

REPORTER



C. Dalpra

Volunteers clean the shoreline of trash at Anacostia Park in Washington D.C. Park Ranger Wayne Phillips has noted a marked decrease in plastic bags since a bill placing a fee on them was passed in the District.

Spring Cleaning on the Potomac Continues to Grow

A beautiful, sunny, warm, and dry day greeted thousands of volunteers who gathered at spots throughout the Potomac basin for the 24th annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. The ICPRB has been a partner in the cleanup for the last 22 years.

While the half-day cleanup is the main event of the effort, it has grown over the years in both size and extent. Cleanups for some sites are done on other weekends, making the cleanup a month-long event. A recent tally noted that 329 of 392 registered sites included a total of 10,961 volunteers, who removed more than 164 tons of trash. The total included 1,525 tires, 179,300 recyclable beverage containers, 31,071 plastic bags and more than 37,000 cigarette filters.

In fact, a small village could be equipped with the cast-off items, which included all kinds of household goods, major appliances, furniture, mattresses, toilets, sinks, Christmas decorations, toys, bicycles, sports equipment, and an American flag. Want to start your own store? Cleanup volunteers found more than 40 shopping carts, and lots of foam packing was

recovered. Some of the haul was likely left behind inadvertently, such as unopened beer and a vial of cocaine.

The scene at Anacostia Park in Washington, D.C., was typical of many sites, with groups of people walking along stream banks carrying plastic bags that filled quickly. The groups separated trash from recyclables, bagging each separately. Anacostia park, large and heavily used by the public, had groups from churches, schools and other organizations show up to help. A group of children exited the skating rink after a lesson, and still on their in-line skates, were led on a trash roundup by their instructor. Park Ranger Wayne Phillips is always appreciative of the strong support that local park users lend whenever there is a need. "I don't have to do too much to get help," he said. "I just put the word out, and people show up. This is a well-loved park," he said. Phillips added that the crowd helping with the cleanup did have one item that they weren't finding as often: plastic bags. "Since the bag bill (a fee is now charged for plastic bags at many stores) passed, we are finding a lot less bags," Phillips said. A similar bag law for Prince

Our mission is to enhance, protect, and conserve the water and associated land resources of the Potomac River and its tributaries through regional and interstate cooperation.

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Rowing and other recreational activities are growing on the Anacostia, and creating new watershed stewards.

George's County, Md., failed this year.

Alena Rosen, the Alice Ferguson Foundations cleanup coordinator, was extremely happy with this year's results. "We expect that when all the results come in, we will have had more than 14,000 volunteers and more than 500 sites. They will be record numbers," she said.

The foundation is expanding the cleanup to a year-round event. The group has been creating a database of sites and opportunities that can guide volunteers to sites when they have the time. The National Geographic Society is supporting the effort by creating a map of the watershed that can graphically track results, and keep a calendar of cleanup events. The ICPRB assisted the foundation with their first efforts at a database last year.

The cleanup is a major piece of the foundation's program to end trash by 2013, by educating the public about the litter problem, and encouraging businesses and government agencies to take the litter problem more seriously. The foundation has been a strong proponent of legislation such as the bag bills, greater enforcement of existing anti-litter laws, and engaging businesses to practice trash elimination, recycling, and composting.

With just one year left to achieve its goal, Rosen noted that the program has been very successful in raising awareness and changing the way government and businesses deal with trash. There may still be people littering, but there have been big increases in the infrastructure, laws, and education that are decreasing litter levels.

The foundation will hold its Seventh Annual Trash Summit in November. For more information, visit the Trash Initiative website at www.potomaccleanup.org.

Virginia Remains an ICPRB Partner with Potomac Jurisdictions, Eliminates Funding

A very strong effort by Virginia legislators, ICPRB Commissioners and staff, nonprofit groups, and individuals recently kept Virginia from withdrawing from the 72-year-old ICPRB Compact, of which Virginia is a charter member. A bill before the Virginia House that would end the commonwealth's membership in ICPRB and some other organizations was rewritten, removing the reference to ICPRB and passed. Although Virginia's membership was sustained, funding for ICPRB was

eliminated in the budget bill that passed in a special session of the general assembly.

Last year, Virginia eliminated the \$151,500 annual dues for the current fiscal year. The recent budget action provides no funding for ICPRB in fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

Virginia is the largest of the Potomac basin jurisdictions, with about 39 percent of the basin's land area and about 41 percent of the population. It includes northern Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley, and the tidewater counties that border the Potomac.

