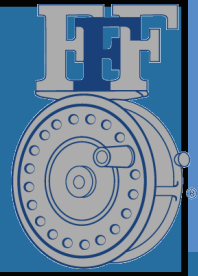




Photo by: National Park Service

Potomac River 2008 Endangered Fishery Federation of Fly Fishers Action Fact Sheet



The Endangered Fisheries Initiative

The diverse fisheries of the Potomac River suffer greatly from pollution created by industry, raw sewage, agricultural run-off and storm water. With an increase in the number of fish kills, fish with lesions and a condition called intersex, it is time that we address the problems of the Potomac River known as “the Nation’s River”.

The Endangered Fisheries Initiative is an awareness campaign designed to help fisheries at risk. By featuring the fish of the Potomac River as Endangered Fisheries, the Federation of Fly Fishers hopes to bring attention to this critical issue, protect this important resource and empower people to help.

Right under our noses....

As early as Lincoln’s presidency, it is said that in the heat of the summer he retreated to the highlands to escape the stench of the Potomac. In the 1960s, President Johnson declared the Potomac a “national disgrace” as dense algae covered the river. While there have been some improvements to the health of the Potomac over the years, major problems still exist. Our work to protect this valuable water and fisheries resource is not done yet.

The Threat

The list of threats and problems on our Nation’s River is long. Raw sewage spills, inputs of toxic chemicals and pesticides, declining fish populations and fish kills, intersex fish, and invasions by non-native species.

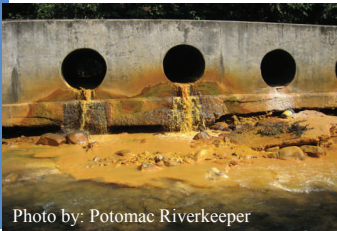


Photo by: Potomac Riverkeeper



Photo by: Potomac Riverkeeper

The Potomac River

The main stem of the Potomac begins in West Virginia where the north and south branches meet. It flows 383 miles from the high country through our nation’s capital and drains into the Chesapeake Bay. The Potomac is a lifeblood to the eastern seaboard. It provides 90% of the water for the residents of Washington DC, serves as source of water for agriculture and industry, and provides fishing for a diversity of fish for both commercial and recreational fishing. The number of fish species that the Potomac support is vast - native fish like redbreast sunfish, brook trout and American shad are important fishing resources. The Potomac also supports at least 116 freshwater fish species.

TAKE ACTION
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- Let the President and your Congressional representatives know that the fish of the Potomac deserve clean water.
- Report harmful actions seen on the river, fish kills or fish with lesions.
- Familiarize yourself with the Potomac River watershed.
- Learn how the Potomac River water is used for industry, agriculture and drinking water.
- Learn what fish live in the Potomac River.
- Talk to friends, relatives and neighbors about the state of the Potomac. Better yet take someone fishing on the Potomac.
- Support research on Potomac River fish health.
- Support funding for water treatment facilities that address pharmaceutical disposal.



Photo by: Potomac Riverkeeper

To learn more:

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- Mid-Atlantic Council FFF, John Brognard, 301-371-5617
- Potomac Riverkeeper, Ed Merrifield, 202-222-0707



Photo by: MD Dept. of the Env.