



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

## Who Am I ?



- B.S. Geology
- M.A. Education
- Secondary Science 18 years
- DHEC since 2008
- Public Engagement, Drinking Water, Community Liaison, Watershed Manager

# Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, 1992



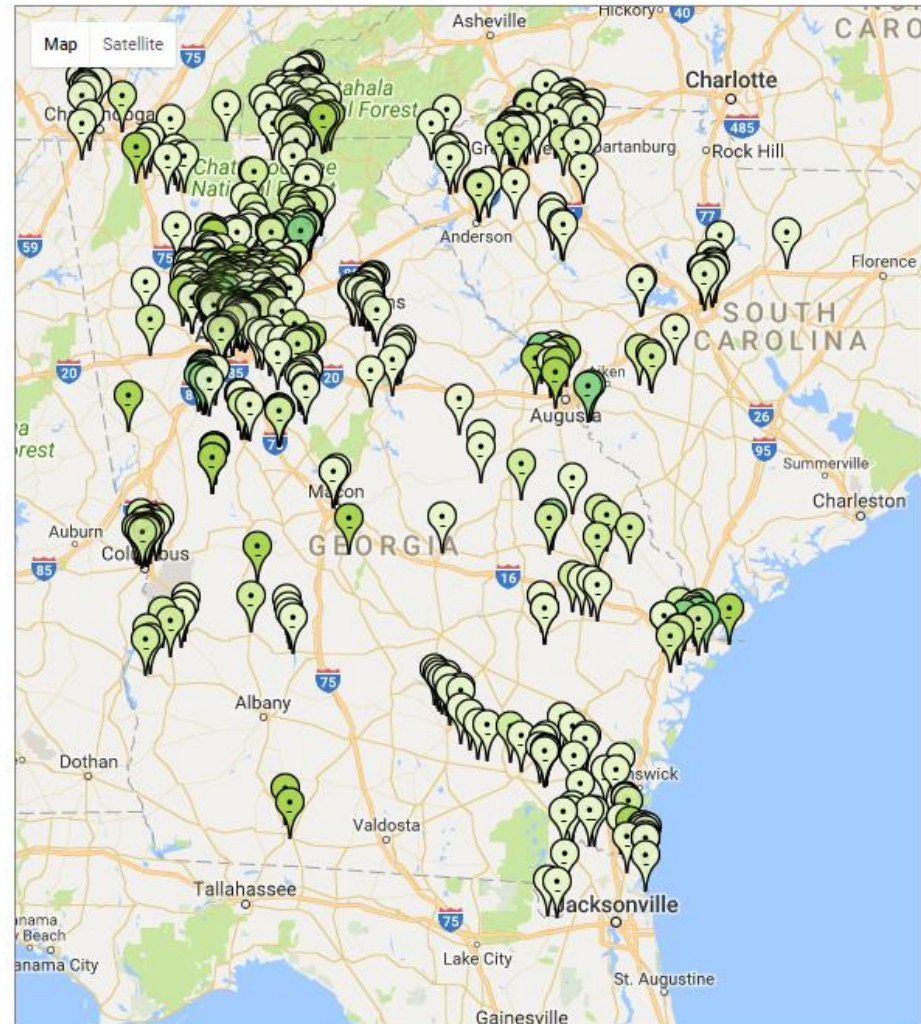
**Georgia Adopt-A-Stream**



## Volunteers With Georgia Adopt-A-Stream

# Georgia Adopt-A-Stream

300 groups sampling 759 sites



# Georgia AAS Volunteers in SC

| Year | Groups | Counties   |
|------|--------|--|
| 2008 | 1      | Aiken  |
| 2009 | 1      | N. Augusta   |
| 2012 | 1      | Greenville   |
| 2013 | 3      | Greenville   |
| 2014 | 6      | Pickens, Spartanburg, Laurens  |
| 2015 | 12     | Spartanburg, Greenville, Anderson, Pickens                             |
| 2016 | 24     | Oconee, Richland, Kershaw, Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Pickens, |
| 2017 | 13     | Richland, Spartanburg, Pickens, Greenville                             |



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
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ANDERSON & PICKENS COUNTIES  
**stormwater**  
**PARTNERS**  
A CLEMSON EXTENSION SERVICE



Watershed Ecology Center  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE





South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
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S.C. Department of Health and  
Environmental Control





