

For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE

New Science Coming to the Upper Delaware River

NY and PA state agencies team up on Joint Fisheries Investigation Plan

Public Meeting in Hancock, NY – March 13, 2018

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation will host a public meeting at the Hancock High School, 67 Education Lane, Hancock NY on March 13 at 6 PM to discuss a new UDR Joint Fisheries Investigation Plan. All members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend.

In an unprecedented and historic collaboration, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) have joined together to launch an ambitious new 3-year program that will greatly enhance their scientific knowledge of the Upper Delaware River cold water fishery.

This comprehensive assessment, known as the Joint Fisheries Investigation Plan, will enable professional resource managers, recreational users of the river, and all watershed stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the biological conditions of the fishery and the health of the aquatic habitat that support this tremendous natural resource.

The plan includes extensive angler interviews, expanded fish tagging and tracking, spawning bed counts, and assessment of fish numbers and growth rates.

To see the new fisheries plan go to: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/112782.html>

“This new fishery investigation plan is long overdue and couldn’t come at a better time. The Upper Delaware River represents the economic future of this region. We need a thorough assessment of its health to make long term strategic management decisions that are in the best interest of the people and communities that rely on this resource for their livelihood,” said Jeff Skelding, Executive Director of Friends of the upper Delaware River.

The new science study will complement the recently adopted 2017 Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP) by filling data gaps associated with the condition of the fishery. This will help fine tune the operations of two new programs in the FFMP that address dangerous thermal conditions in the river and erratic “yo-yo” releases.

The study will also generate additional watershed data that can enhance the implementation of a new Stream Corridor Management Plan for the watershed below the NYC Delaware reservoirs that will soon be finalized by the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition.

A new national campaign, dubbed “4 the Delaware”, was recently launched by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) to encourage enhanced support and increased cross-state cooperation among the four Governors with states that border the river. “This joint plan to learn more about the unique Upper Delaware fishery is a great example of state leaders reaching across the river to another in support of an effort that will benefit all watershed stakeholders up and down the river,” said Halle Van der Gaag, Manager of Delaware River programs for NWF.

For more Information Contact:

Jeff Skelding, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Hancock, NY: skelding@fudr.org 410-245-8021

Halle Van Der Gaag, National Wildlife Federation, Philadelphia, PA: vandergaagh@nwf.org 410-804-0520