



For Immediate Release

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network Petitions PADEP for Rulemaking to Recognize and Protect Spawning Fish Species in the Delaware River

Philadelphia, PA—Today the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) petitioned the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board, the rulemaking arm of the Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), to upgrade the existing and designated uses of Zones 3 and 4 of the Delaware River, River Miles 78.8-108.4, to recognize that fish propagation is occurring in these reaches. By recognizing that the existing use in these Zones includes fish propagation, fish species like striped bass and shad will get important enhanced protections from pollutant discharges from wastewater treatment facilities or other polluting sources.

Importantly, the Delaware River Basin Commission's staff, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions 2 and 3, and PADEP itself, all support this upgrade, but PADEP has failed to act.

“We’ve known about increasing fish populations in this recovering section of the river for years, but PADEP has failed to implement federally and state mandated protections to ensure that pollutants discharged do not adversely affect the spawning of these fish,” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

The petition will now be reviewed by the PADEP and a hearing will be set to discuss the issues presented therein. “Because the conclusions reached in the petition are the result of significant and verified scientific findings, we expect PADEP’s prompt review and consideration,” said van Rossum.

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About the Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.

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