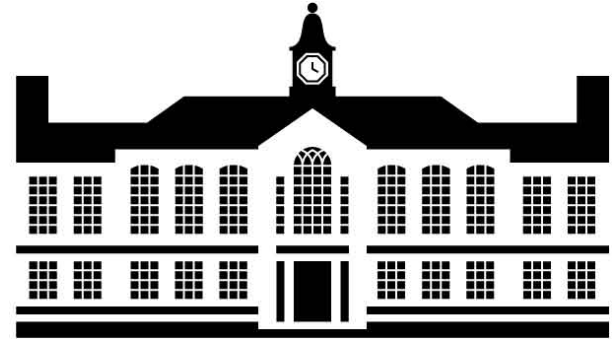


South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
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University of Idaho  
Extension



Georgia Adopt-A-Stream

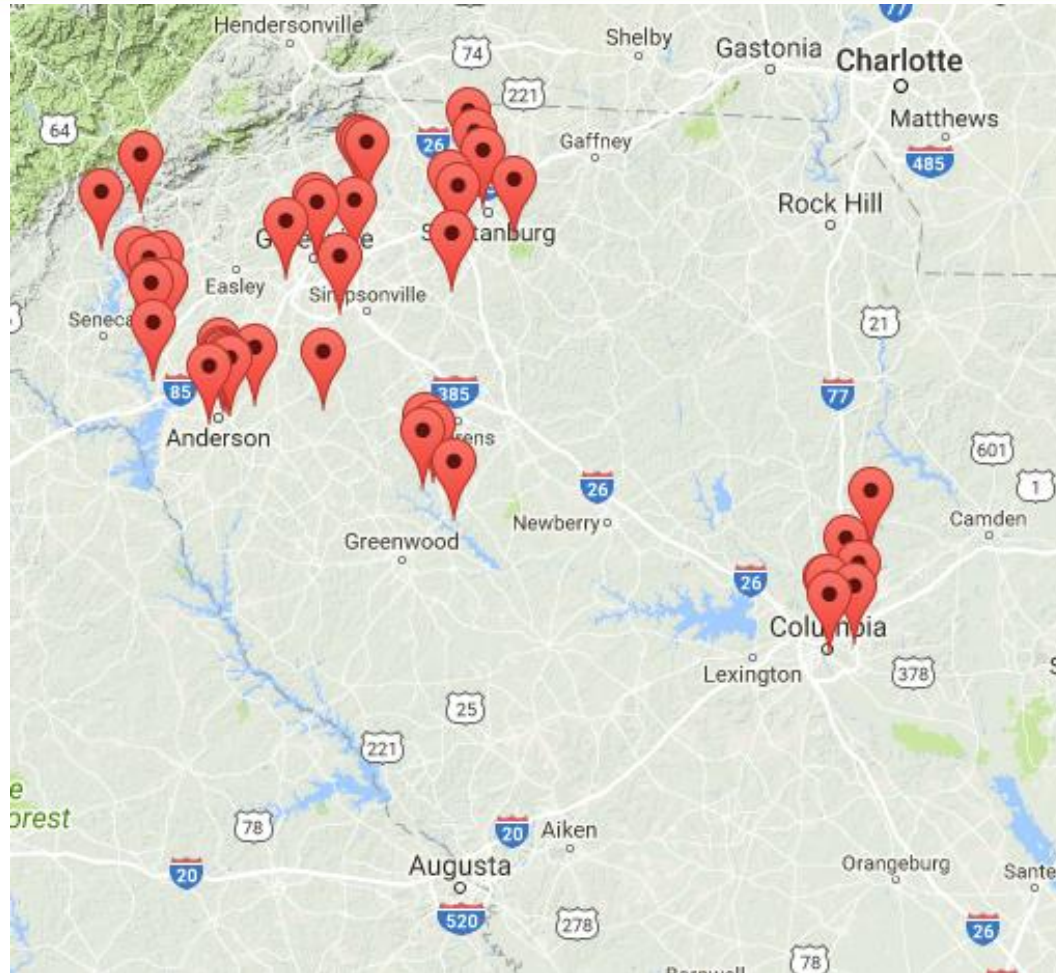


UNIVERSITY OF  
**Rhode Island**

Watershed Watch



Wisconsin Volunteer Stream Monitoring



**SC AAS: 43 groups sampling 51 sites**

# SC AAS Trainers

- 10 Trainers
- 8 in the Upstate
- 2 in the Midlands
- 7 University
- 1 Clemson Extension
- 1 Municipal Stormwater
- 1 Upstate Forever





