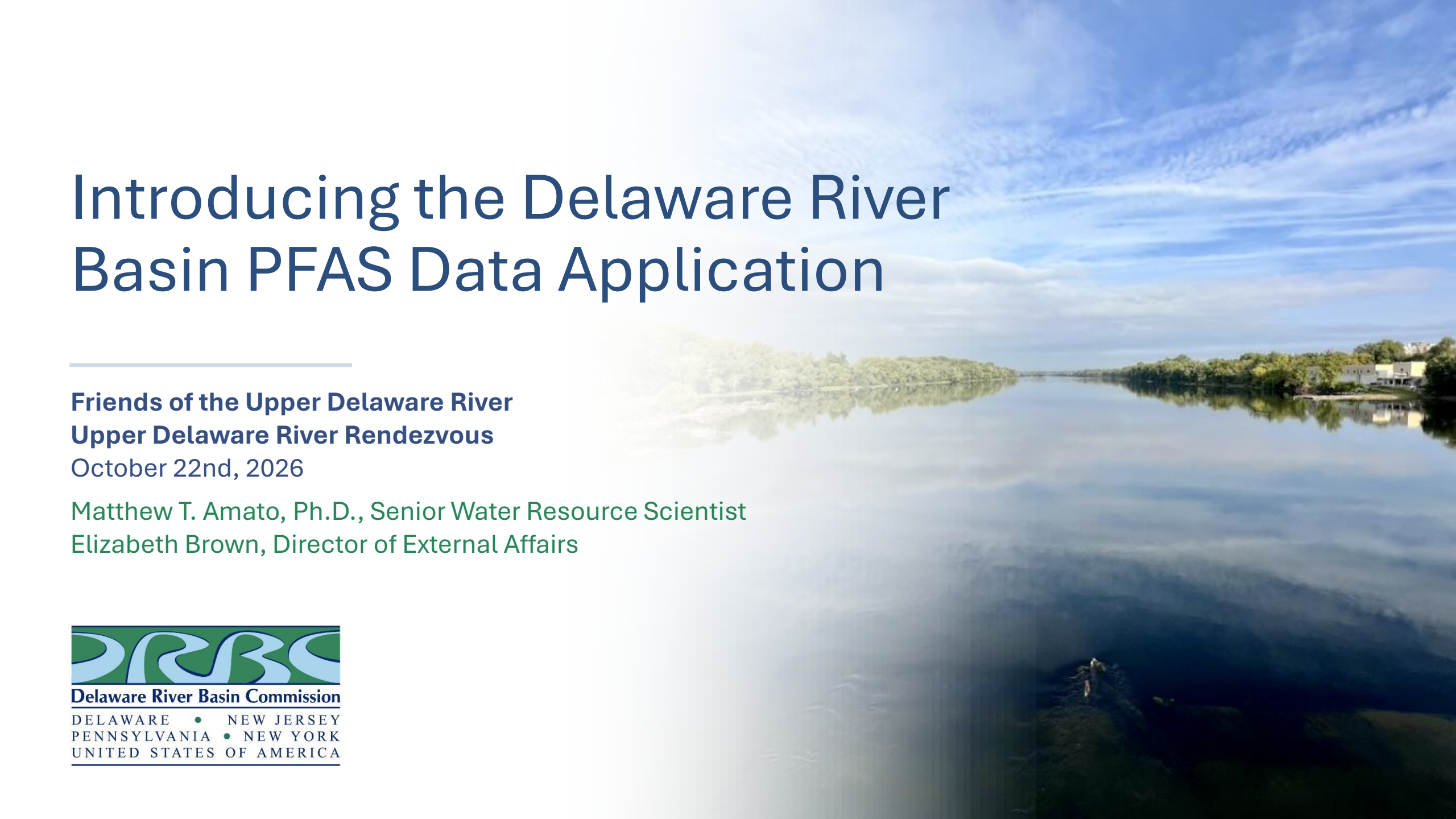
Introducing the Delaware River Basin PFAS Data Application



Friends of the Upper Delaware River
Upper Delaware River Rendezvous
October 22nd, 2026

Matthew T. Amato, Ph.D., Senior Water Resource Scientist
Elizabeth Brown, Director of External Affairs

