

ICPRB: Building Partnerships for the Potomac's Future

The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin works to enhance, protect, and conserve the water and associated land resources of the basin through regional and interstate cooperation.

A non-regulatory agency of the basin states (Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia), Washington, D.C., and the federal government, ICPRB is tasked by its compact to promote watershed-wide solutions to the many challenges facing the basin and its 5.3-million residents.



The ICPRB commissioners, appointed by their respective jurisdictions, provide policy guidance and oversight for a skilled staff of scientists and educators. Expertise in water quality, water resources, biological research, fisheries restoration, and public education and outreach efforts makes ICPRB a valuable partner for the watershed's jurisdictions. The ICPRB reputation for sound science and its dedication to improving and restoring the river builds partnerships among agencies and groups throughout the basin. These partnerships leverage funding and the cooperative efforts efficiently address the basin's challenges.

With these tools, ICPRB controls and prevents pollution of the basin's waterways, coordinates and supports the activities of public and private entities, promotes public understanding of basin issues, and educates about the need for the enhancement and conservation of the water and land resources of the basin.

This report highlights several of the commission's many activities and projects during the year. For more information on commission efforts, please write, call, or visit our website.

Contact us:

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2002 Major Areas of Accomplishment

Drought Management ♦

The ICPRB supports metropolitan area water utilities to ensure that water supply demands are met even during severe droughts, both now and in the future.

- * Metropolitan area water withdrawals from storage reservoirs were managed to meet drinking water needs without restrictions during a severe drought.
- * Biological impacts of drought operations on river habitats were studied with state and local agencies.
- * Drought management was improved through studies of river hydrology with the U.S. Geological Survey and water utilities.
- * Regional water supply issues were coordinated with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission in Virginia.

Source Water Protection ■

Protecting the quality of the basin's waters is a critical part of protecting the region's drinking water, and is performed through studies with basin jurisdictions.

- * Modeling and other research was conducted for a Washington, D.C., source water assessment.
- * Data support helped the Fairfax County Water Authority with its source water assessment.
- * Modeling and data support assisted the Gettysburg, Pa., source water assessment.
- * A source water assessment began for Evitts Creek, a Pennsylvania watershed supplying water for Cumberland, Md.

TMDLs ●

Watershed plans to meet designated stream uses help the basin jurisdictions to improve water quality.

- * Toxic, nutrient, and sediment loads were modeled for Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the tidal and nontidal portions of the Anacostia River (D.C. and Maryland).
- * Draft TMDLs were written for several Pennsylvania watersheds.
- * Animal populations were analyzed to produce bacterial assessments for the Goose Creek TMDL in Virginia.

