

## MARYLAND TROUT WATERS

Maryland has approximately 700 miles of trout streams that actually support self-sustaining populations of wild trout. There were 14,000 -17,000 miles in precolonial times. In other words wild trout streams have been reduced by 95% through development – primarily as a result of high summer water temperatures. Trout are cold water species and cannot tolerate warm water.

Maryland's water quality standard for trout streams under COMAR is 68° F maximum.

Waters other than the 700 miles of actual self sustaining wild trout waters are also classified as Natural Trout Waters (Use Classification III). This is because the Clean Water Act, whose goal was the RESTORATION of fishable, swimmable waters, requires that waters be classified at the highest use potential they can achieve if all reversible man-made pollution impacts were re

### TROUT UNLIMITED, MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Trout Unlimited is a national nongovernmental organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of trout waters. The Mid-Atlantic Council has seven chapters in Maryland including one which includes D.C. and its suburbs.

#### Issues of Concern to Mid-Atlantic Council Trout Unlimited (MAC)

- Continued summer warm water discharge (up to 82°F) from Piney Run Reservoir into Piney Run (Sykesville) a Use Class III Natural Trout Stream in violation of COMAR – trout have been extirpated – original dam permit required protection of existing Use Classes including trout - solution appears available to restore trout – a compliance schedule should be the next step. No compliance schedule has been developed by MDE.
- After being notified of a wild trout population in Deep Run near Hampstead, MDE is considering a permit application that contains a new wastewater discharge from Hampstead WWTP to Deep Run without a temperature limit. This is based on internal discussions in MDE. This approach would ignore the recommendation by MD DNR to consider the naturally reproducing trout. We believe not protecting the stream's existing trout population would also be a violation of the Clean Water Act.
- MDE had issues an interim temperature limit of 74° F because they have never adhered to the USE III standard of 68° F. Carroll County Bureau of Utilities has routinely exceeded the interim limit with no enforcement action by MDE.
- MDE very recently began a review of the policy for reclassifying streams to natural trout water. This policy was agreed upon by MD DNR and MDE. We have been told that this new policy and not the previous policy will be used to review Deep Run and other area streams that MD DNR has or will submit to reclassification to Use Class III. Any new policy should

not be applied without a public participation process in advance of its use on any reclassifications or permit decisions.

#### MAC Activities To Date

- Attended March 24, 2016 public information meeting on Hampstead WWTP permits (Piney Run and Deep Run discharges)
- Sent Letter of Concern to Secretary Grumbles (April 5, 2016)
- Partnered with MD DNR and landowners to do physical, chemical, and biological study of Deep Run to determine existing conditions and pollution levels
- Made Public Information Act requests
- Continue landowner outreach (County Commissioner Richard Weaver is a landowner who we have been in contact with)
- Partnered with MD DNR to obtain additional information on multiple streams within the North Branch Patapsco watershed for the current 2016 Triennial Review

#### Near Term MAC Goals

- Continue to obtain data to promote properly informed decisions so that the intent and specific requirements of the Clean Water Act and Maryland statues and regulation are met
- Take whatever measures necessary to protect our scarce trout resources