

# Delaware River Basin Commission

## *The State of the Basin - 2019* *Introduction*

*Steve Tambini*  
*Executive Director, DRBC*

**WRA DRB**  
**Fall Technical Symposium**

*November 6, 2019*  
*Bordentown, NJ*



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

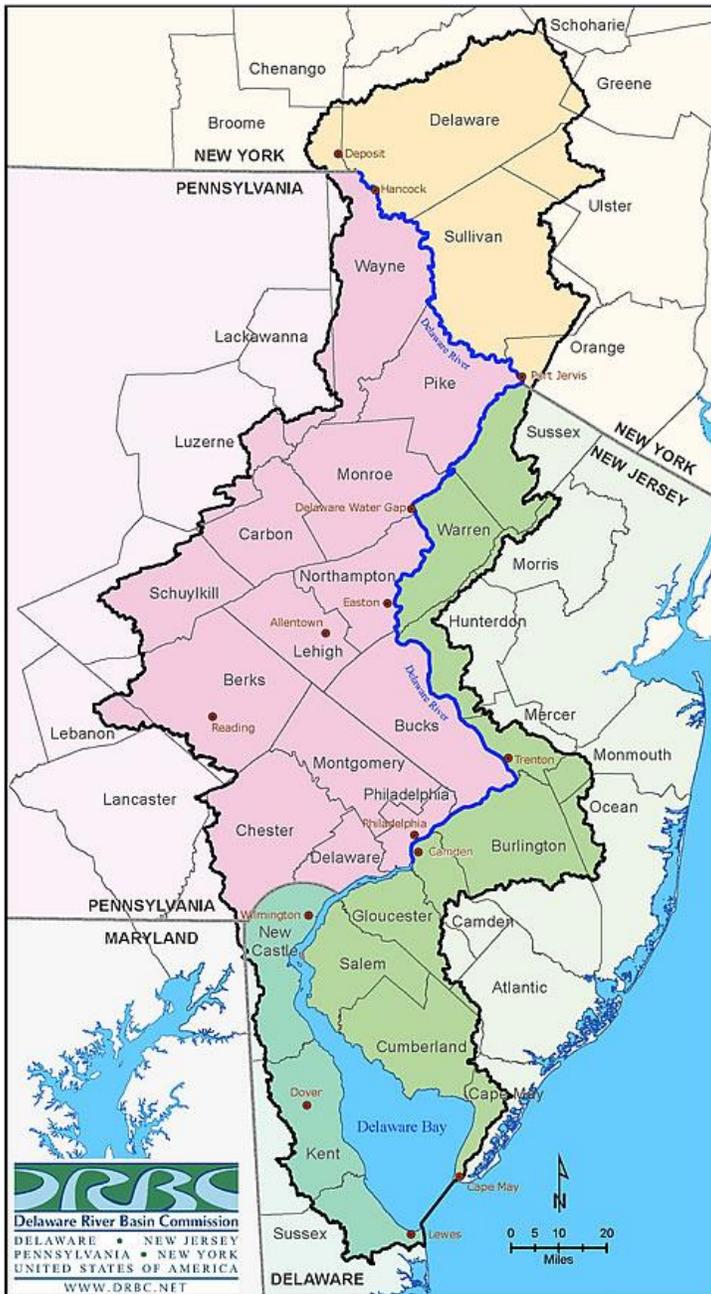


# The State of the Basin 2019

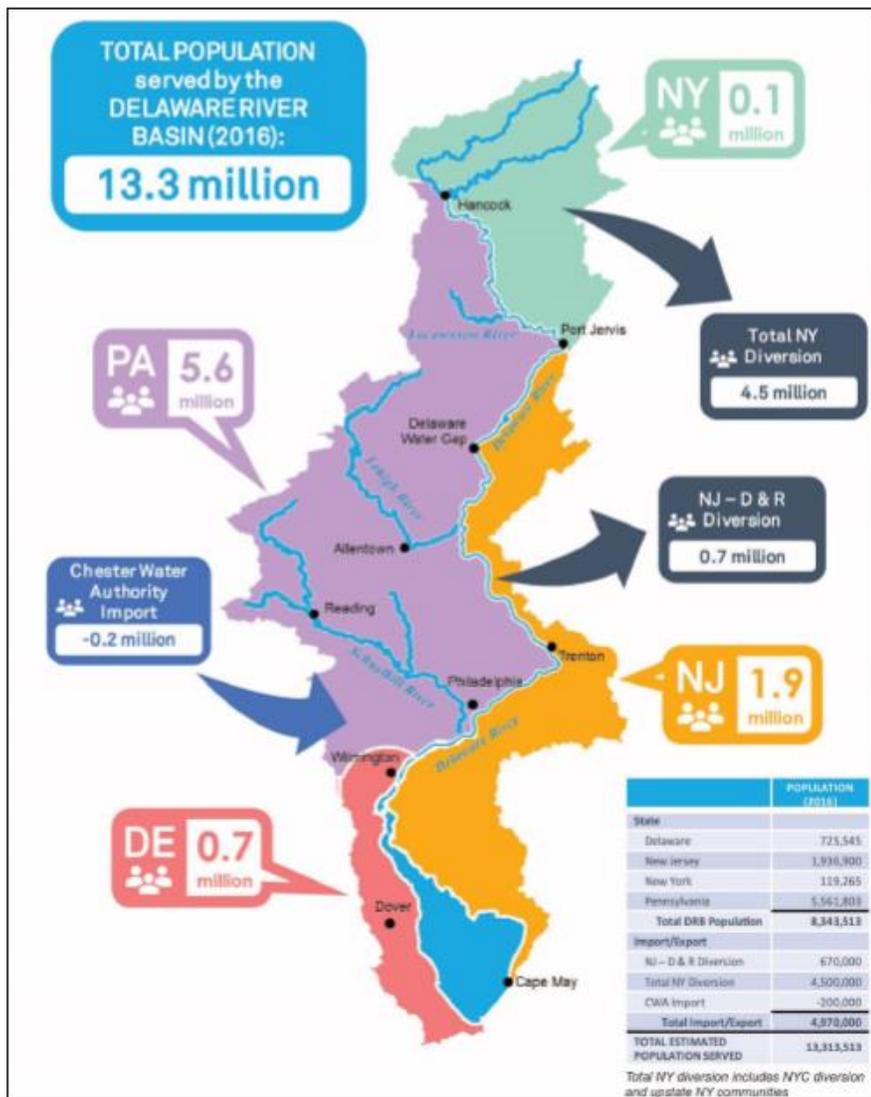
- ***Introduction:*** Steve Tambini, Executive Director
- ***Watersheds and Water Use:*** Chad Pindar, Manager Water Resource Planning
- ***Flow Management and Climate Change:*** Amy Shallcross, Manager Water Resource Operations
- ***Water Quality and Living Resources:*** John Yagecic, Manager Water Quality Assessment
- ***Our Shared Waters:*** Peter Eschbach, Director External Affairs and Communications
- ***Questions and Discussion***

# The Delaware River

- 330 miles long.
- Interstate boundary its entire length.
- Longest, un-dammed U.S. river east of the Mississippi (dams are located on tributaries, not the main stem Delaware).
- Tidal to Trenton, N.J.