**BACTERIA**

**STREAM HABITAT**

**PHYSICAL/CHEMICAL**

**MACROINVERTEBRATES**

# Training Workshops

- Conducted by certified trainers
- Classroom component
- Field sampling techniques
- Test




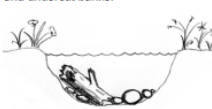
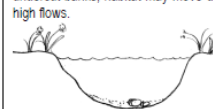


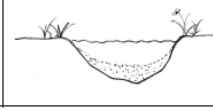



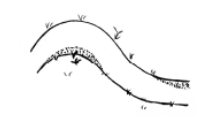
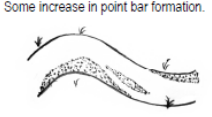




# EPA Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)



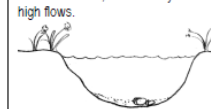
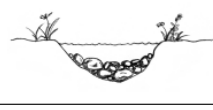
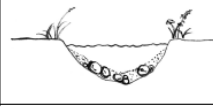
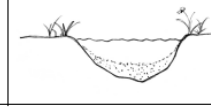



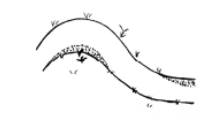
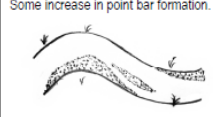




- Duplicate precision rules
- Individuals are recertified annually
- Only certified volunteers can submit data



# Stream Habitat Assessment

- Assessed yearly
- Used to track changes in the stream
- Includes stream and bank stability
- Adequate quality habitat
- Riparian conditions
- Channel alterations and bank stability

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>What types of submerged materials are on the channel bottom?</b></p>   | <p><b>Abundant stable habitat cover</b> for colonization by macroinvertebrates and fish: submerged roots, woody and vegetative debris, cobbles, leaf packs and undercut banks.</p>  | <p><b>Adequate stable habitat cover</b> for colonization by macroinvertebrates and fish: submerged roots, woody and vegetative debris, cobbles, leaf packs and undercut banks.</p>  | <p><b>Little or no stable habitat cover</b> available for colonization by macroinvertebrates and fish: submerged roots, woody and vegetative debris, cobbles, leaf packs and undercut banks; habitat may move during high flows.</p>  |
|  | 10 9 8 7   | 6 5 4 3  | 2 1 0  |
| <p><b>2. Embeddedness</b></p> <p>* For <b>ROCKY BOTTOM</b> streams only</p> <p><b>Are fine sediments being deposited in riffle/run area?</b></p> | <p>Gravel and cobble are <b>slightly</b> embedded in riffle area.</p>   | <p>Gravel and cobble are <b>partially</b> embedded in riffle area.</p>    | <p>Gravel and cobble are <b>completely</b> embedded in riffle area.</p>   |
|  | 10 9 8 7   | 6 5 4 3  | 2 1 0  |
| <p><b>3. Riffle/Run/Pool</b></p> <p><b>Is a diversity of instream habitats available: riffle, runs and pools?</b></p>                            | <p>Yes, all <b>three (3)</b> habitat types (riffle, run, pool) are present and frequent.</p>    | <p><b>Two (2)</b> habitat types are present.</p>    | <p>Only <b>one (1)</b> habitat type present and dominant.</p>   |
|  | 10 9 8 7   | 6 5 4 3  | 2 1 0  |
| <p><b>4. Sediment Deposition</b></p> <p><b>Are sand bars and islands present?</b></p>  | <p><b>Little or no</b> enlargement of vegetated islands or point bars.</p>   | <p><b>Some</b> new bar formation of the channel bottom with new deposition in pools. Some increase in point bar formation.</p>   | <p><b>Heavy</b> deposits of usually fine sediment; channel affected by extensive deposition. Point bars are bare.</p>    |
|  | 10 9 8 7   | 6 5 4 3  | 2 1 0  |
| <p><b>5. Aquatic Vegetation</b></p> <p><b>How much algae and aquatic plant growth exists in the stream?</b></p>                                  | <p><b>Clear</b> water in whole reach; diverse aquatic plant community - <b>low quantity</b> of plants; little algae growth</p>    | <p><b>Fairly clear</b> to slightly greenish water in whole reach; some to abundance of lush green plants; moderate to abundant algae growth</p>                                   | <p><b>Pea green, gray, or brown</b> water in whole reach; dense stands of plants clog stream; severe algal blooms create thick algal mats in stream</p>   |
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|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
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|  | 10 9 8 7   | 6 5 4 3  | 2 1 0  |



