

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

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POTOMAC RIVER WATCH A Public Service Announcement

FOR THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 10-12, 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: Expect temperatures in the high 80s and low 90s throughout the weekend. There is a chance of thunderstorms on Friday. Water temperatures are in the high 50s in the headwaters of the Potomac, while temperatures downstream remain in the mid 80s. River levels remain low for the season. 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: Fish have been in their typical summer patterns, hiding in holes, under submerged logs and rocks, and in grasses. Maryland Department of Natural Resources staff report that trout fisheries in the Savage River tailwater are doing well with 12 to 15-inch brown trout and 8 to 11-inch brook trout. Farther downstream near Lander, Md., fish the deeper water from mid-river to near the Virginia shore for smallmouth bass. In Washington, D.C., the bridge foundations have been only fair for fishing, with sporadic bites from largemouth, smallmouth, and striped bass. The Blue Plains outfall has been productive for striped bass. Snakeheads have been caught in Piscataway Creek. If caught, snakeheads should be destroyed. Fish the Pomonkey and Chopawamsic grass beds and the mouth of Mattawoman Creek and Occoquan Bay for some great fishing. Farther downstream near the mouth of the Potomac, croaker have been biting in the shallows. There are some Spanish mackerel at the river's mouth, however, their numbers have not been steady. Bluefish continue to school and flounder have been taking the bait at the mouth of the river. Fish early in the morning or late in the day for the best angling action.

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

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HIKING/BIKING: Take a hike on the Underground Railroad Experience Trail, a portion of the Underground Railroad, with a trained conductor. The hikes are led on Saturdays at 10 a.m. Meet at the kiosk across from the stone barn at Woodlawn Manor, 6501 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring, Md. The trail hikes are led rain or shine, except during thunderstorms, high winds, or flood warning.. The hikes are free of charge. For more information call (301)563-3400. _____

KAYAKING/CANOEING: With river levels so low, boating in the upper Potomac can be difficult. Plan to get out on the tidal Potomac and enjoy the birds at Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is home to about 300 bird species, including bald eagles, many of them visible from the shoreline. Plan to launch your boat from Pohick Bay Regional Park. From Accotink Bay Refuge at Ft. Belvoir, return to the intersection of Pohick Road and U.S. Route 1, turn left, continue 3.7 miles and turn left on SR 242/Gunston Road. Travel 3.1 miles and turn left into Pohick Bay Regional Park. Remember to check the tide charts to be sure your trip runs smoothly. For more information, visit www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/site.asp?trail=1&loop=CMN&site=CMN06.

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.

August 11, Growing Native Ambassador Training, 9 a.m. to noon, Frederick County, Va.

Potomac Conservancy will present Growing Native Ambassador Trainings to prepare for the upcoming fall seed collection season. During these trainings, Growing Native Ambassadors will discover the nuts and bolts of the project; learn how to organize their own native seed collection event; and learn to identify native trees. These trainings will equip Ambassadors to be representatives in their communities for the environment by leading others in hands-on stewardship activities to promote a clean and green environment. For more information, contact Colleen Langan at (301) 608.1188 ext. 211

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

This week in the watershed: The ICPRB's Cooperative Operations for Water Supply Operations on the Potomac (CO-OP) participated in a regional drought coordination conference call this week to discuss moving the region's drought status. Some communities have already experienced significant problems because of the lack of precipitation. After much discussion, the CO-OP urged the Drought Coordination Technical Committee, the technical advisory group for the Drought Coordination Committee, to not move to drought watch status. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments did issue a press release to raise awareness of the drought, reaffirm that water supply status is fine, and to reiterate wise water use strategies.

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

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