

Water Quality Trends



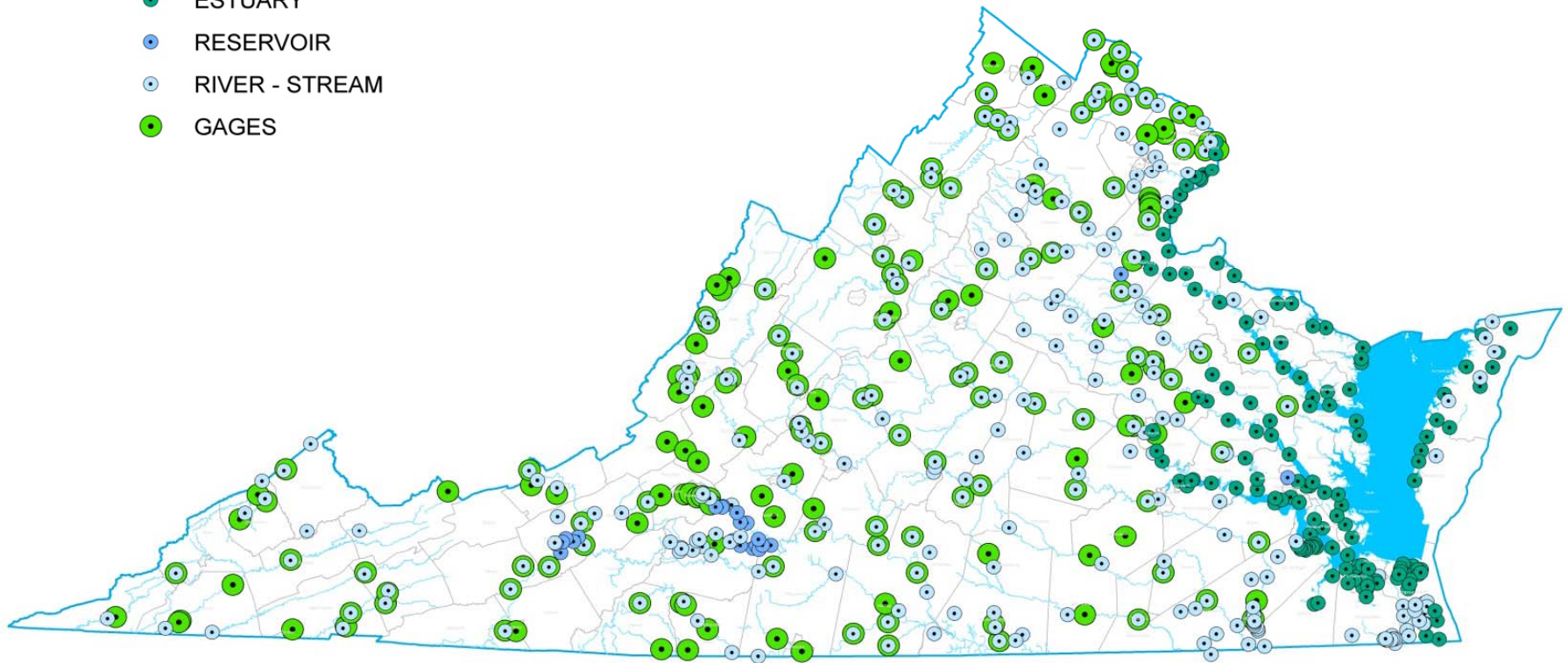
Roger E. Stewart II

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
National Environmental Monitoring Conference
Washington, DC, USA

WATER QUALITY TREND AND GAGE STATIONS



- ESTUARY
- RESERVOIR
- RIVER - STREAM
- GAGES



Sources:

1. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Comprehensive Environmental Data System.
2. National Hydrography Data Center.
3. Virginia Department of Transportation.
4. U.S. Department of Commerce, U.U. Census Bureau, Geography Division, 2008.
5. U.S. Geological Survey Stream Gage Network.

0 12.5 25 50 Miles



WATER QUALITY TRENDS 1991 TO 2010 NITROGEN ANNUAL PERCENT CHANGE RIVERS AND STREAMS

SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT

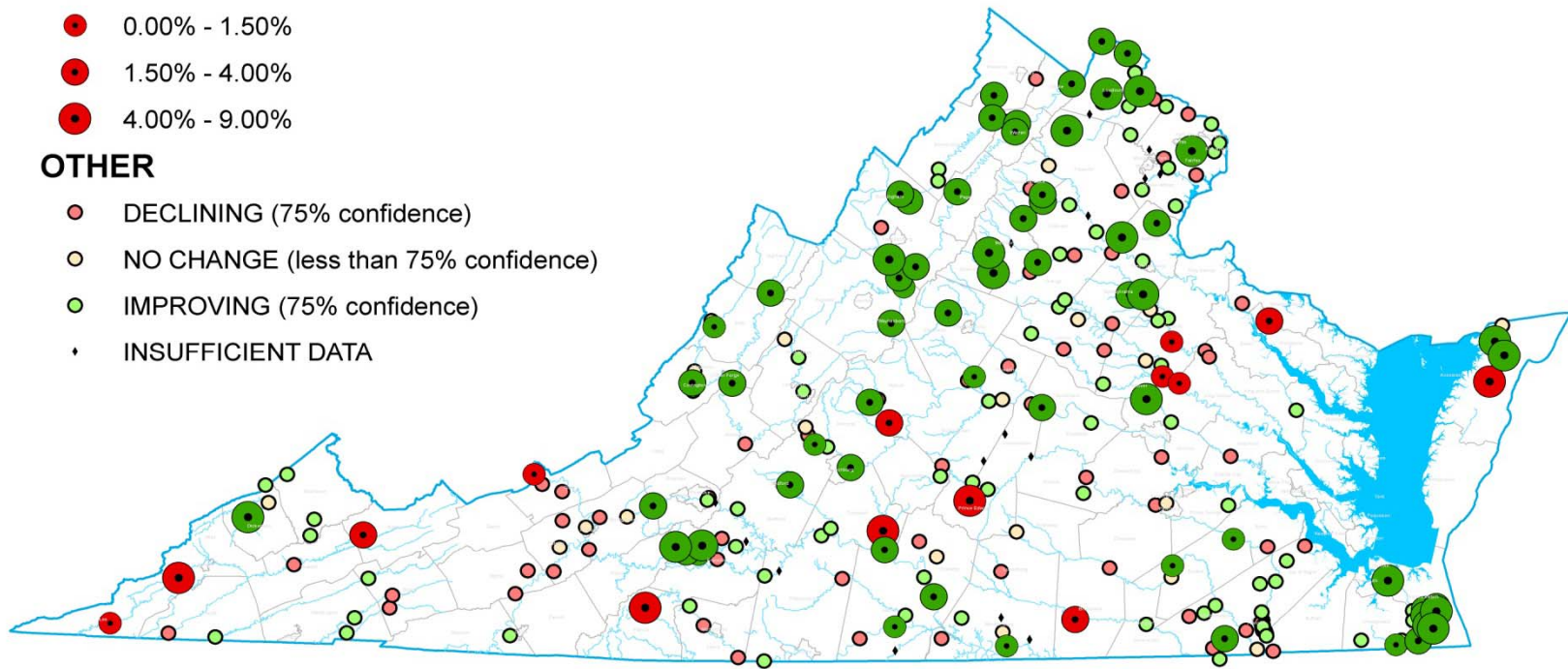
- 2.00% - 3.00%
- 1.00% - 2.00%
- 0.00% - 1.00%

SIGNIFICANT DECLINE

- 0.00% - 1.50%
- 1.50% - 4.00%
- 4.00% - 9.00%

OTHER

- DECLINING (75% confidence)
- NO CHANGE (less than 75% confidence)
- IMPROVING (75% confidence)
- INSUFFICIENT DATA



Sources:

1. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Comprehensive Environmental Data System.
2. National Hydrography Data Center.
3. Virginia Department of Transportation.
4. U.S. Department of Commerce, U.U. Census Bureau, Geography Division, 2008.
5. U.S. Geological Survey Stream Gage Network.

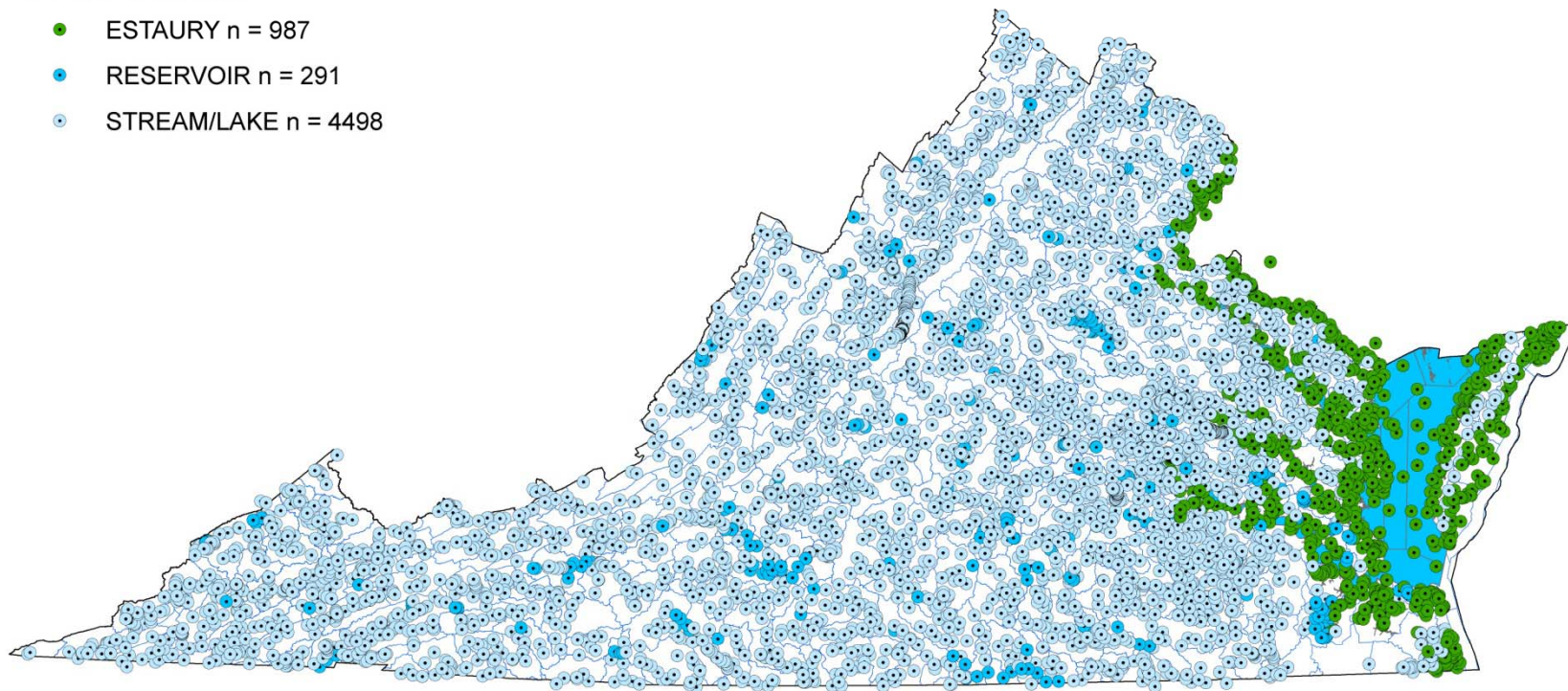


Integrated Water Quality Trends 1991 to 2010

Water Monitoring Stations

IWQ STATIONS

- ESTAURY n = 987
- RESERVOIR n = 291
- STREAM/LAKE n = 4498



Miles
0 9 18 27 36

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Comprehensive Environmental Data System
IWQ analysis developed by R.E.Stewart and D.H.Smith.

