

National Biological Assessment
and Criteria Workshop

Advancing State and Tribal Programs



Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
31 March – 4 April, 2003

TRIBE 101

Oneida Nation: Programmatic Implementation of Bioassessment

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Oneida Nation Bioassessment Program Development

- Fishery surveys initiated in 1995
 - Spring, mid-Summer, Fall stream surveys until 2001, now mid-Summer IBIs only for streams. Boom shock lakes once a year.
- Benthic invertebrate monitoring initiated in 1999
 - Standardized protocols for qualitative and quantitative sampling of streams and lakes
 - SOPs prepared and approved
 - Picking and sorting sub-contracted out, taxonomy performed in lab developed in departmental office

Development of Oneida Nation Bioassessment Program (cont.)

- Benthic invertebrate monitoring (cont.)
 - Water quality and fisheries data used to guide in sampling location selections
 - Metrics researched, baseline qualitative sampling done at 4 candidate reference sites, as well as other study sites
 - Quantitative sampling, data entry and analysis
 - Data used in watershed protection, restoration activities

Use of Reference Site for Protection of Resource

- Enforcement action for unpermitted stormwater discharges
- Community awareness, appreciation
- Nearby developments scrutinized more closely with regards to stormwater and erosion control due to shared knowledge by agencies
- Will be used for biocriteria in WQS

Future of Reference Site Use on the Oneida Reservation

- Needs
 - More data
 - Data on streams outside Reservation for consideration in reference site designation for other types of streams
 - Time
 - Federally approved WQS, to use biocriteria to prevent degradation of stream

Future of Reference Site Use (cont.)

- Challenges

- Getting reference sites/biocriteria into WQS
- Keeping this as a priority with many other important activities for a small team (Phase II, restoration projects, other biomonitoring)
- Will it still be a reference-caliber site when we are ready for inclusion in WQS?

