

CLASSIFICATIONS FOR WATERS IN NEW YORK CITY

Fresh surface waters in New York State can be classified as N, AA-Special (AA-S), A-Special (A-S), AA, A, B, C, and D. Class N has the highest standards for water quality and Class D has the lowest. All the fresh surface waters in New York City are Class AA, B, or C. Class AA waters are best suited as a source of water supply for drinking, for primary contact recreation (such as swimming), secondary contact recreation (boating), fishing, and are suitable for fish propagation and survival. The City's reservoirs (Jerome Park and Central Park Reservoirs) are classified AA. Class B waters are best suited for primary and secondary contact recreation and fishing, and are suitable for fish propagation and survival. Examples include the ponds and lakes in Prospect and Central Parks; Wolfe's Pond, Clove Lake, and Willowbrook Lake on Staten Island; and Meadow Lake, Willow Lake, and Kissena Lake in Queens. Class C waters are best used for fishing, and can be used for primary and secondary contact recreation; they are also suitable for fish propagation and survival. Hugenot Pond on Staten Island, Mill Creek in Queens, and portions of Tibbetts Brook in the Bronx are Class C.

Saline surface waters can be classified as SA, SB, SC, I, and SD; Class SA has the highest standards for water quality and Class SD has the lowest. Class SA waters are best suited for shell fishing, fishing, and primary and secondary contact recreation, and are suitable for fish propagation and survival. Much of the Atlantic Ocean around New York City is classified SA. Class SB waters are best used for fishing and primary and secondary contact recreation, and are suitable for fish propagation and survival. Jamaica Bay; much of Lower New York Bay, Raritan Bay, and Long Island Sound near Queens and the Bronx; and the Hudson River alongside the Bronx are Class SB. Class SC waters are best used for fishing and are suitable for fish propagation and survival. The water quality is suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation. Class SC waters in New York City include the tidal portions of Lemon Creek and inland portions of Fresh Kills and its tributaries on Staten Island. Class I waters are best suited for fishing and secondary contact recreation and are suitable for fish propagation and survival. The East River, Harlem River, and Hudson River from the Battery to the Bronx are Class I. Class SD waters are best used for fishing and are suitable for fish survival. This classification may be given to waters that cannot meet the requirements for primary and secondary contact recreation or fish propagation. Erie Basin, Gowanus Canal, Kill Van Kull, and much of the Arthur Kill are all SD waters.