

**From:** Pike Messenger [mailto:pikemid@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 04, 2012 12:44 PM  
**To:** Baskin, Kathleen (EEA)  
**Subject:** SWMI comment letter from the Ipswich River

April 4, 2012

Dear Kathleen Baskin,

I've lived near the Ipswich River for 48 years. Since 1997 I have been an IRWA monthly monitor its depth, temperature, flow, and DO. For 3 years a friend and I did biomonitoring in several of its riffles.

Now I frequently canoe sections with other members of the Middleton Stream Team. From 1995 to 2009 I was Middleton's Conservation Agent helping administer the Wetland Protection Act, which includes the Rivers Protection Act. I know the river's up and downs fairly well.

I won't repeat all the arguments for keeping the river as high as is healthy for all creatures and plants year around. I suspect you know them better than I do.

Please give top priority to protecting the invaluable habitat provided by rivers, streams and their wetlands. The people in the watershed have plenty of water in my opinion. In Middleton, my town, the average yearly use is over 60 gallons per person per day. I can imagine this by lining up 12 5-gal buckets. I know very well from my household needs and those of friends we can do fine on 20 gallons or less. This is still much more than most of the rest of the world uses. We waste ours on lawns and unneeded 10 minute showers. On the two Navy ships I served on we took 20 second showers, 10 to wet before soaping and then 10 to rinse. We smelled pretty good after. Our river smells pretty good right now. We want to keep that natural condition.

Respectfully,

Pike Messenger, Middleton Stream Team

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