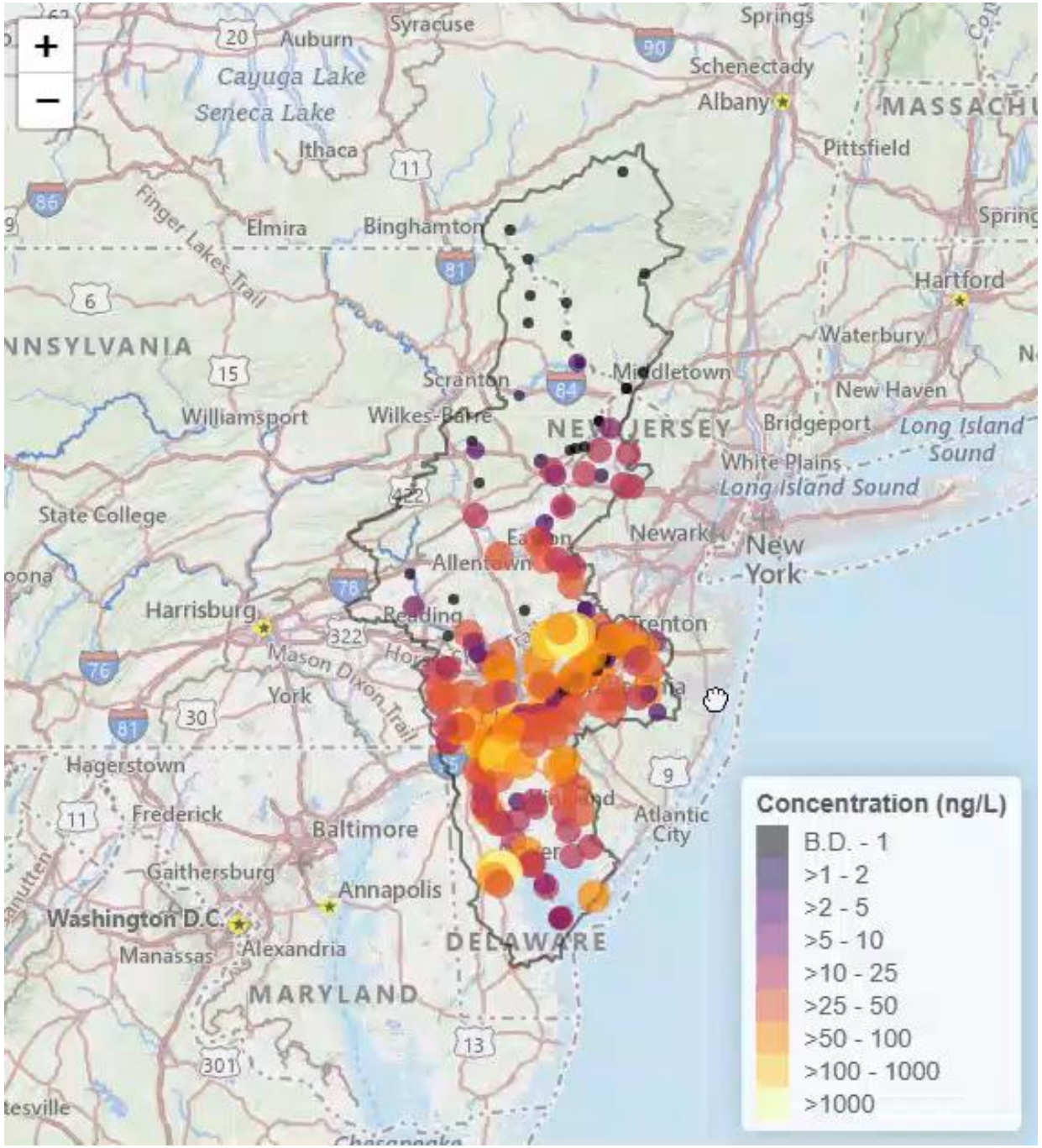
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Introducing the Delaware River Basin PFAS Data App

Includes **2,000+** PFAS samples:

- **1,600+** surface water and groundwater samples
- **250+** fish tissue samples
- **130+** sediment samples

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PFAS in the Delaware River Basin