# The Delaware River Basin



- ~13 million people (about 5% of the U.S. population) rely on its waters
- Provides half the drinking water to NYC
- Drains 13,539 square miles of watershed in 4 states.
- 6.4 billion gallons are withdrawn every day
- Contributes over \$21B in economic value

# The State of the Basin is...

## STATE OF THE **BASIN 2019**



Generally...

**“Good”** or **“Very Good”** and

**“Improving”** or **“Stable”**

# The State of the Basin

## SUMMARY OF INDICATORS

### How to Use the *State of the Basin* Report

A “thermometer” is used to provide the current status of each indicator in this report. For most of the indicators, an arrow appears with the “thermometer,” pointing up, if the indicator shows an improving trend or pointing down, if the indicator is worsening. If there is no arrow, no trend is observed.



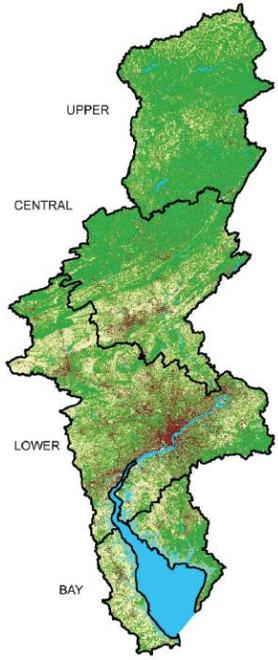
Indicator	2019 Status	Present Condition/Trend	Recommendations
○ = Poor   ◐ = Fair   ◑ = Good   ◒ = Very Good   ● = Excellent   ◑◒ = Not Rated			
↑ Improving   ↓ Worsening   ↔ Stable/No Trend			