# Bacteria – measured monthly



*E. coli* Colonies



# How Do We Calculate Results?

|                         | Plate 1 | Plate 2 | Plate 3 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| <i>E. coli</i> Colonies | 3       | 2       | 3       |

$$\text{Step 1: } \frac{3 + 2 + 3}{3} = 2.67 \text{ CFU/1 ml}$$

$$\text{Step 2: } 2.67 \text{ CFU/1 ml} \times 100 \text{ ml} = \underline{\underline{267 \text{ CFU/100 ml}}}$$

# SC Bacteria Standards

| Freshwater     | Monthly Geometric Mean | Single Sample   |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>E. coli</i> | <126 MPN*/100 ml       | <349 MPN/100 ml |

**These levels correspond to an acceptable risk level of 32-36 human illnesses out of 1,000 swimmers.**

**\*MPN and CFU refer to different methods to estimate the number of *E. coli* per 100 ml of stream water. The results are considered comparable.**

# WHAT SC AAS BACTERIA LEVEL TRIGGERS ACTION?

- 1000 CFU/100 ml
- Petrifilm is not a regulatory method
- Petrifilm is used for screening purposes only



**Initial Sample Result >1000 CFU/100 ml**

**Call trainer and resample as soon as possible**

**Identify possible sources**

**Resample > 1000 CFU/100 ml**

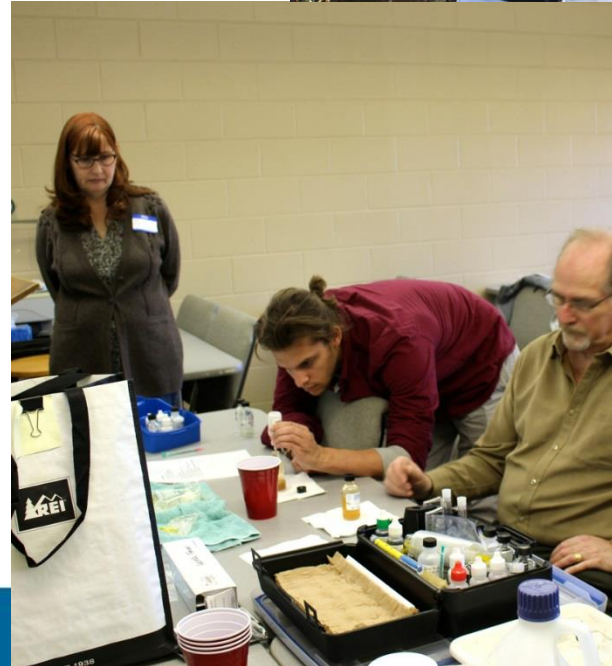
**Resample < 1000 CFU/100 ml**

**Alert will be sent to the  
State Team**

**Continue  
Monitoring**

# Physical/Chemical Measured Monthly

- ✓ Air Temperature
- ✓ Water Temperature
- ✓ Dissolved Oxygen
- ✓ pH
- ✓ Conductivity



# Dissolved Oxygen



- Winkler titration
- Two samples must be within +/- 0.6 mg/l
- Required for aquatic life respiration



# pH



- LaMotte colorimetric pH test kit
- Two samples must be within +/-0.25
- Aquatic organisms are sensitive to pH fluctuations

# Conductivity



- Conductivity meter
- Conductivity indicates the presence of ions in the water
- No regulated level in South Carolina

# Macroinvertebrates Measured Quarterly



# Rocky Bottom Sampling Method

Sample **TWO**  
different habitats  
using a **kick net**



## Stream Bottom (riffle areas)

- 3 kick net samples (2'x2' or 4 square feet)

## Organic Matter (Leaf packs)

- 4 handfuls (1 square foot) of decayed, submerged leaves

# Muddy/Sandy Sampling Method

Sample **THREE**  
different habitats  
using a **D-frame net**



## Vegetative Margins

- 7 scoops (1 square foot)

## Organic Matter (woody debris, leaf packs)

- 4 scoops (1 square foot)

