



Issued July 12, 2010

River Belongs to the Public, Including the Duck Boats

*Public Statement By Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper
To contact: 215 369 1188 ext 102 or keepermaya@delawariverkeeper.org*

Speakers on the radio, in the news, authors of letters to the editor and others are starting to assert that by virtue of the fact that they were operating on the Delaware River, including in and around the main navigation channel, the Duck Boat operators are somehow primarily responsible for the accident that took place on July 7, 2010 at about 2:36 pm in which a barge (The Resource) struck a duck boat in the main shipping channel of the Delaware River, killing 2 and injuring 10.

The Delaware Riverkeeper strenuously objects to these characterizations. Blame cannot be placed simply because the Ducks Boats were operating on the Delaware River.

The Delaware is a shared resource – it is a resource that belongs to the public and which we choose to share with industry. The Delaware River does not belong to the ports or industry. It is wholly inappropriate for any individual or entity to suggest that port operators or big business have a higher right to travel upon the Delaware River than the public. It is wholly inappropriate for any individual or entity to attempt to use this tragedy to urge the ejection of the public, boaters, fishers or small business from travelling in any portion of the Delaware River if they are behaving responsibly, operating with the correct safety equipment, and operating in accordance with safe boating operations and measures.

The Duck Boat tragedy should not be used as a messaging tool to attempt to deprive the public, boaters, fishers and small business operations from free and appropriate access to the Delaware River.

#####

Delaware Riverkeeper Network
300 Pond Street, Second Floor
Bristol, PA 19007
tel: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
drkn@delawariverkeeper.org
www.delawariverkeeper.org