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Media:
Surface Water

PFAS Data Type:
- (•) ΣPFAS
- ( ) Compounds
- ( ) Groups

Agency:
All

Years:
2007 — 2025
2007 2009 2011 2013 2015 2017 2019 2021 2023 2025

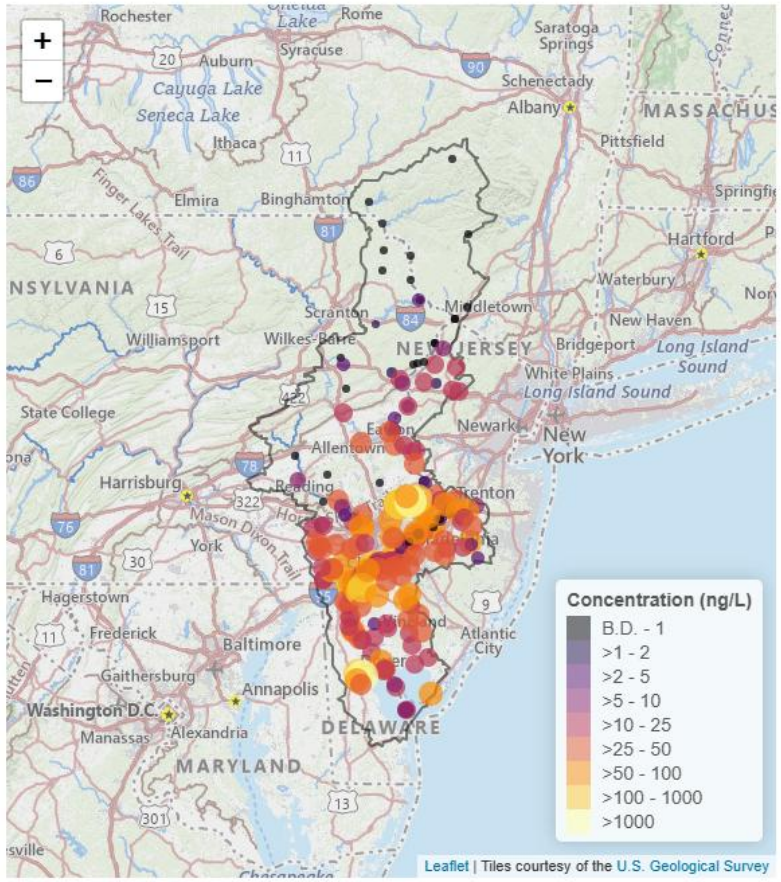
Value displayed at sampling locations with multiple sampling years:
Most Recent Sample

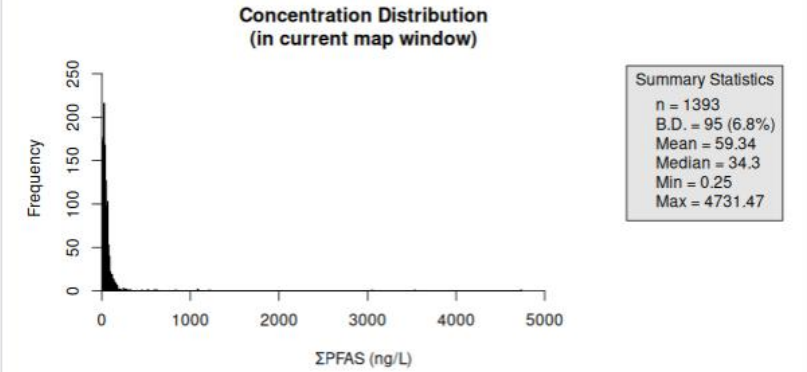
- [ ] **HUC12 Averages (based on values displayed at each sampling location)**
- [ ] **River Miles**
- [ ] **Hide Map Legend**
- [ ] **Samples with known Quality Assurance Project Plans**

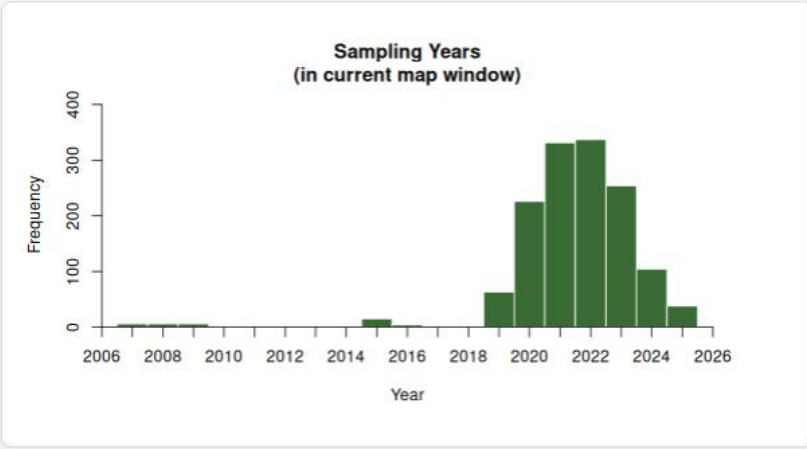
ΣPFAS = Sum of detected PFAS compounds in a sample; not all samples were analyzed for the same compounds.