The governor and the secretary of natural resources received numerous letters and emails urging the state to remain in the commission and to restore its funding. Letters of support were written by the ICPRB chairman, the Metropolitan Washington

Council of Governments, Fairfax Water, Fairfax County Supervisors, the Potomac and Shenandoah riverkeepers, Virginia's Potomac Watershed Roundtable, Potomac Conservancy, and many others.

Another bill before the assembly to commission a study assessing the value of ICPRB to Virginia also did not pass.

The ICPRB thanks all of those who worked to explain the value of ICPRB to Virginia's governor and other state officials, and to general assembly members, some of whom have said that they will seek funding for ICPRB during the next session. For its part, ICPRB will continue to educate about the need for cooperation in managing the basin's water and related resources in a way that will protect and preserve its many values for future generations.

Carlton Haywood Selected as New ICPRB Director

Carlton Haywood was appointed Executive Director for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin at its quarterly business meeting on March 13, 2012. Haywood's appointment became effective on March 31, 2012. He has served in various roles at ICPRB since 1982, and previously served as Director of Program Operations.

The ICPRB Executive Committee, with direction from the full Commission, unanimously approved the appointment after a national search. Haywood replaces Joseph K. Hoffman, who retired after serving as Executive Director since 1998.

Haywood has held a variety of positions at ICPRB in both project management and administration. Hired as an environmental scientist, Haywood also was tasked with learning, maintaining, and familiarizing the agency's staff with its first multi-user computing system. Setting up the system and converting budget, contracting, and other information into digital form required close familiarity with many aspects of ICPRB administration.

Haywood's responsibilities increased over time. He managed many of ICPRB's largest and most important projects, including EPA and Chesapeake Bay Program grants, as well as Total Maximum Daily Load assessments and other technical studies. His most recent work included responsibility for directing technical programs, and assisting in the overall management of budgeting, staff supervision, and project delivery. He also acted on behalf of Executive Director Joseph Hoffman in his absence.

Haywood has spent much time on and along the river. He has traveled hundreds of miles of the Potomac by canoe and kayak, and has bicycled much of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath, honing his respect for the river's many uses and resources.



"We are extremely pleased to have Carlton as our new executive director," said Patrick Campbell, ICPRB chairman and West Virginia Commissioner. "In this transition period, ICPRB will work to renew its strategic plan and place the agency in a position to provide the best possible service to the Potomac basin jurisdictions in helping them to protect and preserve the basin's resources through cooperation and sound science," Campbell said.

"I'm very grateful to the commission for the opportunity to help make ICPRB an even better regional resource for the Potomac jurisdictions," Haywood said. "At this juncture in ICPRB's history, our staff and commissioners will work closely together to take a new look at both the agency's plans and the watershed's status to make the agency the most effective asset for the jurisdictions to address their common watershed challenges, which are many. It is critical that planning for future water quality and water supply be done with the utmost efficiency, which history has taught us is on a

watershed basis,” Haywood said.

The ICPRB is an interstate compact commission established by Congress in 1940. Its mission is the enhancement, protection, and conservation of the water resources of the Potomac River and its tributaries through regional and interstate

cooperation. Represented by appointed commissioners, the ICPRB includes the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the federal government.

For more information on ICPRB, visit the website at www.potomacriver.org.

Basin’s Future Depends on Cooperation

Retiring executive director Joseph Hoffman took some time to reflect on his more than a dozen years at ICPRB and on the future of the Commission and the basin.



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ICPRB Chairman and West Virginia Commissioner Pat Campbell presents a proclamation to Hoffman (on right) at his retirement ceremony.

My tenure at ICPRB has been marked by seeing and encouraging cooperative efforts toward protecting and preserving the water quality and quantity of the Potomac River Basin that we will leave for future generations. That work is much larger than the commission—there are so many agencies, groups, and organizations that we have partnered with. All of them want to protect and preserve the Potomac, a major factor in what we define as “home.” The ideals that created ICPRB in the 1940s moved forward in the 1960s and 1970s in helping to resolve water supply issues, in guaranteeing that the growing region would have enough drinking water. That type of spirit and effort must remain strong for the region to continue to move forward.

