

South Branch Baker River

Wentworth, NH

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Station: **06-SBR**

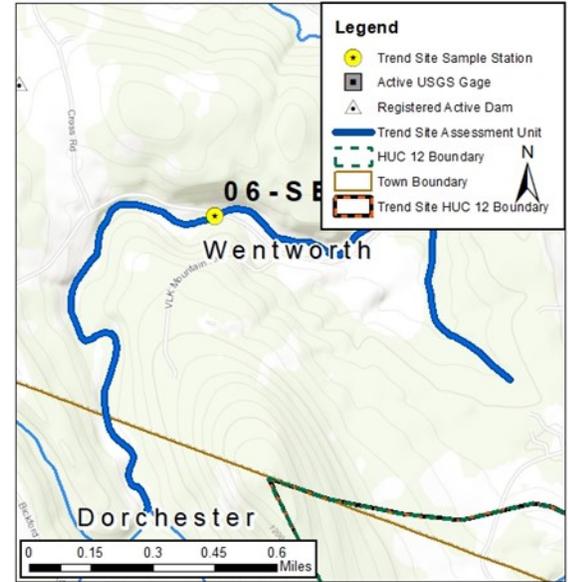
Current reporting period: **2012-2016**

RM-32
Start year: **2010**

Water Quality Summary (Data from May - September)

Parameter	Trend	Current Condition	Overall Rating
Specific Conductance	⊗	Intermediate	⊗
Total Phosphorus	⊗	Intermediate	⊗
Total Nitrogen	⊗	Low	⊗
pH	⊗	High	⊗
Invertebrates	⊗	Good	⊗
Temperature	⊗	⊗	⊗

⊗ - no or limited data. For Current Condition: High > 75th percentile, Intermediate = 25th-75th percentile, Low < 25th percentile of statewide conditions. Overall rating requires trend analysis and current condition. Shaded cells indicate that conditions are not as good as expected.



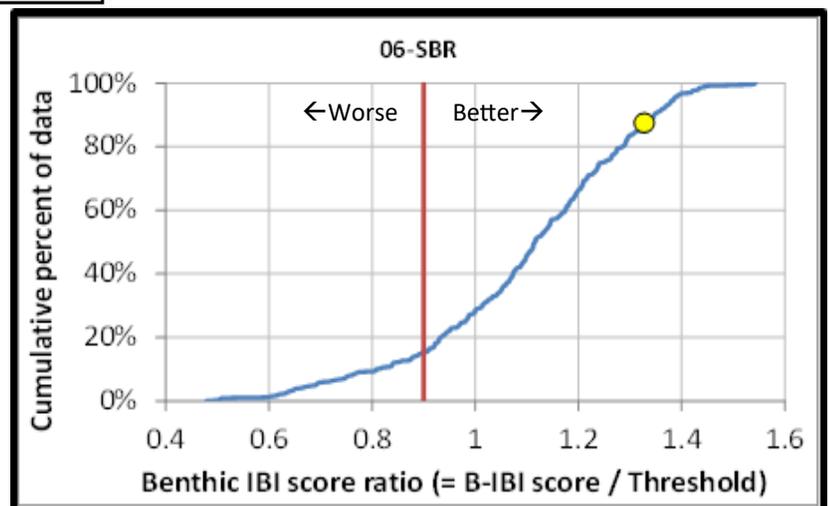
Sample station characteristics

Assessment unit	NHRIV700010304-12
Latitude	43.8187
Longitude	-71.9305
Drainage area (Sq. Mi.)	31
Elevation (FT)	793
Development category	Low
Drainage area size category	Medium
Coldwater fish probability	91%
Fish community type	TRANSITIONAL
8 digit hydrologic unit code	01070001

