SIFT-ing for Solutions:
An Overview of Interstate Salinization Coordination

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Delaware River Basin Commission
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The U.S. Salt Belt & Delaware River Basin

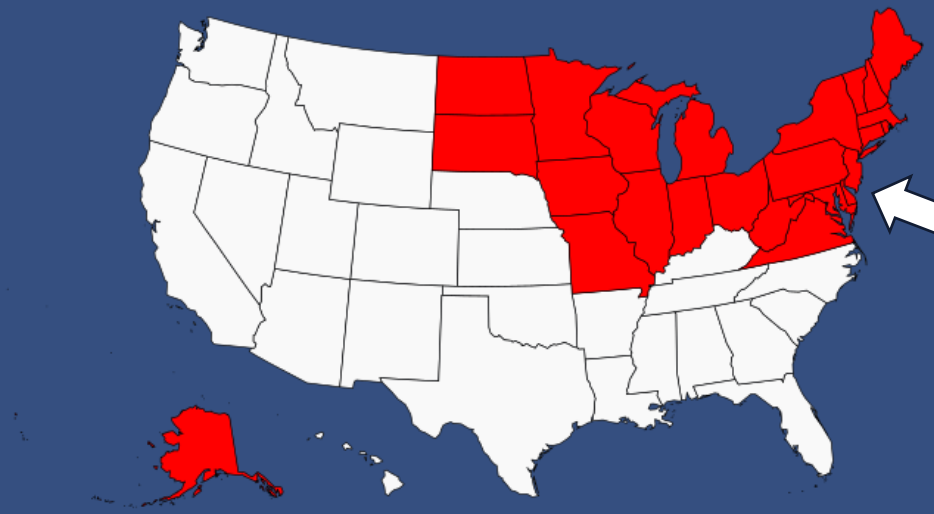
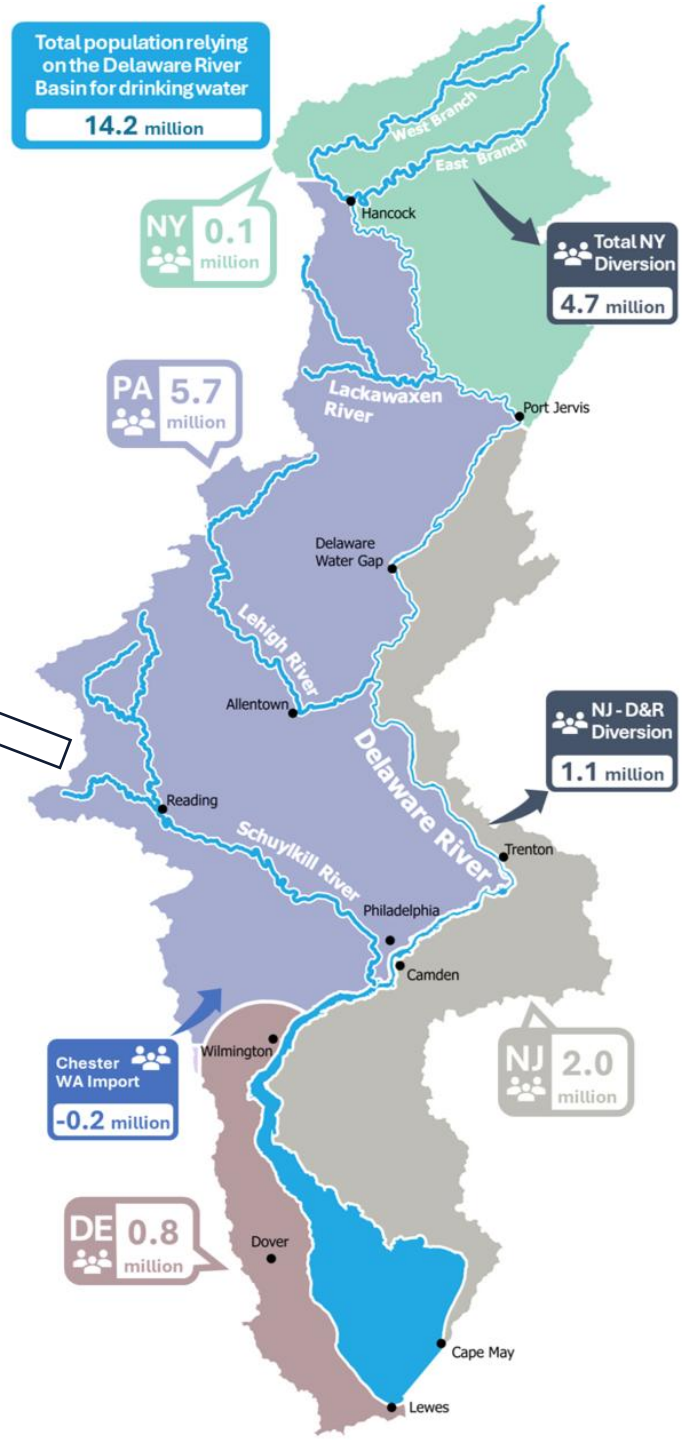