My time at ICPRB showed me that although the basin is more than 14,000 square miles, it really is a small drainage area, and it is getting smaller in the sense that the region continues to grow and put more demands on our water resources, for drinking water, industrial use, agriculture, and recreation. For the region, the health Potomac and its tributaries are critical to resident’s quality of life. That is the region’s greatest overall challenge.

Looking deeper, the need for basin-wide water resources planning is crucial to the region’s future. The commission has been very successful in helping create that regional perspective for drinking water supply during times of drought in the basin. In the 1960s and 1970s, drought helped area governments and their water utilities realize that we don’t have an endless supply of drinking water to be taken from the river and its major tributaries.

Decision makers at that time realized that a solution would require them to look beyond their own jurisdictions and address the issue on a watershed basis, and work together to find a watershed-based solution.

Today there also is concern about sustainable groundwater use in some areas of the basin,

and this will be best resolved by similar efforts to manage a shared resource.

The ICPRB has been advancing that effort through existing programs. The Mid-Potomac Watershed Assessment has been ongoing for several years. The effort, involving ICPRB with the Army Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy, is quantifying Potomac watershed environmentally sustainable flows—flows that sustain healthy river ecosystems and the goods and services that humans derive from them. The three-year study will be applicable to some other areas of the basin. This kind of research can provide the Potomac jurisdictions with a tools that will allow them to develop land and industries in a way that preserves water for those and the many other uses that we demand of our waterways.

On a smaller scale, ICPRB has assisted Pennsylvania with its state water resources plan, which identified the Marsh and Rock creeks watershed (tributaries of the Monocacy River in Maryland) as a critical planning area. The ICPRB has been working with agencies and groups in Adams County, where there are concerns about future water scarcity. This effort has shown ways that we can expand what we have learned to a larger scale—to the full Potomac basin and to large watersheds within the basin.

In both projects, the goal is to provide tools that allow planners to accommodate present and future needs in a sustainable way, and to avoid leaving future generations with expensive or intractable water problems. This work is enabling ICPRB to create a “plan for a plan” that would move the entire basin toward a sustainable water future.

Of course, there are many challenges to securing the basin’s water future. First, there is some understandable reluctance on the part of the jurisdictions to coordinate activities, and to sometimes alter them in deference to focusing on the watershed as a whole, rather than dealing just with what is happening with in their part of the watershed. That happened with the metropolitan area water supply, and the power that each of the utilities gives up to coordinate their operations during droughts. Overall, I think all the parties recognize how the greater efficiencies of coordinated operations have benefitted everyone.

This process will only become more important with the huge challenges that rapid growth and development is causing throughout the watershed. Increasing sprawl, with more impervious surfaces, more lawns needing water, and the other effects of growth change the hydrology of our waterways and create a greater demand on water resources.

Funding for these and other environmental efforts is another major challenge that is already affecting current initiatives to preserve and protect our precious waters. The increasing needs look daunting, especially with the economic problems that affect both governments and the private sector. I’m optimistic that we can improve our source water protection and plan in ways that can make dollars go further if all are willing to cooperate on common goals. It will require better relations among the jurisdictions, and better

education and communication with the public to bring greater support.

Back in the late 1930s, the framers of the ICPRB Compact realized that we needed to integrate water quality and quantity, and it is even more critical today. It will require a lot of collaboration, coordination, and people brought to the table, and ICPRB is good at that.

The need for comprehensive, cooperative planning—and finding the resources to do it—is the priority for the future. The ICPRB and its partners need to focus on finding a way to further this process that can guide the development and use of our shared water resources with an eye to what we will have 60 or more years down the road.

While there has been much progress during my tenure, I do wish that there could have been more success in translating these needs into more secure funding, and more success in creating a stronger federal role in basin. The vast federal land holdings and impact on water resources requires greater federal involvement, and despite strong efforts, the direct congressional appropriation that ICPRB used but lost in 1996 has yet to be restored, despite some recent movement in that direction. I know that ICPRB will continue to work toward that end, led by our federal commissioners who are appointed by the President.

With more resources, ICPRB could greatly amplify its efforts toward comprehensive water resources planning, as well as taking on more restoration projects. There certainly is no end of work to be done. We are only scratching the surface.

