



May 28, 2015

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Attn: Mr. John Arway
1601 Elmerton Ave.
PO Box 67000
Harrisburg, PA 17106

RE: Support of the Commission's May 2015 Classification of Wild Trout Streams

Dear Mr. Arway:

Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is writing in support of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's (Commission's) consideration of the addition of 54 streams to the Wild Trout list and 28 streams to the Class A Wild Trout list. The Commonwealth's trout fisheries are an important resource for residents and visitors alike, and any designations and subsequent water quality protections afforded these streams is critical to their preservation. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is especially pleased to see 13 stream segments in the Delaware River Basin proposed for Wild Trout designation and six stream segments for Class A Wild Trout designation (listed below).

Delaware Riverkeeper Network also urges that at the July 2015 meeting, the Commission consider Class A Wild Trout designation for the Hosensack Creek basin (Lehigh and Montgomery Counties, PA). We understand that the Commission has sampled this stream during the 2014 season and we request this timely listing in light of pending threats that would impact the existing Class A trout fishery that currently resides in the Hosensack Basin.

Earlier this year, DRN submitted a petition requesting redesignation of the Hosensack Creek to Exceptional Value; the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) moved the petition to the review phase at the EQB's April 2015 meeting. Furthermore, DRN commissioned a preliminary fish shocking survey conducted in 2014 that confirmed the presence of wild naturally reproducing brown trout in five different segments of the Hosensack Creek as well as the presence of native brook trout (upgrade petition and the fishery report available here: <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/river-action/ongoing-issue-detail.aspx?Id=83>). We urge the Commission to continue to move the Hosensack and others from the list of "recently surveyed" to formal wild trout stream listing in as timely manner as possible, and hope more recently surveyed streams might yet be added to the list for consideration at the next meeting occurring on July 13 and 14, 2015.

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PFBC Proposed Wild Trout Waters in the Delaware River Basin, May 2015

| County | Stream | Basin | Description | Location |
|---------------|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Berks | Birch Creek | Little Northkill Creek | Headwaters to Bloody Spring Road Bridge | 40.498055 76.172501 |
| Berks | UNT to Maiden Creek (RM 15.71—Blue Rocks) | Maiden Creek | Headwaters to Mouth | 40.585941 75.894669 |
| Chester | Shamona Creek | East Branch Brandywine Creek | Headwaters to Mouth | 40.039352 75.708061 |
| Chester | UNT to East Branch Brandywine Creek (RM 13.6—Below Lyndell) | East Branch Brandywine Creek | Headwaters to Mouth | 40.050465 75.734978 |
| Chester | UNT to West Branch Brandywine Creek (RM 10.0—Below Laurel) | West Branch Brandywine Creek | Headwaters to Mouth | 39.935284 75.765732 |
| Chester | UNT to West Branch Brandywine Creek (RM 5.2—Glenhall) | West Branch Brandywine Creek | Headwaters to Mouth | 39.929043 75.713814 |
| Chester | UNT to West Branch Brandywine Creek (RM 9.14—Romansville) | West Branch Brandywine Creek | Headwaters to Mouth | 39.935757 75.750908 |
| Northampton | UNT to Lehigh River (RM 3.45) | Lehigh River | I-78 to Mouth | 40.647644 75.261307 |
| Schuylkill | Buteo Brook | Little Schuylkill River | Headwaters to Mouth | 40.634159 76.015755 |
| Schuylkill | Neifert Creek | Little Schuylkill River | Headwaters to Mouth | 40.832767 76.004898 |
| Schuylkill | Rabbit Run | Little Schuylkill River | Headwaters to Mouth | 40.778271 75.962013 |
| Schuylkill | UNT to Little Schuylkill River (RM 19.7—S Tamaqua) | Little Schuylkill River | Headwaters to Mouth | 40.755913 75.947678 |
| Schuylkill | UNT to Little Schuylkill River (RM 3.2—SGL Above SR 61) | Little Schuylkill River | Headwaters to Mouth | 40.611374 76.018181 |

PFBC Proposed Class A Wild Trout Waters in the Delaware River Basin, May 2015

| County | Stream Name | Description | Brook Trout (kg/ha) | Brown Trout (kg/ha) | Length | Survey Year |
|-------------|---|--|---------------------|---------------------|--------|-------------|
| Lehigh | Little Cedar Creek | 02 Spring seeps located 70 meters upstream SR 1002 (West Tilgman Street) Bridge to Mouth | — | 72.58 | 1.10 | 2012 |
| Northampton | UNT to Lehigh Canal (RM 2.18) | 01 Headwaters to Mouth | — | 53.02 | 1.24 | 2012 |
| Northampton | UNT to Lehigh River (RM 3.45) | 02 I-78 to Mouth | — | 79.60 | 0.26 | 2012 |
| Schuylkill | Rabbit Run | 01 Headwaters to Inflow of Rabbit Run Reservoir | 36.13 | — | 1.52 | 2012 |
| Schuylkill | Rabbit Run | 02 Outflow of Rabbit Run Reservoir to Mouth | 35.40 | 3.38 | 1.25 | 2012 |
| Schuylkill | UNT to Little Schuylkill River (RM 3.2 SGL Above SR 61) | 1 Headwaters to Mouth | 244.19 | 0.31 | 1.29 | 2012 |

Thank you your work to protect wild trout streams of Pennsylvania and the water quality they need to thrive.

Sincerely,



Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper
Delaware Riverkeeper Network