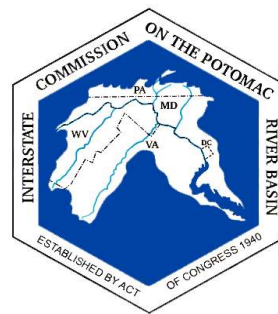


INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

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POTOMAC RIVER WATCH A Public Service Announcement

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JULY 3-5, 2009

For more information contact Jennifer Willoughby, (301) 984-1908 ext.109; info@icprb.org.
Please credit the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

This year marks the 32nd season for the Potomac River Watch. These weekly public service announcements, which run from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day, report on the conditions of the Potomac River and its tributaries, tell of local events along the river, and provide water quality and water safety information. Volunteers throughout the Potomac basin are contacted each week by Commission staff for first-hand information on their area of the river.

The Commission also provides needed information on river-related topics to media throughout the year and would appreciate being informed on environmental problems in their areas of the basin as they arise. **The Commission has experts on its staff that could be interviewed on water quality, water supply, living resources, and other topics.**

RIVER CONDITIONS: Expect temperatures in the low to mid 80s and sunny skies throughout the weekend. The water temperatures of the headwaters of the Potomac are in the 60s. Water temperatures in the middle and lower Potomac are about 80 degrees. River levels have returned to normal. Watch for debris from previous storms that may be floating down river or break away from a debris pile. Prepare for on-water activities by checking the weather and water levels just before venturing out, let family and friends know your float plans, and always wear a life vest.

FISHING: In the western reaches of the watershed, trout are still biting. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service has completed a fish population survey of the Savage River Reservoir. The reservoir will be drained this fall to make repairs to the dam gate and then will refill in spring 2010. Gamefish and panfish will be restocked in the spring.

Farther downstream, near Washington County, Md., and from Harpers Ferry, W.Va., to Point of Rocks, Md., walleye are biting. Near Lander, Edward's Ferry, and White's Ferry, Md., smallmouth bass, most under 12 inches, are very active. Fishing in mid-river is more productive than near the shoreline.

Farther downstream in the Washington Channel, anglers are catching small striped bass. For the best largemouth bass action, fish the edges of grass beds in tidal rivers, such as Broad and Piscataway creeks.

-MORE-

POTOMAC RIVERWATCH -2

HIKING/BIKING: Savage River State Forest should be in full bloom this weekend. Hike on the Mt. Aetna Loop Trail, a moderately difficult 3.2-mile trail, that winds through prime forest habitat. Several other shorter trails are ideal for cycling, however it is not permitted on the Mt. Aetna Loop Trail. For more information about the forest and its trails visit www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/savageriver.asp.

KAYAKING/CANOEING: The South Branch Potomac River would be an excellent paddling adventure this weekend. Plan to put in at the bridge where West Virginia routes 220 and 10 split, about seven miles south of Moorefield, W.Va. Take out at the bridge where West Virginia routes 220 and 15 split, about three miles north of Moorefield. The river is rated class I-II, and has excellent scenery.

EVENTS:

August 8, Rain Barrel Workshops, Berryville, Va., and Accokeek Foundation, Accokeek, Md.

Rain barrels are a terrific way to conserve water and help reduce stormwater impacts. The ICPRB offers rain barrel workshops in several locations throughout the summer. Plan to attend a workshop to learn about safety and maintenance of the barrel and learn new ways to incorporate the barrel into your landscape. For more information about rain barrels and to register for a workshop, visit www.potomacriver.org.

This week in the watershed: The ICPRB's Cooperative Operations for Water Supply on the Potomac (CO-OP) has completed its summer drought exercise. The goal of the exercise was to practice using drought operations analysis tools and communications procedures. The ICPRB staff updated its set of drought operations and flow prediction spreadsheet tools with daily and hourly demands. Simulated Potomac River and tributary flows also were added to determine what operational changes were needed to maintain recommended lowest flows and provide adequate resources to meet water demands.

Staff from the three major water utilities in the region, Washington Aqueduct, Fairfax Water, and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, sent reports to ICPRB on actual and projected water demand. The ICPRB staff relayed recommendations for simulated operational changes. In addition, ICPRB staff communicated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, regarding simulated releases from Jennings Randolph and Savage reservoirs.

A detailed report will be available on ICPRB's website, www.potomacriver.org, later this year.

For information about these and other ICPRB projects, contact the Commission at info@icprb.org or call (301) 984-1908.

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