**WATERSHEDS AND  
LANDSCAPES**

**WATER QUALITY**

**WATER QUANTITY**

**LIVING RESOURCES**



# The State of the Basin is...



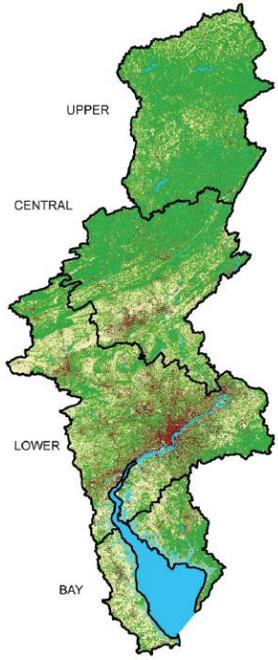
<i>Indicator Ratings</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>
<b>WATERSHEDS AND LANDSCAPES</b>			<b>1</b>		
<b>WATER QUANTITY</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>		
<b>WATER QUALITY</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>LIVING RESOURCES</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>



Photo: Kevin Haines



<i>Indicator Trends</i>	<i>Improving</i>	<i>Stable</i>	<i>Worsening</i>
<b>WATERSHEDS AND LANDSCAPES</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>WATER QUANTITY</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>WATER QUALITY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LIVING RESOURCES</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>



# The State of the Basin is...



Photo: Kevin Haines



<i>Indicator Ratings</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>
<b>WATERSHEDS AND LANDSCAPES</b>			<b>1</b>		
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<b>LIVING RESOURCES</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

<i>Indicator Trends</i>	<i>Improving</i>	<i>Stable</i>	<i>Worsening</i>
<b>WATERSHEDS AND LANDSCAPES</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>WATER QUANTITY</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>LIVING RESOURCES</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

# The State of the Basin is...

REVIVING THE RIVER

## Timeline: The Delaware River and the Clean Water Act

By Dana Bate, Susan Phillips · January 15, 2019

<https://why.org/articles/the-delaware-river-before-and-after-the-clean-water-act/>

A dam is gone, and the shad are back. After 100 years, the fish have returned to a Delaware River tributary.

Updated Apr 24, 2019; Posted Apr 24, 2019

<https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/warren-county/2019/04/a-dam-is-gone-and-the-shad-are-back-after-100-years-the-fish-have-returned-to-a-delaware-river-tributary.html>

## Is it safe to swim in the Delaware or Schuylkill? What about Devil's Pool? It's complicated.

by Frank Kummer, Updated: August 15, 2019 <https://www.inquirer.com/science/climate/delaware-schuylkill-river-swim-philadelphia-pollution-20190815.html>

## 4 of the biggest threats facing the Delaware River, according to experts

Updated Oct 20, 2019; Posted Oct 20, 2019

<https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/news/2019/10>

[/4-of-the-biggest-threats-facing-the-delaware-river-according-to-experts.html](https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/news/2019/10/4-of-the-biggest-threats-facing-the-delaware-river-according-to-experts.html)

## 3 U.S. Representatives To Hold PFAS Meeting

The event will be to discuss work planned by Temple University researchers to study links between cancer and PFAS in groundwater.

By Doug Gross, Patch Staff  
Oct 7, 2019 11:37 am ET

<https://patch.com/pennsylvania/horsham/3-u-s-representatives-hold-pfas-meeting>

## Pa., N.J., and Del. governors meet in Philadelphia, commit to health of Delaware River

by Frank Kummer, Updated: May 16, 2019

<https://www.inquirer.com/science/climate/governor-wolf-pennsylvania-murphy-new-jersey-carney-delaware-river-20190516.html>