NWBD 5th order layer provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Map created on 14 July 2010.

5,776 stations

Temp, pH, DO, SC, Bact, N, P, SS

**130,962 separate sample
collection events**

1,047,696 data points

TREND GROUPS	DATA SET PAGES
LAKES	379
ESTUARIES	2,352
STREAMS	4,295
FLOW	527
FLOW ADJUSTED	3,458
LOADS	2,622
IWQ	4,752
TOTAL DATA SET PAGES	18,385







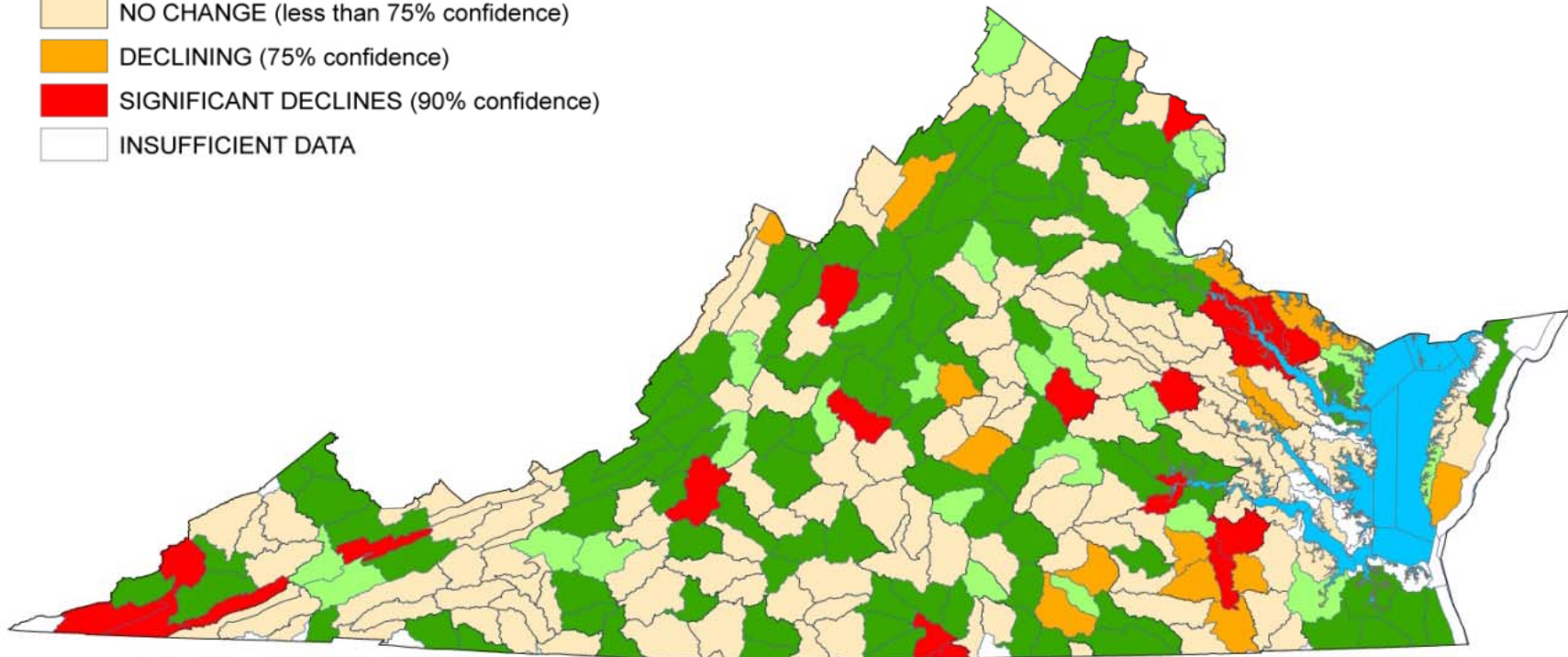
ASSESSMENT

DATA

Integrated Water Quality Trends 1991 to 2010 Nitrogen in Rivers and Streams

STREAM NITROGEN

-  SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS (90% confidence)
-  IMPROVING (75% confidence)
-  NO CHANGE (less than 75% confidence)
-  DECLINING (75% confidence)
-  SIGNIFICANT DECLINES (90% confidence)
-  INSUFFICIENT DATA








0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles

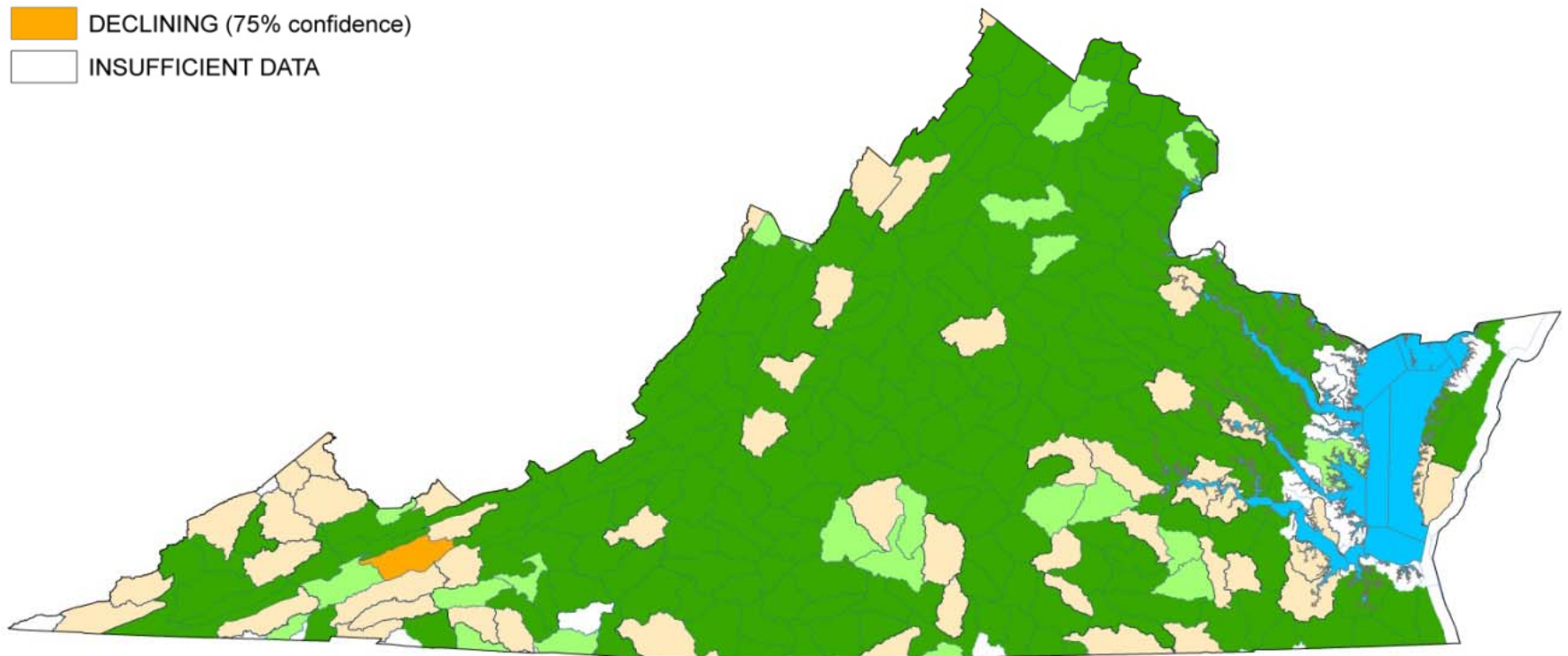
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Comprehensive Environmental Data System
IWQ analysis developed by R.E. Stewart and D.H. Smith.

NWBD 5th order layer provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Map created on 14 July 2010.

Integrated Water Quality Trends 1991 to 2010 Bacteria in Rivers and Streams

STREAM BACTERIA

-  SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS (90% confidence)
-  IMPROVING (75% confidence)
-  NO CHANGE (less than 75% confidence)
-  DECLINING (75% confidence)
-  INSUFFICIENT DATA



0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Miles

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Comprehensive Environmental Data System
IWQ analysis developed by R.E. Stewart and D.H. Smith.

NWBD 5th order layer provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Map created on 14 July 2010.

