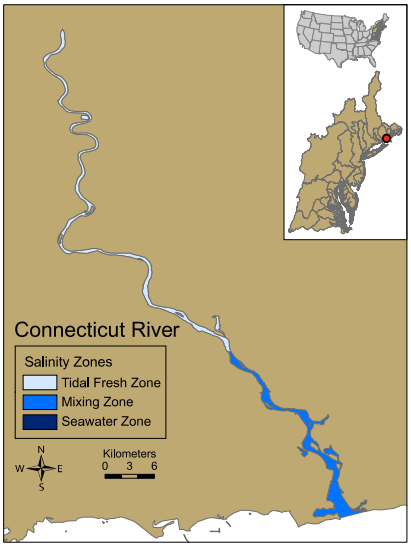
Connecticut River

SUMMARY

The Connecticut River's very low eutrophic condition is likely due to high flushing. Large loads of nitrogen and phosphorus enter the estuary and the river is an important source of nutrients to Long Island Sound. Dissolved oxygen is at healthy levels and there are no problems with macroalgae or toxic blooms. SAV has been absent for many years.

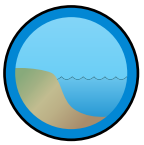


Influencing Factors

Any level nitrogen input and low to moderate susceptibility (good ability to dilute and flush nutrients).

Eutrophic Conditions *

Level of expression of eutrophic conditions is minimal.



Future Outlook

Nutrient related symptoms observed in the estuary are likely to improve substantially.

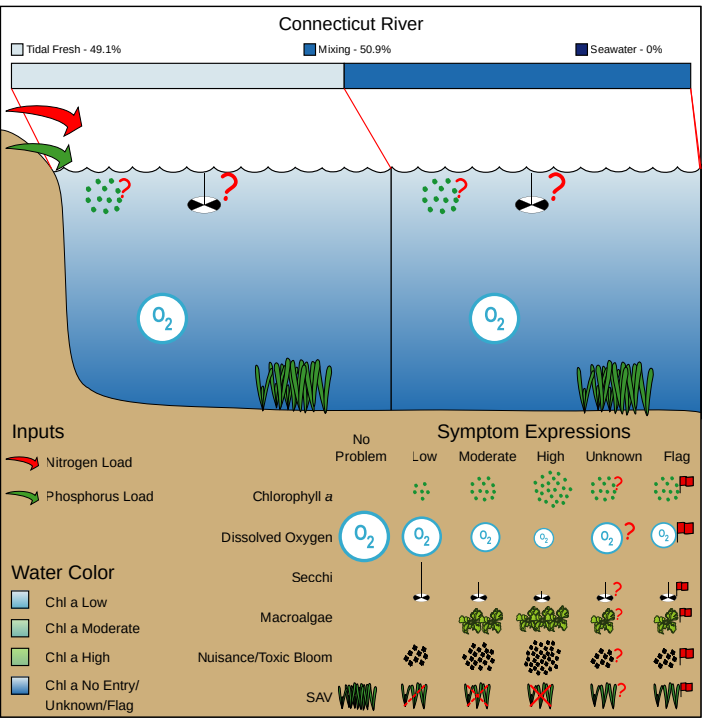
ASSETS Rating

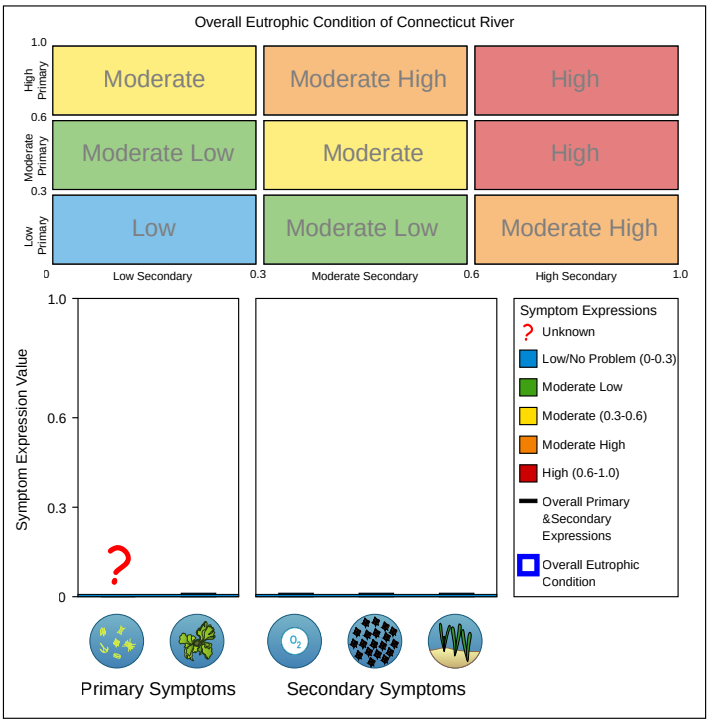
Assessment of Estuarine Trophic Status based on the three factors evaluated in NEEA.

Influence/eutro/future	Unknown	Low	Mod Low	Moderate	Mod High	High
ASSETS	Unknown	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad

Reliability and Confidence: ? Unknown; * Low; ** Moderate; *** High

EUTROPHIC CONDITION





WATERSHED AND ESTUARY CHARACTERISTICS

Estuary		Landuse / Population		Watershed Details / Input Loads	
Area (km^2)	42	Urban (km^2)	2,681 (9.5%)	Area (km^2)	28,891
Tidal fresh zone area (km^2)	21	Agriculture (km^2)	3,092 (10.9%)	Mean elevation (m)	351
Mixing zone area (km^2)	21	Forest (km^2)	22,077 (77.9%)	Max. elevation (m)	1,646
Saltwater zone area (km^2)	0	Wetland (km^2)	497 (1.8%)	Watershed: estuary ratio	687.9
Volume (1,000 x m^3)	93,240	Range (km^2)	10 (0%)	TSS (tonne y^{-1})	87,700
Depth (m)	2.22	Barren (km^2)	0 (0%)	TN (kg y^{-1})	15,562,000
Tide Height (m)	0.82	Total (km^2)	28,358 (0%)	TP (kg y^{-1})	1,790,000
Residence Time (d)	1	Population	2,189,287	TSS/est. area (tonne km^{-2} y^{-1})	2,088
		Popn: est. area ratio	52,126	TN/est. area (kg km^{-2} y^{-1})	370,524
				TP/est. area (kg km^{-2} y^{-1})	42,619