



**Delaware River Basin Commission**

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**Carol R. Collier**  
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April 29, 2013

Delaware Riverkeeper Network  
Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association  
Lehigh River Stocking Association

Subject: Delaware Riverkeeper *et al.* Petition Concerning Designated Uses and Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients in the Delaware Estuary


Dear NGO's:

I am writing in response to your March 5 petition concerning DRBC water quality standards for fish and other aquatic life in water quality zones 3 and 4 and portions of zone 5 of the Delaware Estuary. The Commission appreciates your interest in the continued enhancement of aquatic habitat in the Delaware River system. As those of you who participate on DRBC's standing Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC or "committee") are aware, the issues you raise are under active discussion by the diverse resource management stakeholders that comprise the WQAC.


In advance of the WQAC's next meeting, expected to be held in late spring of 2013, DRBC will publish a draft Delaware River & Delaware Estuary Nutrient Criteria Plan ("Plan") prepared by staff. The draft Plan offers an approach to addressing use and criteria changes for dissolved oxygen and nutrients in estuarine and non-tidal zones of the Delaware River. The Commission welcomes committee feedback on the draft Plan and simultaneously on the action items you have identified. The Commissioners have advised me they believe the WQAC is the appropriate forum for discussion and an initial evaluation of your petition.

Again, the Commission welcomes your participation in the committee dialogue regarding nutrient criteria for the Delaware Estuary and looks forward to receiving the WQAC's recommendations concerning the actions you advocate.

Sincerely,



Carol R. Collier



c: DRBC Commissioners