WATER QUALITY TRENDS 1991 TO 2010 BACTERIA ANNUAL PERCENT CHANGE RIVERS AND STREAMS

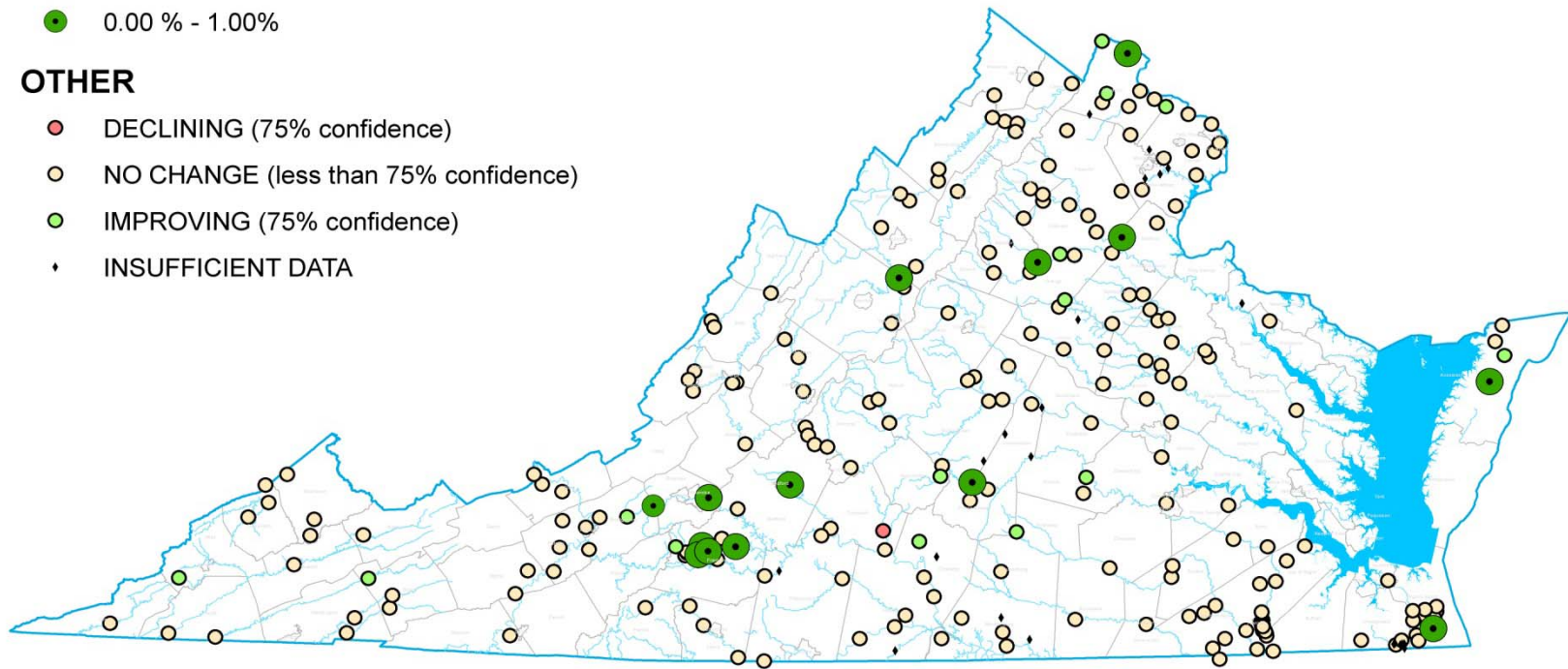


SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT

- 3.00% - 6.00%
- 1.00% - 3.00%
- 0.00% - 1.00%

OTHER

- DECLINING (75% confidence)
- NO CHANGE (less than 75% confidence)
- IMPROVING (75% confidence)
- INSUFFICIENT DATA



Sources:

1. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Comprehensive Environmental Data System.
2. National Hydrography Data Center.
3. Virginia Department of Transportation.
4. U.S. Department of Commerce, U.U. Census Bureau, Geography Division, 2008.
5. U.S. Geological Survey Stream Gage Network.

0 15 30 60 Miles



**A Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan
For Fecal Coliform and Nitrate Reductions**

DRAFT



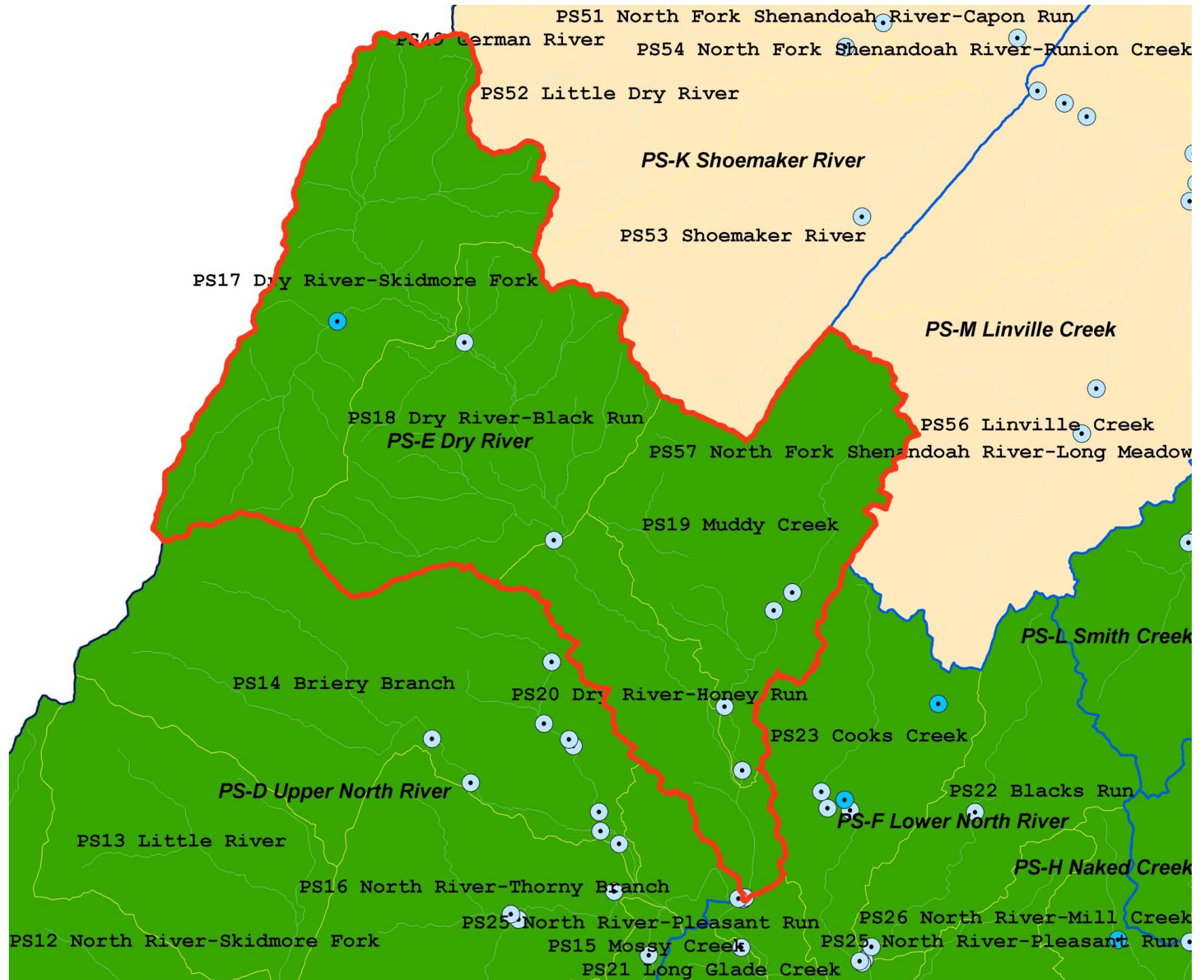
Submitted to
The Stakeholders of
Muddy Creek, Dry River, Pleasant Run, and Mill Creek Watersheds

On Behalf of
The Commonwealth of Virginia:
Department of Conservation and Recreation

Prepared by



June 26, 2001










2005 VADEQ PROGRESS REPORT BY Robert Brent

Is Water Quality Improving in Muddy Creek and Dry River?

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/export/sites/default/tmdl/pdf/mcdrprog.pdf>



2005 VADEQ **Improvements?** PROGRESS REPORT BY Robert Brent

	Muddy Creek	Dry River
Bacteria		
Nitrate		
Aquatic Life		

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/export/sites/default/tmdl/pdf/mcdrprog.pdf>



Section 319

NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

Virginia

Conservation Stewardship Puts Muddy Creek and Lower Dry River Watersheds on Path to Recovery

Waterbodies Improved

Runoff from agricultural and residential activities and livestock stream access contributed to water quality impairments to Virginia's Muddy Creek and Lower Dry River. Both waterbodies violated state water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria and nitrate, and excess sediment and phosphorus loads further degraded aquatic life in Muddy Creek. These water quality problems caused the state to place Muddy Creek and the Lower Dry River on Virginia's 303(d) list of impaired waters.

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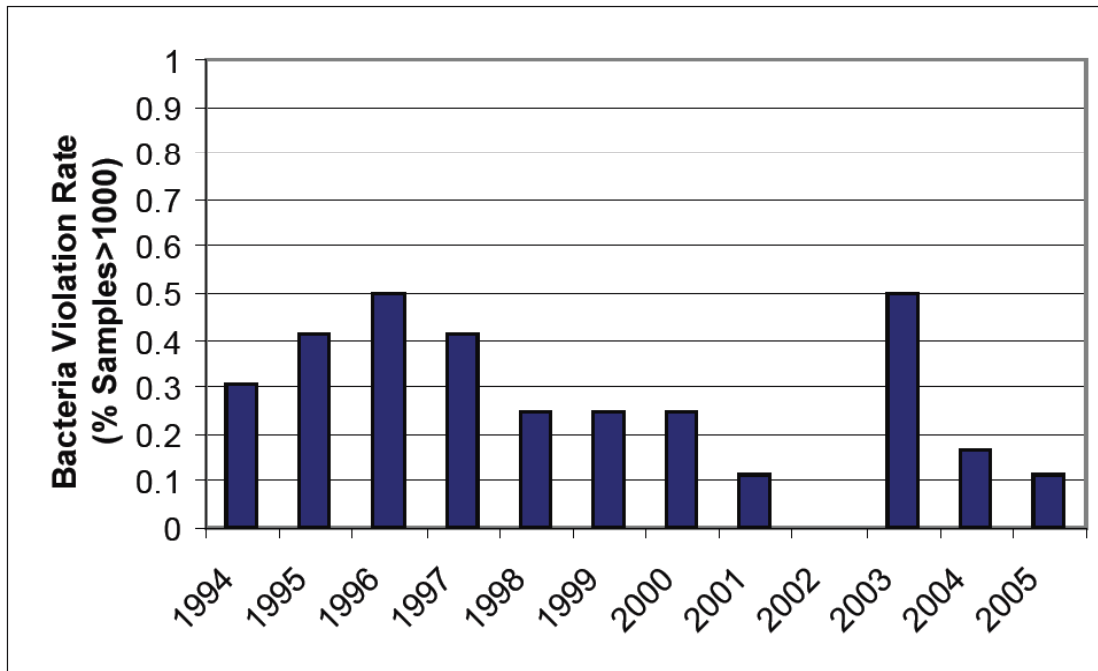
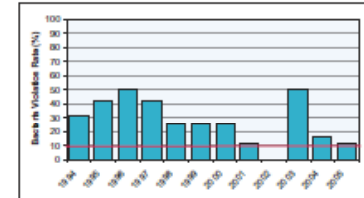
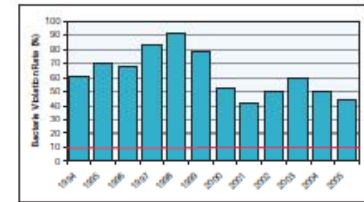


Figure 5. Violation rate of the 1,000 colony forming units/100 mL instantaneous standard for fecal coliform in Lower Dry River.

project partners conducted numerous on-site tours, gave presentations to civic clubs, mailed postcards advertising the program, personally contacted farmers and residents, and held meetings to update the community on water quality improvements.

Results

Early results from the BMP implementation effort are encouraging. As shown in the accompanying graphs, fecal coliform counts in Muddy Creek and the Lower Dry River have declined overall. By 2005, the Lower Dry River showed an 11 percent violation rate of the state fecal coliform standard. This rate is down from a high of 50 percent and just above the state's 10 percent violation rate threshold for 303(d) listing.



