/or computed from a gaging station. Gage values typically are collected at 5-, 15-, or 30-minute intervals.

**Gaging station** is a site on a stream, canal, lake, or reservoir where systematic observations of stage, discharge, or other hydrologic data are obtained.

**Gas chromatography/flame ionization detector** (GC/FID) is a laboratory analytical method used as a screening technique for semivolatile organic compounds that are extractable from water in methylene chloride.

**Geomorphic channel units**, as used in this report, are fluvial geomorphic descriptors of channel shape and stream velocity. Pools, riffles, and runs are types of geomorphic channel units considered for National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program habitat sampling.

**Green algae** (*Chlorophyta*) are unicellular or colonial algae with chlorophyll pigments similar to those in terrestrial green plants. Some forms of green algae produce mats or floating “moss” in lakes. The abundance of green algae in phytoplankton samples is expressed as the number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) or biovolume in cubic micrometers per milliliter ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{mL}$ ). The abundance of green algae in periphyton samples is given in cells per square centimeter (cells/cm<sup>2</sup>) or biovolume per square centimeter ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{cm}^2$ ). (See also “Phytoplankton” and “Periphyton”)

**Habitat**, as used in this report, includes all nonliving (physical) aspects of the aquatic ecosystem, although living components like aquatic macrophytes and riparian vegetation also are usually included. Measurements of habitat typically are made over a wider geographic scale than are measurements of species distribution.

**Habitat quality index** is the qualitative description (level 1) of instream habitat and riparian conditions surrounding the reach sampled. Scores range from 0 to 100 percent with higher scores indicative of desirable habitat conditions for aquatic life. Index only applicable to wadable streams.

**Hardness** of water is a physical-chemical characteristic that commonly is recognized by the increased quantity of soap required to produce lather. It is computed as the sum of

equivalents of polyvalent cations (primarily calcium and magnesium) and is expressed as the equivalent concentration of calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ).

**High tide** is the maximum height reached by each rising tide. The high-high and low-high tides are the higher and lower of the two high tides, respectively, of each tidal day. See NOAA Web site: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/text/glossary.html> (see “High water”)

**Hilsenhoff’s Biotic Index** (HBI) is an indicator of organic pollution that uses tolerance values to weight taxa abundances; usually increases with pollution. It is calculated as follows:

$$HBI = \frac{\sum(n)(a)}{N},$$

where  $n$  is the number of individuals of each taxon,  $a$  is the tolerance value of each taxon, and  $N$  is the total number of organisms in the sample.

**Horizontal datum** (See “Datum”)

**Hydrologic index stations** referred to in this report are continuous-record gaging stations that have been selected as representative of streamflow patterns for their respective regions. Station locations are shown on index maps.

**Hydrologic unit** is a geographic area representing part or all of a surface drainage basin or distinct hydrologic feature as defined by the former Office of Water Data Coordination and delineated on the State Hydrologic Unit Maps by the USGS. Each hydrologic unit is identified by an 8-digit number.

**Inch** (IN., in.), in reference to streamflow, as used in this report, refers to the depth to which the drainage area would be covered with water if all of the runoff for a given time period were distributed uniformly on it. (See also “Annual runoff”)

**Instantaneous discharge** is the discharge at a particular instant of time. (See also “Discharge”)

**International Boundary Commission Survey Datum** refers to a geodetic datum established at numerous monuments along the United States-Canada boundary by the International Boundary Commission.

**Island**, as used in this report, is a mid-channel bar that has permanent woody vegetation, is flooded once a year, on average, and remains stable except during large flood events.

**Laboratory reporting level (LRL)** generally is equal to twice the yearly determined long-term method detection level (LT-MDL). The LRL controls false negative error. The probability of falsely reporting a nondetection for a sample that contained an analyte at a concentration equal to or greater than the LRL is predicted to be less than or equal to 1 percent. The value of the LRL will be reported with a “less than” (<) remark code for samples in which the analyte was not detected. The National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) collects quality-control data from selected analytical methods on a continuing basis to determine LT-MDLs and to establish LRLs. These values are reevaluated annually on the basis of the most current quality-control data and, therefore, may change. The LRL replaces the term ‘non-detection value’ (NDV).

**Land-surface datum (lsd)** is a datum plane that is approximately at land surface at each ground-water observation well.

**Latent heat flux** (often used interchangeably with latent heat-flux density) is the amount of heat energy that converts water from liquid to vapor (evaporation) or from vapor to liquid (condensation) across a specified cross-sectional area per unit time. Usually expressed in watts per square meter.

**Light-attenuation coefficient**, also known as the extinction coefficient, is a measure of water clarity. Light is attenuated according to the Lambert-Beer equation:

$$I = I_0 e^{-\lambda L},$$

where  $I_0$  is the source light intensity,  $I$  is the light intensity at length  $L$  (in meters) from the source,  $\lambda$  is the light-attenuation coefficient, and  $e$  is the base of the natural logarithm. The light-attenuation coefficient is defined as

$$\lambda = -\frac{1}{L} \log_e \frac{I}{I_0}.$$

**Lipid** is any one of a family of compounds that are insoluble in water and that make up one of the principal components of living cells. Lipids include fats, oils, waxes, and steroids. Many environmental contaminants such as organochlorine pesticides are lipophilic.

**Long-term method detection level (LT-MDL)** is a detection level derived by determining the standard deviation of a minimum of 24 method detection limit (MDL) spike-sample measurements over an extended period of time. LT-MDL data are collected on a continuous basis to assess year-to-year variations in the LT-MDL. The LT-MDL controls false positive error. The chance of falsely reporting a concentration at or greater than the LT-MDL for a sample

that did not contain the analyte is predicted to be less than or equal to 1 percent.