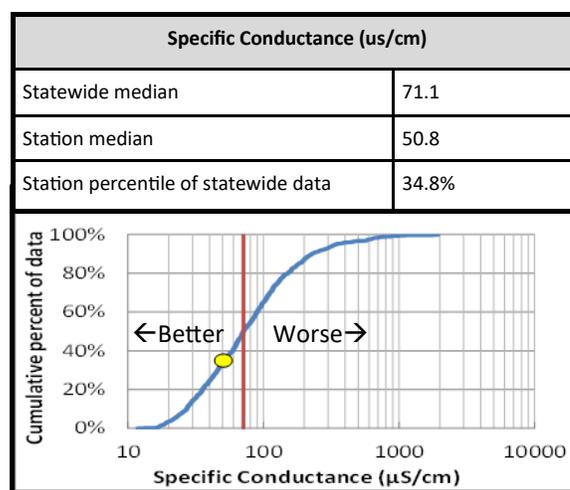
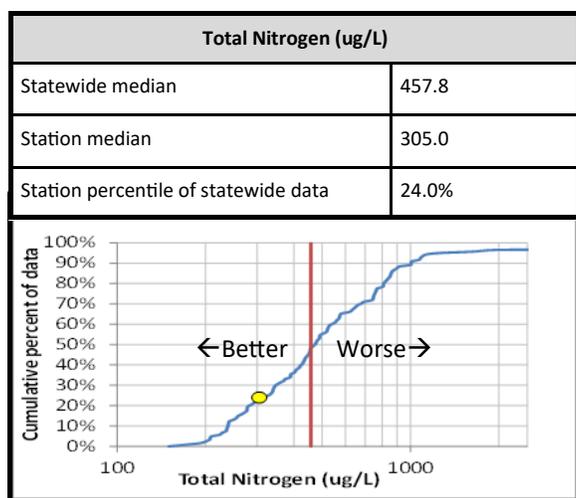
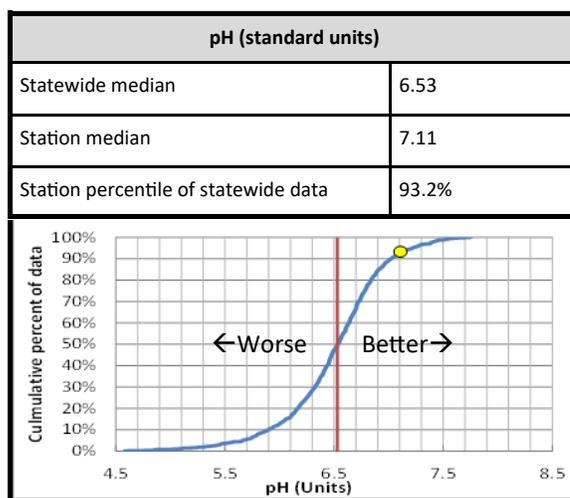
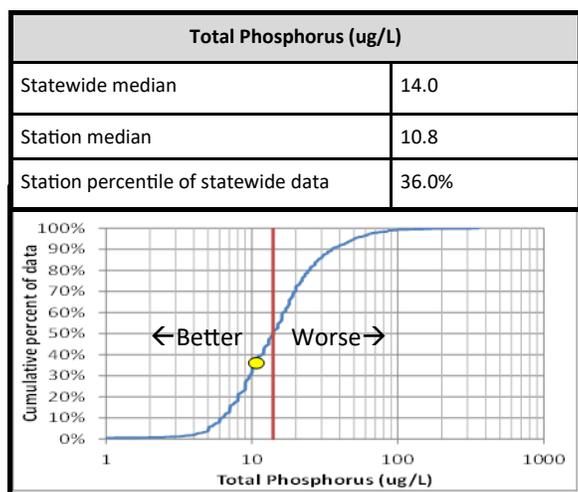
Station Highlights: The South Branch of the Baker River is a medium-size stream in the Merrimack River drainage of New Hampshire with a low percentage of developed land in its watershed. It has intermediate specific conductance, high pH levels, and low to moderate nutrient concentrations.

Biological indicators - For 06-SBR benthic macro-invertebrates were used as the primary biological indicator. Samples were collected from 2012-2016. The results, based on B-IBI scores that exceeded the applicable threshold, indicate that the benthic invertebrate community is in good condition (plot at right). Relative to the statewide data, the median B-IBI score ratio at 06-SBR was greater than 87% of the B-IBI score ratios statewide (plot at right).

For plot at the right: Yellow dot=median score ratio; curved blue line=statewide score ratio distribution; red vertical line=water quality threshold.



