

CONTENTS

Abstract	1
Introduction	2
Purpose and Scope	4
Previous Investigations	4
Acknowledgments	4
Description of the Study Area	4
Land Use	5
Geology	47
Soils	46
Climate	10
Hydrology.....	13
Climatic and Hydrologic Conditions During the Study Period.....	13
Data Collection and Analysis	19
Collection of Samples for Suspended-Sediment Concentration	19
Calculation of Suspended-Sediment Discharge, Load, and Yield	20
Suspended-Sediment Characteristics in the Housatonic River Basin	22
Concentration	22
Discharge.....	27
Load.....	27
Yield	37
Limitations of the Analysis at Partial-Record Sediment Stations	43
Factors Affecting Suspended-Sediment Yield	46
Dams.....	46
Soils.....	46
Geology	47
Land Use	47
Other Factors	48
Comparison to Results of Other Suspended-Sediment Studies in the Northeastern United States	48
Summary and Conclusions.....	49
References Cited	51
Appendix 1. Daily mean streamflow at partial-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, western Massachusetts, March 1994 through April 1996	57
Appendix 2. Instantaneous suspended-sediment and associated data at three continuous-record and four partial-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, western Massachusetts, March 1994 through April 1996.....	66
Appendix 3. Daily mean streamflow, daily mean suspended-sediment concentration, and daily total suspended- sediment discharge at three continuous-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, western Massachusetts, March 1994 through April 1996.....	95

FIGURES

1–5. Maps showing:

1. Location of study area in the Housatonic River Basin, western Massachusetts and parts of eastern New York and northwestern Connecticut	3
2. Land use in the Housatonic River Basin	6
3. Distribution of underlying bedrock types and stratified drift and till deposits in the Housatonic River Basin	9
4. Distribution of the Hadley, Limerick, Linlithgo, Saco, and Winooski silt loam soils (high- erodibility soils) in the Housatonic River Basin.....	11
5. Climatological stations, dams, and continuous- and partial-record sediment stations in and near the Housatonic River Basin.....	12

6–12. Graphs showing:

6. Monthly precipitation at the Great Barrington Airport climatological station and streamflow and suspended-sediment yield at the three continuous-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, western Massachusetts, April 1994 through March 1996	14
7. Flow-duration curves of daily mean streamflow per square mile at six sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, western Massachusetts, April 1994 through March 1996	16
8. Flow-duration curves of daily mean streamflow during selected periods at sediment stations at the Housatonic River near Great Barrington and Green River near Great Barrington, Mass.	18
9. Relation of instantaneous suspended-sediment concentration to concurrent streamflow and associated sediment-transport curves at six sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, western Massachusetts, March 1994 through April 1996	25
10. Relation of instantaneous suspended-sediment discharge to concurrent streamflow and associated sediment-transport curves at six sediment stations, in the Housatonic River Basin western Massachusetts, March 1994 through April 1996.....	33
11. Relation of daily suspended-sediment discharge to daily mean streamflow and associated sediment-transport curves for the Housatonic River near Great Barrington, Mass. (station 01197500), April 1979 through September 1980 and April 1994 through March 1996	38
12. Sediment-transport curves of instantaneous suspended-sediment yield to concurrent streamflow per square mile at six sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, western Massachusetts, March 1994 through April 1996	42

TABLES

1. Basin and land-use characteristics for continuous- and partial-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, western Massachusetts, determined using a Geographic Information System	7
2. Description of continuous- and partial-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin	17
3. Minimum and maximum instantaneous streamflows recorded and minimum and maximum instantaneous streamflows sampled for suspended-sediment concentration at continuous- and partial-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, March 1994 through April 1996	22
4. Normalized instantaneous streamflows, concentrations, and normalized yields for suspended-sediment samples at continuous- and partial-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, March 1994 through April 1996	24
5. Sediment-transport curve equations for continuous- and partial-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, April 1979 through September 1980 and April 1994 through March 1996	28
6. Computation of suspended-sediment discharge, load, and yield at three partial-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, April 1994 through March 1996	30
7. Streamflow and suspended-sediment load at continuous- and partial-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, April 1994 through March 1996	35
8. Precipitation, streamflow, suspended-sediment load, and suspended-sediment yield at the Housatonic River near Great Barrington, Massachusetts, in the Housatonic River Basin, April 1979 through September 1980 and April 1994 through March 1996	36
9. Suspended-sediment yield, streamflow, and selected basin and land-use characteristics for continuous- and partial-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, April 1994 through March 1996	39
10. Comparison of suspended-sediment yield calculated using three methods for the three continuous-record sediment stations in the Housatonic River Basin, April 1979 through September 1980 and April 1994 through March 1996.....	45

CONVERSION FACTORS AND VERTICAL DATUM

CONVERSION FACTORS

	Multiply	By	To obtain
cubic foot per second (ft ³ /s)		0.02832	cubic meter per second
cubic foot per second per square mile [(ft ³ /s)/mi ²]		0.01093	cubic meter per second per square kilometer
foot (ft)		0.3048	meter
foot per mile (ft/mi)		490.728	meter per kilometer
foot per second (ft/s)		0.3048	meter per second
inch (in.)		25.4	millimeter
inch per year (in/yr)		2.54	centimeter per year
mile (mi)		1.609	kilometer
square mile (mi ²)		2.590	square kilometer
ton, short (ton)		0.90718	megagram
ton per day (tons/d)		0.90718	megagram per day
ton per day per square mile [(tons/d)/mi ²]		0.3503	megagram per day per square kilometer
ton per square mile (tons/mi ²)		0.3503	megagram per square kilometer
ton per year per square mile [(tons/yr)/mi ²]		0.3503	megagram per year per square kilometer
Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit (°F) can be converted to degrees Celsius (°C) as follows: °C = 5/9 (°F - 32).			

Concentration of suspended sediment in water is in milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Particle size of suspended sediment is in millimeters (mm).

Specific conductance of water is in microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius (µS/cm).

VERTICAL DATUM

Sea level: In this report, “sea level” refers to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD of 1929)—a geodetic datum derived from a general adjustment of the first-order level nets of the United States and Canada, formerly called Sea Level Datum of 1929.