The ICPRB has a diverse staff with many talents. They have helped guide ICPRB's efforts through projects ranging from highly technical studies, to teaching children about the types of bugs that live in the river. My best experiences as executive director have revolved around the projects that teach and engage kids. The thousands of students who have learned about the Potomac through the shad program, to have shared the joy of a kid catching his or her first fish at the Nation's river Bass Tournament sponsored by Living Classrooms Foundation (with participation by ICPRB) to watching city students gingerly hold a live crayfish and staring at it like it was from outer space, only to learn it came from a nearby stream—these are strong memories that will remain with me. These young people and their wonderment are why I can be optimistic about the future of the basin, and out planet.

I am leaving the commission at a time of transition, and while there are storm clouds—particularly economic ones—ahead, there always are. The ICPRB staff is a valuable force for protecting the basin, and their skills and devotion to sound science are an important part of the basin's future. The change in leadership at ICPRB will bring some new perspectives and help reveal new directions. At the same time, I believe the commissioners as a body are more energized today than at any time in my tenure, and both commissioners and staff will work hard to move ICPRB forward, and with it the health of the Potomac Basin. It has been a great experience, for which I am very grateful.

Drought Exercise Helps Drinking Water Managers Plan for Challenges

The morning ritual of waiting for the shower to heat up is usually not accompanied by thoughts of where the tap water came from or how it got there, or if the supply is without limit. This is due largely to metropolitan Washington's fairly steady supply of precipitation and the region's water managers, who prepare for times when rain does not fall. About 75 percent of the Washington metropolitan area's water supply comes directly from the Potomac River, with the remainder coming from nearby reservoirs.

The Potomac region is blessed with plenty of rainfall most years, but in case of a drought the ICPRB's Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac River (CO-OP) and the region's major water utilities are prepared. During years of normal rainfall, CO-OP leads the area's water utilities through a week-long drought exercise, a practice run to identify needed improvements, keep up skills, and test communication among the parties.

The 2011 drought exercise, which ran from September 15 through 21, gave ICPRB's CO-OP staff the opportunity to test the OASIS model, and evaluate it for potential use in actual droughts.

The Potomac-OASIS model, a tool developed by consulting firm Hydrologics, provides probabilistic estimates of future water storage resulting from CO-OP system operations. During the exercise, OASIS was used in conjunction with CO-OP's flow prediction models to help determine how to make optimal use of system reservoirs.

By conducting the week-long exercise, CO-OP staff can assess where adjustments to the models and procedures may better meet the needs of the region during a drought. About 4.3-million users are served by the major metropolitan water utilities (Fairfax Water, the Washington Suburban Sanitary

Commission, and the Army Corps of Engineers' Washington Aqueduct) and it is the area's residents who benefit but are largely unaware of the careful planning that includes the drought exercise.

Despite constant population increases, the region's water demand for much of each year has remained steady. According to CO-OP's 2010 Washington Metropolitan Area Water Supply Reliability Study, following a 10 percent increase in population from 1990 through 2008, only summertime water use has increased, and that by only six percent. Water efficient fixtures mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 1992 are credited with reducing average water use.

The reliability study also determined that current water resources are sufficient to meet expected demands through 2030, even if conditions similar to the most severe drought ever recorded were to occur. The likelihood of water use restrictions being required during some droughts, however, will increase over time, with increased population, benefits from more efficient fixtures leveling off and expected increases in summertime lawn watering. In the coming year, a CO-OP study assessing the potential impact of climate change on current resources also will become available.

One way to reduce water use is through water-wise gardens, which use native plants that can withstand periods of drought and frequent summer downpours. The ICPRB offers rain barrels for sale at several water-wise garden and rain barrel workshops every year to help homeowners learn more about how they can reduce outdoor water use, minimize stormwater impacts, and be better stewards of their waters and land.

The CO-OP staff initiated drought operations in 1999, 2002, and 2010 due to low flows in the river.

When flows reach a threshold of 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the U.S. Geological Survey's Point of Rocks gage about 40 river miles north of Washington, D.C., daily monitoring is triggered. In order to meet water demands and maintain the minimum flow of 100 million gallons per day (mgd) at Little Falls to support the Potomac's ecosystem, CO-OP coordinates with the metropolitan water suppliers to determine when releases are needed from area reservoirs to augment Potomac River flow, and guides withdrawal amounts among the utilities. The Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs are in place for that purpose.

