

Water classification: the architecture of water quality management

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What is a water class?

- Designated uses – drinking water, swimming, fishing, etc.
- Standards and criteria – needed to protect designated uses
- Characteristics
- Prohibitions, exceptions

Classification (circa 1965)

A*

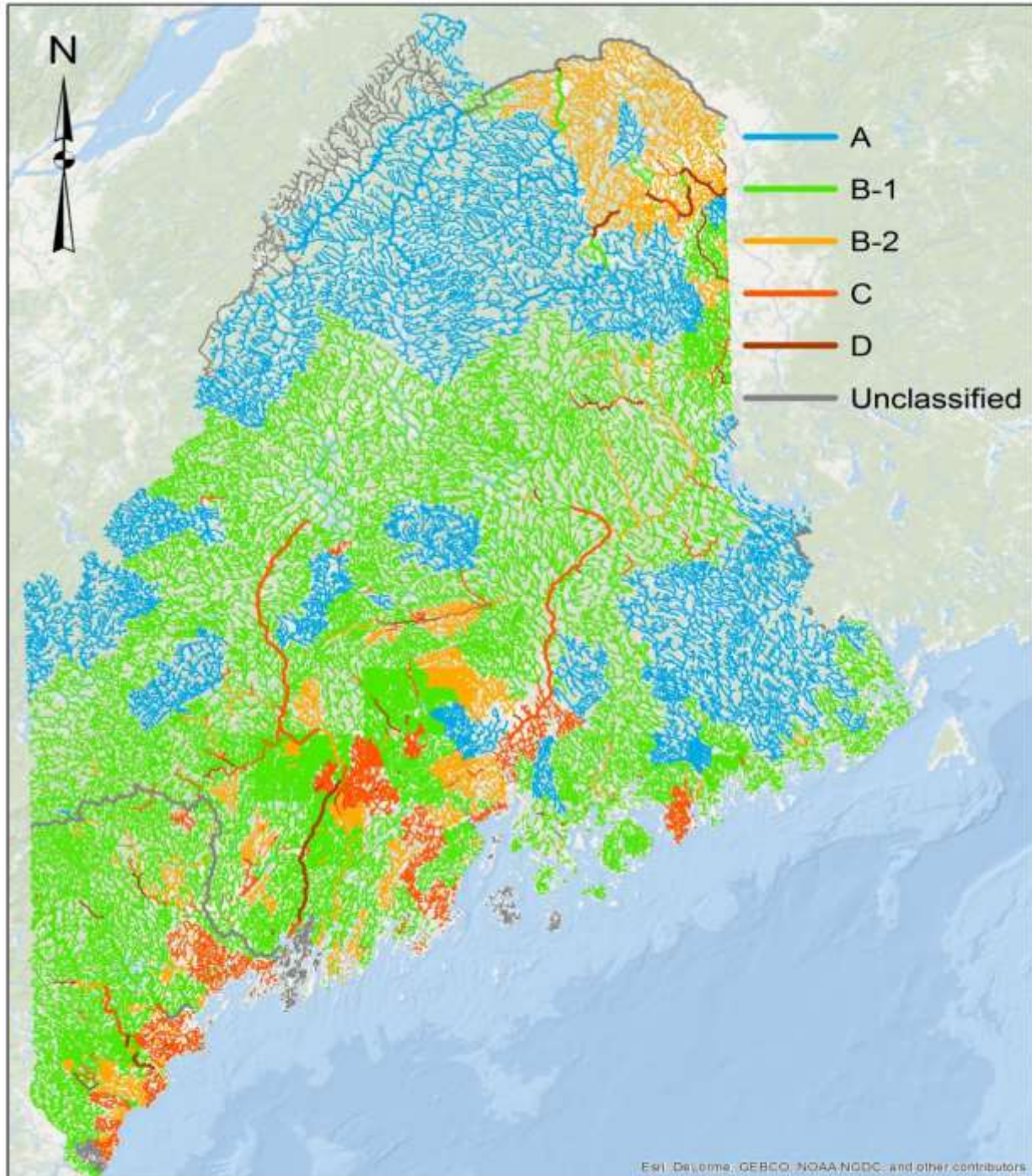
B-1

B-2

C

D

GPA (1977)



“.. shall be considered as primarily devoted to the transportation of sewage and industrial wastes without causing a public nuisance by the creation of odor-producing sludge banks and deposits or other nuisance condition and such waters shall contain dissolved oxygen at all times. “

“..shall be of satisfactory for recreational boating, fishing and other uses except potable water supplies and swimming, unless adequately treated to meet standards. ..shall be free from scums, slicks, odors and objectionable floating solids, and chemicals and other conditions inimical to aquatic life.”

“shall be acceptable for recreational boating, fishing, industrial and potable water supplies after adequate treatment.”

“..the higher quality of the Class B group ..acceptable for recreational purposes and after adequate treatment for use as a potable water supply.”

