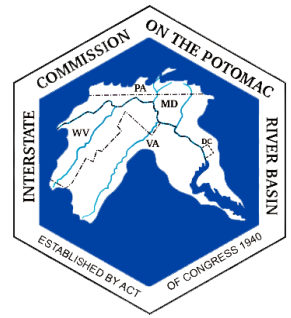


# INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

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## POTOMAC RIVER WATCH A Public Service Announcement

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JULY 23-25, 2010

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

This year marks the 33rd 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.**

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**RIVER CONDITIONS:** Temperatures will be in the 90s throughout the weekend. Chances for thunderstorms may put a damper on weekend plans. Water temperatures in the middle Potomac are in the mid-70s and mid-80s in the lower Potomac. 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:** With recent storms bringing rain to the region, the river levels are holding their own, but remain quite low. Smallmouth bass are enjoying the morning caddisfly hatches near Lander, Md. Submerged ledges and riffles in mid-river are where the fish are biting. Between Edwards Ferry and White's Ferry, Md., fish mid-river for the best action. The pools around Harrison Island, ledges, and small grassy habitats all are productive. The low river levels are making the healthy aquatic grass growth problematic, as they occupy a larger portion of the decreased river channel. Weedless lures are the way to go in these areas.

Farther downstream, in Washington, D.C., striped bass have been biting at Key and Long bridges, Washington Channel, Blue Plains, and Fox Ferry Point. Fish the grass beds of Pomonkey Creek, Bulltown Cove, and above and below Hallowing Point Cove and Marshall Hall. Grass beds in Mattawoman Creek continue to support largemouth bass and other fish, particularly in and around Smallwood State Park.

Spanish mackerel are beginning to come into the mouth of the river. Croaker and spot are biting in the shallows and spot are being used for baiting smaller striped bass. Flounder are congregating near Smith Point Marina and Smith Point Lighthouse.

-MORE-

## **POTOMAC RIVERWATCH -2**

Fish early in the morning or later in the evening when the water temperatures are slightly lower for the best action.

**HIKING/BIKING:** Westmoreland State Park, near Montross, Va., has unique tidal river flora and fauna. With about six miles of hiking trails, there is plenty to see. The beach trail leads visitors to a view of the Potomac River and a beach. Though no swimming is allowed from the park's beach, picnicking is permitted. The park offers interpretive kayak trips on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, visit [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/wes.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/wes.shtml). Please note that Westmoreland County has instituted a burn ban because of dangerously dry conditions. All open fires are prohibited, including wood and charcoal fires, even in grills. Campers and picnickers may use only gas grills or propane stoves.

**KAYAKING/CANOEING:** Explore the tidal Potomac's Virginia and Maryland shores from Westmoreland State Park in Va. Take advantage of the park's boat ramp to launch. Low tide is about 8 a.m. From the boat ramp, head down river for a leisurely paddle. Hug the shoreline to avoid motor boat traffic and to get the best view of ospreys and other birds in this area. High tide will help you paddle back to the boat ramp at around 2 p.m. For more information about the park, visit [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/wes.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/wes.shtml).

### **EVENTS:**

**July 24, 10 a.m.-noon, Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax County, Va.**

Families with children four years and up are invited to enjoy self-guided activities, a craft, and videos about grasshoppers, butterflies, ladybugs and leafhoppers. The fee is \$4 per child. To register, call 703-768-2525.

**July 25, 10-11 a.m., E.C. Lawrence Park, Fairfax County, Va.**

Come to Walney Pond at E.C. Lawrence Park to learn about painted and other native turtles. See turtles close up and then search for them. The fee is \$10 per family. To register, call 703-631-0013.

**Check out our complete calendar of events at [www.potomacriver.org](http://www.potomacriver.org).**

**This week in the watershed:** Though river levels have held somewhat steady with recent storms, the ICPRB's Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac (CO-OP) continues to monitor river flows daily. When the river's flow at the USGS gage at Point of Rocks, Md., falls below 2,000 cubic feet per second or about 1.3 billion gallons per day, CO-OP and the major water utilities in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area start daily monitoring of river flows and water supply demands to prepare for the possibility that a release from the upstream water supply reservoirs will be needed to meet demand. The U.S. Geological survey, which maintains the Point of Rocks gage, is periodically recalibrating it because of the thick aquatic grasses, which can artificially raise gage readings. To learn more about CO-OP and metropolitan area water supply, visit [www.potomacriver.org](http://www.potomacriver.org).

The ICPRB hosted a meeting of the Potomac River Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership (DWSPP) on Wednesday. The DWSPP includes ICPRB, water suppliers, and government agencies focused on protecting the sources of drinking water in the Potomac River basin. At Wednesday's meeting, utility and water managers learned about the ways that federal and state water quality standards and total maximum daily load (TMDLs) affect source water protection initiatives and how these regulations can be used to protect drinking water. To learn more about DWSPP, visit [www.potomacdwspp.org](http://www.potomacdwspp.org).

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

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