

Many different rivers lead to Long Island Sound. Why is the river important to animals and humans?

A group of scientists monitoring a river decided to look for insects because they are indicators of pollution. If an insect is considered sensitive, it means the insect cannot exist in polluted areas. The scientists studied the river for 2 years and found the following insects during each survey.

Year 1: Body Builder Mayfly, Common Stonefly, Dragonfly, Brush Legged Mayfly, Water Penny Beetle

Year 2: Scud, Black Fly, Aquatic Sow Bug, Non-Biting Midge, Snail

Most sensitive	Moderately sensitive	Least sensitive
Body-Builder Mayfly	Fingernet Caddisfly	Scud
Free-Living Caddisfly	Dragonfly	Aquatic Sow Bug
Brush Legged Mayfly	Water Penny Beetle	Non-Biting Midge
Common Stonefly	Dobsonfly	Black Fly
Saddlecase Maker Caddisfly	Damselfly	Snail

What do the survey results tell us about the health of the river from year 1 to year 2? Use the survey results and the insect sensitivity guide above.