



**DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Wildlife Resources Section**

**1 Depot Street**

**Romney, West Virginia 26757-1400**

**Telephone (304) 822-3551**

**Fax (304) 822-7331**

**Bob Wise**  
**Governor**

**Ed Hamrick**  
**Director**

December 23, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: BRET PRESTON .

FROM: GERALD LEWIS *GL*

SUBJECT: SOUTH BRANCH FISH KILL DATA

Enclosed is a page listing gypsy moth spraying in the South Branch watershed for the last few years that I derived from data supplied to me from the Dept. of Agriculture.

Also enclosed is a summary of game fish mortalities for the past several years, primarily from the South Branch watershed. Some mortality has been going on for several years, with 2002 being the worst. Some mortality has been seen as early as March, but the peak appears in May. I am sure it varies according to temperature and flow.

I am also sending a copy of this data to Pat Campbell. We need to discuss soon about who is going to do water samples, etc., and what Vicky Blazer wants us to observe. I probably should start making some observations about March to check on fish mortality.

cc: Pat Campbell ✓  
Jack Fleshman

GYPSY MOTH TREATMENT ACRES IN THE SOUTH BRANCH AND CACAPON RIVER  
WATERSHEDS DURING THE YEARS 2000-2002

	<u>South Branch Above Petersburg</u>								<u>Totals</u>	
	<u>North Fork</u>		<u>Mill Creek</u>		<u>Lunice Creek</u>		<u>South Branch</u>		<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>
	<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	7	-	432	230	4,491	58	7,566	509	12,496	797
2002	356	-	1,614	-	1,068	458	2,725	-	<u>5,763</u>	<u>458</u>
									18,259	1,255

	<u>South Branch Below Petersburg</u>						<u>Totals</u>	
	<u>South Fork</u>		<u>South Branch</u>				<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>
	<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>			<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>
2000	-	-	571	-			571	-
2001	-	1,129	13,404	312			13,404	1,441
2002	5,708	51	8,039	525			<u>13,747</u>	<u>576</u>
							27,722	2,017

	<u>Cacapon Above Wardensville</u>				<u>Totals</u>	
	<u>Trout Run</u>		<u>Lost River</u>		<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>
	<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>		
2000	-	-	1,100	-	1,100	-
2001	715	50	6,278	247	6,993	297
2002	108	632	6,040	152	<u>6,148</u>	<u>784</u>
					14,241	1,081

	<u>Cacapon Wardensville to Forks of Cacapon</u>						<u>Totals</u>	
	<u>North River</u>		<u>Cacapon River</u>				<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>
	<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>			<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>
2000	891	-	695	-			1,586	-
2001	4,766	227	11,389	-			16,155	227
2002	3,844	451	3,074	322			<u>6,918</u>	<u>773</u>
							24,659	1,000

	<u>Cacapon below Forks of Cacapon</u>				<u>Totals</u>	
					<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>
					<u>D</u>	<u>Bt</u>
2000					-	-
2001					9,847	341
2002					<u>2,256</u>	<u>230</u>
					12,103	571

1998 & 1999 - No watersheds treated

Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) is a microbial and biological pesticide applied aerially at a rate slightly less than 0.33 gal/acre.

Dimilin (*Diflubenzuron*) is a pesticide applied aerially at a rate of 0.5 oz. active ingredient per acre

GAME FISH MORTALITIES OF UNKNOWN CAUSES FROM THE SOUTH BRANCH OF  
THE POTOMAC WATERSHED

(Observed by the DNR or reliable anglers)

Sucker and carp mortalities are not reported here.

1994

1. 7/19/94(Blue Beach) - CO Brick checked report of dead fish & found 2 dead SmB (11") & saw a large channel cat floating dead.

1998

1. 5/31/98(Trough) - Neil Gilles saw ~40 scattered fish, mostly rock bass (dead for awhile).
2. 6/1/98(Stumps Eddy) - DNR saw 40 dead rock bass & 1 SmB (dead for awhile).
3. 6/2/98(Romney Br.) - DNR saw 1 dead rock bass.
4. 6/2/98(Vances Pool) - DNR saw 1 dead madtom & 1 dead shiner.
5. 6/3/98(Upper C & R) - DNR saw 2 dead rock bass.
6. 6/10/98(Romney Br.) - Barb saw 6 dead large common shiners.
7. 6/19/98(Wapocomo) - Barb saw common shiner in distress.
8. 7/9/98(Stony Run) - Dennis saw 2 dead rock bass.
9. 7/11/98(Milleson Campground) - DNR caught adult sunfish with eraser-size ulcer on corner of lower lip (not a hooking injury), otherwise healthy.
10. 7/14/98(Romney Br.) - Ricky saw rock bass in distress.
11. 7/14/98(Wapocomo) - Barb saw 4 dead SmB, 2 rock bass, 1 sunfish, and 1 madtom.
12. 7/29/98(Stony Run) - Barb saw dead adult sunfish & channel cat (7").
13. 9/13/98(Blue Ford) - DNR checked a live 18" channel cat that had pimple-like spots all over skin, but otherwise healthy.

1999

1. 7/10/99(Romney Br.) - Barb saw 7-8 dead SmB with red sores on mouth & common shiner in distress.
2. 7/20/99(Romney Br.) - Barb saw dead adult sunfish & bullhead.