**Low tide** is the minimum height reached by each falling tide. The high-low and low-low tides are the higher and lower of the two low tides, respectively, of each tidal day. See NOAA Website: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/text/glossary.html> (see “Low water”)

**Macrophytes** are the macroscopic plants in the aquatic environment. The most common macrophytes are the rooted vascular plants that usually are arranged in zones in aquatic ecosystems and restricted in the area by the extent of illumination through the water and sediment deposition along the shoreline.

**Mean concentration of suspended sediment** (Daily mean suspended-sediment concentration) is the time-weighted concentration of suspended sediment passing a stream cross section during a given time period. (See also “Daily mean suspended-sediment concentration” and “Suspended-sediment concentration”)

**Mean discharge (MEAN)** is the arithmetic mean of individual daily mean discharges during a specific period. (See also “Discharge”)

**Mean high or low tide** is the average of all high or low tides, respectively, over a specific period.

**Mean sea level** is a local tidal datum. It is the arithmetic mean of hourly heights observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch. Shorter series are specified in the name; for example, monthly mean sea level and yearly mean sea level. In order that they may be recovered when needed, such datums are referenced to fixed points known as benchmarks. (See also “Datum”)

**Measuring point (MP)** is an arbitrary permanent reference point from which the distance to water surface in a well is measured to obtain water level.

**Megahertz** is a unit of frequency. One megahertz equals one million cycles per second.

**Membrane filter** is a thin microporous material of specific pore size used to filter bacteria, algae, and other very small particles from water.

**Metamorphic stage** refers to the stage of development that an organism exhibits during its transformation from an immature form to an adult form. This developmental process exists for most insects, and the degree of difference from the immature stage to the adult form varies from relatively slight to pronounced, with many intermediates.

Examples of metamorphic stages of insects are egg-larva-adult or egg-nymph-adult.

**Method code** is a one-character code that identifies the analytical or field method used to determine a value stored in the National Water Information System (NWIS).

**Method detection limit (MDL)** is the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99-percent confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero. It is determined from the analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte. At the MDL concentration, the risk of a false positive is predicted to be less than or equal to 1 percent.

**Method of Cubatures** is a method of computing discharge in tidal estuaries based on the conservation of mass equation.

**Methylene blue active substances (MBAS)** indicate the presence of detergents (anionic surfactants). The determination depends on the formation of a blue color when methylene blue dye reacts with synthetic anionic detergent compounds.

**Micrograms per gram (UG/G,  $\mu\text{g/g}$ )** is a unit expressing the concentration of a chemical constituent as the mass (micrograms) of the element per unit mass (gram) of material analyzed.

**Micrograms per kilogram (UG/KG,  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ )** is a unit expressing the concentration of a chemical constituent as the mass (micrograms) of the constituent per unit mass (kilogram) of the material analyzed. One microgram per kilogram is equivalent to 1 part per billion.

**Micrograms per liter (UG/L,  $\mu\text{g/L}$ )** is a unit expressing the concentration of chemical constituents in water as mass (micrograms) of constituent per unit volume (liter) of water. One thousand micrograms per liter is equivalent to 1 milligram per liter. One microgram per liter is equivalent to 1 part per billion.

**Microsiemens per centimeter (US/CM,  $\mu\text{S/cm}$ )** is a unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution as measured between opposite faces of a centimeter cube of solution at a specified temperature. Siemens is the International System of Units nomenclature. It is synonymous with mhos and is the reciprocal of resistance in ohms.

**Milligrams per liter (MG/L,  $\text{mg/L}$ )** is a unit for expressing the concentration of chemical constituents in water as the mass (milligrams) of constituent per unit volume (liter) of water. Concentration of suspended sediment also is

expressed in milligrams per liter and is based on the mass of dry sediment per liter of water-sediment mixture.

**Minimum reporting level (MRL)** is the smallest measured concentration of a constituent that may be reliably reported by using a given analytical method.

**Miscellaneous site**, miscellaneous station, or miscellaneous sampling site is a site where streamflow, sediment, and/or water-quality data or water-quality or sediment samples are collected once, or more often on a random or discontinuous basis to provide better areal coverage for defining hydrologic and water-quality conditions over a broad area in a river basin.

**Most probable number (MPN)** is an index of the number of coliform bacteria that, more probably than any other number, would give the results shown by the laboratory examination; it is not an actual enumeration. MPN is determined from the distribution of gas-positive cultures among multiple inoculated tubes.

**Multiple-plate samplers** are artificial substrates of known surface area used for obtaining benthic invertebrate samples. They consist of a series of spaced, hardboard plates on an eyebolt.

**Nanograms per liter (NG/L,  $\text{ng/L}$ )** is a unit expressing the concentration of chemical constituents in solution as mass (nanograms) of solute per unit volume (liter) of water. One million nanograms per liter is equivalent to 1 milligram per liter.

**National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29)** is a fixed reference adopted as a standard geodetic datum for elevations determined by leveling. It formerly was called "Sea Level Datum of 1929" or "mean sea level." Although the datum was derived from the mean sea level at 26 tide stations, it does not necessarily represent local mean sea level at any particular place. *See NOAA Web site: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/faq.shtml#WhatVD29VD88>* (See "North American Vertical Datum of 1988")

**Natural substrate** refers to any naturally occurring immersed or submersed solid surface, such as a rock or tree, upon which an organism lives. (See also "Substrate")

**Nekton** are the consumers in the aquatic environment and consist of large, free-swimming organisms that are capable of sustained, directed mobility.

**Nonfilterable** refers to the portion of the total residue retained by a filter.

**North American Datum of 1927** (NAD 27) is the horizontal control datum for the United States that was defined by a location and azimuth on the Clarke spheroid of 1866.

**North American Datum of 1983** (NAD 83) is the horizontal control datum for the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central America that is based on the adjustment of 250,000 points including 600 satellite Doppler stations that constrain the system to a geocentric origin. NAD 83 has been officially adopted as the legal horizontal datum for the United States by the Federal government.

