



Panel:

Protecting the Susquehanna River and Impacts on Jobs

4th ANNUAL CHOOSE CLEAN WATER CONFERENCE:

CLEAN WATER WORKS

JUNE 4 - 5, 2013

TREMONT SUITES HOTEL AND GRAND HISTORIC VENUE, BALTIMORE, MD

John Arway, Executive Director PA Fish & Boat Commission

- present the overview of the river and what it means economically for a region, synopsis on river health and recent declines in the smallmouth fishery, overview of recent challenges re: the listing, need for action and any parallels to other waterbodies.
- Moderate the Session



Susquehanna River

Source: www.srbc.net

The Basin:

- Drains 27,510 square miles, covering half the land area of Pennsylvania and portions of New York and Maryland.
- Includes all or portions of 66 counties.
- Comprises 43 percent of the Chesapeake Bay's drainage area.
- Has more than 49,000 miles of waterways
- Has a population of more than 4 Million
- Is the largest tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, providing 50 percent of its fresh water flows.



Historical significance

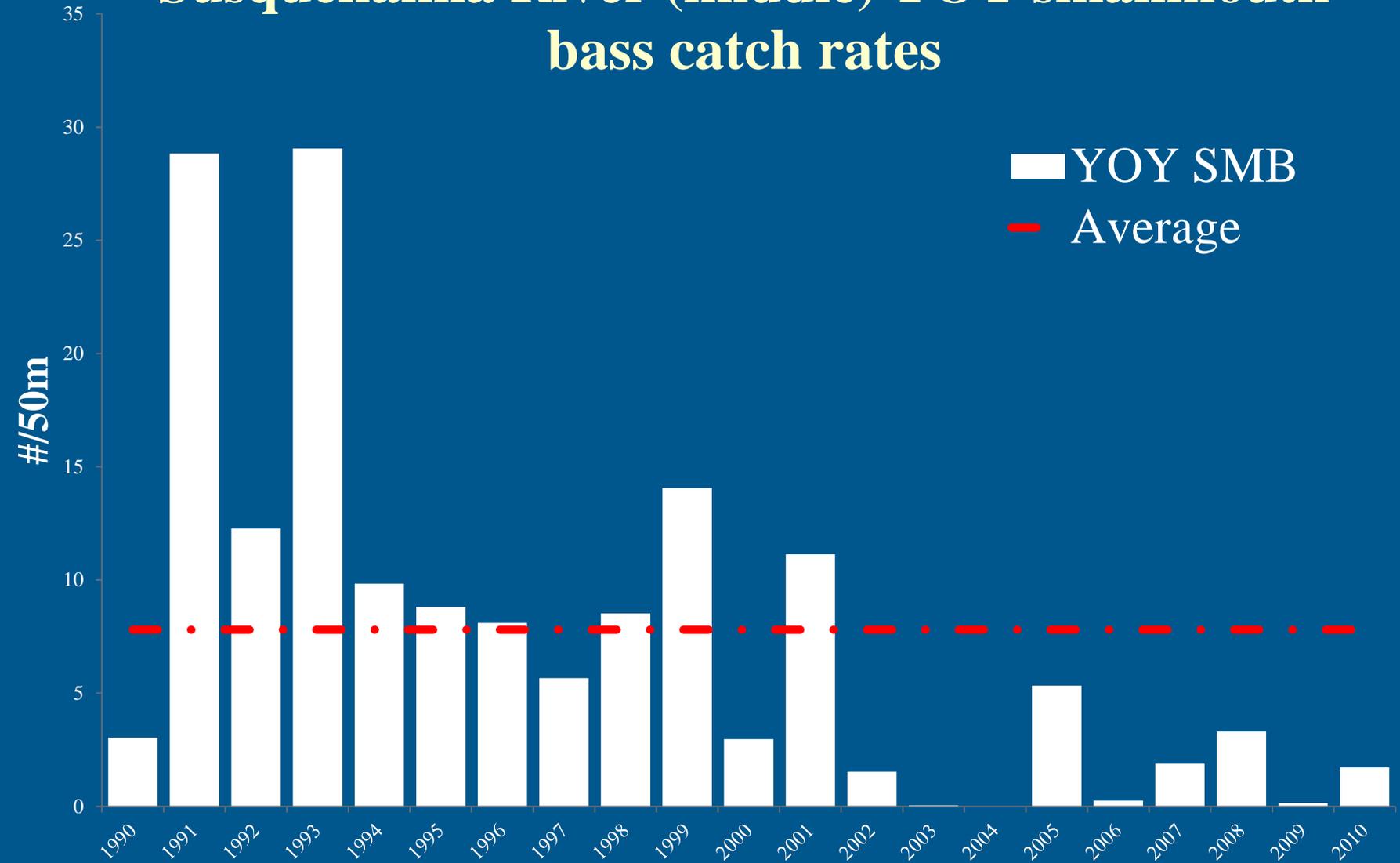
- Widely considered one of the best smallmouth bass destinations in the country
 - In 2005, Bassmaster Magazine listed as one of top 5 rivers
- American Rivers listed as the *America's Most Endangered River* in 2005 and 2011