Violation rate of the 1,000 colony-forming units/100 mL instantaneous standard for fecal coliform bacteria in Muddy Creek (top) and the Lower Dry River (bottom). To be delisted for impairments caused by fecal coliform bacteria, a waterbody may not have a bacteria violation rate greater than 10 percent (represented by the red line).

manure storage units. Religious beliefs preclude the community from accepting any financial assistance to implement BMPs. Community members refused any cost share assistance and assumed complete financial responsibility for 8.3 of the 10 miles of livestock exclusion fencing installed throughout the watershed.

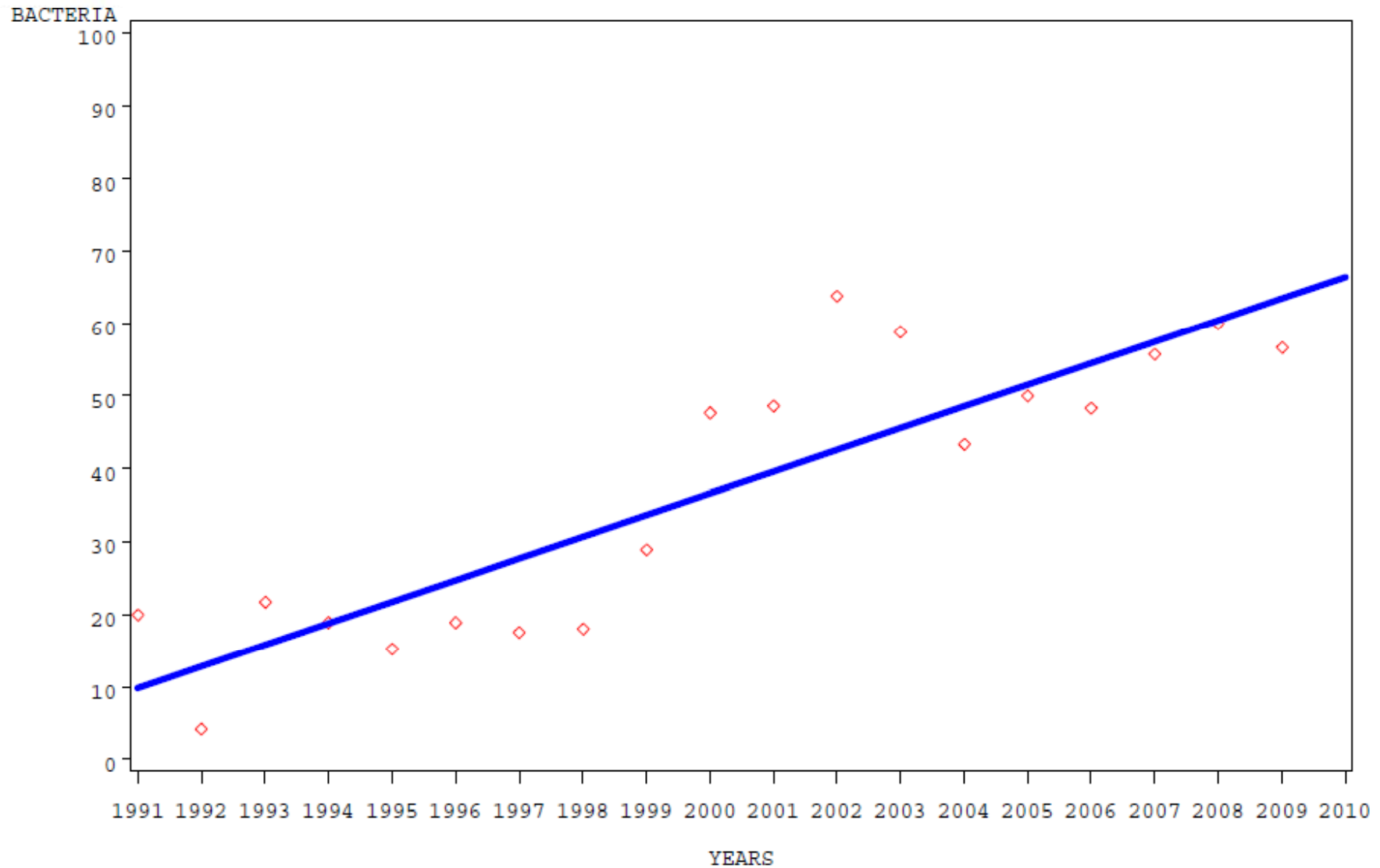
Since 2002 more than \$309,000 in section 319 funding has supported two full-time SVSWCD staff, who provide technical assistance to the Mennonite community and others in the project area. This support has generated nearly \$839,000 in cost-share funds—approximately \$200,000 of which came from farmers—to implement agricultural and residential BMPs. Finally, project partners used \$130,000 in USDA/EQIP funds to install BMPs throughout the North River watershed.

For additional information contact:

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- Megan O'Gorek**
Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District
540-433-2853 • megan.ogorek@va.nacdnet.net
- Nesha Mizel**
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
540-332-9238 • nesha.mizel@dcr.virginia.gov
- Ann Carkhuff**
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
215-814-5735 • carkhuff.ann@epa.gov

IWQ SCORES — REFERENCE PERIOD 2001 TO 2010

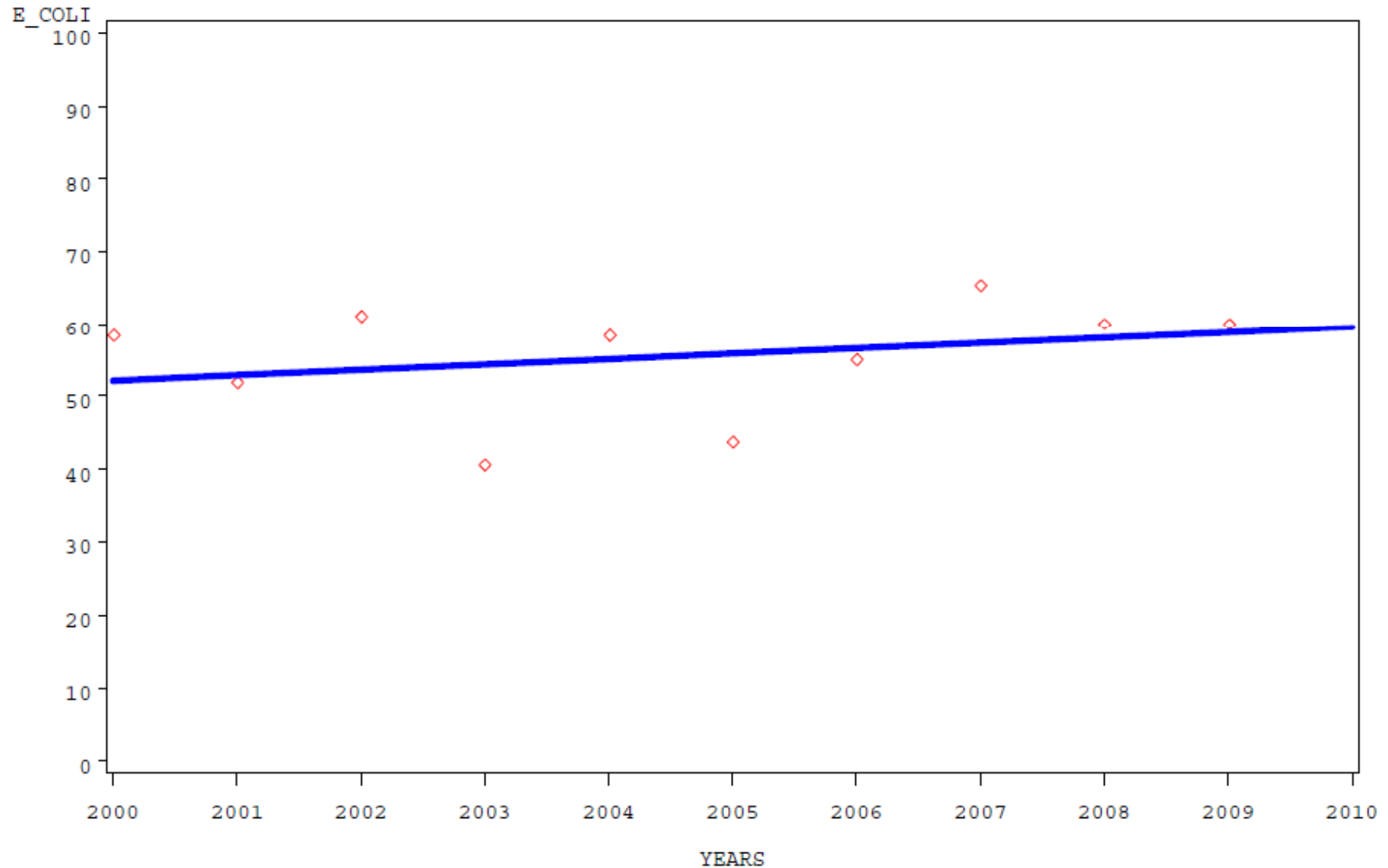
VAHU5=PS-E ON5=Dry River STA_LV1_CODE=STREAM