B.D. = Below analytical detection limits; varies by sample.

Map | Estuary Analyzer | Criteria | History | About







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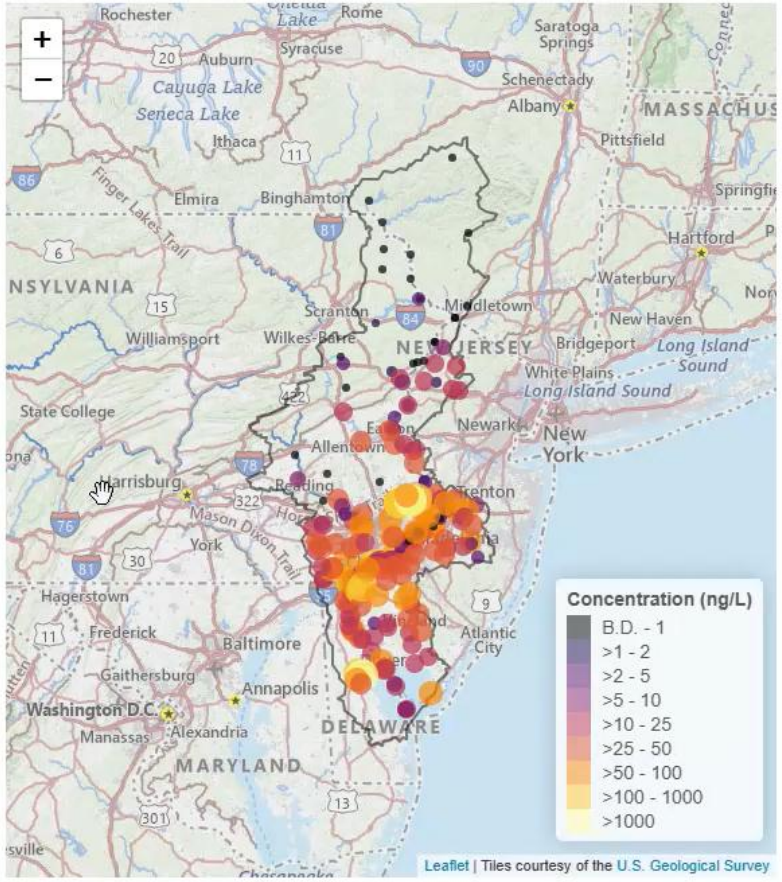
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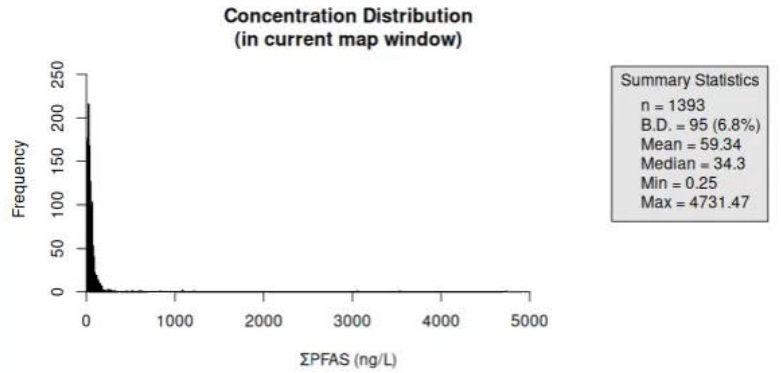
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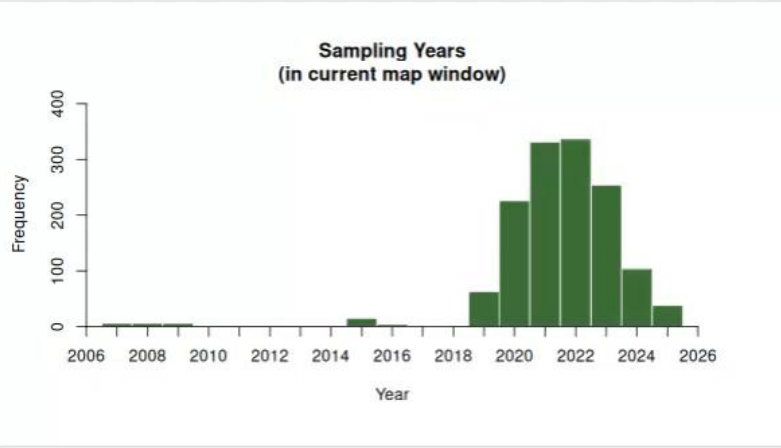
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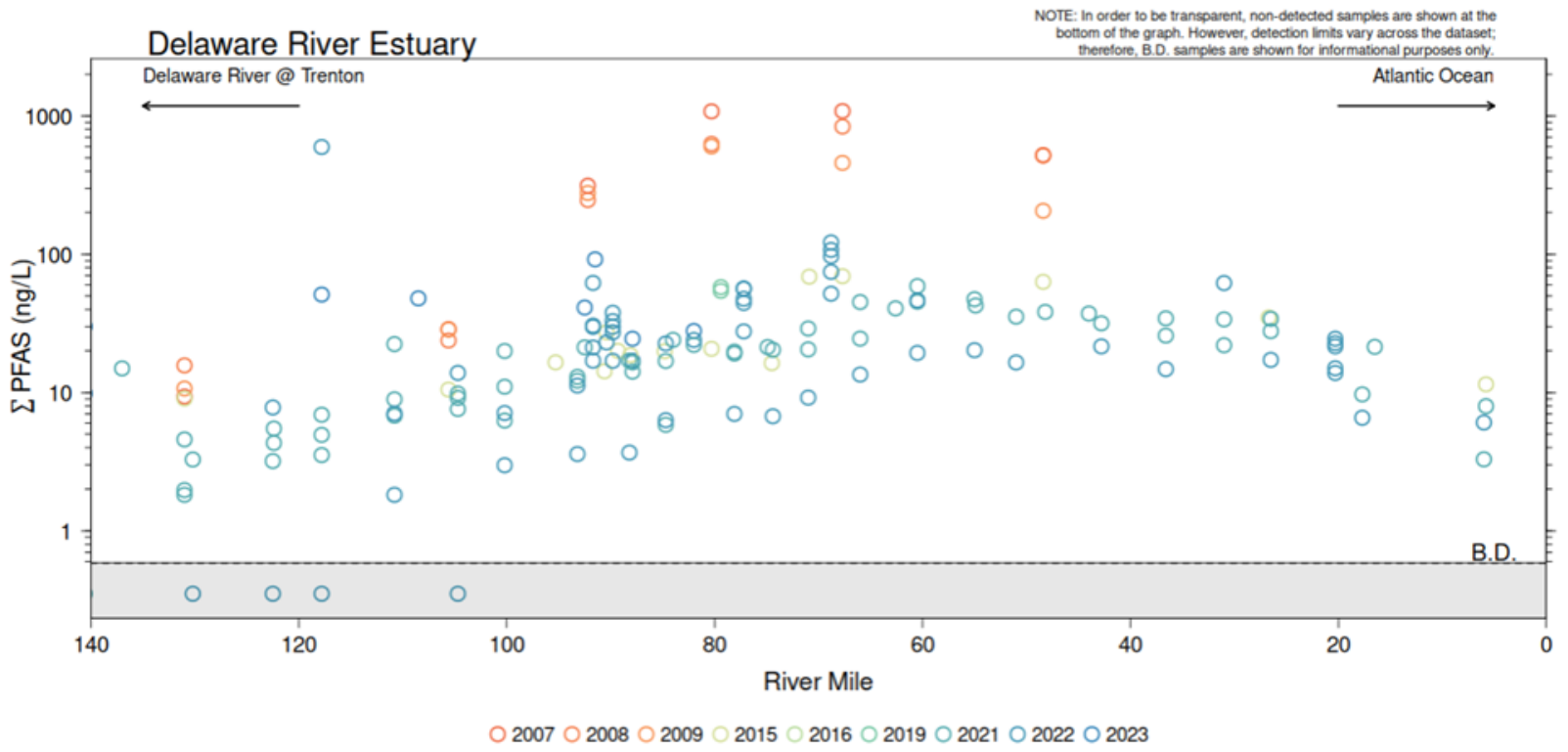
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Compound Name:
PFNA

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EPA Drinking Water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS

Compound	MCL Goal (ng/L)	Final MCL (ng/L)
PFOA	0	4.0
PFOS	0	4.0
PFHxS	10	10
PFNA	10	10
HFPO-DA (GenX)	10	10
Mixture of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, PFBS	1 (Hazard Index)	1 (Hazard Index)

EPA Draft Human Health Water Quality Criteria (HHC) for PFAS*

Compound	Water + Organism HHC (ng/L)	Organism Only HHC (ng/L)
PFOA	0.0009	0.0036
PFOS	0.06	0.07
PFBS	400	500

*These HHC values are draft EPA criteria. Unless and until these values are adopted, they have no legal effect. Notably, the states, individually or jointly through the DRBC, may also establish HHC for PFAS, which need not necessarily match those adopted by EPA.

