

The pages in this document were taken from the "Corsica River Watershed Characterization" published in October 2003. The entire document can be found at [http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/bays/cr\\_char.pdf](http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/bays/cr_char.pdf).

# Corsica River Watershed Characterization

**Excerpt Showing an Example of Water  
Quality Standards Documentation**

**October 2003**

## WATER QUALITY

Water quality is in many respects the driving condition in the health of Maryland's streams. Historically, efforts to protect water quality have focused on chemical water quality. More recently, additional factors are being considered like measurements of selected biological conditions and physical conditions that affect habitat quality in streams and estuaries. This developmental path is reflected in the ways in which streams have been monitored, the types of data gathered, and the regulatory approach taken.

### Water Quality Standards and Designated Uses

All streams and other water bodies in Maryland are assigned a "designated use" in the Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR) 26.08.02.08, which is associated with a set of water quality criteria necessary to support that use. [Map 3 Designated Uses and Use Restrictions](#) depicts the distribution of surface waters in each category. (COMAR or MDE should be consulted for official regulatory information.)<sup>3,5</sup> The Corsica River Watershed is assigned two uses:

Use I: Water Contact Recreation, and Protection of Aquatic Life

- all waters not otherwise designated as Use II below.

Use II: Shellfish Harvesting Waters

- All estuarine portions of Corsica River except above Earl Cove