**North American Vertical Datum of 1988** (NAVD 88) is a fixed reference adopted as the official civilian vertical datum for elevations determined by Federal surveying and mapping activities in the United States. This datum was established in 1991 by minimum-constraint adjustment of the Canadian, Mexican, and United States first-order terrestrial leveling networks.

**Open or screened interval** is the length of unscreened opening or of well screen through which water enters a well, in feet below land surface.

**Organic carbon** (OC) is a measure of organic matter present in aqueous solution, suspension, or bottom sediment. May be reported as dissolved organic carbon (DOC), particulate organic carbon (POC), or total organic carbon (TOC).

**Organic mass or volatile mass** of a living substance is the difference between the dry mass and ash mass and represents the actual mass of the living matter. Organic mass is expressed in the same units as for ash mass and dry mass. (See also "Ash mass," "Biomass," and "Dry mass")

**Organism count/area** refers to the number of organisms collected and enumerated in a sample and adjusted to the number per area habitat, usually square meter (m<sup>2</sup>), acre, or hectare. Periphyton, benthic organisms, and macrophytes are expressed in these terms.

**Organism count/volume** refers to the number of organisms collected and enumerated in a sample and adjusted to the number per sample volume, usually milliliter (mL) or liter (L). Numbers of planktonic organisms can be expressed in these terms.

**Organochlorine compounds** are any chemicals that contain carbon and chlorine. Organochlorine compounds that are important in investigations of water, sediment, and biological quality include certain pesticides and industrial compounds.

**Parameter code** is a 5-digit number used in the USGS computerized data system, National Water Information System

(NWIS), to uniquely identify a specific constituent or property.

**Partial-record station** is a site where discrete measurements of one or more hydrologic parameters are obtained over a period of time without continuous data being recorded or computed. A common example is a crest-stage gage partial-record station at which only peak stages and flows are recorded.

**Particle size** is the diameter, in millimeters (mm), of a particle determined by sieve or sedimentation methods. The sedimentation method uses the principle of Stokes Law to calculate sediment particle sizes. Sedimentation methods (pipet, bottom-withdrawal tube, visual-accumulation tube, sedigraph) determine fall diameter of particles in either distilled water (chemically dispersed) or in native water (the river water at the time and point of sampling).

**Particle-size classification**, as used in this report, agrees with the recommendation made by the American Geophysical Union Subcommittee on Sediment Terminology. The classification is as follows:

Classification	Size (mm)	Method of analysis
Clay	>0.00024 - 0.004	Sedimentation
Silt	>0.004 - 0.062	Sedimentation
Sand	>0.062 - 2.0	Sedimentation/sieve
Gravel	>2.0 - 64.0	Sieve
Cobble	>64 - 256	Manual measurement
Boulder	>256	Manual measurement

The particle-size distributions given in this report are not necessarily representative of all particles in transport in the stream. For the sedimentation method, most of the organic matter is removed, and the sample is subjected to mechanical and chemical dispersion before analysis in distilled water. Chemical dispersion is not used for native water analysis.

**Peak flow (peak stage)** is an instantaneous local maximum value in the continuous time series of streamflows or stages, preceded by a period of increasing values and followed by a period of decreasing values. Several peak values ordinarily occur in a year. The maximum peak value in a year is called the annual peak; peaks lower than the annual peak are called secondary peaks. Occasionally, the annual peak may not be the maximum value for the year; in such cases, the maximum value occurs at midnight at the beginning or end of the year, on the recession from or rise toward a higher peak in the adjoining year. If values are recorded at a discrete series of times, the peak recorded value may be taken as an approximation of the true peak, which may occur between the recording instants. If the values are recorded with finite precision, a sequence of equal

recorded values may occur at the peak; in this case, the first value is taken as the peak.

**Percent composition or percent of total** is a unit for expressing the ratio of a particular part of a sample or population to the total sample or population, in terms of types, numbers, weight, mass, or volume.

**Percent shading** is a measure of the amount of sunlight potentially reaching the stream. A clinometer is used to measure left and right bank canopy angles. These values are added together, divided by 180, and multiplied by 100 to compute percentage of shade.

**Periodic-record station** is a site where stage, discharge, sediment, chemical, physical, or other hydrologic measurements are made one or more times during a year but at a frequency insufficient to develop a daily record.

**Periphyton** is the assemblage of microorganisms attached to and living upon submerged solid surfaces. Although primarily consisting of algae, they also include bacteria, fungi, protozoa, rotifers, and other small organisms. Periphyton are useful indicators of water quality.

**Pesticides** are chemical compounds used to control undesirable organisms. Major categories of pesticides include insecticides, miticides, fungicides, herbicides, and rodenticides.

**pH** of water is the negative logarithm of the hydrogen-ion activity. Solutions with pH less than 7.0 standard units are termed "acidic," and solutions with a pH greater than 7.0 are termed "basic." Solutions with a pH of 7.0 are neutral. The presence and concentration of many dissolved chemical constituents found in water are affected, in part, by the hydrogen-ion activity of water. Biological processes including growth, distribution of organisms, and toxicity of the water to organisms also are affected, in part, by the hydrogen-ion activity of water.

**Phytoplankton** is the plant part of the plankton. They usually are microscopic, and their movement is subject to the water currents. Phytoplankton growth is dependent upon solar radiation and nutrient substances. Because they are able to incorporate as well as release materials to the surrounding water, the phytoplankton have a profound effect upon the quality of the water. They are the primary food producers in the aquatic environment and commonly are known as algae. (See also "Plankton")

**Picocurie (PC, pCi)** is one-trillionth ( $1 \times 10^{-12}$ ) of the amount of radioactive nuclide represented by a curie (Ci). A curie is the quantity of radioactive nuclide that yields  $3.7 \times 10^{10}$  radioactive disintegrations per second (dps). A pico-

curie yields 0.037 dps, or 2.22 dpm (disintegrations per minute).