The following resources provide more information about these criteria and what the numbers mean:

- National Primary Drinking Water Regulations | US EPA
- Technical Fact Sheet: Draft National Recommended Human Health Ambient Water Quality Criteria for PFOA, PFOS, and PFBS
- Human Health Water Quality Criteria for PFAS | US EPA

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History of PFAS in the Basin

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of more than 13,000 synthetic organic compounds characterized by exceptionally strong carbon–fluorine bonds. These bonds make PFAS highly resistant to heat, water, and oil, and protect them from natural biological and chemical degradation. As a result, PFAS persist for long periods in the environment and are often referred to as 'forever chemicals.' This persistence, together with the wide range of physical and chemical properties across PFAS compounds, allows some to accumulate in sediments and organisms while others are readily transported by air or water, ensuring they can be found almost everywhere in the environment.

The Delaware River Basin holds a unique place in the history of PFAS. It was at DuPont's Chambers Works facility in Deepwater, New Jersey, that the first commercially produced PFAS compound—polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)—was accidentally discovered in 1938. Later marketed as Teflon™, this discovery helped establish the region as a global center for fluoropolymer research and production. For decades, the basin served as both a laboratory and manufacturing hub for the expansion of PFAS into thousands of consumer and industrial applications.



Source: Hagley Museum and Library Digital Archive

This long history of industrial and commerical activity across the Delaware River Basin has left a legacy of PFAS pollution that is heavily concentrated in the Lehigh Valley and extends south through the estuary. According to the EPA's ECHO database, nearly 3,000 industrial sites in the basin have been identified as potentially involved in the production, manufacture, or use of PFAS, with more than 1,500 facilities still active today. Together, these historical and ongoing sources present a significant challenge to protecting water resources across the basin, which is shared by more than 13 million people across four states.

Historical reference: Polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon), 1938 – Hagley Museum and Library Digital Archive

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About the Delaware River Basin PFAS Data App

This interactive application provides free access to publicly available monitoring data for **per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)** in surface water, groundwater, sediment, and biological tissue across the Delaware River Basin. The app is designed to translate large datasets from difficult-to-access formats into a visual tool that can be readily accessed and understood by a broad audience, including those without a scientific background.

The app was originally developed by scientists at the **Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)** as an internal tool for better understanding the scope, distribution, and variability of PFAS pollution throughout the Basin. Recognizing the importance of transparency and shared science, DRBC has made this tool available to support state agencies, researchers, utilities, and community members from all backgrounds.

Data Sources and Scope

All data displayed in this application are **publicly available** and were retrieved from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Water Quality Portal* or the U.S. Geological Survey's *Water Data API*. The dataset currently includes **over 2000 PFAS samples** , most of which are surface and ground water samples (>1700), and almost 300 of which are tissue samples from 17 aquatic species.

All data were downloaded from their original sources and processed to support the app's functionality and performance. While reasonable efforts were made to ensure accuracy, the app and data are provided **as they are** with no guarantee of suitability for any specific use. Users are solely responsible for assessing whether the data are appropriate for their purposes.

To assess data feasibility and limitations for your intended use, you can access the uncurated (raw) dataset at the following links:
EPA's WQP (all data)
USGS' Water Data API (water, sediment)

> **Important note on agency attribution:** The *Agency* filter in this app can be used to identify the organization that handled the sampling and/or uploaded the data to WQP. In many cases this will appear as DRBC or USGS, even when sampling programs may have been coordinated with or funded by other federal, state, or local agencies. The listed agency does not necessarily represent sole program ownership.

Supporting DRBC's Long-Term PFAS Roadmap

Scan QR Code to Visit the App

https://wq.drbc.net/pfas/

Consolidate inter-agency PFAS monitoring data
Centralize monitoring data into one public platform
Explore spatial & temporal patterns
Improve transparency & data accessibility
Support future monitoring, analysis & decision-making

matthew.amato@drbc.gov
www.drbc.gov

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