



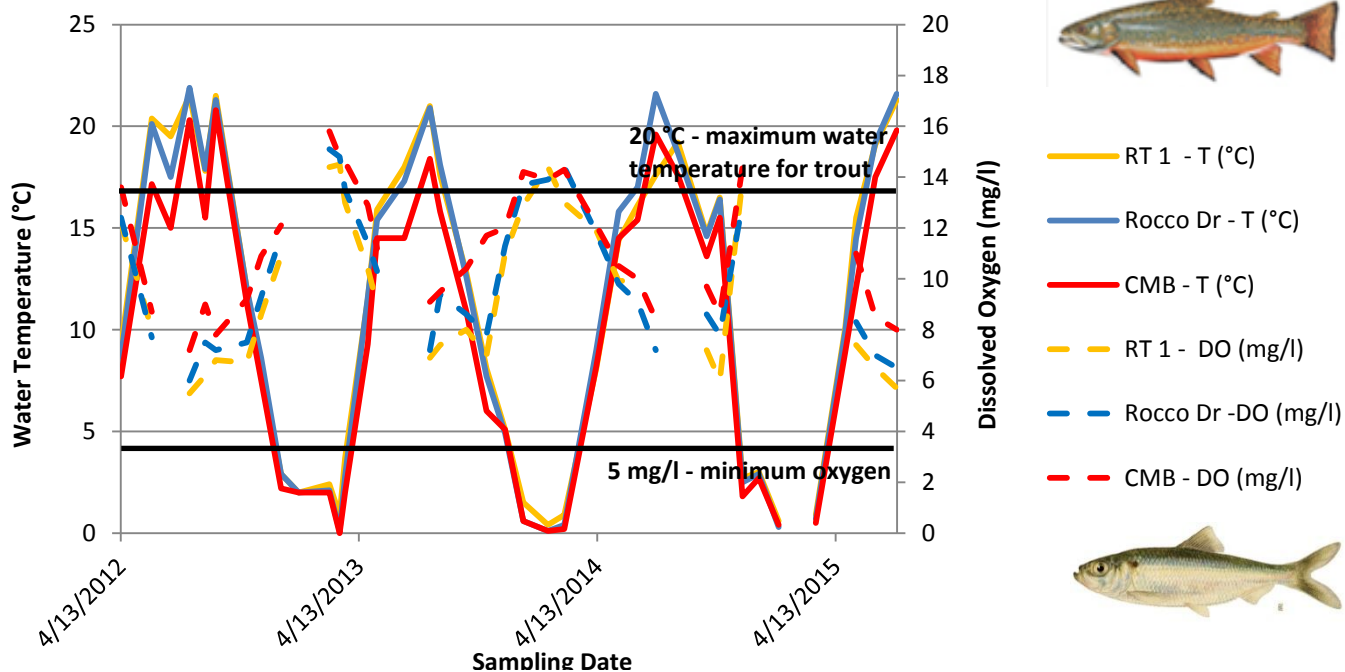
Niantic River Watershed Committee

2015 Water Quality Monitoring Summary

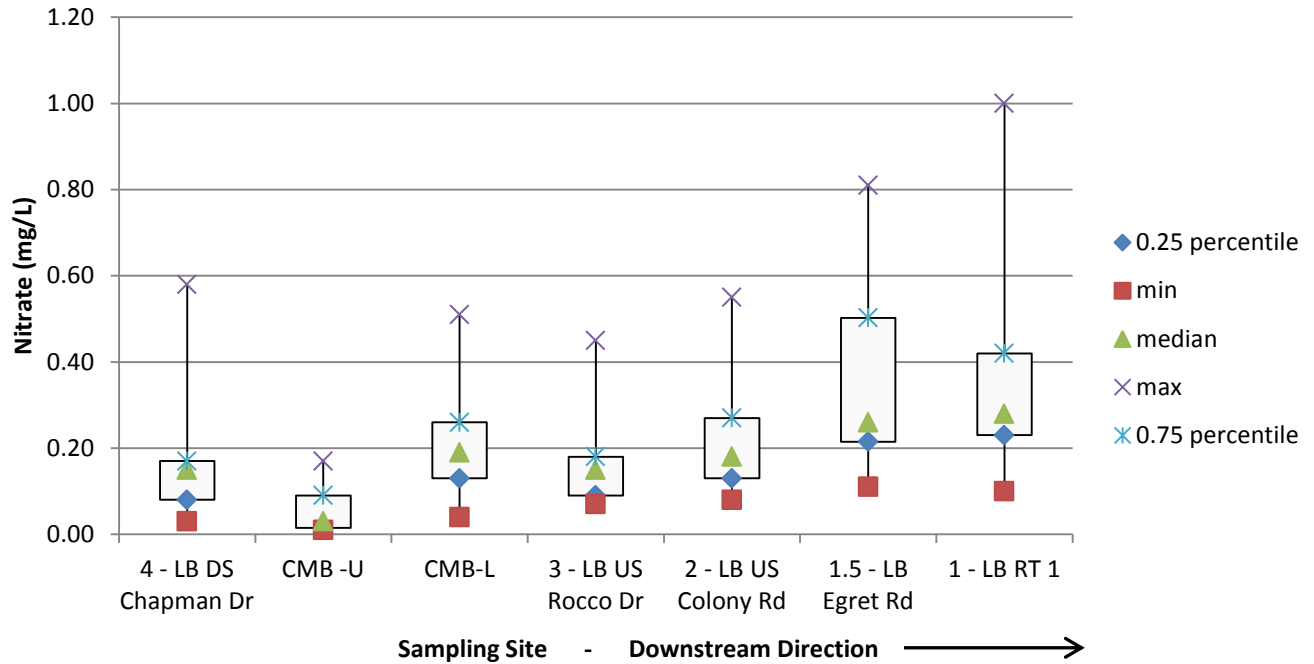
The Niantic River Watershed Committee’s Monitoring Subcommittee conducts water quality monitoring throughout the year. Volunteers collect monthly water quality data from sampling sites along Latimer and Cranberry Meadow Brooks in Montville and East Lyme, and Stony and Oil Mill Brooks in Waterford, including data on water temperature, dissolved oxygen levels, conductivity and pH. Volunteers also collect water samples which are tested for nitrate-nitrogen levels. Nitrate-nitrogen (N-NO₃) is a nutrient associated with the nutrient enrichment of estuaries like the Niantic River, and comes from diverse sources including fertilizers, manure and pet waste, leaky sewer pipes and septic systems and even the atmosphere!

In the fall, volunteers conduct macro-invertebrate sampling in streams throughout the Niantic River watershed, using a sampling protocol called River Bio-assessment for Volunteers, or RBV, which was developed