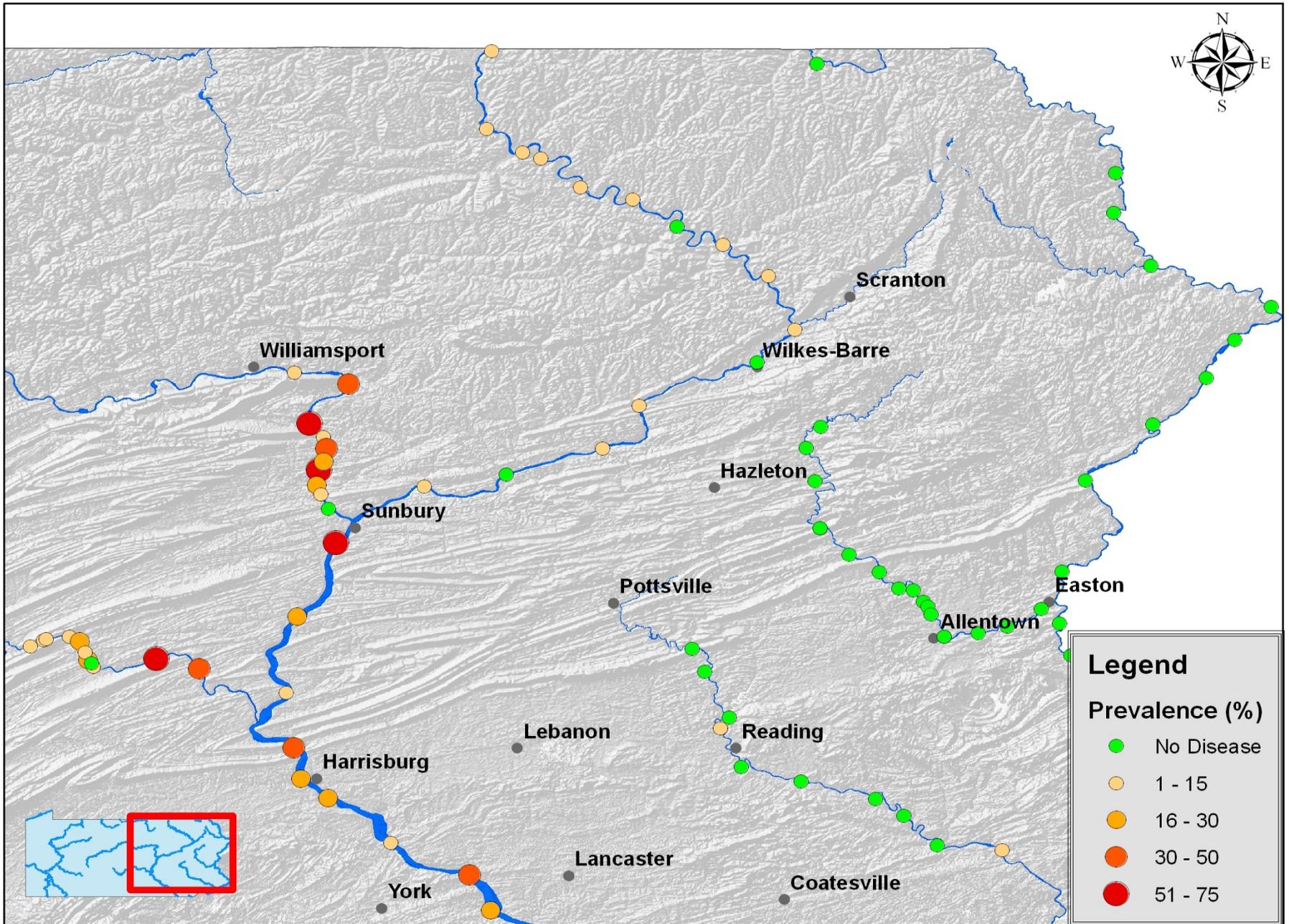


YOY Fish Disease Appears in 2005



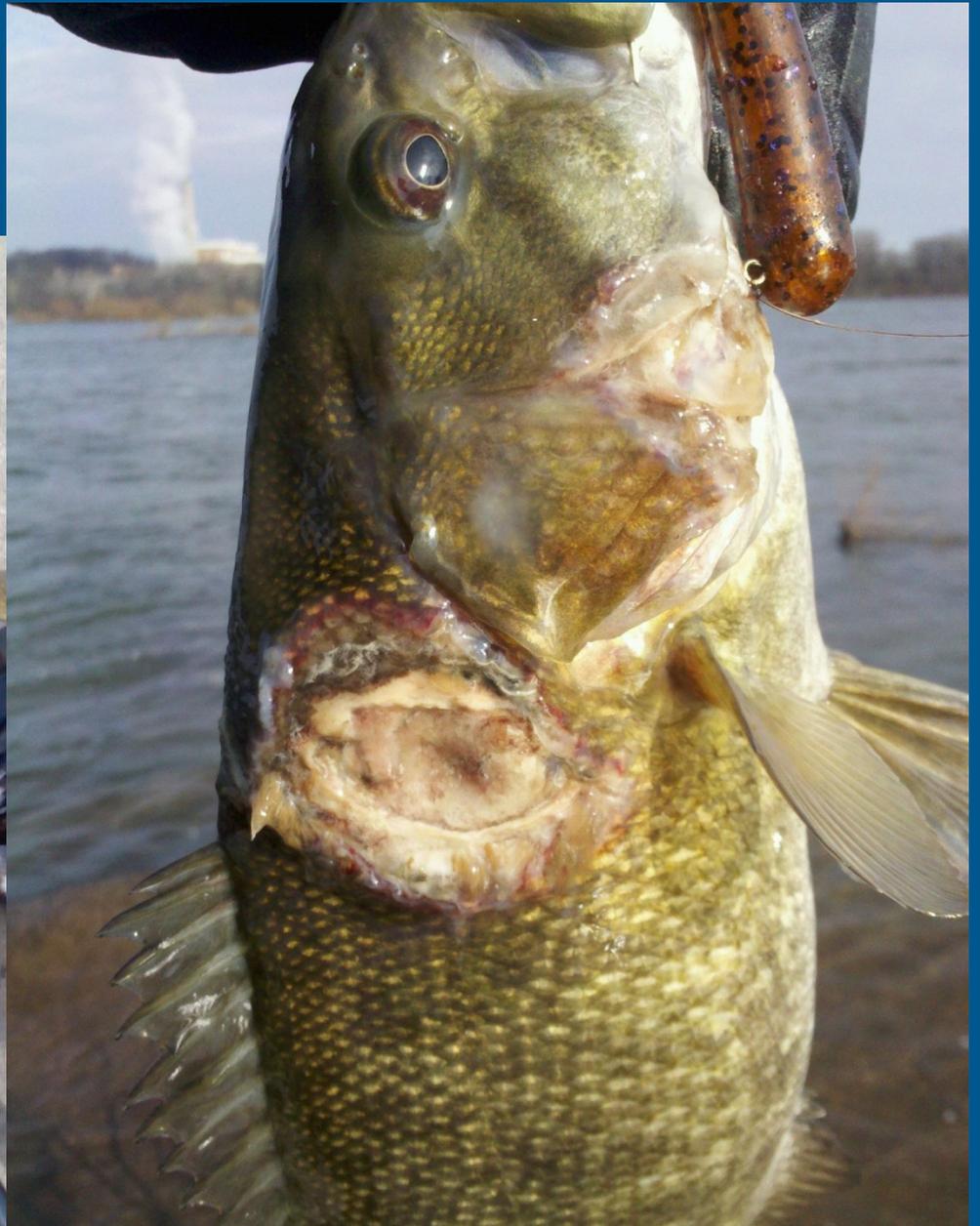
