



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT:

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network holds 2nd Annual World Fish Migration Community Paddle

Bristol, PA - Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) held a paddle on May 23 in honor of World Fish Migration Day, celebrating the connections among communities, rivers, and fish. Paddlers included students, educators, activists, scientists, anglers, and residents from the Watershed.

Approximately 20 community members and representatives joined DRN for the event. Paddle participants kayaked from Palmyra Cove Nature Park, NJ, to Pyne Poynt Park, Camden, NJ, where an informational program was presented on the importance of a healthy Delaware River. Speakers included Drew Brown, Philadelphia Water Department, who gave a talk about the history of the River; Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, who discussed the endangered Atlantic sturgeon; and Erik Silldorff, Restoration Director at Delaware Riverkeeper Network, who provided participants with information about dissolved oxygen and how dissolved oxygen levels affect the River fish populations, including the endangered Atlantic sturgeon.

Participants then used this knowledge and took direct action, signing a postcard urging the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to recognize the existing uses of the Delaware Estuary for fish propagation, as spawning and nursery habitat for fish, and to preserve these aquatic life uses by raising the dissolved oxygen standards for all reaches of the Delaware Estuary.

Participants were also encouraged to complete a survey to tell DRN how they engage with the Delaware River. Do they swim, fish, nature watch, boat, do yoga on paddle boards, or engage in and on the River in any way, why, and where? This information will help inform future protections for the River and its tributaries. An online version of the survey can be found at: <http://bit.ly/DRNrecreation>.

"Joining with community members to celebrate the River and learn from and teach each other was incredibly powerful. Every day, there are opportunities to improve the health of our River and its fish populations. Today we are urging Governors Murphy, Wolf, Carney and Cuomo, through the DRBC, to pass the regulations needed to enhance oxygen levels in the River to the Atlantic sturgeon and other aquatic species cannot just survive, but they can thrive," **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

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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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