**Plankton** is the community of suspended, floating, or weakly swimming organisms that live in the open water of lakes and rivers. Concentrations are expressed as a number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) of sample.

**Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)** are industrial chemicals that are mixtures of chlorinated biphenyl compounds having various percentages of chlorine. They are similar in structure to organochlorine insecticides.

**Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs)** are industrial chemicals that are mixtures of chlorinated naphthalene compounds. They have properties and applications similar to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and have been identified in commercial PCB preparations.

**Pool**, as used in this report, is a small part of a stream reach with little velocity, commonly with water deeper than surrounding areas.

**Primary productivity** is a measure of the rate at which new organic matter is formed and accumulated through photosynthetic and chemosynthetic activity of producer organisms (chiefly, green plants). The rate of primary production is estimated by measuring the amount of oxygen released (oxygen method) or the amount of carbon assimilated (carbon method) by the plants.

**Primary productivity (carbon method)** is expressed as milligrams of carbon per area per unit time [ $\text{mg C}/(\text{m}^2/\text{time})$ ] for periphyton and macrophytes or per volume [ $\text{mg C}/(\text{m}^3/\text{time})$ ] for phytoplankton. The carbon method defines the amount of carbon dioxide consumed as measured by radioactive carbon (carbon-14). The carbon-14 method is of greater sensitivity than the oxygen light- and dark-bottle method and is preferred for use with unenriched water samples. Unit time may be either the hour or day, depending on the incubation period. (See also "Primary productivity")

**Primary productivity (oxygen method)** is expressed as milligrams of oxygen per area per unit time [ $\text{mg O}/(\text{m}^2/\text{time})$ ] for periphyton and macrophytes or per volume [ $\text{mg O}/(\text{m}^3/\text{time})$ ] for phytoplankton. The oxygen method defines production and respiration rates as estimated from changes in the measured dissolved-oxygen concentration. The oxygen light- and dark-bottle method is preferred if the rate of primary production is sufficient for accurate measurements to be made within 24 hours. Unit time may be either the hour or day, depending on the incubation period. (See also "Primary productivity")

**Radioisotopes** are isotopic forms of elements that exhibit radioactivity. Isotopes are varieties of a chemical element

that differ in atomic weight but are very nearly alike in chemical properties. The difference arises because the atoms of the isotopic forms of an element differ in the number of neutrons in the nucleus; for example, ordinary chlorine is a mixture of isotopes having atomic weights of 35 and 37, and the natural mixture has an atomic weight of about 35.453. Many of the elements similarly exist as mixtures of isotopes, and a great many new isotopes have been produced in the operation of nuclear devices such as the cyclotron. There are 275 isotopes of the 81 stable elements, in addition to more than 800 radioactive isotopes.

**Reach**, as used in this report, is a length of stream that is chosen to represent a uniform set of physical, chemical, and biological conditions within a segment. It is the principal sampling unit for collecting physical, chemical, and biological data.

**Recoverable** is the amount of a given constituent that is in solution after a representative water sample has been extracted or digested. Complete recovery is not achieved by the extraction or digestion and thus the determination represents something less than 95 percent of the constituent present in the sample. To achieve comparability of analytical data, equivalent extraction or digestion procedures are required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different procedures are likely to produce different analytical results. (See also "Bed material")

**Recurrence interval**, also referred to as return period, is the average time, usually expressed in years, between occurrences of hydrologic events of a specified type (such as exceedances of a specified high flow or nonexceedance of a specified low flow). The terms "return period" and "recurrence interval" do not imply regular cyclic occurrence. The actual times between occurrences vary randomly, with most of the times being less than the average and a few being substantially greater than the average. For example, the 100-year flood is the flow rate that is exceeded by the annual maximum peak flow at intervals whose average length is 100 years (that is, once in 100 years, on average); almost two-thirds of all exceedances of the 100-year flood occur less than 100 years after the previous exceedance, half occur less than 70 years after the previous exceedance, and about one-eighth occur more than 200 years after the previous exceedance. Similarly, the 7-day, 10-year low flow ( $7Q_{10}$ ) is the flow rate below which the annual minimum 7-day-mean flow dips at intervals whose average length is 10 years (that is, once in 10 years, on average); almost two-thirds of the nonexceedances of the  $7Q_{10}$  occur less than 10 years after the previous nonexceedance, half occur less than 7 years after, and about one-eighth occur more than 20 years after the previous nonexceedance. The recurrence interval for annual events is the reciprocal of the annual probability of occurrence. Thus, the 100-year flood has a 1-percent chance of

being exceeded by the maximum peak flow in any year, and there is a 10-percent chance in any year that the annual minimum 7-day-mean flow will be less than the  $7Q_{10}$ .

**Replicate samples** are a group of samples collected in a manner such that the samples are thought to be essentially identical in composition.

**Return period** (See "Recurrence interval")

**Riffle**, as used in this report, is a shallow part of the stream where water flows swiftly over completely or partially submerged obstructions to produce surface agitation.

**River mileage** is the curvilinear distance, in miles, measured upstream from the mouth along the meandering path of a stream channel in accordance with Bulletin No. 14 (October 1968) of the Water Resources Council and typically is used to denote location along a river.

**Run**, as used in this report, is a relatively shallow part of a stream with moderate velocity and little or no surface turbulence.

**Runoff** is the quantity of water that is discharged ("runs off") from a drainage basin during a given time period. Runoff data may be presented as volumes in acre-feet, as mean discharges per unit of drainage area in cubic feet per second per square mile, or as depths of water on the drainage basin in inches. (See also "Annual runoff")

**Salinity** is the total quantity of dissolved salts, measured by weight in parts per thousand. Values in this report are calculated from specific conductance and temperature. Seawater has an average salinity of about 35 parts per thousand (for additional information, refer to: Miller, R.L., Bradford, W.L., and Peters, N.E., 1988, Specific conductance: theoretical considerations and application to analytical quality control: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 2311, 16 p.)

