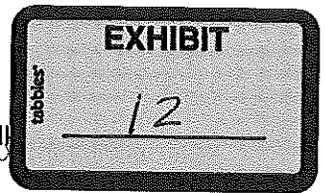


Joe Schnierlein  
The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk  
10 N. Water St.  
Norwalk CT. 06854  
November 25, 2009

BUREAU OF  
NORWALK  
OFFICE



DEC 11 2009

Paul Stacey:

I am a resident of Norwalk CT, sit on the Advisory Board for the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative, and am manager of professional development for the Maritime Aquarium. I have some suggestions for the proposed stream flow standards and regulations. A tremendous amount of work went into this, but there are potential loopholes people could take advantage of that I think should be tightened up.

- a) The definition of Anadromous is not accurate -- they do not complete their life cycle in salt water, and there is no concern for catadromous species (eels). A better word to use is diadromous as it covers species that are born in fresh water, go to salt water, and then return to freshwater to spawn, as well those that are born in salt water, go to fresh water, then return to salt water to spawn.
- b) Most coastal communities near the mouth of any river would probably be given a class 4 status, which would then consider the support of human activities being weighted most heavily over the concerns for environmental issues. That means that any species that would need to travel up stream to reach a class 3, 2, or 1 location could have serious problems. It is sad in a day and age when we are starting to witness sea run brown and brook trout as well as other species trying to make a comeback that this would be allowed to happen.
- c) The commissioner or his/her designated agent, alone, has the ability to grant a variance to any "owner or operator of a dam or other structure". This could easily be called to play if "unusual health, safety, power, or other crises imposing increased demands on water supply..." So, those homes, and developments in floodplains could call the Army Corp of Engineers and have levees, dikes, channelization and other means of flood control implemented. I also realize that no single person should be given that authority that can affect the lives and homes of so many other people
- d) There appears to be no concern over nutrients, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, stream pH, or any other polluting agent in the classification of the streams, and therefore the viability of each stream for the life in it. Stream flow does affect the nutrients, bacteria, DO levels, and stream pH.
- e) There is no use of the EPA stressor index in the classification of the streams. Changing the flow can stress organisms that live in the water, and possibly even change their habitat. The EPA stressor index uses biological indicators.  
<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/biocriteria/stressors/stressorid.pdf>
- f) Any applicant that is applying for a variation in stream flow standards should be required to notify the up and down stream people residing by the river as well as in the flood plain, and up and down-stream communities' conservation officers as to the intended change. Included in the notification should also be groups protecting, conserving, recreating, and concerned with those bodies of water. They should then be allowed input before any decision is made pro or con by the commissioner or the commissioner's agents (again, I think one person having this authority is a mistake).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Schnierlein". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Joseph Schnierlein