

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

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POTOMAC RIVER WATCH A Public Service Announcement

FOR THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 3-5, 2007

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 30th 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: Temperatures will be in the low 90s throughout the weekend, with chances of thunderstorms on Friday and Saturday. Water temperatures remain in the low 80s in the middle and lower Potomac, but continue to climb, while temperatures in the northern and western reaches of the watershed have remained steady in the 60s. River levels rose a bit with last week's rains, but are still low. The weekend's expected storms could cause the river to rise quickly. 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: Recent rains have kept headwaters cool and have increased flow a bit, but the rivers remain low. Fish are responding by hiding in grass beds and under cover during the heat of the day. Despite the low water, trout fishing should be great on the North Branch Potomac this weekend because West Virginia Department of Natural Resources is stocking the river with three-pound rainbow and golden trout. Farther downstream, smallmouth bass and walleyes are biting. Beginning on August 6, Dams 4 and 5 will be drawn down by about two feet for safety inspections on August 7 and 8. The pool levels will be brought back up to normal as soon as possible. Farther downstream near Lander, Md., smallmouth bass have been hiding in the holes, but will take the bait if you cast to them. Near the mouth of the river, anglers have been successfully chumming for striped bass and bluefish. Spanish mackerel are also schooling at the mouth of the river. Croaker and spot continue to bite in shallow water.

(*)--Executive Committee
(a)--Alternate

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POTOMAC RIVERWATCH -2

HIKING/BIKING: With temperatures in the low 90s, take the opportunity to retreat to the hills! Hike or bike on one of the trails at Green Ridge State Forest in Allegheny County, Md. Take a ride on the challenging 12-mile mountain bike trail or hike on the 24-mile linear trail, divided into sections with camping opportunities along the way. The 46,000-acre forest has several entry points. For more information, visit the forest's website at www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/greenridge.asp.

KAYAKING/CANOEING: River levels remain low so plan to cool off by taking to the tidal Potomac. Launch your boat at the public boat launch in Point Lookout State Park and paddle around Lake Conoy and Point Lookout Creek. The protected lake and creek are teeming with birds, fish, and other wildlife. Some areas are shallow enough to stand and could offer a swim break should it get too hot. Camping is available at the park. For more information, visit the park's website at www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/pointlookout.html or call (301) 984-1908 x 109.

EVENTS:

August/September, Rain Barrel Workshops, various locations and times

Join ICPRB for a late summer rain barrel workshop in August. The workshops provide safety and maintenance information and will help homeowners take the next step in reducing stormwater on their property and conserving precious water resources. Workshops are free and required to purchase a barrel. Anyone can attend a workshop even if you choose not to purchase a barrel. Barrels cost \$80 each. For more information or to register for a workshop, visit the ICPRB website www.potomacriver.org/about_ICPRB/rainbarrelinfo.htm.

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

This week in the watershed: The ICPRB, while working closely with the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Upper Potomac River Commission and stakeholders, has initiated a study to redesign the operational rules for Savage River and Jennings Randolph reservoirs to maximize the many uses of the river. Supporting water quality and providing water supply are the major concerns of the stakeholders and the group hopes to balance those needs with recreational uses. To help determine the best solution, the ICPRB will be holding modeling workshops to help stakeholders better understand the different needs for the river under different scenarios and how to best balance those needs. Look for more information about the modeling workshops in the upcoming issue of the *Potomac Basin Reporter*.

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

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