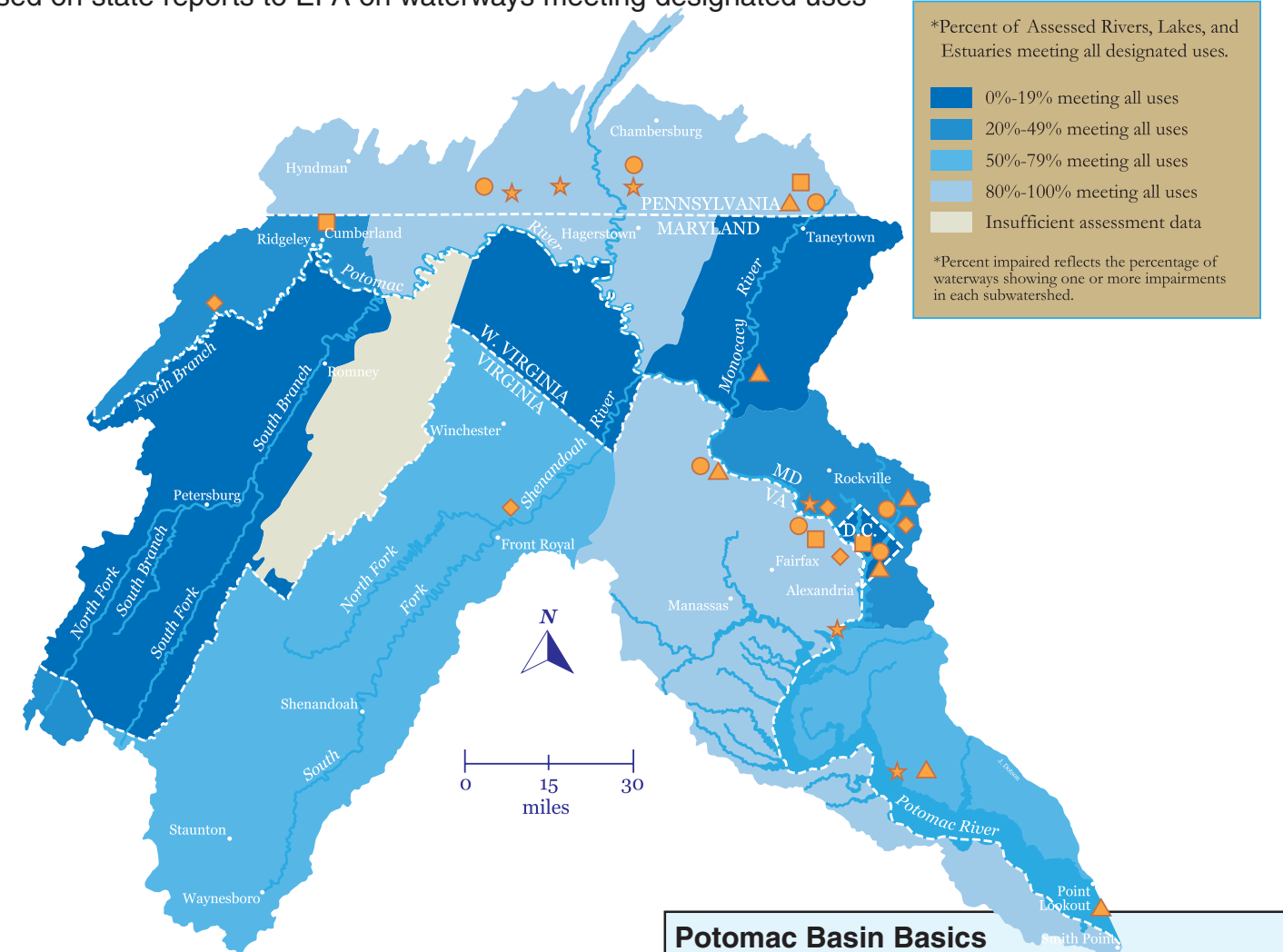
Outreach and Education ▲

Involving and educating the public is a primary ICPRB goal.

- * Hundreds of students and volunteers studied, grew, and released American shad and river herring back into the Potomac and Anacostia rivers.
- * ICPRB helped coordinate river cleanups, tree plantings, seminars, and other public events.
- * A new ICPRB website, newsletter, and other educational materials helped thousands of residents learn more about the watershed.
- * More than 5,000 requests for information from the media, government, citizens, and schools were answered.
- * Basin watershed groups were assisted through direct contact and provided with tools and guidance.

Potomac Basin Water Quality Snapshot

Based on state reports to EPA on waterways meeting designated uses



*Percent of Assessed Rivers, Lakes, and Estuaries meeting all designated uses.

- 0%-19% meeting all uses
- 20%-49% meeting all uses
- 50%-79% meeting all uses
- 80%-100% meeting all uses
- Insufficient assessment data

*Percent impaired reflects the percentage of waterways showing one or more impairments in each subwatershed.

Potomac Basin Basics

THE BASIN: Drainage area includes 14,670 square miles in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

MAINSTEM LENGTH: 383 miles from Fairfax Stone (W. Va.) to Point Lookout (Md.); Tidal reach: 108 miles.

MAJOR TRIBUTARIES: Shenandoah, South Branch Potomac, Monocacy, Savage, Cacapon, Anacostia, and Occoquan rivers; Antietam and Conococheague creeks.

POPULATION: Approximately 5.3 million; 3.7 million in the Washington metropolitan area.

FLOW: Largest flow at Washington, D.C., in March 1936 was about 275 billion gallons per day. Lowest flow was in September 1966, about 388 million gallons per day. Average flow is about 7 billion gallons per day.