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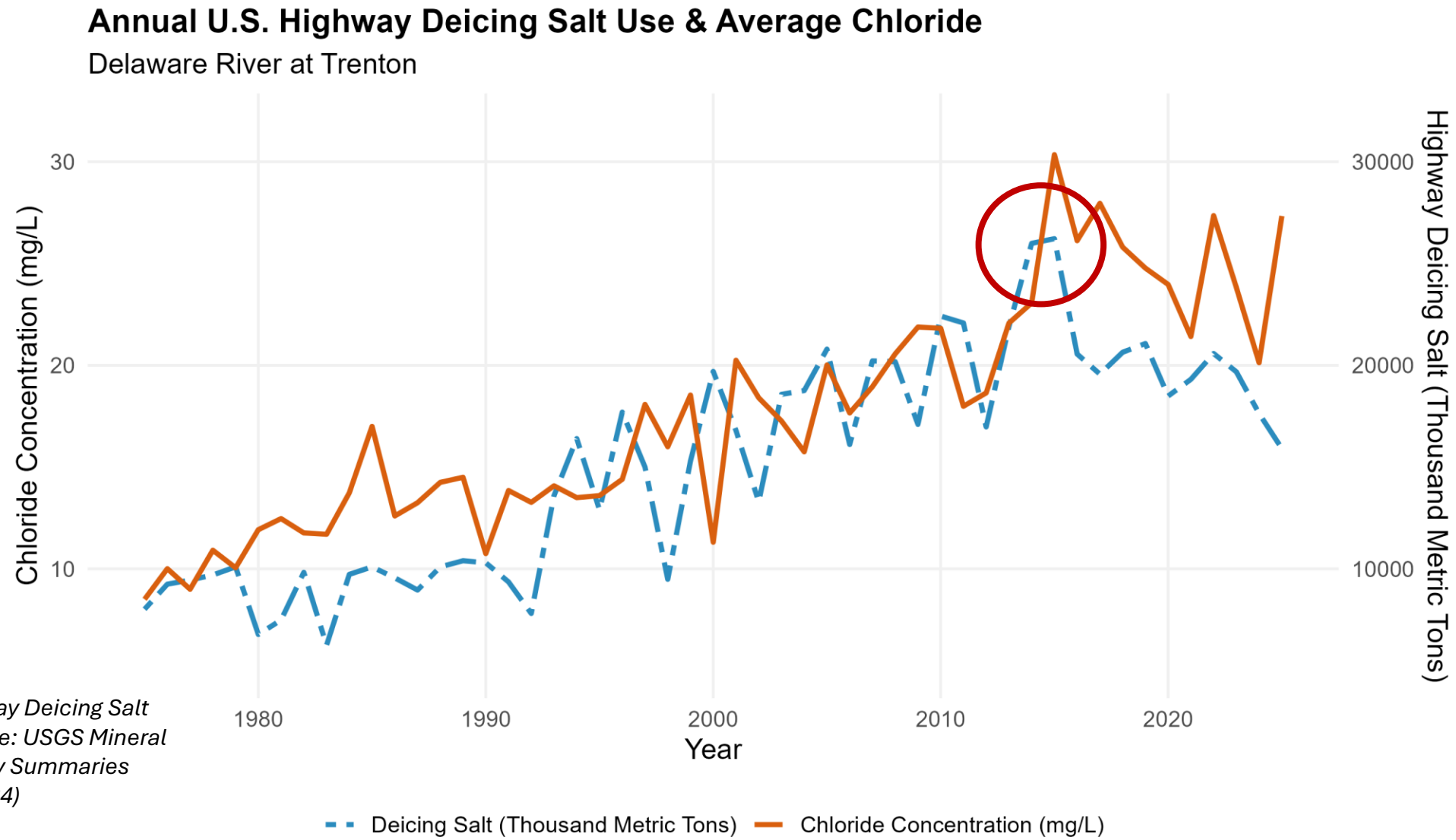
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Why do we care about salt...?

