

Willamette Basin Toxics Monitoring Locations



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

DEQ began to systematically monitor Oregon waters for toxic pollutants in 2008. DEQ collected small mouth bass or northern pike minnows at 12 Willamette River Basin locations. Fillets of these fish were analyzed for mercury and a suite of organic pollutants that may bioaccumulate in these predatory species. Water samples are collected monthly or bimonthly at 40 river sites in the basin and analyzed for toxic metals such as copper, lead, chromium and zinc. Periodically, water samples collected at 20 of these sites are analyzed for pesticides, industrial chemicals and emerging contaminants of concern such as plasticizers, pharmaceuticals and personal care products. DEQ will use these data to guide subbasin or watershed monitoring efforts to better characterize pollution sources and inform pollution reduction strategies.

