
DRBC News Briefs from Around the Basin

World Water Monitoring Day

Over 100 local school children and their teachers learned from and interacted with staff from the DRBC, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) as these agencies demonstrated different water quality monitoring techniques in October 2003, as part of the World Water Monitoring Day celebration. The event took place at historic Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville, N.J. along the Delaware River and the Delaware and Raritan Canal. The students from Lambertville and West Amwell elementary schools who were on hand to observe and take part in measuring the quality of the water were accompanied by several freshman biology students from South Hunterdon Regional High School. The attendees were welcomed on the sunny, brisk autumn day by NJDEP Assistant Commissioner Ernest Hahn, NJDEP Water Monitoring & Standards Administrator Leslie McGeorge, USGS New Jersey District Chief Rick Kropp, DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier, and Washington Crossing State Park Superintendent Dave Donnelly.

World Water Monitoring Day was coordinated by America's Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association to engage the public in global efforts to protect and enhance worldwide water quality. From September 18 to October 18, people around the globe joined together to monitor the quality of their local watersheds and enter the results of their efforts into an international database. Monitoring activities took place across the United States and in countries such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Gabon, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, South Korea, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom.

You can learn more about this event by visiting the DRBC's education web site, "Ed. Web," at <http://www.drbc-edweb.net>.

"Wild and Scenic" Delaware Celebrates 25th Anniversary in 2003

November 2003 marked the 25th anniversary of the federal law designating the Upper Delaware and Delaware Water Gap reaches of the river as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The DRBC was happy to join many of the partners comprising the Upper Delaware community in celebrating the milestone at an event hosted by the National Park Service (NPS) in Lackawaxen, Pa. on Sunday, November 9.

These two river corridors take in approximately 145,000 acres. However, while nearly 70,000 acres along the 40-mile river stretch comprising the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is owned by the federal government, only 30 acres along the 73-mile Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River is federal land. As was pointed out at the anniversary celebration, the legislation signed into law by President Jimmy Carter on November 10, 1978 was specifically written to provide a unique approach to accomplishing the goals of scenic river designation while preserving local authority in the Upper Delaware Corridor.

Additional stretches of the Delaware and its tributaries were added to the national system in 1993 and 2000. To learn more, please visit the DRBC web site at http://www.nj.gov/drbc/wild_scenic.htm.

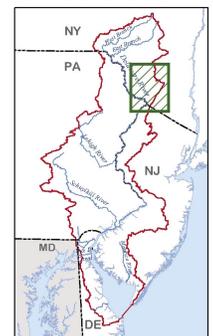
Tri-State Watershed Management Plan: An Interstate "Keep the Clean Water Clean" Initiative

Carrying out its mission to provide comprehensive watershed management, the DRBC is working with other partners to develop a management plan in the tri-state region around Port Jervis, N.Y. that can accommodate anticipated growth while maintaining the existing high water quality.

The 300-square-mile project area drains to an 8.5 mile reach of the main stem Delaware River that borders New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. This river segment, which has been designated by the commission as Special Protection Waters, is just north of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and extends upstream to the southern edge of the Upper Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River.

Focus group interviews to seek input from water users, landowners, recreationists, business and industry representatives, conservation and other advocacy groups, and local, state, and federal

Tri-State Watershed Location in the Delaware River Basin



officials, took place over two days in September 2003. These interviews were conducted by the DRBC, NPS, and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, which is a nonprofit educational institution that strives to better understand and promote regional approaches to land use. Interested stakeholders attended an October 2003 follow-up clinic on regional collaboration facilitated by the Lincoln Institute in Milford, Pa.

Former DRBC Commissioner Warren Lavery briefly returned for about five months in 2003 as the Tri-State Watershed manager to take the lead in conducting the fall kickoff meetings. He has since retired and the DRBC and NPS are exploring ways to continue this important project at a reduced level.

In addition to the DRBC and NPS, other project partners include The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the three states' environmental agencies, counties and municipalities, industry, developers, watershed associations, academia, and concerned citizens.

Additional information about this project will be posted on the DRBC web site at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/tristate.htm> as it becomes available.

New Maps Released in 2003 Depict Recreational Opportunities in the Delaware River Basin

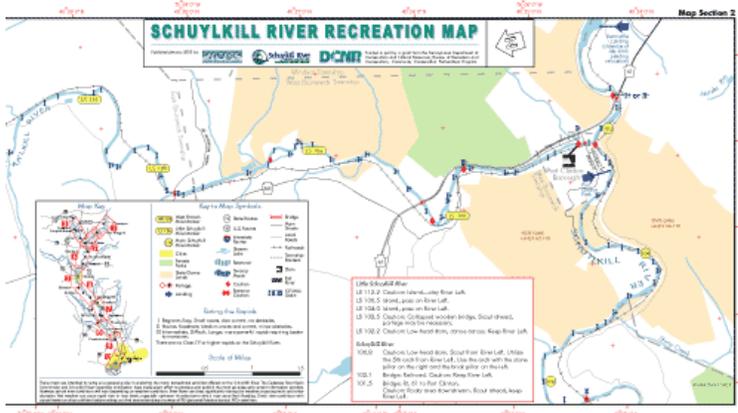
Two new mapping projects were completed in the first half of 2003. "I-Map DelBasin" is an Internet tool that identifies sites to launch boats, gaging stations that provide river flows, locations where recreational boaters can safely pump out marine heads, state and federal parks, and state and federal fish consumption advisories.