Combined, these two reservoirs store about 17 billion gallons, enough to cover Washington, D.C., in about a foot of water or the equivalent of about 26,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools. Considering that the Potomac still flows even during droughts and the reservoir storage is meant to supplement those flows, the storage is significant. In addition to Jennings Randolph

and Little Seneca reservoirs, the Occoquan and Patuxent reservoirs also store about 18 billion gallons for water supply, though these two do not augment Potomac flows.

While the Potomac region generally has plenty of water, during times of drought, CO-OP works with the water utilities to ensure adequate supplies, as well as researching the need for other sources of water to meet growth. Because of this well-managed system, the Potomac region is well equipped to deal with low river flows that may impact water supply. In fact, the system is studied internationally by foreign delegations faced with managing a shared water supply. The system is an example of the interstate cooperation and foresight needed to ensure an efficient and adequate water supply into the future.

More information about CO-OP water supply projects and ICPRB efforts to educate the public about water supply and conservation is available at the ICPRB website.

Water Suppliers, Managers Respond to Disaster

It was a spring Monday in metropolitan Washington, the region sounding its daily hum of filling highways and workers struggling toward their jobs. Everything seemed normal, a mild morning with a chance for showers that evening. And then the ground began to furiously shake.

In a few long seconds, the violent shaking, which began in rural Virginia, was rocking the District and causing damage in suburban Maryland. It was over as quickly as it began, but left roads snarled with traffic or closed, bridges unsafe to use, buildings damaged, and thousands of people without power. Some of the power outages were having an effect on the metropolitan area's drinking water plants, which were dealing with water outages from broken pipes, and concerns about what might happen next.

As the region's first responders began to assess the damage and current status of the region, the water utilities did the same, and began to communicate with each other, state and federal emergency managers and water management agencies. As these groups began to address the outages and damage, they learned of a new concern—a locomotive and several cars had fallen from the bridge over the Potomac River in Harpers Ferry, W.Va. Diesel fuel was pouring into the river, bringing another potential threat to the drinking water supply of millions of people. When would this contamination reach the utilities' intakes downstream? How bad would it be? Good decisions, based on collecting needed information through effective communications, could greatly ease a bad situation.

This simulated emergency was played out by the drinking water agencies during a three-day exercise early in April. The Potomac River Functional Exercise, sponsored by the Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership, ICPRB, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, gave all the local and regional agencies with responsibility for drinking water supplies a chance to practice the communication and coordination needed to address and minimize problems during an emergency. The simulation was facilitated by the Horsely Witten Group with financial support provided by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3.

Staff from Horsely Witten took over a small room at ICPRB to run the exercise, creating

scenarios and feeding information to the game players through the region's incident communications and coordination system, and also through simulated media reports. Utilities and water managers were fed information on which to react, and used emergency protocols to communicate their status and coordinate safety messages to the public.

Staff from ICPRB began running the Potomac's spill model based on information about the train wreck. Information about the diesel fuel in the river, the time of the spill, and river flow conditions were used to provide estimates of the arrival time of the contaminants to water intakes along the river downstream. The utilities confirmed the estimates through regular monitoring of water at and around the intakes. Exercise managers added to the complexity of the exercise by confirming that several tank cars of cyanide on the train also had fallen into the river. Eventually, emergency responders reported that one of the tank cars of cyanide was leaking. More model runs were conducted to track the added contaminant, while the nature and possible impacts of the cyanide were researched. The utilities were then prepared to monitor for the contaminants, and confirm model results, communicating the information to downstream utilities.

The simulation represented a real situation closely enough to reveal areas where lines of communication needed to be strengthened, as well as areas where players reacted proactively, but where there was no clear protocol. These areas are being addressed as a result of the exercise, and will be incorporated into emergency planning. Horsely Witten staff noted that finding and filling gaps in emergency planning is a major benefit of these kind of exercises.

The simulated disaster also prompted the players to consider innovative ways to handle problems. Utility managers worked together to consider ways that pipe breakages could be best addressed, and how the region could work cooperatively to restore drinking water service as quickly and safely as possible. Monitoring data collected by upstream utilities helped better plan for potential closures and reopenings of downstream intakes. The threat of the diesel and cyanide spill led to an innovative idea to release water from upstream reservoirs to help push the spill past drinking water intakes on the river. An

assessment of the spill, river flow, and the amount of water that could be released (water stored for release during droughts), found that the beneficial effects would be minimal, while depleting water stored to help the region through a potential drought.