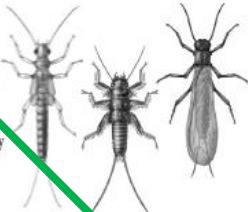
## Stream Bottom (sand/rock/gravel or coarsest area)

- 3 scoops (1 square foot)

## INSECTS

### Stoneflies

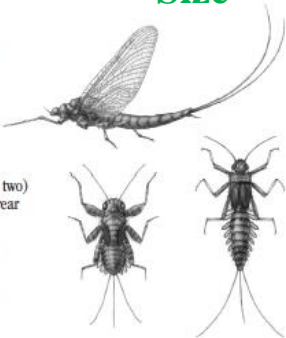
- Order: Plecoptera  
Size: ½" to 1½"  
Tolerance: Sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Two hair-like tails
  - No gills on rear half of body
  - Structurally similar to mayfly nymphs, but have two tails instead of the usual three in mayflies
  - 2 claws on each foot



Size

### Mayflies

- Order: Ephemeroptera  
Size: ¼" to 1"  
Tolerance: Sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Usually three long, hair-like tails (but sometimes only two)
  - Gills present on the rear half of body
  - 1 hook on each foot



### Water Pennies

- Order: Coleoptera  
Size: up to ½"  
Tolerance: Very sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Looks like a flat, oval disc
  - Plates extend from all sides
  - Cannot survive on rocks covered with excessive algae or inorganic sediment



### Riffle Beetles

- Order: Coleoptera  
Size: ⅛" to ⅓"  
Tolerance: Sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Very small
  - Dark colored
  - Adult riffle beetles will be found walking on the bottom of the stream



### Aquatic Snipe Flies

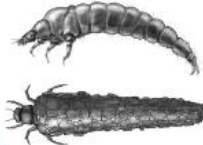
- Order: Diptera  
Size: ¼" to 1"  
Tolerance: Sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Body is pale brown to green color
  - Mostly cylindrical, with the front tapering to a cone-shaped point
  - Larva have a number of mostly paired caterpillar-like prolegs
  - Two stout, pointed tails with feathery hairs at back end



Distinguishing Characteristics

### Caddisflies

- Order: Trichoptera  
Size: ½" to 1 ½"  
Tolerance: Sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Larva is caterpillar-like with three pairs of legs and tends to curl up slightly
  - Two claws at posterior (rear) end
  - May be found in a stick, rock, or leaf case with its head sticking out



### Common Net Spinning Caddisflies

- Order: Trichoptera  
Family: Hydropsychidae  
Size: up to 1"  
Tolerance: Somewhat sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Body is caterpillar-like with three pairs of legs and is strongly curved
  - Dorsal plates (sclerites) on all three thoracic segments
  - Branched gills on the ventral surface of the last two thoracic segments and most of the abdominal segments
  - Usually have a bristle-like, setal tuft at the end of each anal proleg
  - Color varies from bright green to dark brown

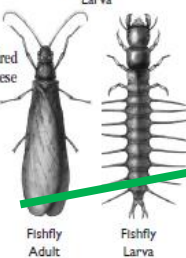


### Dobsonflies/Hellgrammites and Fishflies

- Order: Megaloptera  
Size: ¾" to 4"  
Tolerance: Somewhat sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Stout body with large pinching jaws
  - Eight pairs of pointed lateral appendages
  - On the rear end of the body a pair of stubby, unjointed legs (prolegs), each with a pair of claws
  - Dobsonflies/Hellgrammites have paired cotton-like gill tufts, fishflies lack these
  - Fishflies have two short tube-like structures on the tail end



Dobsonfly Larva

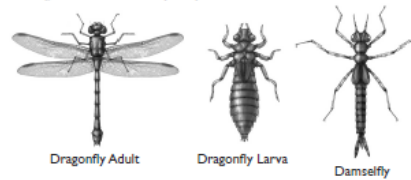


Fishfly Adult

Fishfly Larva

### Damselflies and Dragonflies

- Order: Odonata  
Size: ½" to 2"  
Tolerance: Somewhat sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Both have large eyes, six legs, and a large lower lip that covers much of the bottom of the head
  - Damselflies are slender and have three oar shaped tails (gills)
  - Dragonflies have a stocky body without tails



