

THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

13,539 Square Miles • 4 States • 42 Counties • 838 Municipalities • 330 Miles from Headwaters to Ocean • 2,000+ Tributaries

PA

GONE FISHIN'

Some of the best trout streams in the Eastern United States are found in the Upper Delaware River. There are almost 80 miles of river with a good population of large wild trout because of plentiful cold water and a huge population of aquatic insects.



ENDLESS HILL

Kittatinny Ridge's name is Lenape, meaning "Endless Hill" or "Great Mountain." It is 185 miles long and 360,000 acres of mostly forest. Much of the Schuylkill River's headwaters originate here.

GWPA - WHAT?

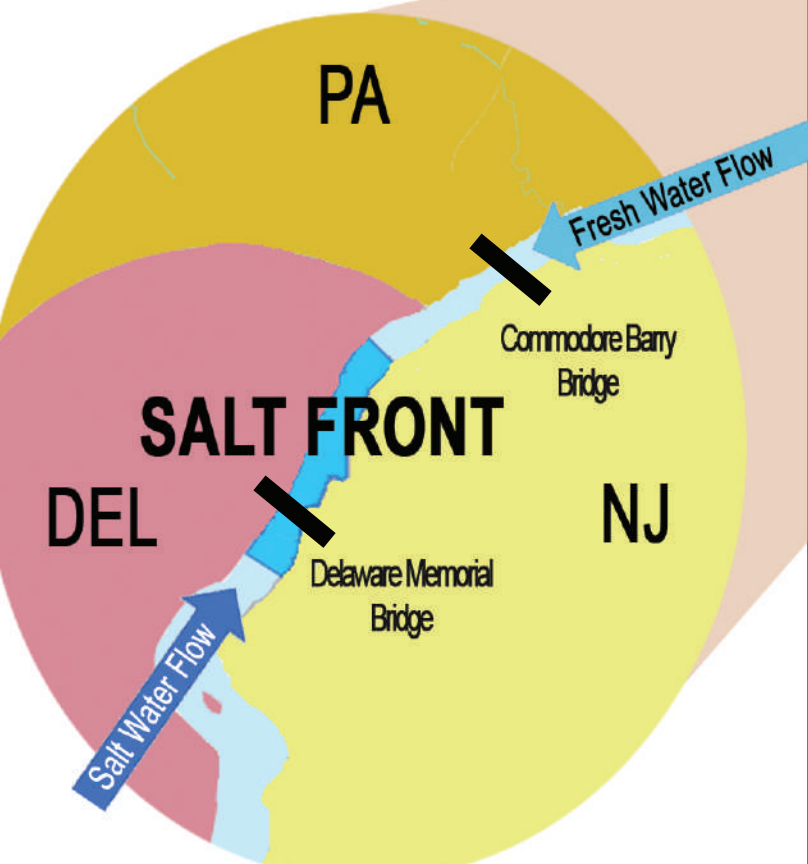
The Southeastern Pennsylvania Ground Water Protection Area (GWPA shown in the green colored area), where more stringent regulations apply to ground water withdrawals than in the rest of the Basin, was established when it became evident development was negatively impacting ground water levels in SE PA. The main goal is to prevent the depletion of ground water.

HOME OF THE HOAGIE?

During WWI, Hog Island, a spit of land in the Delaware River was the world's largest shipyard. Workers ate sandwiches with large Italian rolls loaded with meats, cheeses, lettuce and peppers. These were called "hoggers" or "hogies" after the island. The Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) now sits where Hog Island used to be.



WANT SALT WITH YOUR WATER?



Every day, the ocean's salt water pushes up through the Delaware Bay into the main stem Delaware River. Left unchecked, salt water would continue upstream and get into drinking water intakes. Fresh river water flows downstream, pushing back the salt water. Where the two mix is called the Salt Front (indicated by the blue area above.) When there's not enough rain for fresh water flow, releases are made from reservoirs by DRBC to ensure the Salt Front stays where it should.



Horseshoe Crab

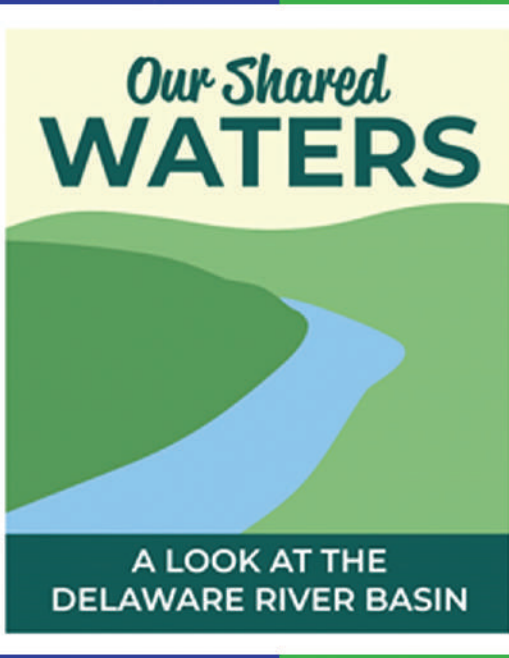
The Delaware Bay hosts the world's largest concentrations of spawning horseshoe crabs. People come from all over the world to view the spawning crabs and the associated migratory shorebirds. The bulk of the spawning typically occurs in May and June, and is usually highest around the new and full moons.

Illustration by Peter A. Eschbach through a grant by the William Penn Foundation



DEL

NY



Delaware Aqueduct
The world's longest tunnel (85 miles long)

DELAWARE WATER GAP

The Water Gap is where the Delaware River cuts through a large ridge of Appalachian Mountains. It began to form more than 400 million years ago.

HALF OF NYC'S WATER...

Though New York City is not in the Delaware River Basin, about half of its water supply is provided by three reservoirs (Cannonsville, Pepacton & Neversink) in the Basin. That's about 568 million gallons a day.



DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL

In addition to its 77 miles of trails, the historic D&R Canal provides an important water supply to northern NJ. Every day, more than 90 million gallons of water from the Delaware River leaves the Basin via the D&R.

BASEBALL'S DIRTY SECRET

During the 1930s, Philadelphia Athletics coach Russell "Lena" Blackburne scooped up some mud while fishing on the Delaware River. Today, "Lena Blackburne Baseball Rubbing Mud" from that secret location is used by every major and minor league baseball team to prepare new balls before a game per MLB rule 4.01(d).



The Atlantic Sturgeon is a prehistoric fish that has existed for more than 120 million years. Once so plentiful that the Delaware Bay was called the "caviar capital of the world," the Atlantic Sturgeon is now on the endangered species list.



Atlantic Sturgeon

The American shad is the largest member of the herring family. Adults commonly reach four to eight pounds. They are among the strongest and hardest-fighting fish found in the Delaware River. American shad begin their lives in freshwater. After hatching in the spring, they migrate downstream to the Atlantic Ocean. After three to five years at sea, they return to the river of their birth to spawn.



American Shad

While it is fourth in the nation in the amount of cargo tonnage handled, and second in the number of ship arrivals, Philadelphia is the largest freshwater port in the world!



Definitely Not To Scale

Wherever you stand on one bank, you are looking across at another state.

Water for 13.3 Million People • 6.1 Billion Gallons Pulled Out of the Basin's Waters Every Day