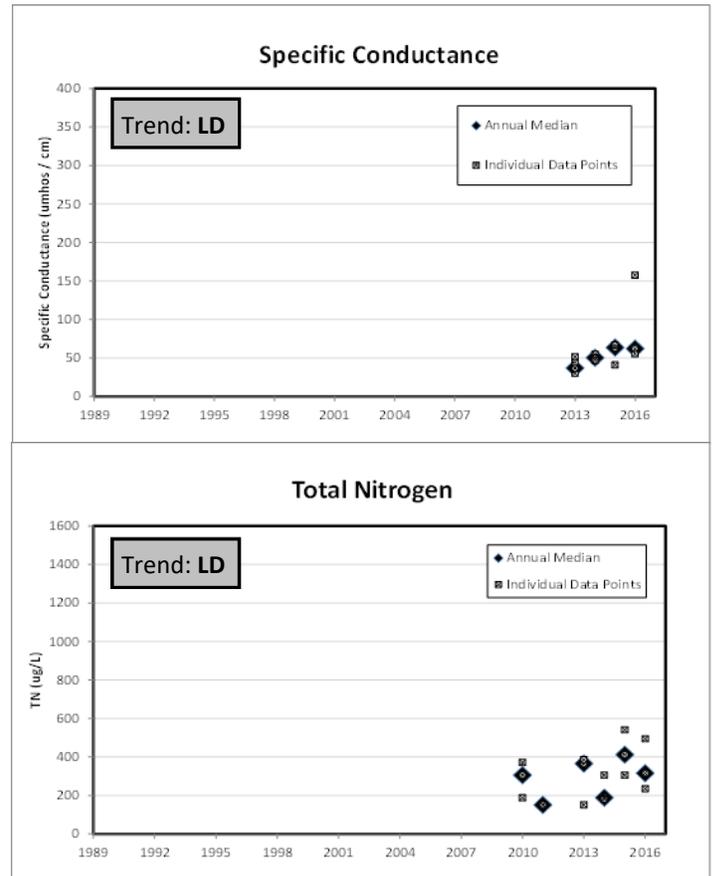
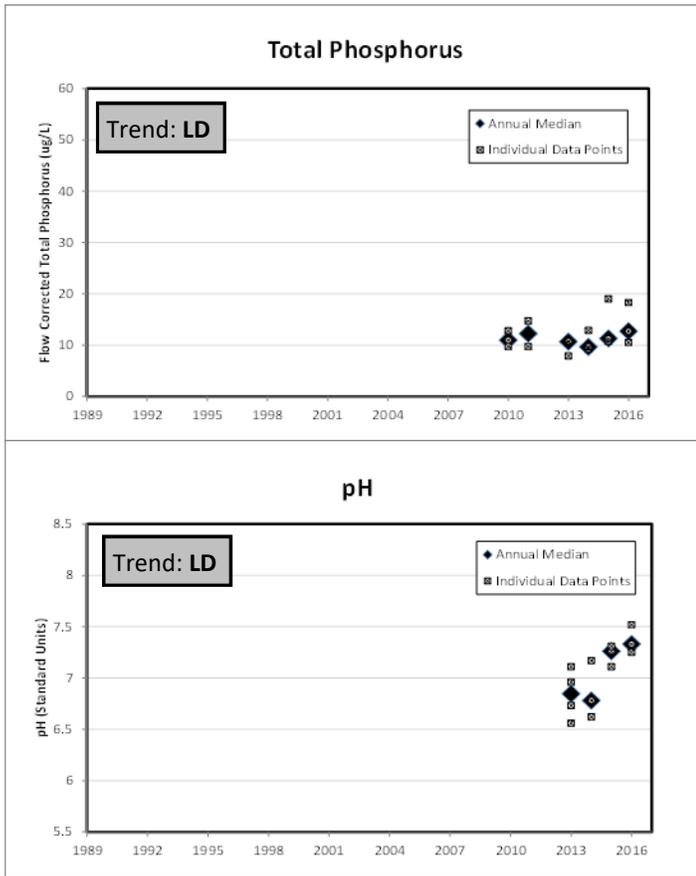
Statewide Comparison - The median value of the sampling station for the reporting period (yellow dot) was plotted with respect to water quality data collected from 1990-present as a percentile of the statewide distribution (curved blue line) and the statewide median (vertical red line). The position of the sampling station median on the plot provides an indication of the trend site's water quality compared to that collected around the state. For total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and specific conductance higher percentiles indicate lower water quality. Conversely, a lower percentile for pH indicates lower water quality. Over time, changes in the percentile can be used to track whether water quality is improving or declining at the sampling station with respect to data from around the state.