**Sea level**, as used in this report, refers to one of the two commonly used national vertical datums (NGVD 1929 or NAVD 1988). See separate entries for definitions of these datums.

**Sediment** is solid material that originates mostly from disintegrated rocks; when transported by, suspended in, or deposited from water, it is referred to as "fluvial sediment." Sediment includes chemical and biochemical precipitates and decomposed organic material, such as humus. The quantity, characteristics, and cause of the occurrence of sediment in streams are affected by environmental and land-use factors. Some major factors are topography, soil characteristics, land cover, and depth and intensity of precipitation.

**Sensible heat flux** (often used interchangeably with latent sensible heat-flux density) is the amount of heat energy that moves by turbulent transport through the air across a specified cross-sectional area per unit time and goes to heating (cooling) the air. Usually expressed in watts per square meter.

**Seven-day, 10-year low flow** ( $7Q_{10}$ ) is the discharge below which the annual 7-day minimum flow falls in 1 year out of 10 on the long-term average. The recurrence interval of the  $7Q_{10}$  is 10 years; the chance that the annual 7-day minimum flow will be less than the  $7Q_{10}$  is 10 percent in any given year. (See also "Annual 7-day minimum" and "Recurrence interval")

**Shelves**, as used in this report, are streambank features extending nearly horizontally from the flood plain to the lower limit of persistent woody vegetation.

**Sodium adsorption ratio** (SAR) is the expression of relative activity of sodium ions in exchange reactions within soil and is an index of sodium or alkali hazard to the soil. Sodium hazard in water is an index that can be used to evaluate the suitability of water for irrigating crops.

**Soil heat flux** (often used interchangeably with soil heat-flux density) is the amount of heat energy that moves by conduction across a specified cross-sectional area of soil per unit time and goes to heating (or cooling) the soil. Usually expressed in watts per square meter.

**Soil-water content** is the water lost from the soil upon drying to constant mass at 105 °C; expressed either as mass of water per unit mass of dry soil or as the volume of water per unit bulk volume of soil.

**Specific electrical conductance (conductivity)** is a measure of the capacity of water (or other media) to conduct an electrical current. It is expressed in microsiemens per centimeter at 25 °C. Specific electrical conductance is a function of the types and quantity of dissolved substances in water and can be used for approximating the dissolved-solids content of the water. Commonly, the concentration of dissolved solids (in milligrams per liter) is from 55 to 75 percent of the specific conductance (in microsiemens). This relation is not constant from stream to stream, and it may vary in the same source with changes in the composition of the water.

**Stable isotope ratio** (per MIL) is a unit expressing the ratio of the abundance of two radioactive isotopes. Isotope ratios are used in hydrologic studies to determine the age or source of specific water, to evaluate mixing of different water, as an aid in determining reaction rates, and other chemical or hydrologic processes.

**Stage** (See "Gage height")

**Stage-discharge relation** is the relation between the water-surface elevation, termed stage (gage height), and the volume of water flowing in a channel per unit time.

**Streamflow** is the discharge that occurs in a natural channel. Although the term "discharge" can be applied to the flow of a canal, the word "streamflow" uniquely describes the discharge in a surface stream course. The term "streamflow" is more general than "runoff" as streamflow may be applied to discharge whether or not it is affected by diversion or regulation.

**Substrate** is the physical surface upon which an organism lives.

**Substrate embeddedness class** is a visual estimate of riffle streambed substrate larger than gravel that is surrounded or covered by fine sediment (<2 mm, sand or finer). Below are the class categories expressed as the percentage covered by fine sediment:

0	no gravel or larger substrate	3	26-50 percent
1	> 75 percent	4	5-25 percent
2	51-75 percent	5	< 5 percent

**Surface area of a lake** is that area (acres) encompassed by the boundary of the lake as shown on USGS topographic maps, or other available maps or photographs. Because surface area changes with lake stage, surface areas listed in this report represent those determined for the stage at the time the maps or photographs were obtained.

**Surficial bed material** is the upper surface (0.1 to 0.2 foot) of the bed material that is sampled using U.S. Series Bed-Material Samplers.

**Surrogate** is an analyte that behaves similarly to a target analyte, but that is highly unlikely to occur in a sample. A surrogate is added to a sample in known amounts before extraction and is measured with the same laboratory procedures used to measure the target analyte. Its purpose is to monitor method performance for an individual sample.

**Suspended** is the amount (concentration) of undissolved material in a water-sediment mixture. Most commonly refers to that material retained on a 0.45-micrometer filter.

**Suspended, recoverable** is the amount of a given constituent that is in solution after the part of a representative water-suspended sediment sample that is retained on a 0.45-micrometer filter has been extracted or digested. Complete recovery is not achieved by the extraction or digestion procedures and thus the determination represents

less than 95 percent of the constituent present in the sample. To achieve comparability of analytical data, equivalent extraction or digestion procedures are required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different procedures are likely to produce different analytical results. (See also "Suspended")

**Suspended sediment** is sediment carried in suspension by the turbulent components of the fluid or by the Brownian movement (a law of physics). (See also "Sediment")

**Suspended-sediment concentration** is the velocity-weighted concentration of suspended sediment in the sampled zone (from the water surface to a point approximately 0.3 foot above the bed) expressed as milligrams of dry sediment per liter of water-sediment mixture (mg/L). The analytical technique uses the mass of all of the sediment and the net weight of the water-sediment mixture in a sample to compute the suspended-sediment concentration. (See also "Sediment" and "Suspended sediment")

**Suspended-sediment discharge** (tons/d) is the rate of sediment transport, as measured by dry mass or volume, that passes a cross section in a given time. It is calculated in units of tons per day as follows: concentration (mg/L) x discharge (ft<sup>3</sup>/s) x 0.0027. (See also "Sediment," "Suspended sediment," and "Suspended-sediment concentration")

**Suspended-sediment load** is a general term that refers to a given characteristic of the material in suspension that passes a point during a specified period of time. The term needs to be qualified, such as "annual suspended-sediment load" or "sand-size suspended-sediment load," and so on. It is not synonymous with either suspended-sediment discharge or concentration. (See also "Sediment")

**Suspended solids, total residue at 105 °C concentration** is the concentration of inorganic and organic material retained on a filter, expressed as milligrams of dry material per liter of water (mg/L). An aliquot of the sample is used for this analysis.