“..shall be of such quality that it can be used for bathing and for public water supplies after disinfection. There shall be no discharge of sewage or other wastes ..Such waters may be used for log driving or other commercial purposes which will not lower its classification.”



“...suitable for the designated uses of drinking water supply after treatment; fishing; recreation in and on the water; industrial process and cooling water supply; hydroelectric power generation, habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
 DO: 5ppm, 60%*
 E coli: 142/100ml**;
 949/100ml***2

Use same as C but includes:
 “The habitat shall be characterized as unimpaired.”
 DO: 7ppm or 75%*^
 E coli: 54/100ml**;
 437/100ml***2

“..suitable for the designated uses of drinking water disinfection; fishing; recreation in and on the water; industrial process and cooling water supply; hydroelectric power generation, except as prohibited.”
 DO: 7 ppm or 75%
 E Coli: naturally occurring²

“...applied to waters which are outstanding natural resources and which should be preserved because of their ecological, social, scenic or recreational importance.”
 DO: naturally occurring
 E Coli: naturally occurring²

Classification (circa 1987)

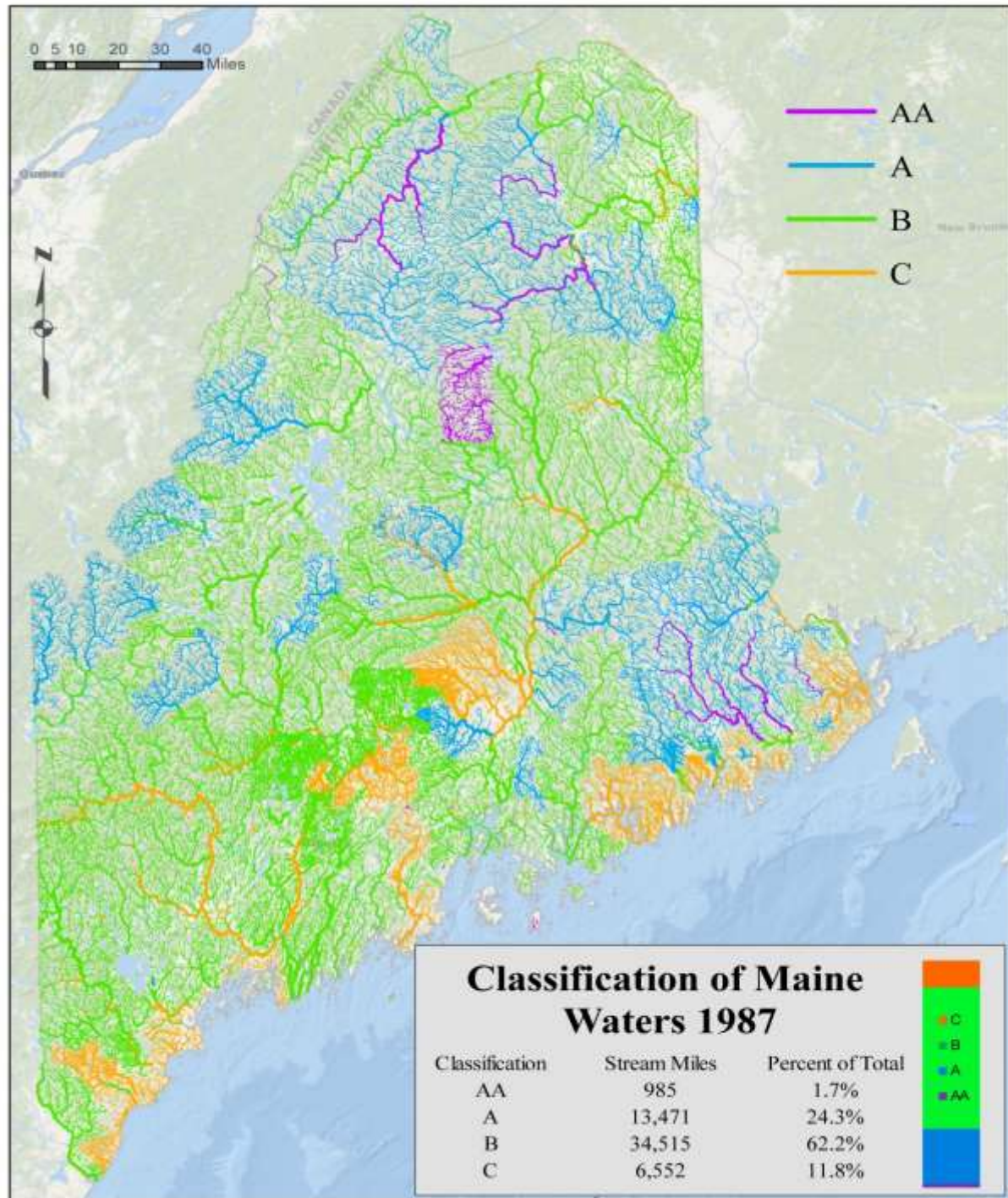
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Classification

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