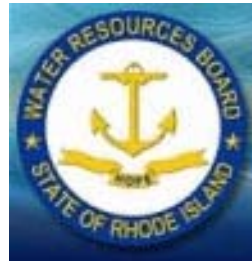


# Saving Our Fisheries and Drinking Water

If we have healthy fisheries it means that we are living in a sustainable environment. It means that we have been able to keep the pollution reasonably in check to provide good drinking water. Sustainability also means that healthy flows are maintained for aquatic life and for future generations. But the Hunt River is stressed and withdrawals are lowering stream levels especially in the summer months. As a result portions of the streams are drying up and causing the loss of river fish. Even small changes can make a big difference. We need you to

do your part in lowering the use of water from the Hunt River.

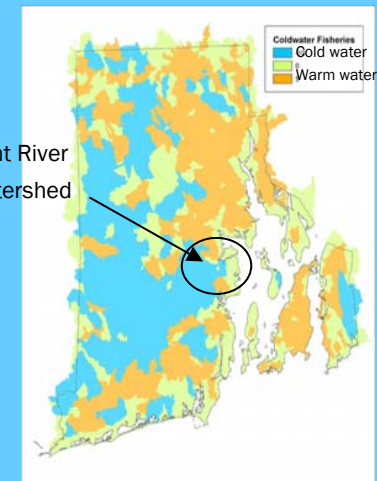


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Protecting Coldwater Fisheries

# Understanding the Hunt River Watershed

Rhode Island DEM  
Water Resources Board  
North Kingstown Water Dep.



Protecting Coldwater Fisheries

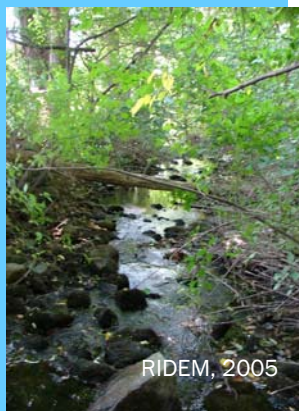
# Coldwater Fisheries

## “Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

are the only trout native to much of the eastern United States. One of the most beautiful freshwater fish, brook trout survive in only the coldest and cleanest water. Brook trout serve as indicators of the health of the watersheds they inhabit.



Strong wild brook trout populations demonstrate that stream or river ecosystem is healthy and that water quality is excellent.



A decline in brook trout populations can serve as an early warning that the health of an entire aquatic system is at risk” - *Trout Unlimited*

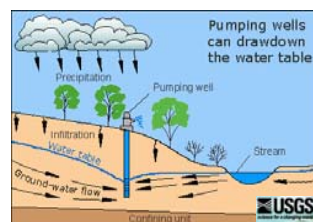
## The Hunt River Tributaries

The green lines and green dots are fish sampling locations. The green color indicates that brook trout were found during sampling events and therefore, the streams support coldwater fisheries. The trout to the left was caught in a Hunt River coldwater tributary. In the picture on the right, no trout were found.



## Water Use Affects Coldwater Fisheries

North Kingstown, Kent County Water Authority and Quonset Development Corporation all have wells near the Hunt Aquifer. Wells intercept the cold water that normally flows into the river sustaining the trout streams.



The water you use in the summer makes a difference. Lawn watering in particular causes low stream flows.



Pictured below is the lower Hunt River, where water stopped flowing over the dam. As a result there is not enough water downstream to sustain a healthy river system.



## We Can Make A Difference!

Any water saved can make a big difference

- Water your lawn no more than 1/week (less if it recently rained). Your grass will be stronger and healthier. Or plant drought resistant plants. URI has a master gardener website with water saving tips.

<http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/tips/4.html>

- Fix that leak. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons/day. A leaky faucet 3,000 gallons/yr.
- Don't flush money down the drain. If your toilet is from 1992 or earlier it is time to replace it with an efficient low flush toilet.
- Turn water off when you're not using it.

## Goals

The Rhode Island Water Resources Board has begun a pilot study on the Hunt River. The goal is to develop recommendations and a coherent strategy for application in the Hunt-Annaquatucket-Pettaquamscutt basin that will seek to ensure a sustainable balance between human and ecological water needs and will serve as an improved model for statewide water resources conservation, management, and allocation.