**Suspended, total** is the total amount of a given constituent in the part of a water-sediment sample that is retained on a 0.45-micrometer membrane filter. This term is used only when the analytical procedure assures measurement of at least 95 percent of the constituent determined. Knowledge of the expected form of the constituent in the sample, as well as the analytical methodology used, is required to determine when the results should be reported as "suspended, total." Determinations of "suspended, total" constituents are made either by directly analyzing portions of the suspended material collected on the filter or, more commonly, by difference, on the basis of determinations of

(1) dissolved and (2) total concentrations of the constituent. (See also "Suspended")

**Synoptic studies** are short-term investigations of specific water-quality conditions during selected seasonal or hydrologic periods to provide improved spatial resolution for critical water-quality conditions. For the period and conditions sampled, they assess the spatial distribution of selected water-quality conditions in relation to causative factors, such as land use and contaminant sources.

**Taxa (Species) richness** is the number of species (taxa) present in a defined area or sampling unit.

**Taxonomy** is the division of biology concerned with the classification and naming of organisms. The classification of organisms is based upon a hierarchical scheme beginning with Kingdom and ending with Species at the base. The higher the classification level, the fewer features the organisms have in common. For example, the taxonomy of a particular mayfly, *Hexagenia limbata*, is the following:

Kingdom:	Animal
Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Ephemeroptera
Family:	Ephemeridae
Genus:	<i>Hexagenia</i>
Species:	<i>Hexagenia limbata</i>

**Thalweg** is the line formed by connecting points of minimum streambed elevation (deepest part of the channel).

**Thermograph** is an instrument that continuously records variations of temperature on a chart. The more general term "temperature recorder" is used in the table descriptions and refers to any instrument that records temperature whether on a chart, a tape, or any other medium.

**Time-weighted average** is computed by multiplying the number of days in the sampling period by the concentrations of individual constituents for the corresponding period and dividing the sum of the products by the total number of days. A time-weighted average represents the composition of water resulting from the mixing of flow proportionally to the duration of the concentration.

**Tons per acre-foot** (T/acre-ft) is the dry mass (tons) of a constituent per unit volume (acre-foot) of water. It is computed by multiplying the concentration of the constituent, in milligrams per liter, by 0.00136.

**Tons per day** (T/DAY, tons/d) is a common chemical or sediment discharge unit. It is the quantity of a substance in solution, in suspension, or as bedload that passes a stream

section during a 24-hour period. It is equivalent to 2,000 pounds per day, or 0.9072 metric ton per day.

**Total** is the amount of a given constituent in a representative whole-water (unfiltered) sample, regardless of the constituent's physical or chemical form. This term is used only when the analytical procedure assures measurement of at least 95 percent of the constituent present in both the dissolved and suspended phases of the sample. A knowledge of the expected form of the constituent in the sample, as well as the analytical methodology used, is required to judge when the results should be reported as "total." (Note that the word "total" does double duty here, indicating both that the sample consists of a water-suspended sediment mixture and that the analytical method determined at least 95 percent of the constituent in the sample.)

**Total coliform bacteria** are a particular group of bacteria that are used as indicators of possible sewage pollution. This group includes coliforms that inhabit the intestine of warmblooded animals and those that inhabit soils. They are characterized as aerobic or facultative anaerobic, gram-negative, nonspore-forming, rod-shaped bacteria that ferment lactose with gas formation within 48 hours at 35 °C. In the laboratory, these bacteria are defined as all the organisms that produce colonies with a golden-green metallic sheen within 24 hours when incubated at 35 °C plus or minus 1.0 °C on M-Endo medium (nutrient medium for bacterial growth). Their concentrations are expressed as number of colonies per 100 milliliters of sample. (See also "Bacteria")

**Total discharge** is the quantity of a given constituent, measured as dry mass or volume, that passes a stream cross section per unit of time. When referring to constituents other than water, this term needs to be qualified, such as "total sediment discharge," "total chloride discharge," and so on.

**Total in bottom material** is the amount of a given constituent in a representative sample of bottom material. This term is used only when the analytical procedure assures measurement of at least 95 percent of the constituent determined. A knowledge of the expected form of the constituent in the sample, as well as the analytical methodology used, is required to judge when the results should be reported as "total in bottom material."

**Total length** (fish) is the straight-line distance from the anterior point of a fish specimen's snout, with the mouth closed, to the posterior end of the caudal (tail) fin, with the lobes of the caudal fin squeezed together.

**Total load** refers to all of a constituent in transport. When referring to sediment, it includes suspended load plus bed load.

**Total organism count** is the number of organisms collected and enumerated in any particular sample. (See also "Organism count/volume")

**Total recoverable** is the amount of a given constituent in a whole-water sample after a sample has been digested by a method (usually using a dilute acid solution) that results in dissolution of only readily soluble substances. Complete dissolution of all particulate matter is not achieved by the digestion treatment, and thus the determination represents something less than the "total" amount (that is, less than 95 percent) of the constituent present in the dissolved and suspended phases of the sample. To achieve comparability of analytical data for whole-water samples, equivalent digestion procedures are required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different digestion procedures may produce different analytical results.

