

VIII- E. Fisheries Habitat

Historically, the Batavia Kill was a thriving trout stream and popular stream to fish. While some still fish the Batavia Kill, it is less popular. Although fishing in general is less popular, the decline in use of the stream for this purpose reflects the decline of the trout population, which in turn reflects some immeasurable but cumulative decline in the stream's water quality and loss of various aspects of important habitats. These types of losses can include blockages of fish from their entry to large tributaries by culverts placed too high or dams, the loss of spawning habitats from stream overwidening, or the heating of the stream from lack of vegetative cover.



The GCSWCD believes that the Batavia Kill is on the road to recovery in large part because of the focus that is now brought to bear on the stream through this SMP and through the restoration projects in the watershed. Most importantly, the implementation of the collective recommendations in Section VIII of this this Plan should reestablish the once thriving fishery.

NO. FH - 01			
Recommendation	NYSDEC should complete their evaluation of water withdrawal impacts from snow making, and develop formal guidance for stream managers.		
Priority		Task Leader	NYSDEC
Funding Sources	NYSDEC	Task Partners	GCSWCD NYCDEP Trout Unlimited/Other NGO's
Estimated Cost	not determined	Schedule	
Notes	<p>For many years, NYSDEC has been evaluating the fisheries impact of water withdrawals for snow making and other activities. The GCSWCD recommends that formal guidance is needed on this importance issue.</p> <p>The GCSWCD also recommends that NYSDEC expand their investigations to include evaluation of summer low flow impacts on fisheries.</p>		

NO. FH - 02			
Recommendation	The GCSWCD should continue to support the NYC DEP/USGS effort to evaluate fisheries benefits associated with restoration projects.		
Priority		Task Leader	USGS/NYCDEP
Funding Sources	NYCDEP	Task Partners	GCSWCD
Estimated Cost	unknown	Schedule	on-going
Notes	The GCSWCD should continue to provide technical support to assist the USGS and NYC DEP in conducting post-construction monitoring of fisheries habitat conditions at restoration project sites. Monitoring will confirm fisheries benefits.		

NO. FH - 03			
Recommendation	The GCSWCD, NYCDEP, USGS and NYSDEC should evaluate the need for completing a detailed fisheries habitat assessment on the Batavia Kill and specifically identify if there are manageable efforts (including a thermal study or the identification of cold water springs) that could be undertaken by volunteers through Trout Unlimited or the Greene County Federation of Sportsmen.		
Priority		Task Leader	NYCDEP
Funding Sources	NYCDEP USGS Trout Unlimited - grants	Task Partners	GCSWCD USGS NYSDEC Trout Unlimited GC Federation of Sportsmen
Estimated Cost	unknown	Schedule	to be determined
Notes	Phase I of the Batavia Kill did not include a detailed assessment of fisheries habitat conditions. More detailed recommendations regarding habitat improvement activities will require additional data on existing conditions		

NO. FH - 04			
Recommendation	Implement fisheries habitat improvement projects as may be identified by Trout Unlimited, NYSDEC, NYCDEP and others.		
Priority		Task Leader	GCSWCD
Funding Sources	NYSDEC NYCDEP Trout Unlimited - EAS grants USFWS - PFW Program	Task Partners	NYCDEP Trout Unlimited NYSDEC landowners / Sportsman's Clubs
Estimated Cost		Schedule	to be determined
Notes	Any number of fisheries habitat enhancement practices can be implemented. Examples may include riparian buffer establishment or Construction of cross vanes to promote pool structure in reaches that are otherwise stable but lack holding areas. Cross Vanes would replace past practice of constructing K-dam pool diggers		