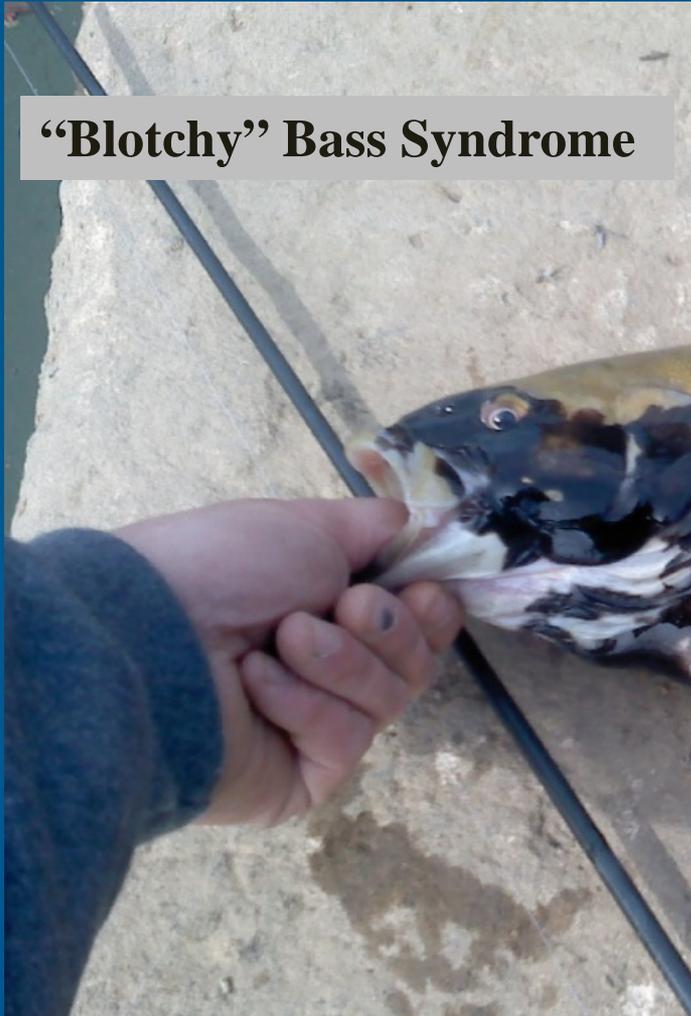
Susquehanna River (middle) YOY smallmouth bass catch rates



