

## July 2018 Fish and Clean Streams Report

Mike Christeson reporting the OSWAY HATCHERY to remain open – The PFBC announced this week it would postpone action on a proposal to close the Osway Trout Hatchery. This news plays a vital role in ensuring quality fishing opportunities in our region. Thanks to Commissioner Bill Brock, he has been a strong and persistent advocate from the hatchery. Closing the facility would have resulted in a loss of local jobs as well as the elimination of 240,000 adult stocked trout in four lakes and 61 streams, including many in McKean, Potter, Cameron and Clinton bounties. PFBC Director John Arway has proposed closing the Osway hatchery along with Union City in Erie County and VanDyke Research Station in Juanita County as a means to save \$2 million in the Commission budget. **With about \$50 million in uncommitted reserve funds available with the agency, there was no need to close any hatchery at this time**

### **Study: Pennsylvania the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst in the Nation in Waterway Industrial Pollution.**

Decades after passing the Clean Water Act, great strides have been made to our rivers, but there are new concerns that we may be backsliding.

In fact, PA is the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst in the country, second to Texas. The good news locally is that most of the pollution is in Eastern PA. Bad news is one of the worst polluters sits on the Monongahela in Elizabeth. **Eastman Chemical** is a number of miles up the Mon. We know the Monongahela runs through the middle of Pittsburgh. Many people use it for boating, recreation, fishing. Eastman Chemical manufactures solvents and resins. A 21 month review of EPA records shows Eastman exceeded the allowable discharge limits 72 times; 10 of those times exceed by 500% or more. The records **show** they are dumping zinc styrene, which is a known carcinogen and xylene into the Mon. Zinc, a heavy metal, has profound impact on human health, xylene and styrene are not good either. We should be concerned that these things are in our water. Eastman Chemical released this statement to KDKA in response: **“Eastman is aware of a report published by PennEnvironment that states EC Resins Inc. facility in Jefferson Hills is in violation of the Clean Water Act. The Exceedances listed for this facility primarily result from zinc and aluminum in storm water runoff. Both are in historic fill upon which the plant was built in 1949. With storm water runoff, these materials flow to the Mon River. These discharges are not related to Eastman’s Mfg. Operation. Despite efforts to control these discharges, neither Eastman nor the DEP has identified a technology capable of removing these metals from storm water in order to meet DEP imposed limits Eastman is in the process of working with the DEP to address this situation. Fortunately, the metal’s level in the storm water do not pose a threat to human health or environment.”**