# DATA USE FACT SHEET
## DELAWARE

This document outlines the primary uses of data in the CMC Data Explorer by federal, state and other partner organizations. Through these partnerships, CMC data directly supports regulatory assessments, ecological report cards, and public information tools. CMC data can be used for other data products not listed in this table.

| Organization | Data Product | Parameters Included | CMC Tier | Publication Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DNREC** | 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated Report *(Informational Purposes only)* | **Non-tidal:** Dissolved oxygen, TN, TP, water temperature, turbidity, TSS, conductivity | 1 & 2 | Every 2 Years |
| **UMCES** | Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card | **Non-tidal:** TN, TP, turbidity, water temperature, conductivity | 2 & 3 | Annually |
| **ICPRB** | Chessie BIBI | **Benthic:** Family-level analysis | 2 | Every 6 Years |
| **EPA** | How's My Waterway? | All tidal and non-tidal data | 1, 2, & 3 | Annually |

**Organizational acronyms are defined on the next page.*



*Nanticoke Watershed Alliance staff wading in to take samples. Photo by Ann Foo, UMCES.*

## 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated Report

*Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)*

As part of the federal Clean Water Act, every two years state environmental agencies have to send a report, called the Integrated Report (IR), to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This report shows which surface waterbodies, like rivers, lakes, and estuaries, are clean and which ones are polluted (impaired) within the state. Data from federal, state, academic, and volunteer partners are used to create this report. All CMC data submitted to DNREC are used for supplemental informational purposes, including adding waters to Category 3 that need additional information or follow-up assessments, targeted screening, baseline conditions, or educational purposes. DNREC gathers data every two years and typically includes a five-year data window (example: the 2024 IR includes data from 2018-2022).

## Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card

*University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)*

The Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card gives a clear and detailed look at the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Published annually, the report card serves as a vital tool for translating complex environmental data into an accessible format, allowing the general public, policymakers, and stakeholders to better comprehend the shifting health of the Chesapeake ecosystem. With help from engaged stakeholders, since 2016 the report card has transformed from strictly an environmental score into a holistic evaluation of the entire watershed's health. Today, the assessment utilizes a comprehensive, multi-metric framework to grade the region through water quality, ecological, and socio-economic indicators.

## Chessie BIBI

*Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)*

The Chesapeake basin-wide index of biotic integrity, or "Chessie BIBI," is a tool used to check the health of freshwater streams and wadeable rivers within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This tool looks at benthic macroinvertebrates (family-level), which are small, spineless bugs and critters like crayfish, snails, and beetle larvae that live in the water. Some of these bugs tolerate pollution better than others, so the Chessie BIBI calculates a stream score by counting the presence and number of bugs in a stream. This score is used to categorize the stream health from very poor to excellent across different regions in the watershed. ICPRB gathers data about every six years.

## How's My Waterway?

*U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

How's My Waterway was designed to share easy-to-understand information about the health of surface waterbodies such as rivers, lakes, and streams. The platform combines data provided by a variety of partners, including state, federal, tribal, local agencies and participatory science groups and provides users with both a local and a nationwide view of water quality. To get this data, How's My Waterway pulls information from the U.S. EPA's Water Quality Portal, the nation's largest library of water quality monitoring data. Data from the CMC Data Explorer are uploaded to EPA's Water Quality Portal annually to ensure our data are used in critical data tools, like How's My Waterway.