All the players were able to coordinate messages to the public about areas where water was unavailable, when service might be restored, and the need for conservation of water supplies until the crisis had passed. Other efforts focused on how to make sure that water supply issues would be high on the list of the command structure that would quickly take over the overall response to the many aspects of such an event.

At the end of the exercise, Horsely Witten staff thanked the group, noting that all the parties took the exercise very seriously, which greatly

enhances the lessons that can be learned. Each of the agencies involved performed an after-exercise assessment, and will meet again as a group to review procedures and changes that can benefit the region in the event of a real catastrophe.

While all of the players have responsibilities and procedures in place, the exercise put a very real face on an abstract situation. Discussion at ICPRB revolved around how the spill model could be run if power outages were severe, communications routes were scant, and transportation snarled. Knowing that a disaster can happen at any time, disrupting normal responsibilities is planned for. But actually injecting staff into a simulated situation adds a new level of reality that leaves the region much better prepared to deal with unforeseen disasters.



C. Dalpra

Goodbye Shad. As a part of the ICPRB Shad Restoration Project, school groups raising shad fry with the Living Classrooms Foundation released their baby fish at several locations along the Potomac River on May 4. Students from several Virginia schools participated at the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Watching the River Flow

After a very mild winter, the Potomac watershed experienced a very warm and dry spring, reflected in the below average flow of the Potomac River. Nationally, the spring temperatures were the warmest ever recorded.

According to provisional flow data collected by the U.S. Geological Survey, Potomac flows began the year a little above average, but quickly fell with the long spring dry spell.

In January, Potomac Flow measured at Little Falls was about 20 percent above the long term average. January flow was about 11 billion gallons per day (bgd). Daily extremes ranged from a low of about 6 bgd on January 11, quickly moving to a high of about 24 bgd on January 15. Water taken from the river for drinking water averaged about 322 million gallons per day (mgd).

February was a much different story, with the monthly average flow of about 6.7 bgd being 41 percent below the long-term February average. Daily extremes during the month ranged from a high of about 10.3 bgd on February 1, and falling through the month to a low of about 5.5 bgd on February 24. Water taken for metropolitan drinking water supplies averaged about 306 mgd.

March was a little wetter, but the average flow for the month, about 12.2 bgd, was still about 20 percent below the long-term average. Daily extremes ranged from a high of about 36.5 bgd on March 3, to a low of about 5.8 bgd on March 20. Water supply demands from the river averaged about 322 mgd for the month.

April averaged flow plunged, with the monthly flow of about 5.0 bgd about 63 percent below the



April average. Daily extremes ranged from a high of about 7.6 bgd on April 1, to a low of about 3.5 bgd on April 21. Drinking water demand averaged about 339 mgd.

May saw some relief, with the 6.5 bgd average flow about 33 percent below the long-term average. Daily extremes ranged from a low of about 4 bgd on May 8, climbing to a high of about 13.5 bgd on May 18.

The rains that boosted flow in the latter part of May eased some concerns about drought this summer, as stream flows and groundwater levels began to recover. As the season progresses, the ICPRB Section for Cooperative water Supply operations on the Potomac (CO-OP) produces monthly Water Supply Outlooks that assess the probability that stored water releases will be needed to meet water supply and natural resources demands. The outlooks are available on ICPRB's website and Facebook pages.



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Taking kids fishing. Hundreds of kids came to Fletcher's Boathouse for the Family and Youth Casting Call on April 22. The ICPRB was a partner in the effort, which also highlighted The ICPRB American Shad Restoration Project, which includes area school students who raise shad fry as part of environmental education efforts in the region.

Want to Know More About What's Going On?

The ICPRB provides its Commissioners and others with a weekly news digest of media articles and web items concerning the Potomac River basin. The *Potomac News Reservoir* has been very well received, and is now available to all upon request. The digest generally is emailed on Thursdays, as an email with links to newspaper articles, blogs, and television and radio items collected from media nationally. The service focuses on environment, water quality, resource management, and ecological issues occurring in the watershed.

The ICPRB is happy to provide this free service. To subscribe, email to info@icprb.org, and put "subscribe news" in the subject area.

Also, remember that this newsletter is available electronically by requesting the *Potomac Basin Reporter* by emailing info@icprb.org or at our website, www.potomacriver.org.

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