

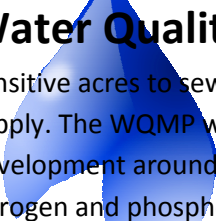
# Know Your H<sub>2</sub>O



Did you know that **MOST** of New Jersey's water bodies are **TOO POLLUTED** for people or aquatic life?

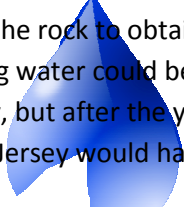
Turns out that **77%** of New Jersey's waterways do not meet all uses – drinking, swimming, and fishing – under the Clean Water Act!

Water Issues in New Jersey:

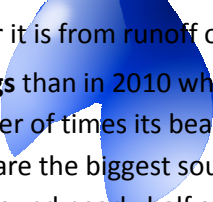


**Water Quality Management Plan** delay is dangerous by opening up **300,000** environmentally sensitive acres to sewer services. This means more sprawl and more pollution, threatening the state's drinking water supply. The WQMP was written to protect New Jersey's water supply, but by delaying it will add more pollution and development around critical drinking water supplies. A study found that if these lands were to be developed an increase of nitrogen and phosphorous would be added to our waterways as well as an increase in suspended solids.

**Fracking** could be the biggest threat to our drinking water supply. Fracking requires mixing millions of gallons of water with toxic chemicals injecting this chemical mixture into the ground to break up the rock to obtain the natural gas. If this drilling begins in the Delaware River Basin **3 million** New Jersey residents drinking water could be at risk – in total **15 million** people. Currently there is a 1 year moratorium in place on fracking in New Jersey, but after the year is up New Jersey is open to any and all natural gas developments. Outright banning fracking in New Jersey would have ensured cleaner water and protected forested ecosystems throughout the state.



**Barnegat Bay** is on the brink of being destroyed. Barnegat Bay is currently the **second most** eutrophic Bay in America and continues to deteriorate due to nutrient pollution from too much nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers. The Barnegat Bay suffered invasions by jellyfish and algal blooms as a result of nutrient pollution. Beaches were closed due to jellyfish, clam beds closed due to pollution, and loss of eel grass and other ecological indicators are getting worse.



**Pollution** whether it is from runoff or power plants pollution affects our waterways every day. In 2011 there were **50% more beach closings** than in 2010 when the beaches were unsafe for swimming. In 2011 New Jersey ranked 10th in the nation for the number of times its beaches exceeded national standards for bacteria from human and animal waste. Also, coal power plants are the biggest source of mercury pollution polluting our waterway and ultimately contaminating our fish. Last year they found nearly half a million pieces of trash left behind on NJ beaches.

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