



Delaware Riverkeeper Responds to Delaware River Basin Commission's Water Quality Report

Trenton, NJ: In response to the Delaware River Basin Commission's report finding there has been **no measurable change to existing water quality** in the lower Delaware River, Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the regional environmental organization Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Maya van Rossum, released the following statement:

"Securing the Special Protection Waters and regulations has been one of the most successful and forward thinking efforts in protecting the health of the Delaware River. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network submitted the first petition that resulted in the creation of the Special Protection Waters program in 1989, and we have been active since then to improve the quality of the Delaware River. I applaud the DRBC for conducting a thorough analysis and furthering its commitment to protecting our waters.

"While this report highlights the important work of the DRBC's Special Waters program, it also underscores the need for full implementation of the program, which has not yet been executed. The stasis of water quality means we are not sliding backwards, but the program has the capacity to conduct additional efforts that would further the protection of the river and address the issue areas that the report revealed, particularly the rise of conductivity that is likely from salt runoff from roads and issues with agriculture."

The most recent petition submitted by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network just this past May urging the DRBC to fully implement the Special Protection Waters Program can be viewed at:

<http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/Petition%20for%20Full%20Implementation%20of%20SPW%20with%20Cover%20Letter%205.3.16.pdf>

The DRBC report in its entirety can be reviewed [here](#).