

Pinelands Macroinvertebrate Index (PMI)¹

Study area: southern New Jersey, below the geologic fall-line within the Pinelands National Reserve and extending 5 kilometers outside the Reserve boundary. See figure A1.

Index Metrics

1. Number of Insect genera
2. Number of Non-insect genera
3. Percent Plecoptera (P) and Trichoptera (T)
4. Percent Diptera genera excluding Tanytarsini
5. Percent Mollusca and Amphipoda
6. Beck's Biotic Index
7. Percent Filterers

<u>Assessment Rating</u>	<u>Score</u>
Excellent	≥ 63
Good	< 63-56
Fair	< 56-34
Poor	< 34

Reference

Benjamin Jessup, et al. Report. Development of the New Jersey Pinelands macroinvertebrate index (PMI). TetraTech, Inc. Owings Mills, MD. March, 2005.

Attributes

Excellent: Minimal changes in structure of biological community and minimal changes in ecosystem function. Virtually all native taxa are maintained with some changes to biomass and/or abundance; ecosystem functions are fully maintained within the range of natural variability.

Good: Some evident changes in structure of the biotic community and minimal changes in ecosystem function. Some changes in structure due to loss of some rare native taxa; shifts in relative abundance of taxa but sensitive-ubiquitous taxa are common and abundant; ecosystem functions are fully maintained.

Fair: Moderate to major changes in structure of biological community and moderate changes in ecosystem function. Sensitive taxa are markedly diminished; conspicuously unbalanced distribution of major groups from that expected; organism condition shows signs of physiological stress; system function shows reduced complexity.

Poor: Extreme changes in structure of biological community and major loss of ecosystem function. Extreme changes in structure; wholesale changes in taxonomic composition; extreme alterations from normal densities and distributions; organism condition is often poor; ecosystem functions are severely altered.

¹ Based on 100 organism subsample, genus level taxonomy