**Total sediment discharge** is the mass of suspended-sediment plus bed-load transport, measured as dry weight, that passes a cross section in a given time. It is a rate and is reported as tons per day. (See also "Bedload," "Bedload discharge," "Sediment," "Suspended sediment," and "Suspended-sediment concentration")

**Total sediment load** or **total load** is the sediment in transport as bedload and suspended-sediment load. The term may be qualified, such as "annual suspended-sediment load" or "sand-size suspended-sediment load," and so on. It differs from total sediment discharge in that load refers to the material, whereas discharge refers to the quantity of material, expressed in units of mass per unit time. (See also "Sediment," "Suspended-sediment load," and "Total load")

**Transect**, as used in this report, is a line across a stream perpendicular to the flow and along which measurements are taken, so that morphological and flow characteristics along the line are described from bank to bank. Unlike a cross section, no attempt is made to determine known elevation points along the line.

**Turbidity** is an expression of the optical properties of a liquid that causes light rays to be scattered and absorbed rather than transmitted in straight lines through water. Turbidity, which can make water appear cloudy or muddy, is caused by the presence of suspended and dissolved matter, such as clay, silt, finely divided organic matter, plankton and other microscopic organisms, organic acids, and dyes (ASTM International, 2003, D1889-00 Standard test method for turbidity of water, *in* ASTM International, Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Water and Environmental Technology, v. 11.01: West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, 6 p.). The color of water, whether resulting from dissolved compounds or suspended particles, can affect a turbidity measurement. To ensure that USGS turbidity data can be understood and interpreted properly within the con-

text of the instrument used and site conditions encountered, data from each instrument type are stored and reported in the National Water Information System (NWIS) using parameter codes and measurement reporting units that are specific to the instrument type, with specific instruments designated by the method code. The respective measurement units, many of which also are in use internationally, fall into two categories: (1) the designations NTU, NTRU, BU, AU, and NTMU signify the use of a broad spectrum incident light in the wavelength range of 400-680 nanometers (nm), but having different light detection configurations; (2) The designations FNU, FNRU, FBU, FAU, and FNMU generally signify an incident light in the range between 780-900 nm, also with varying light detection configurations. These reporting units are equivalent when measuring a calibration solution (for example, formazin or polymer beads), but their respective instruments may not produce equivalent results for environmental samples. Specific reporting units are as follows:

**NTU** (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): white or broadband [400-680 nm] light source, 90 degree detection angle, one detector.

**NTRU** (Nephelometric Turbidity Ratio Units): white or broadband [400-680 nm] light source, 90 degree detection angle, multiple detectors with ratio compensation.

**BU** (Backscatter Units): white or broadband [400-680 nm] light source,  $30 \pm 15$  degree detection angle (backscatter).

**AU** (Attenuation Units): white or broadband [400-680 nm] light source, 180 degree detection angle (attenuation).

**NTMU** (Nephelometric Turbidity Multibeam Units): white or broadband [400-680 nm] light source, multiple light sources, detectors at 90 degrees and possibly other angles to each beam.

**FNU** (Formazin Nephelometric Units): near infrared [780-900 nm] or monochrome light source, 90 degree detection angle, one detector.

**FNRU** (Formazin Nephelometric Ratio Units): near infrared [780-900 nm] or monochrome light source, 90 degree detection angle, multiple detectors, ratio compensation.

**FBU** (Formazin Backscatter Units): near infrared [780-900 nm] or monochrome light source,  $30 \pm 15$  degree detection angle.

**FAU** (Formazin Attenuation Units): near infrared [780-900 nm] light source, 180 degree detection angle.

**FNMU** (Formazin Nephelometric Multibeam Units): near infrared [780-900 nm] or monochrome light source, multiple light sources, detectors at 90 degrees and possibly other angles to each beam.

For more information please see [http://water.usgs.gov/owq/FieldManual/Chapter6/6.7\\_contents.html](http://water.usgs.gov/owq/FieldManual/Chapter6/6.7_contents.html).

**Ultraviolet (UV) absorbance (absorption)** at 254 or 280 nanometers is a measure of the aggregate concentration of the mixture of UV absorbing organic materials dissolved in the analyzed water, such as lignin, tannin, humic substances, and various aromatic compounds. UV absorbance (absorption) at 254 or 280 nanometers is measured in UV absorption units per centimeter of path length of UV light through a sample.

**Unconfined aquifer** is an aquifer whose upper surface is a water table free to fluctuate under atmospheric pressure. (See "Water-table aquifer")

**Unfiltered** pertains to the constituents in an unfiltered, representative water-suspended sediment sample.

**Unfiltered, recoverable** is the amount of a given constituent in a representative water-suspended sediment sample that has been extracted or digested. Complete recovery is not achieved by the extraction or digestion treatment and thus the determination represents less than 95 percent of the constituent present in the sample. To achieve comparability of analytical data, equivalent extraction or digestion procedures are required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different procedures are likely to produce different analytical results.

**Vertical datum** (See "Datum")

**Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** are organic compounds that can be isolated from the water phase of a sample by purging the water sample with inert gas, such as helium, and, subsequently, analyzed by gas chromatography. Many VOCs are human-made chemicals that are used and produced in the manufacture of paints, adhesives, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, and refrigerants. They often are components of fuels, solvents, hydraulic fluids, paint thinners, and dry-cleaning agents commonly used in urban settings. VOC contamination of drinking-water supplies is a human-health concern because many are toxic and are known or suspected human carcinogens.

**Water table** is that surface in a ground-water body at which the water pressure is equal to the atmospheric pressure.

**Water-table aquifer** is an unconfined aquifer within which the water table is found.

**Water year** in USGS reports dealing with surface-water supply is the 12-month period October 1 through September 30. The water year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends and which includes 9 of the 12 months. Thus, the year ending September 30, 2002, is called the “2002 water year.”

**Watershed** (See “Drainage basin”)

**WDR** is used as an abbreviation for “Water-Data Report” in the REVISED RECORDS paragraph to refer to State annual hydrologic-data reports. (WRD was used as an abbreviation for “Water-Resources Data” in reports published prior to 1976.)