I-Map DelBasin was developed by the DRBC's Information Management Advisory Committee consisting of geographic information system (GIS) experts from the four basin states, U.S. EPA, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and Lehigh University, along with commission staff. The developers took dissimilar digital reference maps from the four states and customized them into one standardized map with a uniform scale. Specialized GIS software is not needed to run the application and it works best with the Internet Explorer web browser (version 5.0 and above).

I-Map can be found on the DRBC's map gallery at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/gallery.htm>. The DRBC provided \$40,000 in funding for the project, while the Delaware Estuary Program and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania each contributed \$5,000.

Updated recreation maps of the Schuylkill River prepared by the DRBC in partnership with the Schuylkill River Greenway Association and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources also were released in 2003. The ten-map set covers the river from its headwaters

Tri-State Watershed



Portion of Map Section 2 of the Schuylkill River recreation maps. Actual map size is 24" wide, 9" high.

near Tamaqua, Pa., to its confluence with the Delaware River at Philadelphia, some 125 miles downstream. Portions of the Little Schuylkill River and the Schuylkill's West Branch also are mapped. The full color, waterproof maps depict public access areas along the river, as well as the location of riffles and rapids (white water), dams, bridges, forests, parks, and major highways. In addition, sections of the river are classified as to their degree of difficulty based on ratings by the International Canoe Federation/American Whitewater Affiliation, field investigations, and published works about the Schuylkill.

The cost of the updated map set is \$15. Ordering instructions can be found on the DRBC web site (<http://www.nj.gov/drbc/schuylkillmaps.htm>), or you can contact the commission in writing at P.O. Box 7360 West Trenton, NJ 08628, or by phone (609-883-9500).

DRBC Revises Its Permit Review Fee Schedule in 2003 for the First Time Since 1991

In response to increasing costs and declining revenues, the commission at its June 2003 meeting approved a plan to update its project review fees for the first time in twelve years. The fees were first instituted in 1972 in order to allocate to applicants a portion of the cost of reviewing water resource projects and are paid at the time applications are filed.

The new schedule includes for the first time a minimum fee of \$250 for public projects sponsored by political subdivisions of the basin states and increases the private project minimum fee from \$250 to \$500, with a sliding scale based upon project cost for larger projects. There are new fees for emergency certificates to waive or amend a docket condition as well as for docket transfers upon a change of ownership. In addition, the surcharge for any project resulting in an out-of-basin diversion was increased. In all cases, if the fixed or calculated fee is deemed by the executive director to be insufficient due to actual costs associated with DRBC review, the commission may now charge the applicant 100 percent of all costs deemed to be exceptional. The revised fee schedule became effective on July 1, 2003 for all applications submitted on or after that date.

The complete fee schedule as well as assorted project review applications can be found on the DRBC web site at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/pjrev.htm>.

New Delaware Estuary Grants Program in 2003

The Delaware Estuary Grants Program, a new initiative established in 2003 by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in partnership with the Delaware Estuary Program (DELEP), provided 27 grants totaling \$500,000 for projects in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania to improve water quality and living resources in the estuary. Activities supported by the grants, which were announced in September 2003, included wetland and stream restoration, riparian plantings, and land conservation, as well as the development and implementation of community watershed management plans and other water quality improvement strategies.

Funding for the first year of this program was provided by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the William Penn Foundation, and ConocoPhillips.

NFWF is a private, nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1984 that is dedicated to the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitat on which they depend. DELEP is a partnership organized in 1988 to develop and implement plans for the protection and enhancement of the Delaware Estuary. With offices at the DRBC's West Trenton headquarters, it is organized and funded primarily by U.S. EPA, the states of Delaware and New Jersey, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, DRBC, and the City of Philadelphia in collaboration with many other agencies and organizations that share an interest in maintaining the estuary's ecosystem and the associated economic and recreational opportunities.

A listing of the grant recipients, along with a brief description of the projects, can be found on NFWF's web site at <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/delaware2003.htm>.



