

With the winter recess over things are starting to pick up in PA. Searching for information on the NJ side of the Delaware wasn't as informative in the way of updates.

In late January Harry Campbell, Pennsylvania Director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) testified before the Pennsylvania House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee to stress the importance of streamside forested buffers as a means for improving and protecting the Commonwealth's most sensitive and pristine waterways. The Committee met to discuss House Bill 1565, which proposes to remove the existing riparian forest buffer requirement for land developments that require erosion and sedimentation control and post-construction storm water permits when occurring alongside Pennsylvania's scientifically determined "Special Protection Waters." Pennsylvania's rivers and streams with the most outstanding water quality, reflected in both water quality chemistry and aquatic life, are afforded the greatest degree of protection, and are designated either High Quality (HQ) or Exceptional Value (EV). Collectively, these streams are often referred to as Special Protection Waters.

For nearly two decades Pennsylvania has invested in restoring streamside forests. Protecting existing forested buffers, while at the same time reestablishing lost buffers, is an integral component of Pennsylvania's efforts under the Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Blueprint. "Without protected and restored streamside forests, the Commonwealth will have difficulty meeting targeted pollution reductions as established in the state Watershed Implementation Plan, and meeting our clean water goals will be far more challenging and costly," Campbell continued.

The Many Benefits of Buffers: Research has continuously indicated that forested buffers provide significant removal of nonpoint source pollution, such as nitrogen, sediment, and phosphorus, the leading causes of stream degradation in Pennsylvania and the major pollutants impacting the Chesapeake Bay. Forested buffers also help to reduce the costs of treating drinking water. Research has shown that trees play a vital role in maintaining the quality of the water entering drinking water treatment plants and, therefore, reduce the costs of treatment. A riparian buffer can help to prevent property damage because they capture, absorb, and store amounts of rainfall up to 40 times greater than disturbed soils, like agricultural fields or construction sites, and 15 times more than a typical suburban lawn.

HARRISBURG, Pa. (Jan. 23) . The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

(PFBC) voted at its quarterly meeting today to create a voluntary \$1 youth fishing license and to dedicate the revenue generated from it to programs to increase youth fishing participation. Increasing youth and family participation in fishing, boating, and conservation programs has always been part of our strategic plan, said PFBC Executive Director John Arway. This goal responds to the fact that the percentage of children and young adults ages 6 to 15 who fished in Pennsylvania in 2010 was only 24 percent, as compared to 37 percent in 2005 and 41 percent in 1995. We want to continue to refine and develop programs to engage kids. A youth license also provides an added benefit when it comes to federal funding, which accounts for approximately 25 percent of the PFBC's budget. For every youth license sold, the PFBC will receive approximately \$5 in federal revenue.