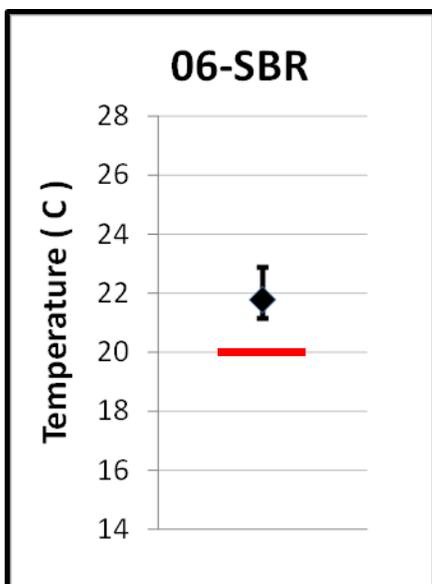
Current vs. previous water quality conditions— Data included in the current reporting period was compared to that from the previous reporting period. A Kruskal-Wallis test ($p=0.05$) was used to compare data collected in the respective reporting periods for each parameter. Differences between reporting periods provide a indication of whether short term water quality changes have occurred at the site. For table below, “Different (Y/N)” column indicates if significant change has occurred (Y=yes, N=no, Insufficient data=fewer than five samples contained in either of the reporting periods). “Change” column indicates the direction of change (Increase=water quality indicator higher in current period than previous period, Decrease= water quality indicator lower in current period than previous period, Blank=no change or insufficient data for comparison).

Parameter	Period	Years	Mean C	Range C	Period	Years	Mean P	Range P	Different (Y/N)	Change
pH	Current	2012-2016	7.1	1.0	Previous	2008-2011			Insufficient data	
Specific Conductance			56.6	133.5					Insufficient data	
Total Nitrogen			322.8	390.0			232.8	221.0	N	
Total Phosphorus			12.0	11.2			11.6	5.0	N	

Trend analyses - Sites with 10 or more years of data were analyzed for trends. Trends analyses were completed on annual medians using the Mann-Kendell test ($p=0.05$). For 06-SBR, water quality data only exists from 2013—2016. The limited amount of data did not allow for trend analyses for this site. Trend outcomes included in plots below (**NT**=no trend; **(+)**=increasing; **(-)**=decreasing; **LD**=limited data; trend analysis not completed). Significant increasing or decreasing trends include a LOESS trend line for the period of analysis.



Summary of 7-day maximum water temperature



Water temperature

Water temperature is an important physical characteristic that influences water chemistry and biological community composition. For trend sites where continuous temperature data loggers are deployed, the maximum 7-day rolling mean was used as the primary metric for summarizing the thermal regime at individual sampling stations. The plot (left) summarizes the average (diamond), minimum (lower whisker), and maximum (upper whisker) 7-day maximum water temperature in the current reporting period. The table (below) provides the total number and percent of consecutive days that the 7-day running mean water temperature exceeded temperature benchmarks associated with the expected fish community type. For 06-SBR, the expected fish community type is transitional water and the respective temperature benchmark is 20°C.