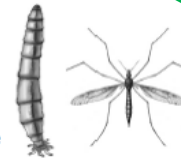
Dragonfly Adult

Dragonfly Larva

Damselfly

### Crane Flies

- Order: Diptera  
Size: ⅓" to 2 ½"  
Tolerance: Somewhat sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Worm-like plump body
  - Can be found in a variety of colors (clear, white, brown, and green)
  - Segmented body with finger-like projections (gills) at the back end
  - Head is usually pulled back into the front of the body



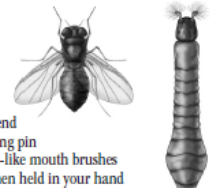
### Midge Flies

- Order: Diptera  
Size: up to ¼"  
Tolerance: Tolerant  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- They can indicate poor stream health caused by pollution if found in large numbers
  - Often whitish to clear, but occasionally bright red
  - Segmented body
  - Has distinct head with two small prolegs in the front of the body
  - Display a spastic squirming action in the water



### Black Flies

- Order: Diptera  
Size: up to ¼"  
Tolerance: Tolerant  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- The body is larger at the rear end similar to the shape of a bowling pin
  - The distinct head contains fan-like mouth brushes
  - Often curl into a "u" shape when held in your hand



## CRUSTACEANS

### Crayfish

- Order: Decapoda  
Size: up to 5"  
Tolerance: Somewhat sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Can withstand large ranges of pH and temperatures and is sensitive to toxic substances
  - Resembles a lobster
  - Has 10 legs and the two front legs have large claws or pinchers



### Aquatic Sow Bugs

- Order: Isopoda  
Size: ¼" - ¾"  
Tolerance: Somewhat sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Flat, segmented body
  - Has an "armored" appearance
  - Seven pairs of legs
  - Can be confused with scuds, however they are flattened top to bottom



### Scuds

- Order: Amphipoda  
Size: ⅛" to ¼"  
Tolerance: Somewhat sensitive  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Resemble a small shrimp
  - Translucent body with silvery-gray or tan coloration
  - Seven pairs of legs
  - Unlike sow bugs, scuds are flattened side to side



## WORMS

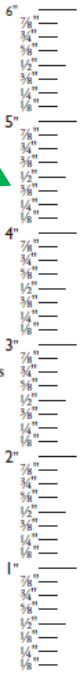
### Aquatic Worms

- Class: Oligochaeta  
Size: Usually 1" but up to 4"  
Tolerance: Tolerant  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Can be very tiny and slender or look similar to earthworms
  - No legs, distinct head or any mouthparts
  - Segmented body
  - Aquatic worms can indicate organic pollution when they dominate the majority of the sample collection



### Leeches

- Class: Hirudinea  
Size: ¼" to 2"  
Tolerance: Tolerant  
Distinguishing Characteristics:
- Somewhat slimy, soft, segmented body
  - Two suckers on the underside of the body, one in the front and one in the rear
  - Can be confused with a flatworm, however flatworms have no suckers and leeches have fine lines (annuli) across the body





|                                   | SENSITIVE TAXA   | SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE TAXA                                  | TOLERANT TAXA                                    |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>TAXA GROUPS</b>                | <input type="checkbox"/> Stonefly Nymphs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Net Spinning Caddisflies | <input type="checkbox"/> Midge Fly Larvae        |
|                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayfly Nymphs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Dobsonfly/Helgrammite & Fishfly | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Fly Larvae        |
|                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Penny Larvae  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dragonfly & Damselfly Nymphs    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lunged Snails           |
|                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Riffle Beetle Larvae/Adults   | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Worms           |
|                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Snipe Flies   | <input type="checkbox"/> Crane Flies                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Leeches                 |
|                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Caddisflies   | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Sow Bugs                |  |
|                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Gilled Snails   | <input type="checkbox"/> Scud                            |  |
|                                   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Clams & Mussels                 |  |
| <b>WATER QUALITY INDEX/RATING</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> # groups times 3 = ____   | <input type="checkbox"/> # groups times 2 = ____         | <input type="checkbox"/> # groups times 1 = ____ |
|                                   | Now add together the three index values to get your <b>Water Quality Index Score</b> = ____  |  |  |
|                                   | Use this score to find out your <b>Water Quality Rating</b> for your stream (below).   |  |  |
|                                   | Good water quality is indicated by a variety of different kinds of taxa/organisms,<br>with no one kind making up a majority of the sample. |  |  |
|                                   | <b>Water Quality Rating</b>  |  |  |
|                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Excellent (&gt;22)</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Good (17-22)</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Fair (11-16)</i>     |