Regression Equation:
 $BACTERIA = -82.45191 + 0.008152 * YEARS$

IWQ SCORES — REFERENCE PERIOD 2001 TO 2010

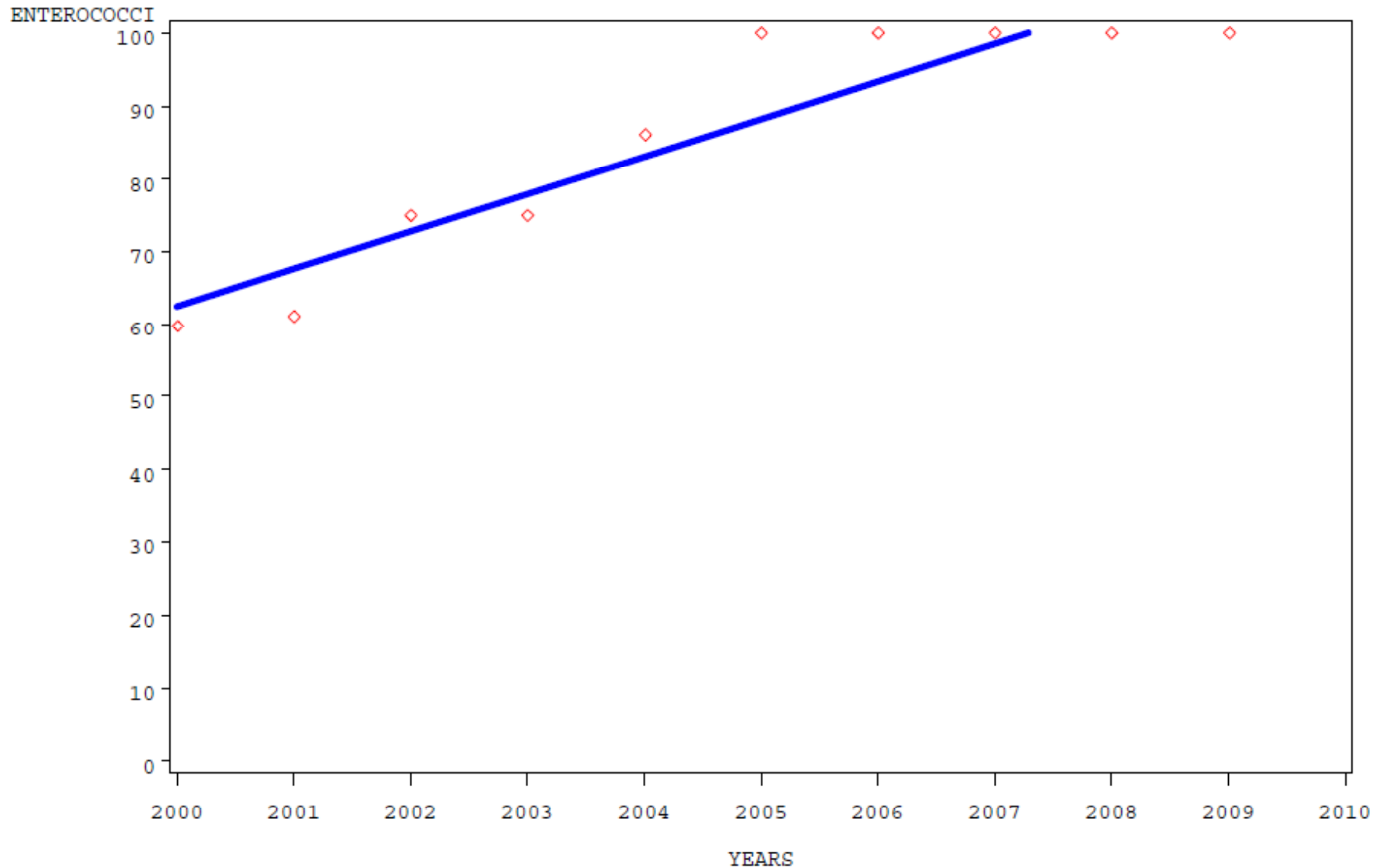
VAHU5=PS-E ON5=Dry River STA_LV1_CODE=STREAM



Regression Equation:
 $E_COLI = 22.51857 + 0.002025 * YEARS$

IWQ SCORES — REFERENCE PERIOD 2001 TO 2010

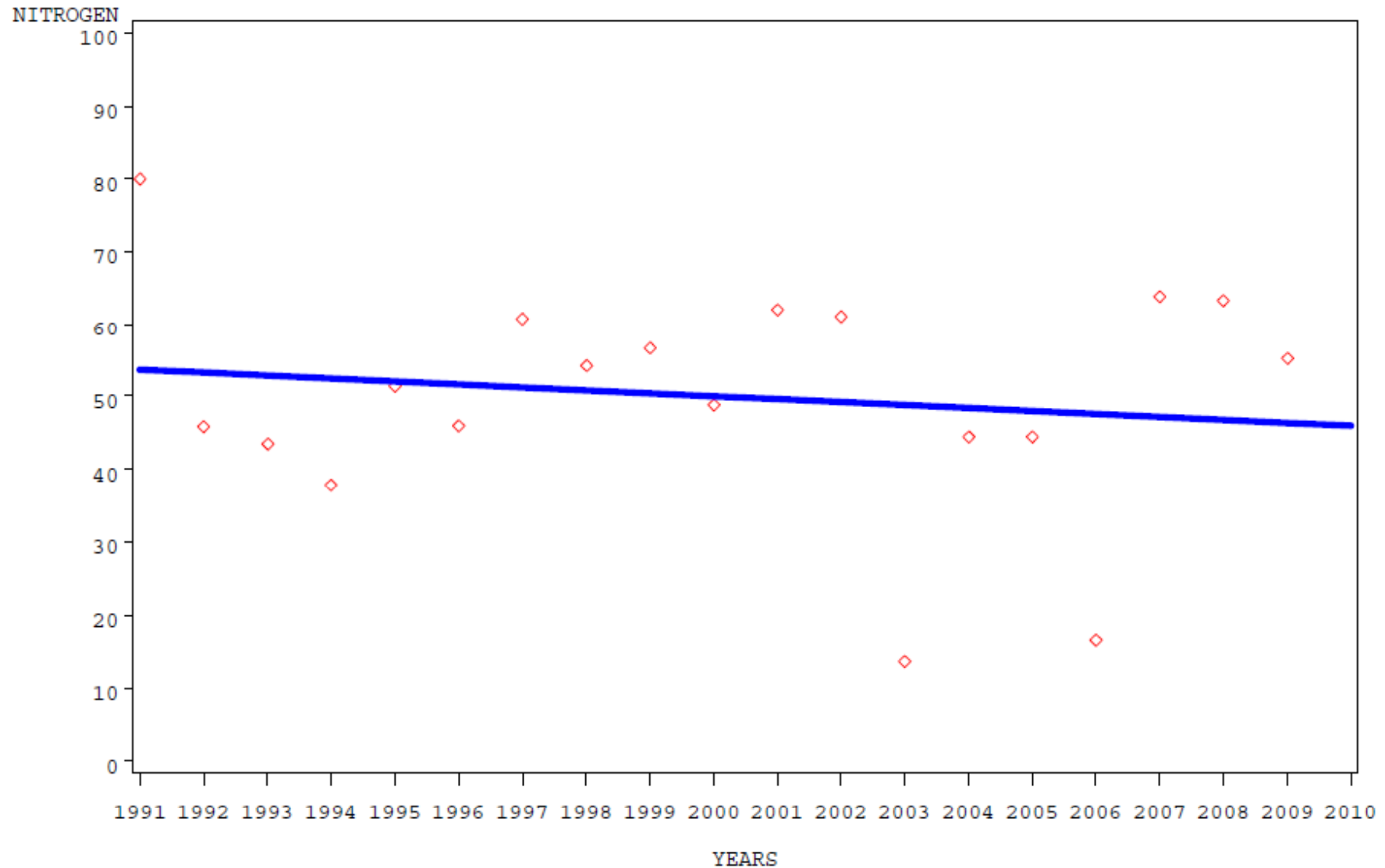
VAHU5=PS-E ON5=Dry River STA_LV1_CODE=STREAM



Regression Equation:
 $ENTEROCOCCI = -143.183 + 0.014079 * YEARS$

IWQ SCORES — REFERENCE PERIOD 2001 TO 2010

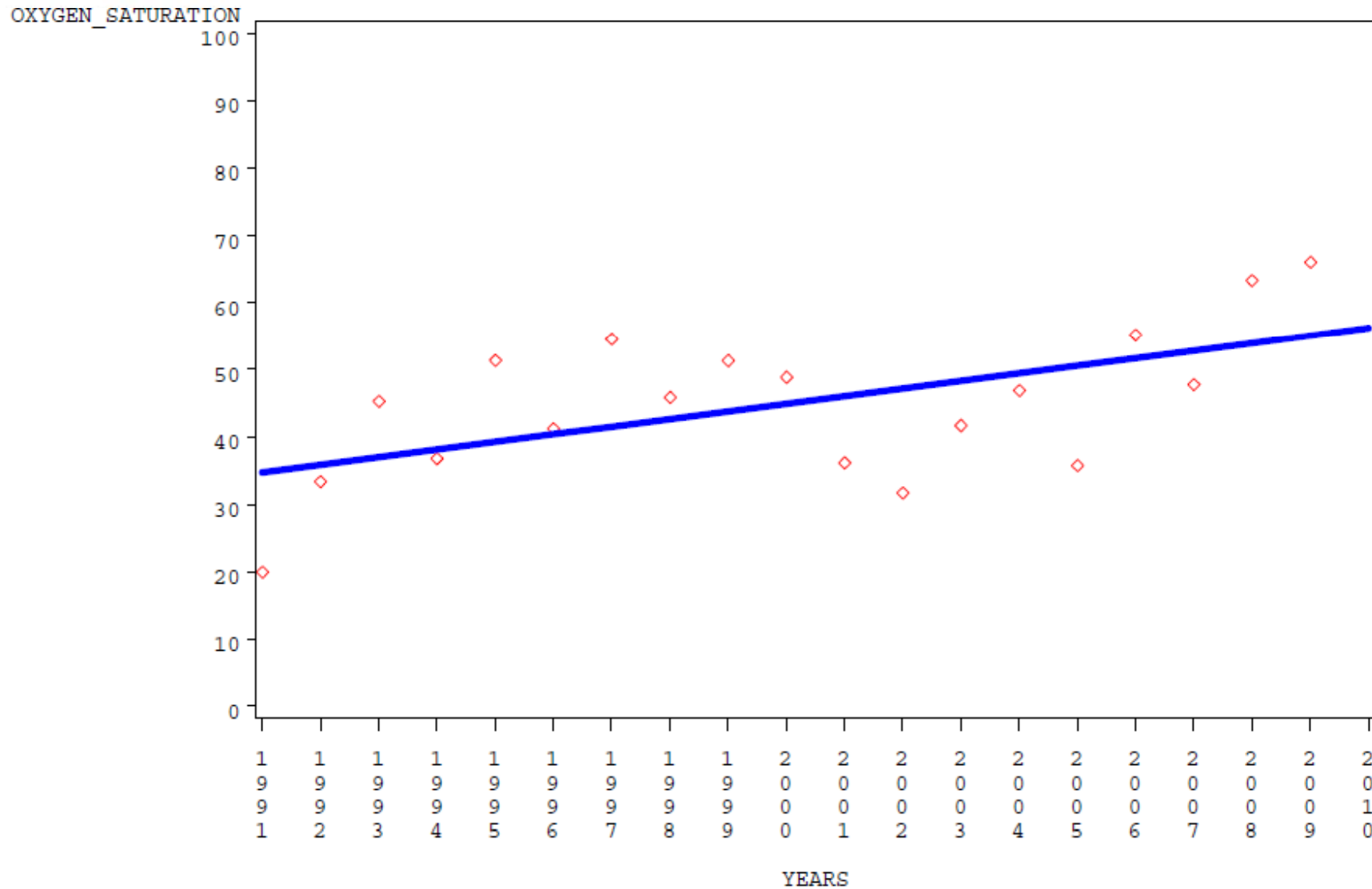
VAHU5=PS-E ON5=Dry River STA_LV1_CODE=STREAM