- Ecosystem Toxicity
- Drinking Water Security
- Infrastructure Corrosion

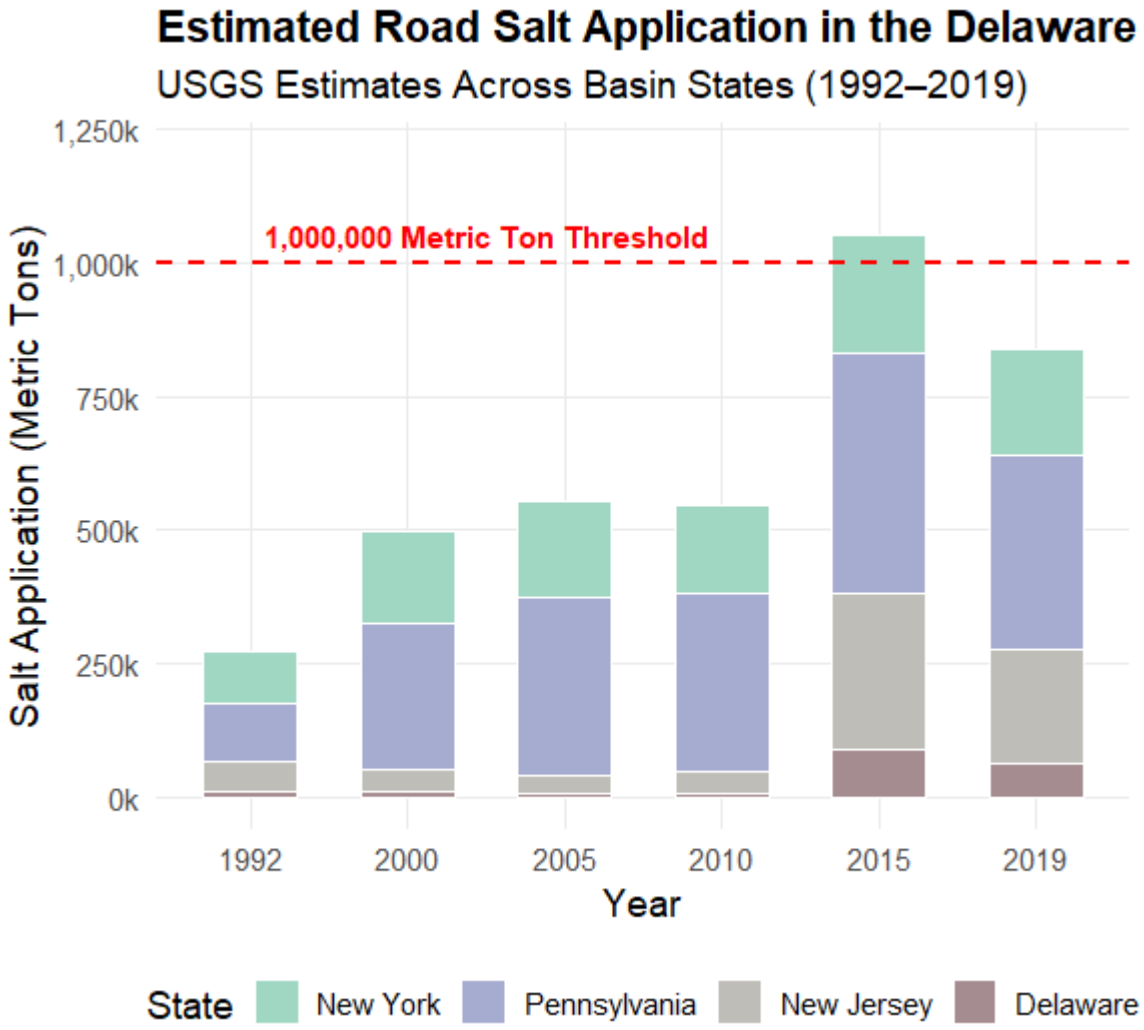
Rising Deicing Salt Use Impacts Water Quality: Evidence from the Delaware River