## 2000

1. 4/14/00(Romney Br.) - Barb saw a dead madtom.
2. 5/11/00(Wapocomo) - Barb saw a dead adult common shiner.
3. 5/23/00(Stony Run) - Barb saw dead sunfish and 1 live rock bass with fungus.
4. 5/24/00(Stumps Eddy) - DNR picked up 55 dead rock bass, 4 SmB, 21 sunfish, 2 bullheads, 1 minnow, and suckers.

## 2001

1. 3/18/01(Wapocomo) - Barb saw 2 dead rock bass and a live rock bass with blisters.
2. 4/30/01(Mill. Mill Br.) - Jason Courtney reported 5 live LmB with ulcers, but not in distress.
3. 5/10/01(Stumps Eddy) - Barb weighed a dead 20" (4-10) SmB and saw 2 others dead (14-16").
4. 5/15/01(Romney Br.) - Barb saw 2 dead SmB (11").
5. 6/6/01(Wapocomo) - Barb saw 2 dead SmB.
6. 6/11/01(Stumps Eddy) - Ricky saw 1 dead SmB (18").
7. 7/4/01(Blue Ford - Indian Rock) - DNR float fished and only saw 2 SmB with problems: one had small patch of fungus on its tail and one had a small growth on outside of gills.

## 2002

1. 5/25/02(Ft. Mill Ridge) - Barb saw 2 bass and 2 catfish floating.
2. 5/27/02(Junction N. Fork & S. Branch) - Steve Sites reported dead bass & trout up to Camp Echo.
3. 5/30/02(Junction N. Fork & S. Branch) - Steve Sites reported a few dead bass and 1 live bass with sores.
4. 6/1-3/02(Oldfields - Hanging Rock) - Water Resources employee reported several dead fish, some bass (had been dead awhile).
5. 6/2/02(Wapocomo - Romney) - Barb and Todd counted both sides of river by floating. This should be a good accurate count for a distance of 4 miles (nothing counted in Wapocomo pool). There were 31 dead SmB, 7 rock bass, 9 sunfish, 1 trout, 1 channel cat, 1 bullhead, 32 suckers and 1 carp.

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6. 6/4/02(Indian Rock) - DNR saw 5 dead SmB (<9"), 2 rock bass, 1 common shiner (9").
7. 6/7/02(N. Fork @ Smoke Hole Br.) - DNR saw 11 dead SmB (<11"), 2 rock bass, 1 sucker (dead 5-10 days).
8. 6/7/02(N. Fork @ Grant/Pend. Co. Line) - DNR saw 1 dead SmB (11") dead about five days, and live stoneroller with fungus on head.
9. 6/7/02(N. Fork @ Judy Gap) - DNR saw 1 dead SmB (6").
10. 6/7/02(Smoke Hole @ Eagle Rock) - DNR saw 1 dead rock bass, 1 madtom dead about five days, and many dead crayfish.
11. 6/7/02(Smoke Hole @ Kimbles Cabins) - DNR saw 6 dead rock bass, many old dead crayfish.
12. 6/7/02(Smoke Hole @ Big Bend access) - DNR saw 1 dead SmB (9") ~five days old.
13. 6/8/02(Petersburg) - Jernejcic saw a 6" SmB in distress.
14. 6/10/02(S. Fork 7 miles above Moorefield) - DNR saw remains of 2 dead rock bass (old).
15. 6/10/02(Wapocomo) - DNR saw 12 dead SmB (two were 17"), and 12 dead rock bass, all of which had been dead 3-4 weeks (mostly just skeletons and skin). Freshest was a rock bass ~ three days old.
16. 6/17/02(Oldfields) - Shocked 4 SmB with red areas.
17. 7/17/02(Romney Bridge) - DeFazio caught 17" SmB on popper (not injured) that died after releasing.
18. 7/22/02(Fisher Br. South) - Dennis reported a dead minnow and a minnow in distress.
19. 8/28/02(Romney Br.) - Barb saw a large dead eel, bullhead, and sunfish.



7. 6/18/02(Romney Br.) - Al Frantz saw a big LmB in distress. Had sores and one eye missing.
8. 8/15/02(Green Spring) - A man reported SmB & sunfish with red lesions on sides & red nodules on gills.
9. 8/23/02(Below Petersburg Gap Br.) - Don Thorne reported 5-6 dead rock bass and 3 large eels.

GAME FISH MORTALITIES OF UNKNOWN CAUSES FROM STREAMS OTHER THAN THE SOUTH BRANCH DRAINAGE

(Several reports from the Shenandoah River are not reported here since known pollution sources have caused problems there for several years)

1988

1. 6/13/88(Cacapon River above dam) - A Mr. Crabtree reported kill & DNR found about 60 dead rock bass and 1 swimming with fungus.

1990

1. 6/17/90(Cacapon River Coldstream to Rt. 127) - Greg Peacemaker saw about 30 dead rock bass and 2 rainbow trout (9").

2000

1. 6/3/00(Cacapon River @ Rt. 127) - Roy Bittinger reported rock bass with fungus on head.

2. 6/14/00(Cacapon River @ Capon Bridge) - George Knipe reported a large sore on a rock bass.

2002

1. 6/24/02(Shenandoah River @ Shannondale) - C. O. Stuckey reported 25-50 dead bass (reported by David Holmes).