

# CALL TO ACTION

## Restore the Susquehanna River

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission encourages anglers and boaters throughout the Susquehanna River Watershed to contact their Members of Congress to demand action to fix the Susquehanna River. Congress needs to join the growing chorus of concerned citizens and businesses calling on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to declare the river impaired and start a timeline for developing a restoration plan.

If officials do not act to address the water quality issues on the Susquehanna River, Pennsylvania risks losing what is left of what was once considered a world class smallmouth bass fishery.

- Data reveal that both the minimum daily dissolved oxygen concentration and pH fail to meet the federal and state established criteria for the protected use of warmwater fishes. The failure to meet these criteria results in a stressful habitat for the species that live there, specifically the smallmouth bass.
- Dissolved phosphorus levels are increasing at exponential rates, resulting in large and unprecedented harmful blooms of nuisance algae which deplete oxygen from the river's water.
- Scientific studies have documented that smallmouth bass populations have been steadily declining since the early 2000s. These data are supported by countless angler claims of a diminishing population. Many guides, who once made their living by guiding for smallmouth bass, can no longer book trips due to the decreased quality of the fishery.

- Gross lesions and disease are decimating the young-of-the-year smallmouth bass, resulting in extremely poor survival from one year to the next. The river has not experienced a successful spawn of smallmouth bass since 2005.
- The Susquehanna River has a high incidence of intersex condition—male fish having female cells or the precursors to female cells.
- The Susquehanna River is sick and official action needs to be taken to address the poor water quality for the fishery, citizens, businesses and visitors of the Commonwealth.

### Contact your elected officials today with two simple messages:

- Tell them what the Susquehanna River means to you.
- Ask them to tell the U.S. EPA to put a plan in place to fix the Susquehanna River before it is too late.

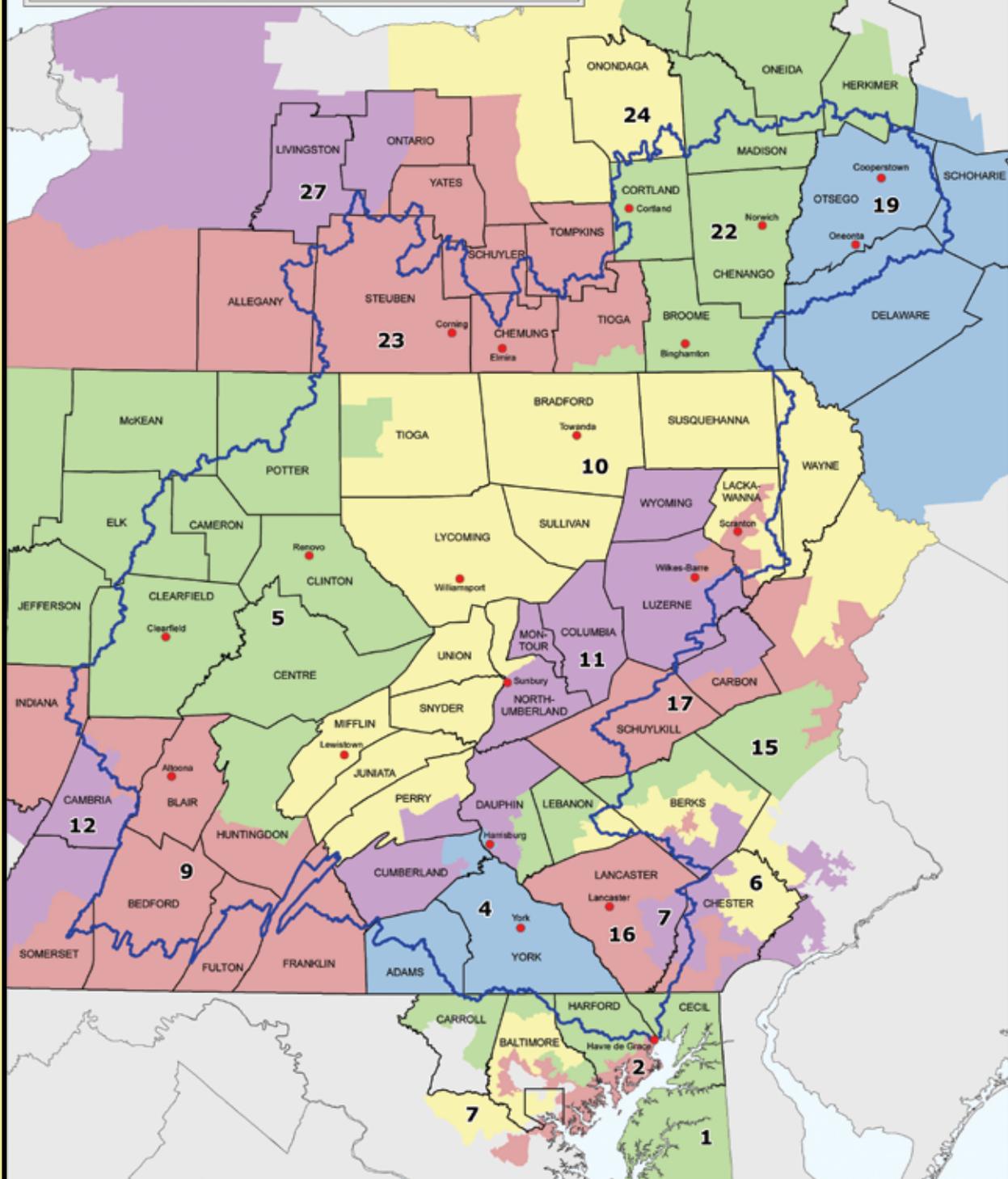
Please refer to the map on the opposite page to find your individual Member of Congress.

Members may be contacted by calling the United States Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 or by visiting [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

Please share a copy of all Congressional correspondence with Larry Merrill from EPA at [merrill.larry@epa.gov](mailto:merrill.larry@epa.gov).

For more information about the problems plaguing the Susquehanna River, visit [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).

# 113TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS FOR THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN



- NEW YORK**
- 19 - Rep. Christopher Gibson (R)
  - 22 - Rep. Richard Hanna (R)
  - 23 - Rep. Thomas Reed, II (R)
  - 24 - Rep. Daniel Maffei (D)
  - 27 - Rep. Chris Collins (R)

- MARYLAND**
- 1 - Rep. Andy Harris (R)
  - 2 - Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D)
  - 7 - Rep. Elijah Cummings (D)

- PENNSYLVANIA**
- 4 - Rep. Scott Perry (R)
  - 5 - Rep. Glenn W. Thompson (R)
  - 6 - Rep. Jim Gerlach (R)
  - 7 - Rep. Patrick Meehan (R)
  - 9 - Rep. Bill Shuster (R)
  - 10 - Rep. Thomas Marino (R)
  - 11 - Rep. Lou Barletta (R)
  - 12 - Rep. Keith Rothfus (R)

- PENNSYLVANIA CONT.**
- 15 - Rep. Charles Dent (R)
  - 16 - Rep. Joseph Pitts (R)
  - 17 - Rep. Matthew Cartwright (D)



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 SOURCE: District Boundaries, NY's Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, PA Legislative Data Processing Center, and the MD Department of Planning.