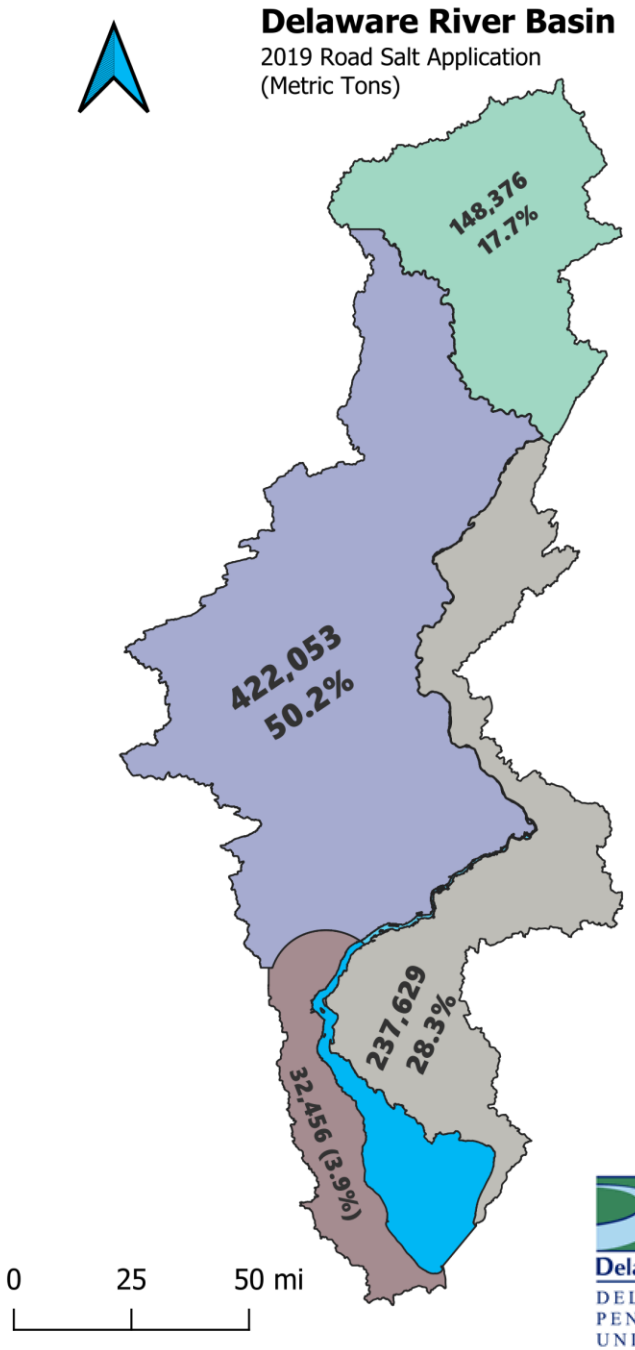


U.S. Highway Deicing Salt Data Source: USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries (1975 – 2024)

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Multi-state Pollution Requires Interstate Coordination





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THE CORE DILEMMA

Road Safety vs. Watershed Security

Public Safety

Clear Roads: Deicing for safer navigability.

Minimizing Accidents: Significantly reduces crashes during winter events.

Economic Advantage: Keeps supply chains open and transit active.



Long-term Water Security

Drinking Water: Over 14 million people rely on the DRB for drinking water.

Aquatic Toxicity: Chronic and acute ecosystem risks from salt pollution.

Cumulative Effect: Subsurface salt storage — *"a debt that hasn't been paid yet."*

Non-point source pollution management requires a unified interstate framework

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SIFT: An **Interstate Forum** to Share Data, Explore Management Options, and 'SIFT' Through Solutions, with the Goal of Identifying **Transboundary Management**

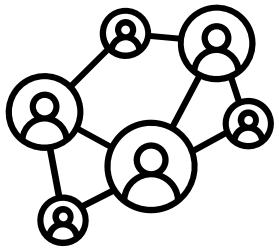
First Off...What is SIFT?

The **S**alinity **I**mpacts **F**reshwater **T**oxicity Workgroup (formed in 2023)

Goal: Collaborate, share knowledge, and explore salt pollution management options.

Cross-Sector Alliance

Connects federal, state, interstate, and local government with academia, non-profits, and industry.



Bridging Policy & Practice

- Connects regional monitoring data with regulatory discussions and municipal reality
- Fosters open communication on what states and municipalities *can* do.

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TODAY'S SESSION ROADMAP

From Data & Regulation to On-the-Ground Action

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1

JOHN JACKSON

Small Streams & Community Science

Synoptic stream sampling & year-round groundwater storage

2

ZOLTAN SZABO

Estuary Source Tracking

Geochemical tracers distinguishing road salt vs. drought intrusion

3

DEBORAH KRATZER

State Regulatory Action

Continuous monitoring, state standards, & Clean Water Act TMDLs

4

MARY ROONEY

Municipal BMP Implementation

Municipal winter maintenance BMPs, efficiency, & barriers

STROUD WATER RESEARCH CENTER

USGS science for a changing world

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

PARSA PENNSYLVANIA ROAD SALT ACTION

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Salt pollution crosses political borders—our solutions must do the same.

…**and** we're just getting started.

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