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Kathy Cooper

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; gvitali@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; apankake@pasen.gov
Cc: ra-epmsdevelopment@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards; Class A Stream Redesignations



Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards; Class A Stream Redesignations.

Commenter Information:

William Loftus
Aquatic Research & Communication, LLC (arc_wfl@bellsouth.net)
102 Lady Ann Ct.
Blakeslee, PA 18610 US

2016 MAR 29 PM 2:21

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IRRC

Comments entered:

As an aquatic scientist and angler, I commend the PA DEP for its recommendation to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to upgrade 50 Class A Trout Streams to High Quality status. Those High Quality streams need the additional protections offered during DEP's permitting processes to ensure that their high water quality in these streams is maintained. Those streams are essential to the survival of our native Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), the state fish of Pennsylvania. I am a member of Trout Unlimited which has fought to protect the cold, clean streams needed by trout for survival. Trout angling is important both economically and culturally to our Commonwealth.

As a Pocono resident, I am gratified to see many of my local streams on the DEP list. Additionally, other streams in the Susquehanna basin that I fish are also listed. Because so many of our streams have been degraded by consumptive activities such as mining, lumbering, farming, etc., those streams that retain high water quality must receive the highest degree of protection from activities such as natural-gas drilling and associated actions. I would like to see the continued movement toward upgrading streams with appropriate water-quality designations.

I am writing to urge that this recommendation by DEP be accepted and enacted. This action will confirm the legacy of our state in preserving its natural heritage for future generations.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Patrick McDonnell

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