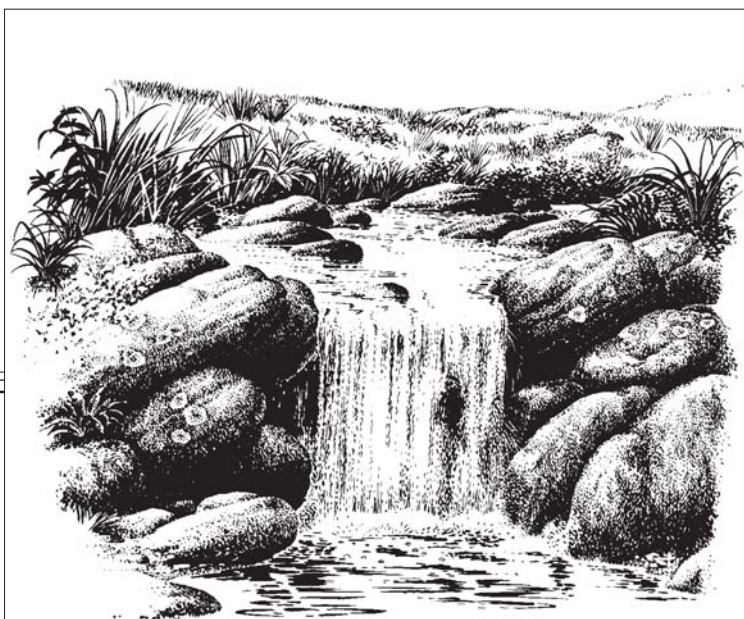

SEGNALAZIONI



Freshwater quality: defining the indefinable?

Edited by P.J. Boon and D.L. Howell

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The term “quality” is frequently used with reference to fresh water, yet its meaning is often far from clear. It is perhaps most commonly applied in the context of “water quality” assessments, in which selected chemical and biological features are used to classify rivers and lakes according to their degree of pollution.

There is now a growing recognition that descriptions of the overall “quality” of fresh waters should be more broadly based, taking account not only of a wide range of habitat characteristics and species, but other, non-biological values as well.

For this approach to work, new techniques of assessment are required, and is a clear understanding by planners and policy makers of the many attributes that contribute to the quality of fre-

shwater environments.

This book, based on a conference organised by the Research and Advisory Services Directorate of Scottish Natural Heritage, provides an up-to-date account of current interpretations of the term “freshwater quality”, describes a range of techniques for evaluating quality, and discusses ways in which the principles of quality assessment can be applied.

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