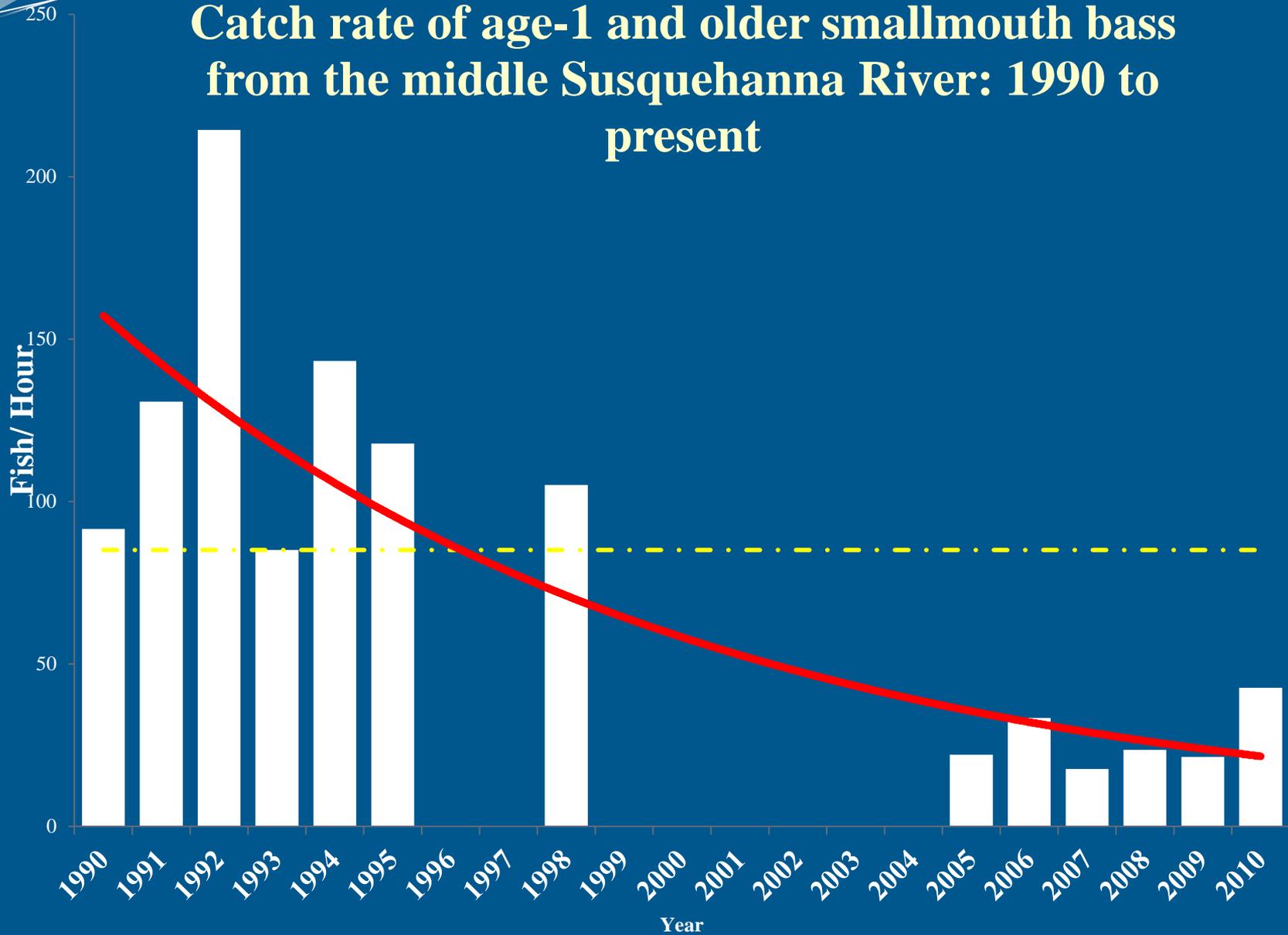


Adult Bass Fish Issues

“Blotchy” Bass Syndrome



Catch rate of age-1 and older smallmouth bass from the middle Susquehanna River: 1990 to present