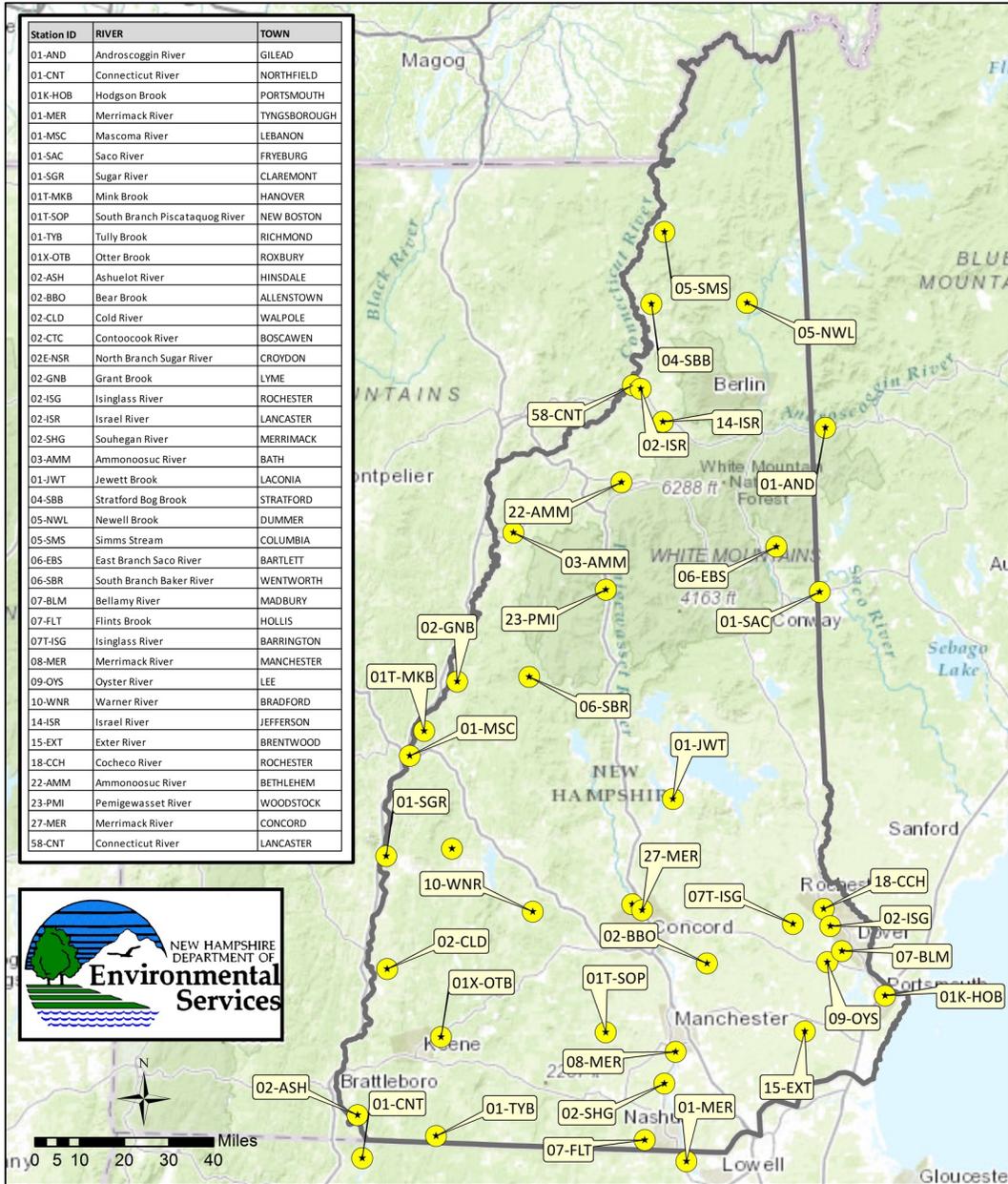
Number and percent of consecutive days when the running 7-day mean water temperature exceeded the benchmark

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Number of days		19	26	17	29	91
Percent of days	no data	19.4%	23.9%	13.9%	24.6%	19.73%

NH DES River and Stream Trend Monitoring Network

40 stations, sampled 3x from June through August and 1x during fall, winter, or spring

Last Updated: April 2016



NHDES River Monitoring Network—

NHDES’ river monitoring network includes 40 sampling stations located on rivers across New Hampshire. Stations are sited on small, medium, and large rivers in low to highly developed watersheds. The purpose of the network is to track changes in river water quality over time and document current conditions within a distinct five-year timeframe. Individual station reports provide a summary of water quality conditions at that site and are based on data analysis of monthly samples collected from May-September. Additional samples are collected seasonally every third year for fall, winter, and spring. For some stations, data exists back to 1990.

Other stations were new in 2012 or 2013. The analyses completed on the river monitoring network sites are detailed in NHDES’ Water Monitoring Strategy. The river monitoring network is one of several monitoring efforts detailed in the Water Monitoring Strategy and undertaken by NHDES Watershed Management Bureau to track surface water quality conditions across the state. For more information visit: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/index.htm> or call (603) 271-3503.

