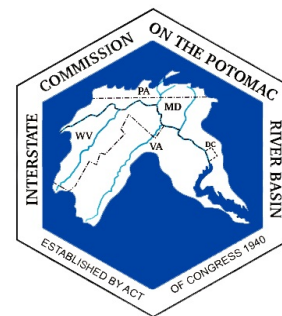


INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

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POTOMAC RIVER WATCH A Public Service Announcement

FOR THE WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 3-6, 2010

For more information contact Curtis Dalpra, (301) 274-8107; cdalpra@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.**

RIVER CONDITIONS: Expect mostly sunny skies throughout the Labor Day weekend with temperatures reaching 90 on Friday, high 70s on Saturday, and 80s on Sunday and Monday. Water temperatures in the middle Potomac are in the low 80s 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: Rainfall has been negligible throughout the region and river levels remain low. The hot weather also has been keeping fish inactive during the day. Trout fishing in the western reaches of the watershed has been excellent, despite the lower river levels. Farther downriver, submerged aquatic vegetation continues to be a hassle in much of the middle Potomac River. Target the edges of the grass beds or deeper holes for the best smallmouth bass action. Near Lander, White's Ferry, and Edward's Ferry, Md., fish upstream or downstream of the boat ramps.

The mainstem between Little Falls and Key Bridge in Washington, D.C., has been excellent for walleye and largemouth bass. Key and Long bridge foundations are great for largemouth, smallmouth, and striped bass and the Washington channel drops are full of channel catfish, some very large.

Further downstream, fish the grass beds of Mattawoman Creek between General Smallwood State Park and the mouth of the creek, as well as grass beds of Occoquan Bay, and between Quantico and Chopawamsic creeks. Tidal Potomac residents are preparing for Hurricane Earl as it is expected to brush the coast and may bring higher winds and waves to the Chesapeake Bay area this weekend.

-MORE-

POTOMAC RIVERWATCH -2

HIKING/BIKING: Seneca Creek State Park in Montgomery County, Md., offers 12 miles of trails for hiking and cycling. If you'd like a longer trek, the 16.5-mile Seneca Creek Greenway Trail follows the river as it flows next to the park. Mountain bikes are permitted on some trails. A trail map is available at the park office. The park features Clopper Lake, a 19th century farmhouse, and a picnic area for visitors. For more information, visit www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/seneca.asp.

KAYAKING/CANOEING: Take advantage of the 90-acre Clopper Lake in Seneca Creek State Park for kayaking and canoeing. A hand launch boat ramp is available within the park and boats are available for rental. The lake also is a great place to fish for largemouth bass, catfish, bluegill, crappie, tiger muskie, and is stocked with put-and-take trout. The lake is perfect for a day-long getaway in the middle of the city. For more information, visit www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/seneca.asp.

EVENTS:

September 5, 8 a.m.-noon, Naturalist-Guided "Canoe the Marsh" Trip, Pohick Bay Regional Park, Va. Explore one of the area's finest wildlife habitats by canoe. Trips are for adults and youth 16 and over. Cost is \$30/person. Registration is required. Call (703) 339-6104

September 11, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Conservation Landscaping Training, Senior Center, Rockville, Md.

Learn how utilizing conservation landscaping techniques helps to protect City watersheds. Participants will receive information on conservation landscaping techniques, including how to select, install and maintain native plants. The training is open on a first-come, first-served basis and registration is required. To register, call the RainScapes Coordinator at 240-314-8877 or e-mail rainscapes@rockvillemd.gov.

Check out our complete calendar of events at www.potomacriver.org.

This week in the watershed: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) are collaborating on a 2.5-year project, the "Middle Potomac River Watershed Assessment," to quantify Potomac watershed environmentally sustainable flows -- flows that sustain healthy river ecosystems and the goods and services that humans derive from them. A major milestone in the project is now available. "Potomac Basin Large River Environmental Flow Needs" compiles the results of an assessment of flow needs and includes draft flow recommendations. The report can be found at www.potomacriver.org

ICPRB Executive Director Joseph Hoffman will give a presentation about "The Potomac River: Where we were, where we are, and where we're going with our water supply and water quality," at the University of the District of Columbia on Thursday, September 2, 2010, 4:00-5:30 p.m. The presentation is one of a series in the university's DC Area Water Issues Program (DCAWIP) Fall 2010 Weekly Seminar. For more information contact Dr. Tolessa Deksissa at tdeksissa@udc.edu or 202-274-5273 or Dr. Cat Shrier at cat@watercatconsulting.com or 202-344-7894.

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

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