**Weighted average** is used in this report to indicate discharge-weighted average. It is computed by multiplying the discharge for a sampling period by the concentrations of individual constituents for the corresponding period and dividing the sum of the products by the sum of the discharges. A discharge-weighted average approximates the composition of water that would be found in a reservoir

containing all the water passing a given location during the water year after thorough mixing in the reservoir.

**Wet mass** is the mass of living matter plus contained water. (See also “Biomass” and “Dry mass”)

**Wet weight** refers to the weight of animal tissue or other substance including its contained water. (See also “Dry weight”)

**WSP** is used as an acronym for “Water-Supply Paper” in reference to previously published reports.

**Zooplankton** is the animal part of the plankton. Zooplankton are capable of extensive movements within the water column and often are large enough to be seen with the unaided eye. Zooplankton are secondary consumers feeding upon bacteria, phytoplankton, and detritus. Because they are the grazers in the aquatic environment, the zooplankton are a vital part of the aquatic food web. The zooplankton community is dominated by small crustaceans and rotifers. (See also “Plankton”)

## PUBLICATIONS ON TECHNIQUES OF WATER-RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS

The USGS publishes a series of manuals, the Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations, describing procedures for planning and conducting specialized work in water-resources investigations. The material is grouped under major subject headings called books and is further divided into sections and chapters. For example, section A of book 3 (Applications of Hydraulics) pertains to surface water. The chapter, the unit of publication, is limited to a narrow field of subject matter. This format permits flexibility in revision and publication as the need arises.

Reports in the Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations series, which are listed below, are online at <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/twri/>. Printed copies are for sale by the USGS, Information Services, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225 (authorized agent of the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office), telephone 1-888-ASK-USGS. Please telephone 1-888-ASK-USGS for current prices, and refer to the title, book number, chapter number, and mention the "U.S. Geological Survey Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations." Products can then be ordered by telephone, or online at <http://www.usgs.gov/sales.html>, or by FAX to (303)236-469 of an order form available online at <http://mac.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/forms/>. Prepayment by major credit card or by a check or money order payable to the "U.S. Geological Survey" is required.

### Book 1. Collection of Water Data by Direct Measurement

#### Section D. Water Quality

- 1-D1. *Water temperature—Influential factors, field measurement, and data presentation*, by H.H. Stevens, Jr., J.F. Ficke, and G.F. Smoot: USGS-TWRI book 1, chap. D1. 1975. 65 p.
- 1-D2. *Guidelines for collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents*, by W.W. Wood: USGS-TWRI book 1, chap. D2. 1976. 24 p.

### Book 2. Collection of Environmental Data

#### Section D. Surface Geophysical Methods

- 2-D1. *Application of surface geophysics to ground-water investigations*, by A.A.R. Zohdy, G.P. Eaton, and D.R. Mabey: USGS-TWRI book 2, chap. D1. 1974. 116 p.

- 2-D2. *Application of seismic-refraction techniques to hydrologic studies*, by F.P. Haeni: USGS-TWRI book 2, chap. D2. 1988. 86 p.

#### Section E. Subsurface Geophysical Methods

- 2-E1. *Application of borehole geophysics to water-resources investigations*, by W.S. Keys and L.M. MacCary: USGS-TWRI book 2, chap. E1. 1971. 126 p.
- 2-E2. *Borehole geophysics applied to ground-water investigations*, by W.S. Keys: USGS-TWRI book 2, chap. E2. 1990. 150 p.

#### Section F. Drilling and Sampling Methods

- 2-F1. *Application of drilling, coring, and sampling techniques to test holes and wells*, by Eugene Shuter and W.E. Teasdale: USGS-TWRI book 2, chap. F1. 1989. 97 p.

### Book 3. Applications of Hydraulics

#### Section A. Surface-Water Techniques

- 3-A1. *General field and office procedures for indirect discharge measurements*, by M.A. Benson and Tate Dalrymple: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A1. 1967. 30 p.
- 3-A2. *Measurement of peak discharge by the slope-area method*, by Tate Dalrymple and M.A. Benson: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A2. 1967. 12 p.
- 3-A3. *Measurement of peak discharge at culverts by indirect methods*, by G.L. Bodhaine: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A3. 1968. 60 p.
- 3-A4. *Measurement of peak discharge at width contractions by indirect methods*, by H.F. Matthai: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A4. 1967. 44 p.
- 3-A5. *Measurement of peak discharge at dams by indirect methods*, by Harry Hulsing: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A5. 1967. 29 p.
- 3-A6. *General procedure for gaging streams*, by R.W. Carter and Jacob Davidian: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A6. 1968. 13 p.
- 3-A7. *Stage measurement at gaging stations*, by T.J. Buchanan and W.P. Somers: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A7. 1968. 28 p.
- 3-A8. *Discharge measurements at gaging stations*, by T.J. Buchanan and W.P. Somers: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A8. 1969. 65 p.

- 3-A9. *Measurement of time of travel in streams by dye tracing*, by F.A. Kilpatrick and J.F. Wilson, Jr.: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A9. 1989. 27 p.
- 3-A10. *Discharge ratings at gaging stations*, by E.J. Kennedy: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A10. 1984. 59 p.
- 3-A11. *Measurement of discharge by the moving-boat method*, by G.F. Smoot and C.E. Novak: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A11. 1969. 22 p.
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- 3-A13. *Computation of continuous records of streamflow*, by E.J. Kennedy: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A13. 1983. 53 p.
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## SURFACE-WATER-DISCHARGE AND SURFACE-WATER-QUALITY RECORDS

## Remarks Codes

The following remark codes may appear with the water-quality data in this station:

**PRINTED OUTPUT****REMARK**

E	Estimated Value.
>	Actual value is known to be greater than the value shown.
<	Actual value is known to be less than the value shown.



Gage on an island  
Sebasticook River at Pittsfield, Maine (01049000)  
April 2005