Regression Equation:
NITROGEN = 66.13025 - 0.001105*YEARS

IWQ SCORES — REFERENCE PERIOD 1999 TO 2008

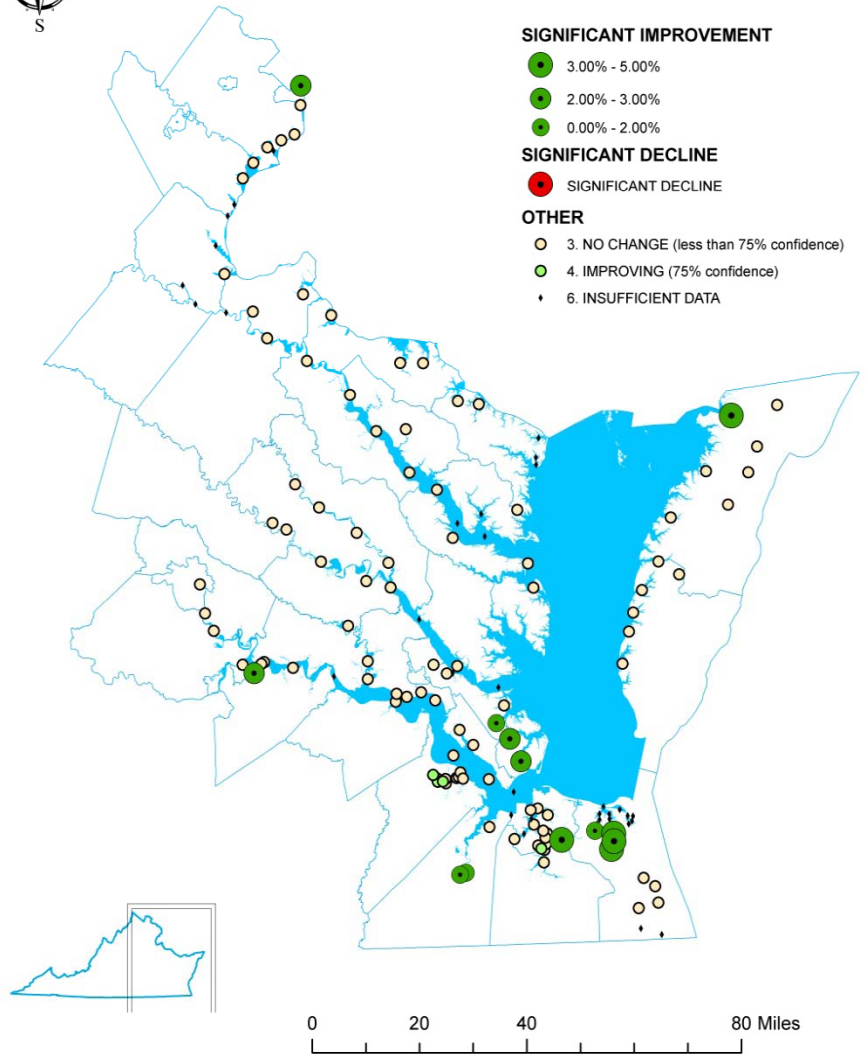
VAHU5=PS-E ON5=Dry River STA_LV1_CODE=STREAM



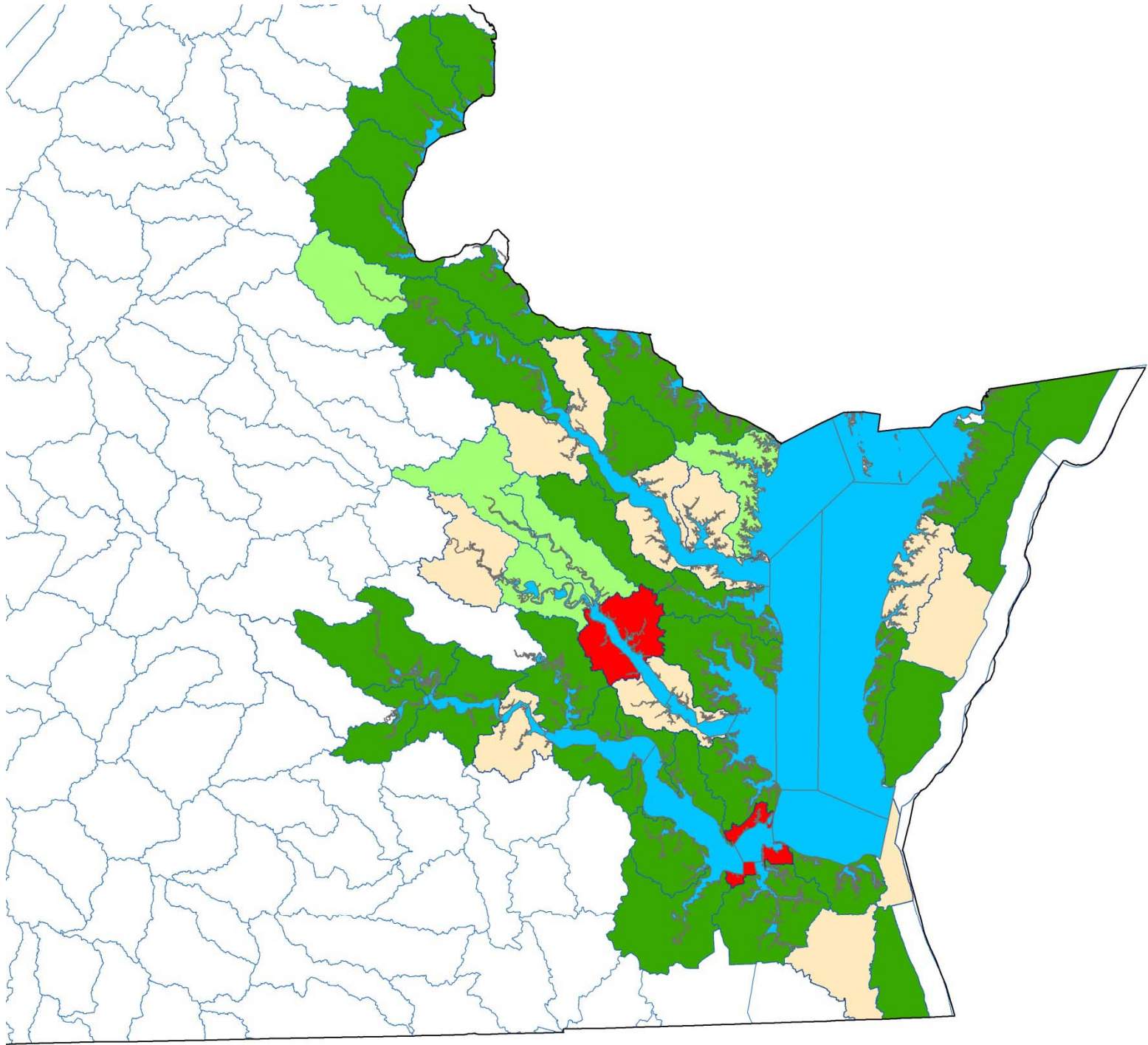
Regression Equation:
 $OXYGEN\ SATURATION = -0.385935 + 0.003098 * YEARS$

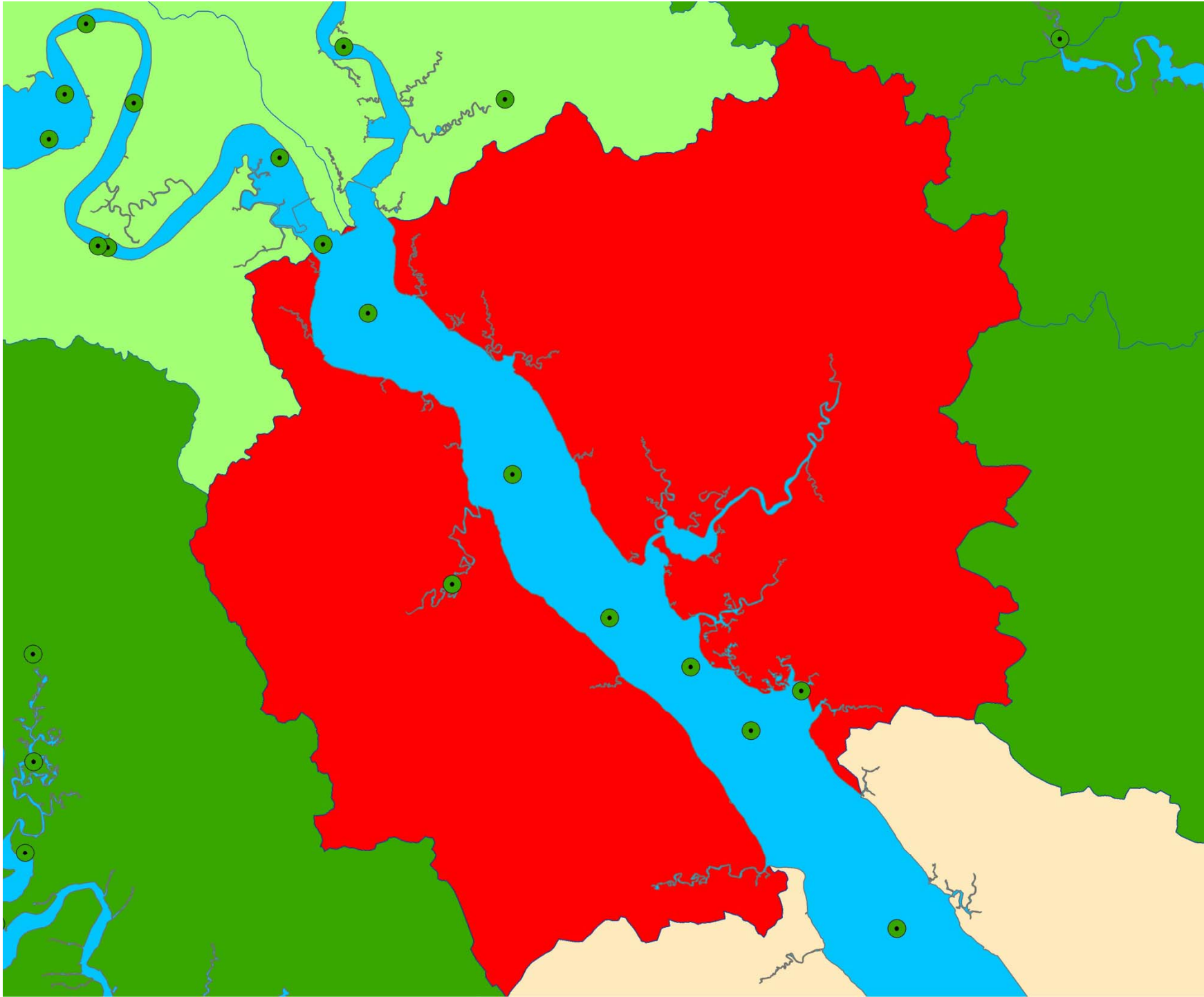
“Since 2002 more than \$309,000 in section 319 funding has supported two full-time SVSWCD staff, who provide technical assistance to the Mennonite community and others in the project area. This support has generated nearly \$839,000 in cost-share funds—approximately \$200,000 of which came from farmers—to implement agricultural and residential BMPs. Finally, project partners used \$130,000 in USDA/EQIP funds to install BMPs throughout the North River watershed.”