## Tolerant



Midge Fly Larva



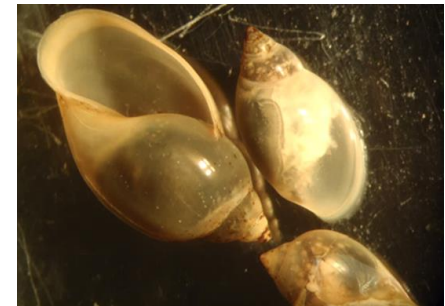
Black Fly Larvae



Leech



Aquatic Worm



Lunged Snail



## Somewhat Sensitive



Dragonfly Larva



Sow Bug



Dobson Fly  
(Hellgrammite)



Net Spinning Caddisfly



Crane Fly Larva



Scud



Damselfly Larvae

## Sensitive



Stonefly Nymphs



Mayfly Nymphs



Caddisfly Nymph



Gilled Snail



Riffle Beetle



Snipe



Water Penny



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9TjyolacZo&index=1&list=PLqGWmyz3QMptdDY4MbmAF0mOZttUrtUIj>



SC ADOPT-A-STREAM / EVENT VIEW

- Site Information
- Weather
- Observations
- Chemical
- Bacterial
- Macroinvertebrates
- Stream Habitat

General Data

Did you use a method other than 3M Petrifilm Plates?

3M Petrifilm Method *Escherichia coli*

Run three (3) plates/tests for each site, plus one (1) blank plate. Process within 0-24 hrs, incubate at 35°C ± 1°, and read at 24 ± 1 hr.

| Blank Plate | Plate 1 | Plate 2 | Plate 3 | Avg  | cfu /100mL |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|------|------------|
| 0           | 1       | 0       | 1       | 0.67 | 66.67      |

Incubation Start Time

Incubation End Time

Total Incubation Time  
 Hrs

Minimum Temperature  
 °C

Maximum Temperature  
 °C

Comments

Any bacterial changes to note since you last sampled at this site?



[www.scadoptastream.org](http://www.scadoptastream.org)



Welcome to South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream, a new program with growing enthusiasm and membership for the protection of South Carolina's waterways!

South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream (SC AAS) creates a network of watershed stewardship, engagement, and education through involvement. SC AAS volunteers can play an important role in monitoring and tracking water quality while sharing information about local water resources with their communities. In providing baseline information about stream conditions, volunteers, local communities, educators, and local government agencies can partner to protect and restore our waters.

You do not need to be an environmentalist, fisherman, or scholar to join this effort. All are welcome to find more information, seek training, and add to the knowledgebase of river health in South Carolina!

**LEARN MORE** about the program and how to get involved!

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER** to stay in touch with program growth and news.

**ENTER AND VIEW DATA** - The SC AAS Database launched on June 20, 2017!

**EVENT INFORMATION** - Check here often, as trainings are not always announced with the e-news!

## Workshops & Events

Join us for the following training opportunities and events!

### SC Adopt-A-Stream

Nov 11 9:30am



Chemical and Bacterial Workshops These workshops are "Rain or Shine". Please come prepared to get into a stream for the field portion of the workshops. Lunch will be provided.

Location: USC Upstate Campus

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### SC Adopt-A-Stream

Nov 18 9:30am



Macroinvertebrate Workshop. These workshops are "Rain or Shine". Please come prepared to get into a stream for the field portion of the workshops. Lunch will be provided.

Location: USC Upstate Campus

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### SC Adopt-A-Stream

Nov 29 9am



Free Chemical and Bacterial AAS workshop. Become a certified stream monitoring volunteer. Be prepared to get in the stream and bring a lunch.

Location: Pickens Extension Office

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### SC Adopt-A-Stream

May 5, 2018 9:30am



Chemical and Bacterial Workshops These workshops are "Rain or Shine". Please come prepared to get into a stream for the field portion of the workshops. Lunch will be provided.

Location: USC Upstate Campus

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### SC Adopt-A-Stream

May 19, 2018 9:30am



Macroinvertebrate Workshop These workshops are "Rain or Shine". Please come prepared to get into a stream for the field portion of the workshops. Lunch will be provided.

Location: USC Upstate Campus

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South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

# CONTACT US

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803-898-4187

South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream  
[www.scadoptastream.org](http://www.scadoptastream.org)

## Stay Connected