# Lehighvalleylive.com 10/20/2019

## “Expert Opinions”

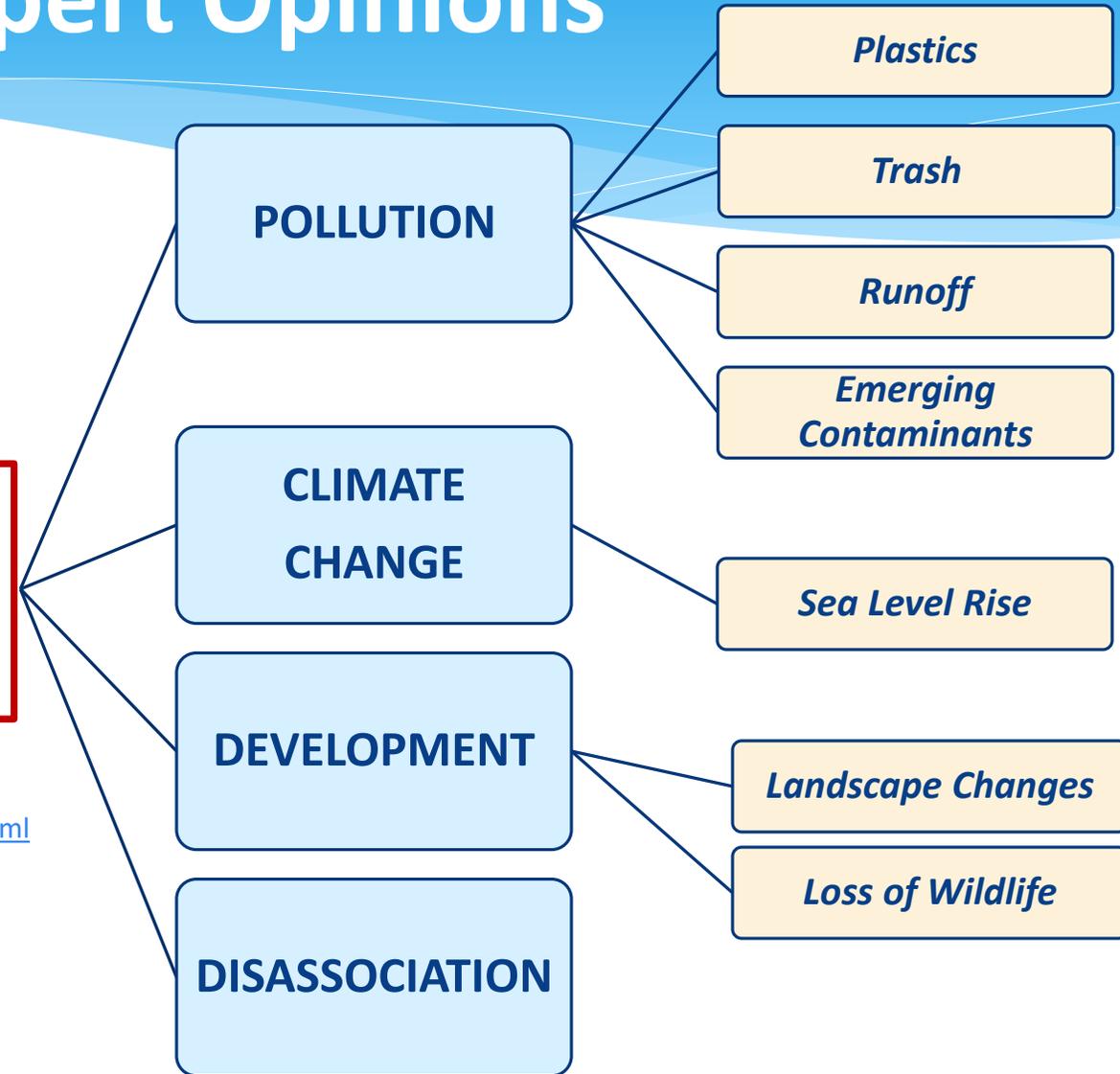
**4 of the biggest threats facing the Delaware River, according to experts**

Updated Oct 20, 2019; Posted Oct 20, 2019

Credit: Steve Novack for lehighvalleylive.com

<https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/news/2019/10>

[/4-of-the-biggest-threats-facing-the-delaware-river-according-to-experts.html](#)





# Acknowledgements

## Contributors

- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE)
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC),
- Delaware Department of Fish and Wildlife (DE DFW)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Delaware Water Resources Center, Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware
- United States Geological Survey (USGS), NJ Water Science Center

## DRBC Report Development Team

- Seung Ah Byun, PhD, PE
- Evan Kwityn
- Chad Pindar, PE
- Michael Thompson, PE

# Steve Tambini, Executive Director

*Steve.Tambini@drbc.gov*

*www.drbc.gov*



**Delaware River Basin Commission**

DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY  
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

***Managing, Protecting and  
Improving the Basin's Water  
Resources since 1961***