by CT DEEP. Macro-invertebrates are insect larvae that spend their pupal stages in stream riffles. These insects are an important food source for aquatic animals, including fish. The absence or presence of certain types of macro-invertebrates, especially stoneflies, mayflies and caddisflies, can be used to provide a snapshot of the relative health of the stream ecosystem. Contact Watershed Coordinator Judy Rondeau at 860-887-4163 ext. 401 or judy.rondeau@comcast.net if you would like to volunteer.

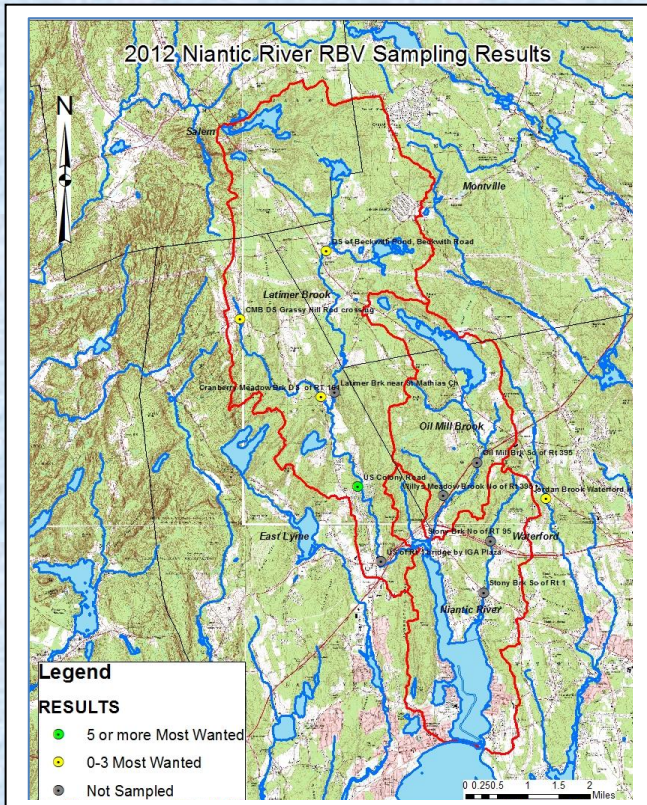
Latimer Brook Water Quality for Aquatic Habitat



Latimer Brook Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L) 1-27-14 to 7-15-15



N-NO3



Stream Temperature Monitoring

NRWC has installed stream temperature loggers downstream of a solar power project in East Lyme. Surface stormwater from the project will be discharged via an unnamed tributary to Cranberry Meadow Brook, a high quality, cold water trout stream. NRWC will review the logger data to determine if stormwater discharge is affecting the temperature of the stream.