**WATER QUALITY TRENDS 1991 TO 2010
BACTERIA ANNUAL PERCENT CHANGE
ESTUARIES**



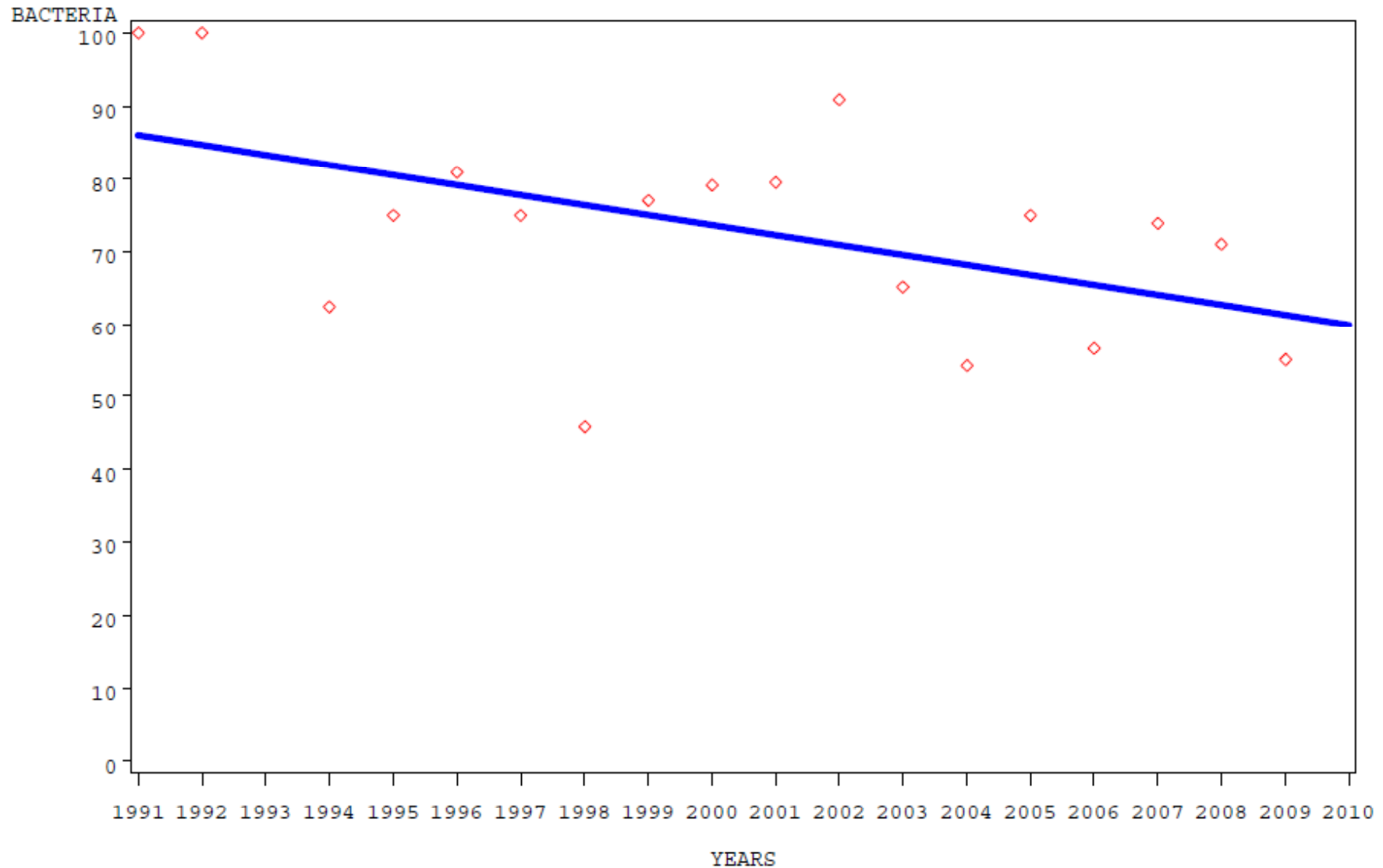
- Sources:
1. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Comprehensive Environmental Data System.
 2. National Hydrography Data Center.
 3. Virginia Department of Transportation.
 4. U.S. Department of Commerce, U.U. Census Bureau, Geography Division, 2008.
 5. U.S. Geological Survey Stream Gage Network.





IWQ SCORES — REFERENCE PERIOD 2001 TO 2010

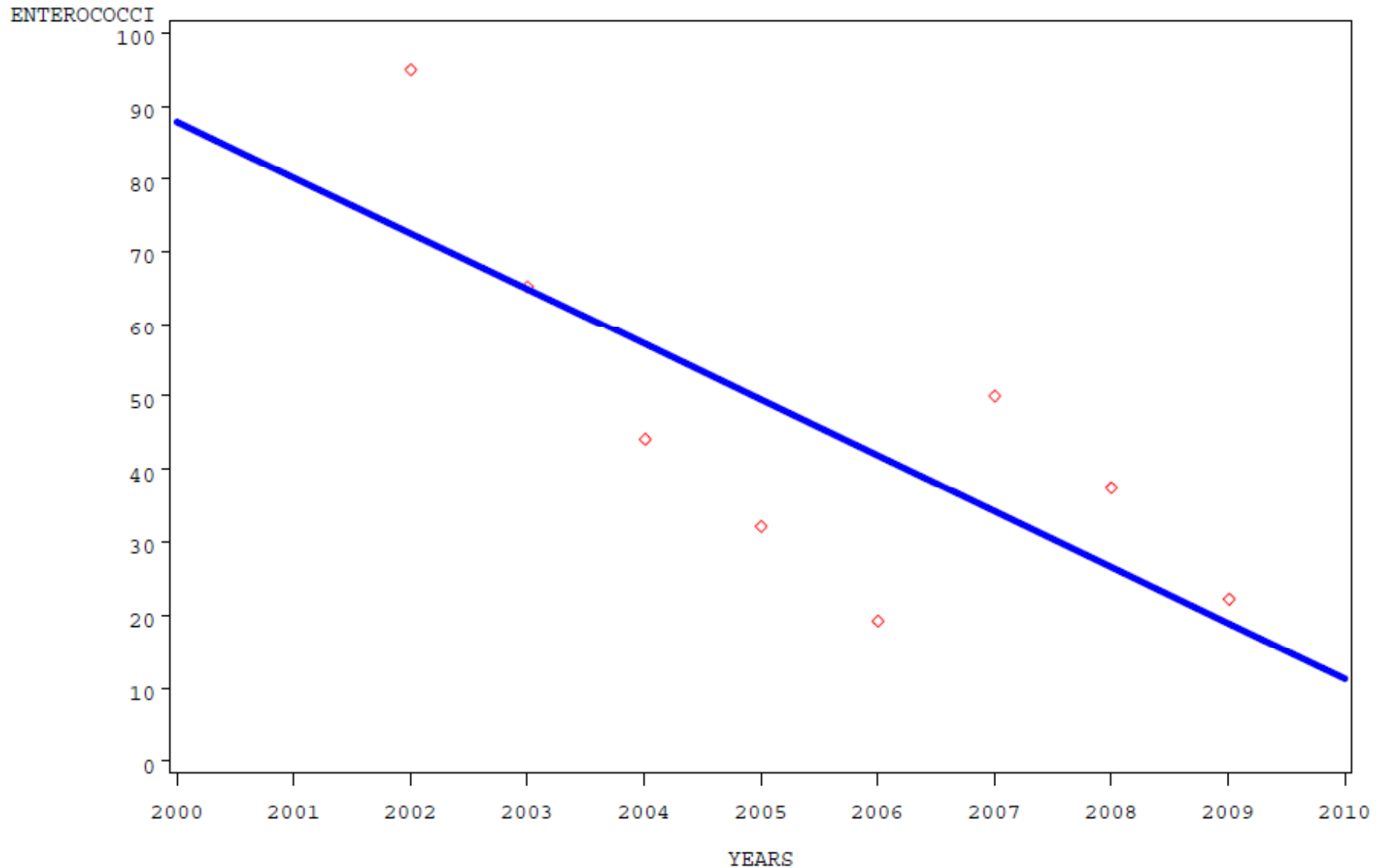
VAHU5=YO-R ON5=Upper York River STA_LV1_CODE=ESTURY



Regression Equation:
BACTERIA = 128.585 - 0.003757*YEARS

IWQ SCORES — REFERENCE PERIOD 2001 TO 2010

VAHU5=YO-R ON5=Upper York River STA_LV1_CODE=ESTURY



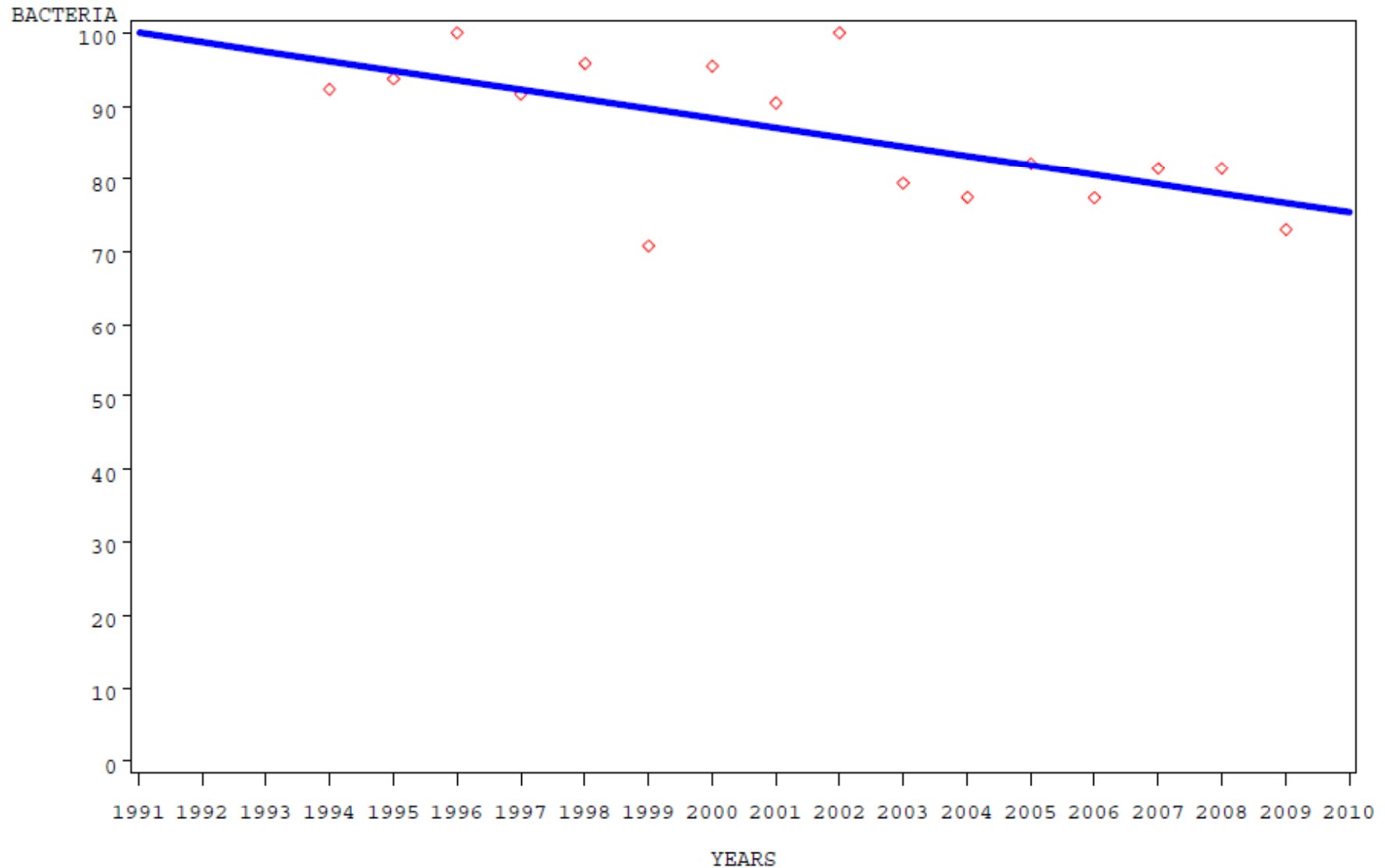
Regression Equation:

$$\text{ENTEROCOCCI} = 394.1938 - 0.020968 * \text{YEARS}$$



IWQ SCORES — REFERENCE PERIOD 2001 TO 2010

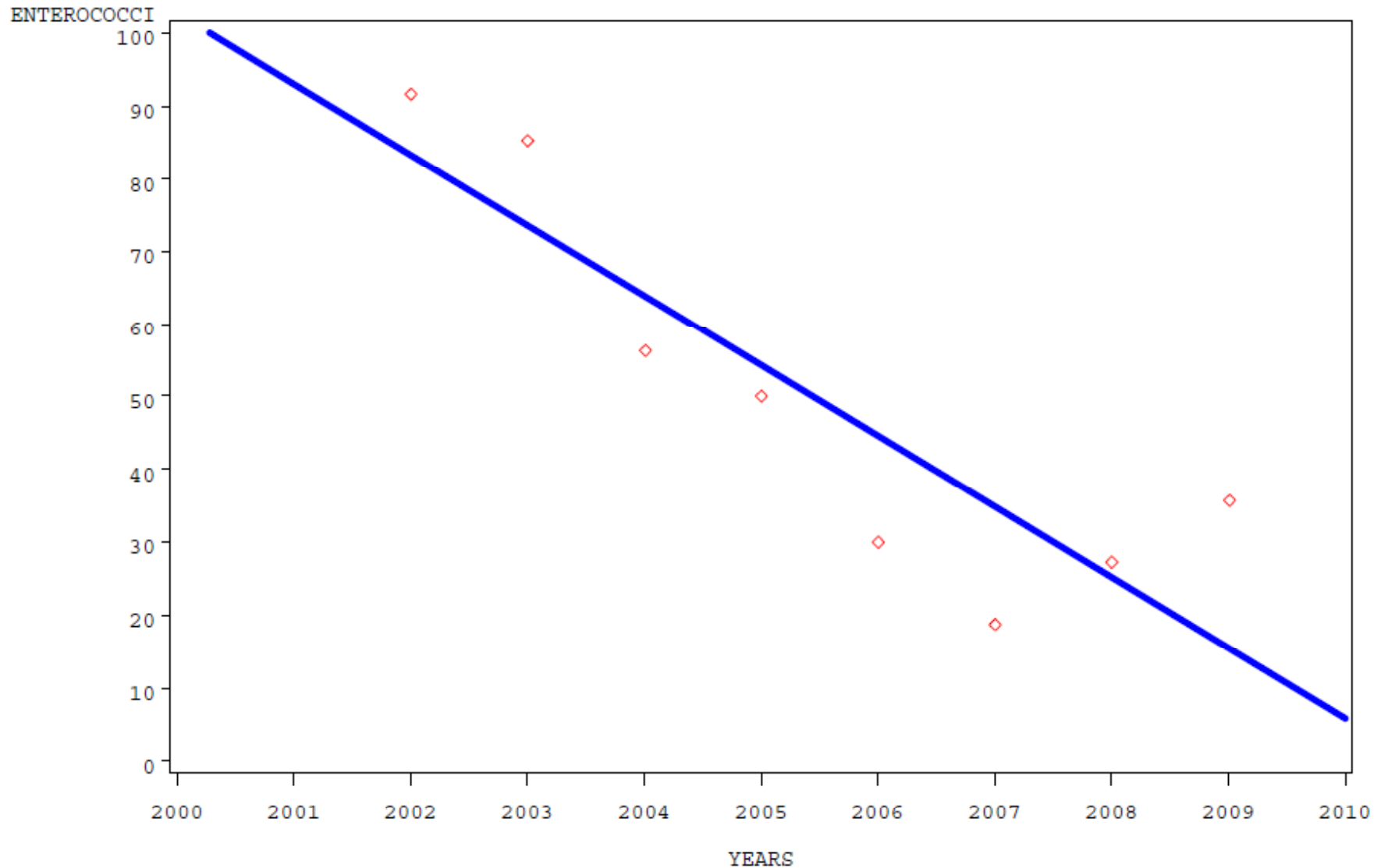
VAHU5=JL-L ON5=Hampton Roads STA_LV1_CODE=ESTURY



Regression Equation:
BACTERIA = 140.1962 - 0.003547*YEARS

IWQ SCORES — REFERENCE PERIOD 2001 TO 2010

VAHU5=JL-L ON5=Hampton Roads STA_LV1_CODE=ESTURY



Regression Equation:
 $ENTEROCOCCI = 490.3157 - 0.026529 * YEARS$

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

Traditional water quality assessments have reported on numbers of impaired waters.

Each year we add more and more dirty waters to the list.

Past measures of progress enumerated delisted waters.

There has been no interim measure available to document progress between these two endpoints.

What is needed is an interim measure of progress.

We need to better account for the intermediate effects of efforts to improve our waters, independent of impairment status.

It's time to improve our message by emphasizing water quality improvements over time, rather than a simple count of delistings.

Such indicators of progress have been referred to as “Interim Measures.”

Progress infers change over time...i.e.

Trend

Traditional analyses of time series data often use a nonparametric seasonal Kendall or similar statistic.

Performed on individual stations.

Generally limited to long-term trend stations only.

But... TMDL implementation is usually at the watershed scale.

What is needed is a measure of incremental progress at the watershed level.


Classification of Watersheds

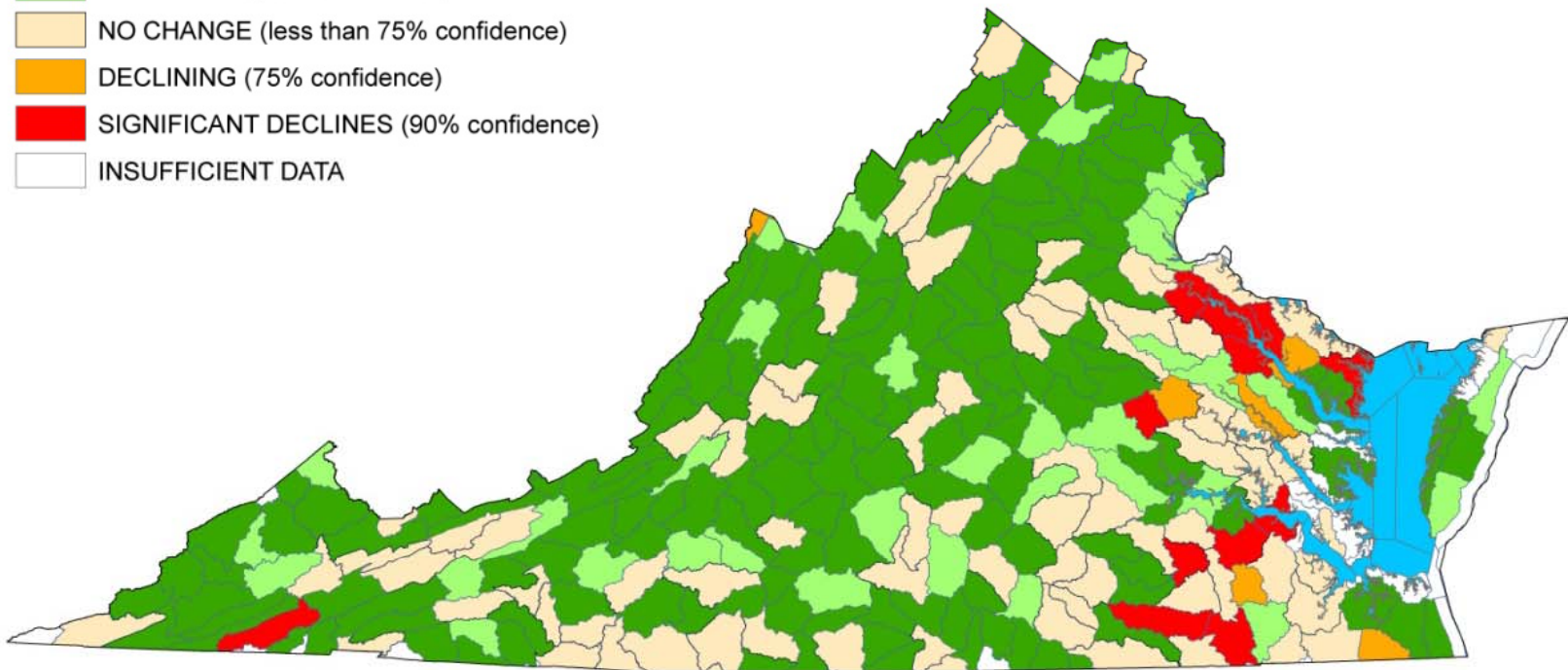
Watersheds can be classified and mapped based upon the significance of the linear regressions of their annual IWQ scores:


1. Watersheds with IWQ regressions of positive slope and confidence levels $\geq 90\%$ are classified as significantly improving in water quality.
2. Watersheds with IWQ regressions of positive slope and confidence levels $75\% \geq 90\%$ are classified as moderately improving in water quality.
3. Watersheds with IWQ regressions of confidence levels $< 75\%$ are classified as showing no significant change in water quality.
4. Watersheds with IWQ regressions of negative slope and confidence levels $75\% \geq 90\%$ are classified as moderately declining in water quality.
5. Watersheds with IWQ regressions of negative slope and confidence levels $\geq 90\%$ are classified as significantly declining in water quality.

Integrated Water Quality Trends 1991 to 2010 Suspended Solids in Rivers and Streams

STREAM SOLIDS

-  SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS (90% confidence)
-  IMPROVING (75% confidence)
-  NO CHANGE (less than 75% confidence)
-  DECLINING (75% confidence)
-  SIGNIFICANT DECLINES (90% confidence)
-  INSUFFICIENT DATA



 Miles
0 10 20 30 40

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NWBD 5th order layer provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Map created on 14 July 2010.



For more information please read the Trend and IWQ Chapters in the 2012 Integrated Report, available now!

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/WaterQualityAssessments/2012305b303dIntegratedReport.aspx>