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VOL 38 NO 5

MAY 2013

COLUMN
Guest Director's Line

The Susquehanna River—A Fishery in Decline

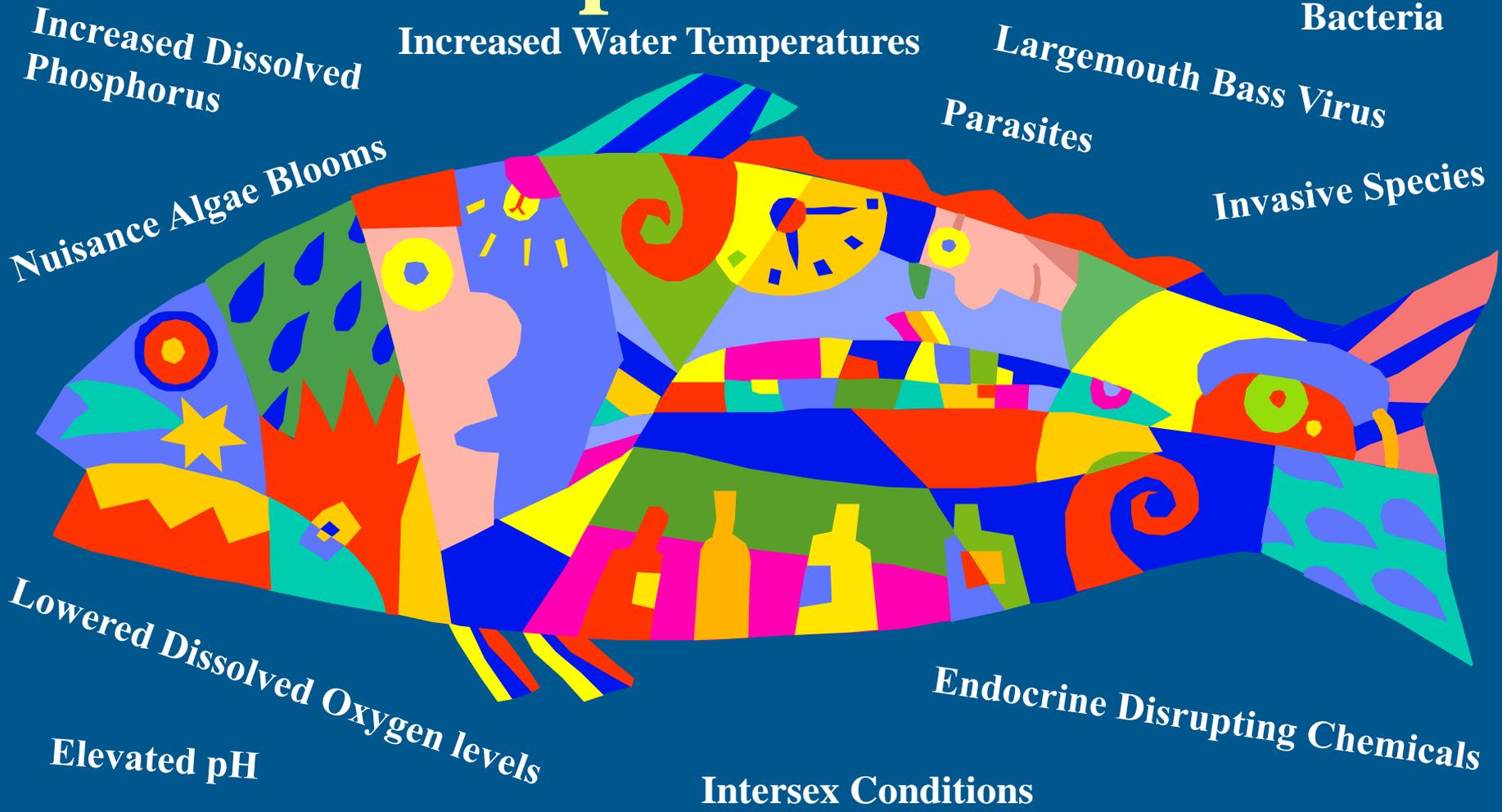
John A. Arway

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, 1601 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17106. E-mail: jarway@pa.gov

Geoffrey Smith

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, 1601 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17106

Multiple Stressors



Big business

- **Fishing and Boating are big business in Pennsylvania**
 - \$3.4 billion to PA economy, annually
 - 18,000 jobs
 - \$120 million in state and local tax revenue, annually
- **Major recreational resource**
 - **Susquehanna River smallmouth bass (PFBC 2010)**
 - Nearly 126,201 trips
 - \$3,700,170 (2012 Dollars)



Photo: M. Hendricks

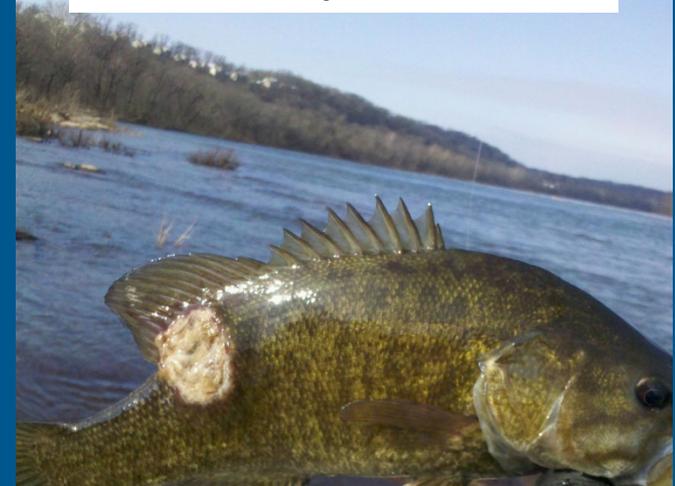


Request for PADEP and U.S. EPA to Declare the River Sick (Impaired)

Healthy Fishery, Healthy River



Sick Fishery, Sick River



2013 EPA National Rivers And Streams Assessment: More Than Half Of Waterways In 'Poor' Shape

"The recently published EPA National Rivers and Streams Assessment Survey found that **over 55 percent of our nation's streams and rivers do not support healthy populations of aquatic life. A total of 40 percent of our waters have been identified to have high levels of phosphorus and 27 percent have high levels of nitrogen.** Four sampling sites of the national survey were located on the Susquehanna River and the two Pennsylvania sites rated poor for fish, periphyton, water quality and total phosphorus. Since EPA's own data corroborated the PFBC's findings that the river is of poor quality, we are surprised that EPA did not conclude that we need to list the river as impaired and develop a plan to fix it."

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VOL 38 NO 5
MAY 2013

Sick Fish, Sick River

Guest Director's Line

235 The Susquehanna River—A Fishery in Decline

How many diseased smallmouth are necessary for a river to be listed as an impaired water on the 303(d) list?

John A. Arway and Geoffrey Smith

<http://www.fishandboat.com/susq-impairment.htm>

Acknowledgements

- **USGS Leetown Science Center, National Fish Health Research Laboratory**
 - Vicki Blazer
 - Luke Iwanowicz
 - Heather Ellery
- **USGS PA Water Science Center**
 - Jeff Chaplin
- **PFBC Staff**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Fishery Center**
- **Susquehanna River Technical and Policy Committees**



Questions

