

Iowa Surface Water Classifications (567 IAC 61.3)¹

General use segments. These are intermittent watercourses and those watercourses which typically flow only for short periods of time following precipitation and whose channels are normally above the water table. These waters do not support a viable aquatic community during low flow and do not maintain pooled conditions during periods of no flow.

The general use segments are to be protected for livestock and wildlife watering, aquatic life, noncontact recreation, crop irrigation, and industrial, agricultural, domestic and other incidental water withdrawal uses.

Designated use segments. These are water bodies which maintain flow throughout the year or contain sufficient pooled areas during intermittent flow periods to maintain a viable aquatic community.

All perennial rivers and streams as identified by the U.S. Geological Survey 1:100,000 DLG Hydrography Data Map (published July 1993) or intermittent streams with perennial pools in Iowa not specifically listed in the surface water classification of 61.3(5) are designated as Class B(WW-1) waters.

All perennial rivers and streams as identified by the U.S. Geological Survey 1:100,000 DLG Hydrography Data Map (published July 1993) or intermittent streams with perennial pools in Iowa are designated as Class A1 waters.

Designated uses of segments may change based on a use attainability analysis consistent with 61.2(5)“e.” Designated use changes will be specifically listed in the surface water classification of 61.3(5).

Designated use waters are to be protected for all uses of general use segments in addition to the specific uses assigned. Designated use segments include:

Primary contact recreational use (Class “A1”). Waters in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard. Such activities would include, but not be limited to, swimming, diving, water skiing, and water contact recreational canoeing.

Secondary contact recreational use (Class “A2”). Waters in which recreational or other uses may result in contact with the water that is either incidental or accidental. During the recreational use, the probability of ingesting appreciable quantities of water is minimal. Class A2 uses include fishing, commercial and recreational boating, any limited contact incidental to shoreline activities and activities in which users do not swim or float in the water body while on a boating activity.

Children’s recreational use (Class “A3”). Waters in which recreational uses by children are common. Class A3 waters are water bodies having definite banks and bed with visible evidence of the flow or occurrence of water. This type of use would primarily occur in urban or residential areas.

Cold water aquatic life—Type 1 (Class “B(CW1”). Waters in which the temperature and flow are suitable for the maintenance of a variety of cold water species, including reproducing and

¹ Classifications as of September 2010. For current classifications see 567 IAC 61 at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/IAC.html>.

nonreproducing populations of trout (*Salmonidae* family) and associated aquatic communities.

Cold water aquatic life—Type 2 (Class “B(CW2)”). Waters that include small, channeled streams, headwaters, and spring runs that possess natural cold water attributes of temperature and flow. These waters usually do not support consistent populations of trout (*Salmonidae* family), but may support associated vertebrate and invertebrate organisms.

Warm water—Type 1 (Class “B(WW-1)”). Waters in which temperature, flow and other habitat characteristics are suitable to maintain warm water game fish populations along with a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species. These waters generally include border rivers, large interior rivers, and the lower segments of medium-size tributary streams.

Warm water—Type 2 (Class “B(WW-2)”). Waters in which flow or other physical characteristics are capable of supporting a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species. The flow and other physical characteristics limit the maintenance of warm water game fish populations. These waters generally consist of small perennially flowing streams.

Warm water—Type 3 (Class “B(WW-3)”). Waters in which flow persists during periods when antecedent soil moisture and groundwater discharge levels are adequate; however, aquatic habitat typically consists of nonflowing pools during dry periods of the year. These waters generally include small streams of marginally perennial aquatic habitat status. Such waters support a limited variety of native fish and invertebrate species that are adapted to survive in relatively harsh aquatic conditions.

Lakes and wetlands (Class “B(LW)”). These are artificial and natural impoundments with hydraulic retention times and other physical and chemical characteristics suitable to maintain a balanced community normally associated with lake-like conditions.

Human health (Class “HH”). Waters in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption or waters both designated as a drinking water supply and in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption.

Drinking water supply (Class “C”). Waters which are used as a raw water source of potable water supply.