

Agencies disagree on Susquehanna solutions

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Boat and Fish Commission reports that the troubled smallmouth bass of the Susquehanna River would get more help if the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would place a stretch of the river on the state's list of waterways with impaired water quality.

"A 303(d) federal Clean Water Act designation determined by the state would be the first step in finding out what's causing the sharp decline in the river's oncostellar smallmouth population," contends the commission's director, John Arway.

"A listing admits there is a problem, and until we admit there's a problem, we don't begin fixing it," Arway said. "It's like making a determination that you're sick so you can make an appointment with your physician to get better."

The official listing starts a "regulatory clock," he said. Once a waterway is listed, then the state must move on setting TMDLs, or total maximum daily loads of pollutants

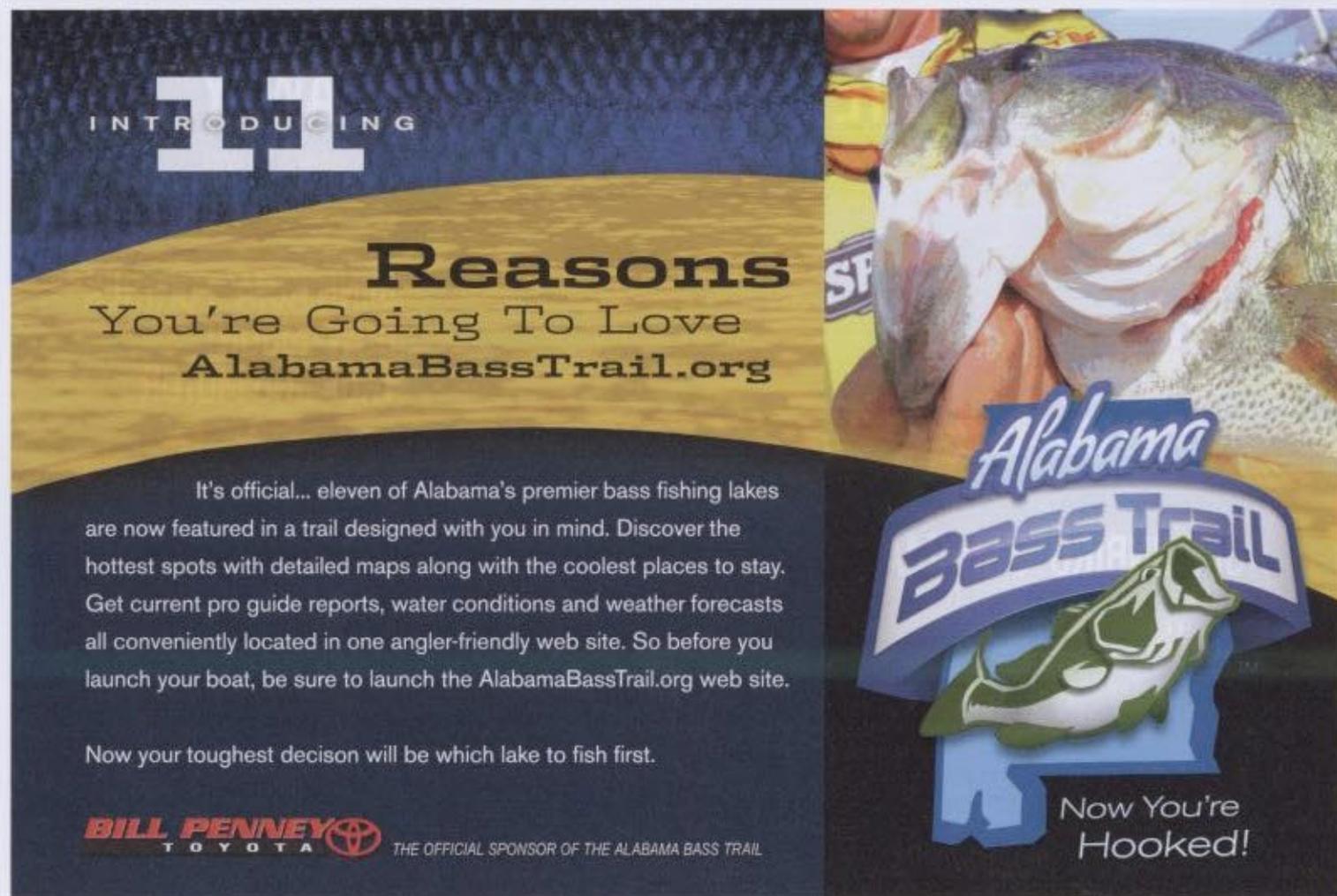
allowed to enter the waterway. Once on the list, the river would be in line with all other listed waterways for usage of available funding. Arway is pushing for a high-priority listing to move the Susquehanna nearer to the front of the line.

Studies have discovered bacterial infections, parasitic infestations, intersex charac-

teristics, visible lesions and black spots on the river's smallmouth, according to Geoff Smith, the commission's Susquehanna River biologist. Studies conducted since 2005 have found largemouth bass virus in Susquehanna smallmouth, although the smallmouth appear to be carriers rather than disease victims.

"The disease problems may be indicative of some stressor to the fish," DEP secretary Michael Krancer wrote in a letter to Arway. "However, the disease is yet to be tied to any particular identifiable stressors. At this time the facts and science do not support placing the river on the Section 303(d) list."

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Quiz answers from page 6

1.) C. Gary Klein

Klein fished his first Bassmaster Classic in 1979 and has been in the championship 29 times, most recently in 2011.

2.) D. Texas

Texas has sent 285 anglers to the Classic through 2012. Arkansas is second with 178.

3.) B. Kevin VanDam

KVD was 24 when he won AOY in 1992.

4.) A. Edwin Evers

Evers was 32 when he reached the \$1 million mark in 2007.