

Fighting for a Fishable Hudson

Riverkeeper started as the Hudson River Fishermen's Association in 1966, and throughout our history, we have fought a multi-faceted campaign for the restoration and preservation of fish, and for the rights of fishermen. Today, Riverkeeper's mission is:

"to protect the environmental, recreational and commercial integrity of the Hudson River and its tributaries, and to safeguard the drinking water of 9 million New York City and Hudson Valley residents."

FACT: Of 13 key species of fish in the Hudson, 10 – including American shad, river herring, white catfish and white perch – have declined in abundance since the 1980s, according to a 2008 report commissioned by Riverkeeper. Riverkeeper's Fishable River Campaign is aimed at halting the decline of Hudson River's signature fish species and restoring their numbers to sustainable levels.

Halting Power Plant Fish Kills

Did you know? Industrial facilities, including several power plants on the Hudson River, kill fish when drawing in cooling water. Indian Point nuclear power plant alone kills 1 billion fish and other river organisms every year. Riverkeeper has fought for decades to hold Hudson River power plants to higher standards, and for state and federal enforcement of the Clean Water Act provision requiring the use of the best available technology to stop fish kills at industrial facilities.



Cleaning up Toxic Pollution

The Hudson River's once-diverse commercial fishing industry largely ended in the 1970s with the discovery of widespread PCB contamination in fish. Due to PCBs and other toxic contaminants, the Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation warn people, particularly women of child bearing age and children, not to eat too many meals of many species of Hudson River fish caught recreationally in different stretches of the Hudson, including striped bass (pictured). Riverkeeper fights to clean up polluted sites, from General Electric's PCBs in Fort Edward to the old General Motors' site in Sleepy Hollow, and we patrol the Hudson monthly by boat to investigate and stop pollution.



Researching and Protecting Fish Habitat

Development in the past has already destroyed many important habitats for fish and other wildlife. Whether by shaping riverfront and in-river projects like the proposed new Tappan Zee bridge or by applying the penalties levied against polluters to habitat study and restoration, Riverkeeper works to protect and restore Hudson River



habitats important to fish. For instance, in 2011 and 2012, a study of shad (pictured) habitat will be funded by a settlement Riverkeeper won from a power plant that had failed to protect fish from its cooling water intakes; and in 2012, Riverkeeper negotiated a \$117 million fund for research and restoration projects in the Hudson River as part of a proposed submarine electric transmission line.

Stopping Sewage Discharges

Sewage pollution is still a problem in the Hudson River, despite a generation of improvements. For fishermen, the problem is double-edged: Fish suffer when sewage leads to low-oxygen conditions for fish, and anglers are at risk of illness from contact with pathogens in sewage. Riverkeeper tests the water in the Hudson and its tributaries for sewage contamination, and argues for improvements to sewage and stormwater management throughout the estuary and watershed. Look up testing data at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/locations/

Arguing for Protective Fishing Regulations

Humans and fish coexist when fishermen kill few enough fish to sustain wild populations. Riverkeeper supported New York State's closure of the American shad fishery in 2010 and its tougher regulation of the river herring fishery in 2012. Riverkeeper supported the federal designation of Atlantic sturgeon (pictured) — the iconic fish of the Hudson — as endangered in 2012. Meanwhile, Riverkeeper works with partners to shape interstate fishing regulations to ensure that New Yorkers take the same responsibility and share the same rights as anglers in other states for the migratory fish that share our waters, including shad, herring, Atlantic sturgeon and striped bass.



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Join Riverkeeper

Joining Riverkeeper as a member or volunteer, or making a donation, helps us protect and restore the Hudson River. To make a donation, visit riverkeeper.org/get-involved/donate/ or call Allison Chamberlain at 914-478-4501 ext. 232.

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