View of the Delaware Bay from Cape Henlopen State Park in Lewes, Del. This is the mouth of the bay where it meets the Atlantic Ocean. (Photo by Clarke Rupert)

Delaware River and Bay Water Quality Assessment 2002 Report

At the request of the basin states, the DRBC prepares a biennial report on the main stem interstate Delaware River and Bay required by section 305(b) of the federal Clean Water Act of 1972. The commission's "305(b) report" is a summary of an evaluation of the river's ability to support certain water uses, such as maintaining aquatic life, swimming, supplying water for human consumption and industrial uses, and supporting fish and shellfish that are safe for human consumption.

The assessment primarily involves comparing levels of key water quality indicators (pH, for example) with DRBC stream quality objectives listed in its water quality regulations.

According to the 2002 report, which covers 2000 and 2001, full support of the aquatic life, drinking water, and recreation uses was generally noted where sufficient data existed to make assessments. In some portions of the non-tidal river, high pH and dissolved solids arose as issues that may need to be addressed. In the estuary, low dissolved oxygen in some locations indicated partial support for aquatic life, and the drinking water use was considered not supported based only on in-stream water quality objectives. This latter assessment, however, did not address the quality of *finished* (i.e., treated and ready for distribution) drinking water, which is considered to be safe. Fish consumption was the use that was most widely not fully supported since consumption advisories were present along the entire length of the Delaware River.

The foundation for the assessment came from DRBC's three water quality monitoring programs that cover different sections of the Delaware River. These include the Scenic Rivers Monitoring Program (from Hancock, N.Y. to the Delaware Water Gap), the Lower Delaware Monitoring Program (from the Delaware Water Gap to Trenton, N.J.), and the Delaware Estuary Boat Run Program (from Trenton, N.J. to the mouth of the Delaware Bay).

In addition, data from a variety of other sources were utilized in making the water quality assessments. These other sources include the USGS, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Stream and Wastewater Treatment Plant Water Quality Monitoring Program, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program, and the New Jersey DEP Ambient Surface Water Monitoring Program.

The biennial reporting of water quality assessments of the Delaware River is intended to provide U.S. EPA and the public with an overview of water quality conditions by identifying broad issues. More intensive studies and analyses are needed for focusing in on site-specific issues. The 305(b) report can serve as a basis for further study.

The complete 2002 report can be viewed on the DRBC web site at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/public.htm>.

2002 National Water Resources Conference Held in the Basin

The American Water Resources Association (AWRA) held its national conference in Philadelphia during the first week of November 2002. Jan Bowers of the Chester County

Water Resources Authority, a member of the DRBC's Water Management Advisory Committee and Watershed Advisory Council, chaired the conference's organizing committee. Commission staff members served on a number of panels, acted as moderators, and made presentations. During the conference, DRBC Commissioner Irene B. Brooks was awarded the Mary H. Marsh Medal for her outstanding watershed and water resource management efforts.

National Water Monitoring Day Commemorates Federal Law's Anniversary in 2002

Representatives from the DRBC, USGS, and New Jersey DEP participated in a series of water monitoring demonstrations on "National Water Monitoring Day," October 18, 2002, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act. The event, organized by the USGS, took place along both the Delaware River and the Delaware and Raritan Canal in Ewing Township, N.J. Guests included DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier, New Jersey DEP Chief of Staff Gary Sondermeyer, and USGS New Jersey District Chief Rick Kropp. The DRBC received a certificate of appreciation for its efforts from the 2002 Year of Clean Water Committee, which organized the national event. Additional information, including a photo album, can be found on the commission's "Ed. Web" at <http://www.drbc-edweb.net>.

DRBC Updates FOIA Fee Schedule in 2002

The commissioners in May 2002 amended the DRBC's *Rules of Practice and Procedure* to update the fees associated with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for the first time since 1975. The fees were in need of updating since they did not reflect current methods of recording and reproducing information or today's administrative costs. The most significant change was in the amount charged for labor associated with responding to FOIA requests. In developing the revised fee structure, DRBC staff reviewed the fees of the four basin state environmental agencies and the U.S. EPA, and recommended fees that fell in the middle of this group that closely matched those charged by the State of Delaware. The updated FOIA fee schedule can be found on the DRBC's web site at http://www.nj.gov/drbc/notice_FOIAfees.htm.

Shad and Bald Eagle Bookmarks a Big Hit!

In an effort to educate the public about the water quality improvements that have taken place throughout the Delaware River Basin since the 1960s when the commission was created, the DRBC produced two attractive and very popular bookmarks in 2002 and 2003. Cut out in the shapes of an American shad and bald eagle, these bookmarks remind children and adults alike that the basin has seen an increase in the number of these species thanks to efforts by the DRBC as well as other agencies and organizations to improve and protect water quality. Additional shad and bald eagle facts can be found on the commission's "Ed. Web" at <http://www.drbc-edweb.net>.



Visitors to Ed. Web also can view information and download flyers on topics such as *Baseball's Dirty Side*, *The Fairmount Water Works: A Place "Wondrous to Behold,"* *An Island Built With Peas*, and *Birds and Crabs*.