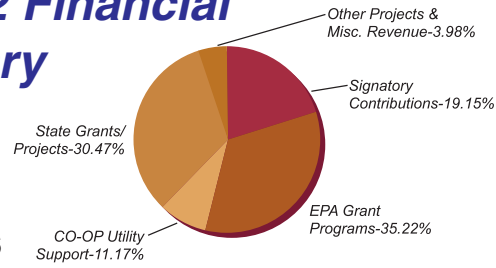
WATER SUPPLY: Average of about 480 million gallons withdrawn daily for Washington area water supply. Approximately 100 million gallons per day of groundwater used in rural areas.

Living Resources Restoration ★

Commission research and restoration programs improve and sustain the aquatic life that characterizes the basin's waterways.

- * 1.5-million American shad fry were stocked in the fresh water Potomac to increase depressed populations of this historically important species, with federal and state assistance.
- * 3-million river herring fry were stocked in the Anacostia and Rock Creek watersheds with state and local assistance.
- * Shad and river herring populations were surveyed and assessed with state and federal partners.
- * Water clarity relationships to living resources were evaluated to integrate different types of data to more accurately characterize river health.
- * Pennsylvania streams were assessed for biological quality.

FY 2002 Financial Summary



Revenues

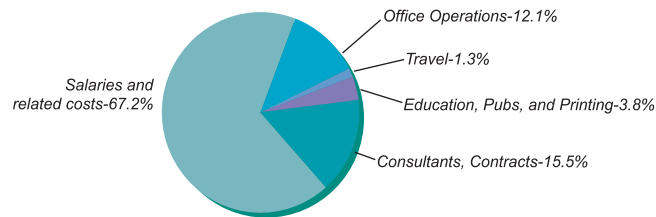
Signatory Contributions

Maryland	\$137,250
Pennsylvania	\$42,500
Virginia	\$132,250
West Virginia	\$48,750
District of Columbia	\$60,000
Total Contributions	\$420,750

Grants and Projects

Md. MDE	\$168,287
Pa. DEP	117,174
Va. DEQ	\$79,973
D.C. DOH	\$304,018
U.S. EPA Sections 106 and 117	\$773,724
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Ches Bay Prog)	\$14,139
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$19,000
Potomac River Fisheries Commission	\$5,000
Maryland Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$5,000
CO-OP Utilities	\$245,461
Potomac Crossings Consultants	\$26,100
Total Grants and Projects	\$1,757,876

Miscellaneous revenue	\$18,174
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,196,800



Expenses

Salaries and Related Costs	\$1,410,091
Rent	\$117,379
Equipment	\$52,374
Office Expense	\$55,436
Travel	\$27,410
Education, Pubs and Printing	\$79,725
Meeting Expenses	\$8,123
Audit, Bonds, Insurance	\$23,461
Consultants, Contracts	\$325,810
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,099,809

From the Executive Director's Desk

by Joseph K. Hoffman

Water resources came to the front in 2002, as another year of lingering drought caused many concerns throughout the Potomac River Basin.

While the Metropolitan Washington Area withstood the precipitation shortage that has plagued the basin since 1998, other areas are less able to ensure adequate domestic supplies. Irrigation of crops, when used, taps unseen groundwater resources. We will begin to evaluate groundwater, the baseflow of the river, with support from the federal 2003 budget.

Commission technical staff continue to be heavily involved with the challenges of meeting the water quality cleanup needs of the Potomac so that our home river leads the way to an improved Chesapeake Bay. New goals for sediment and nutrient loads will be a challenge.

A sign of improvement in the health of the Potomac River is its living resources. We are proud of our role in the restoration of the American shad and river herring. The numbers for these important migratory fish are up in our 2002 monitoring program, following several years of harvesting and fertilizing eggs, and working with schools and others to put fry back into the river. We are hopeful that a viable fishery and continued improvements in the river ecology are in our near future.

We completed much of the work on the source water assessment for the District of Columbia and are working on two assessments for Pennsylvania. These efforts allow a watershed approach to address potential sources of contamination so better quality drinking water is available. As we pursue corrective actions with our state member jurisdictions, we also will be solving some of the impairments that the states are evaluating as part of their total maximum daily load (TMDL) programs.

The Commission's holistic program addresses many of the basin's challenges, and we will continue, with our many partners, to work toward a brighter future for the Potomac.

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Conserving the Watershed

2002 Accomplishments