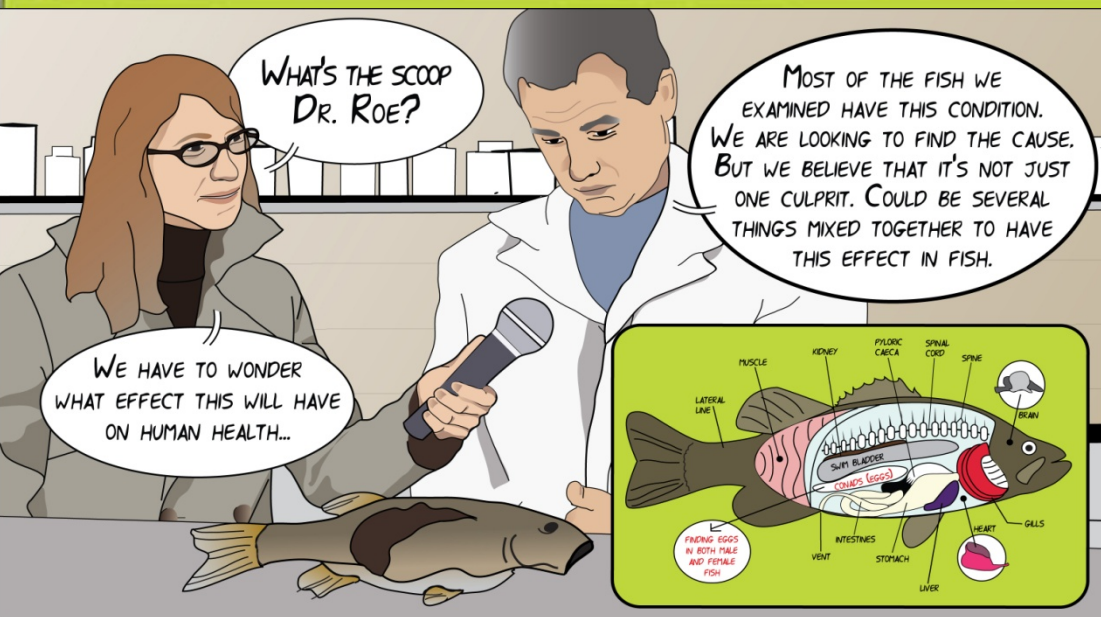


# The Fish Mystery:

WHAT'S IN OUR WATER?



A Campaign for  
a Healthy Potomac

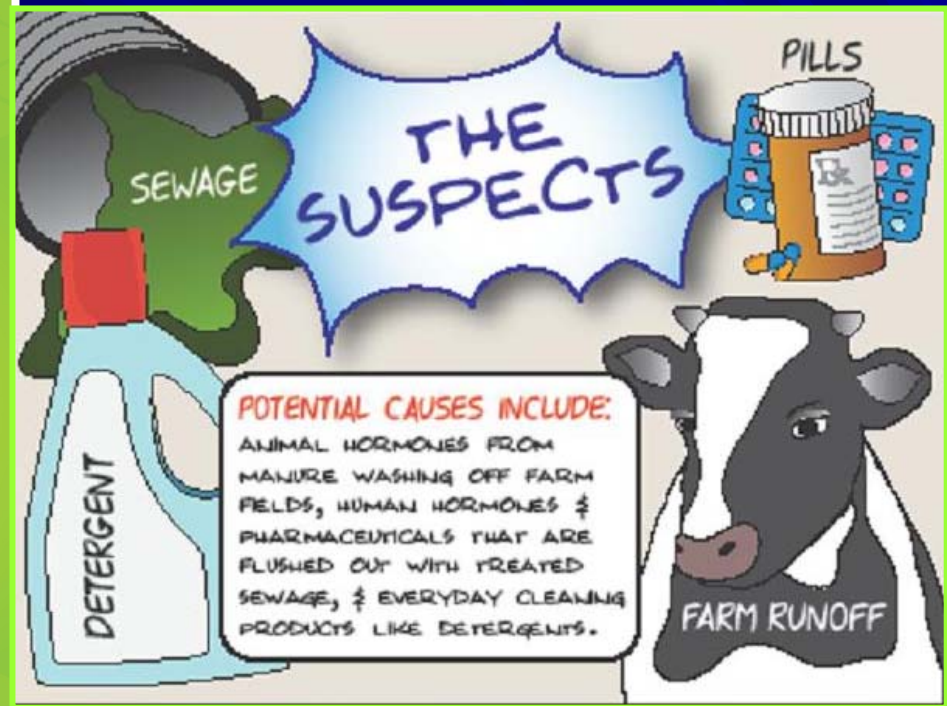
# The Mystery

Nearly all the male bass fish in the Potomac River are now born with female traits.

Whodunit? The suspects include chemical compounds that disrupt normal hormonal processes in humans and wildlife. Known as *endocrine disruptors*, such chemicals are found in many sources, from agricultural chemicals to personal care products

## Endocrine disrupting chemicals enter waterways in a variety of ways:

- Stormwater runoff from farms and industrial areas, containing pesticides and fertilizers
- Medications and oral contraceptives flushed down toilets
- Soaps, lotions and sunscreen washed down drains
- Industrial byproducts leaking from landfills during rain events





**YOU DO  
THE MATH**

Approximately 90% of the DC area's drinking water supply originates in the Potomac River.

U.S. Geological Survey scientists detected the intersex condition in over 80% of male bass in the Potomac upon investigating a series of fish kills in 2002.

Congress charged EPA with determining which chemicals act as endocrine disruptors nearly 15 years ago. Yet EPA began investigating the FIRST chemical earlier THIS year.

At this time, there are no EPA-approved tests for personal care products or pharmaceuticals in our drinking water or our wastewater.

Many endocrine disruptors persist in the fatty tissues of living beings because they are not easily washed out by water.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

PLEASE SIGN OUR PETITION TO REQUEST MORE  
FUNDING FOR RESEARCH INTO THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.  
[WWW.FISHMYSTERY.COM](http://WWW.FISHMYSTERY.COM)



# The History

- 2002:** First fish kills on Shenandoah and south branch of the Potomac
- 2003:** Discovery of intersex fish condition during fish kill research
- 2007:** Associated Press study of pharmaceuticals in drinking water, many of which are endocrine disruptors
- 2009:** EPA calls for study of toxins, including atrazine
- 2009:** The Endocrine Society issues a scientific statement about the need for more research on the effects of endocrine disrupting compounds on humans, especially children
- 2010:** Members of Congress call for more research into endocrine disruptors and their effect on human health

**Potomac  
Conservancy  
and concerned  
citizens are asking  
leaders and local  
members of Congress  
to support these  
actions:**



# Solving the Mystery

- Provide additional funding (\$500,000 per year for 3 years) to research the causes of intersex fish
- Direct the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences to research endocrine disrupting compounds and their effects on human health, and request that Congress fund that research at \$2.5 million a year for at least 3 years
- Demand coordination, oversight and accountability from all agencies using federal funds to research these issues
- Invest in technology that can filter endocrine disrupting compounds from our drinking water supply, and from sewage treatment plant output
- Investigate the efficacy of drug take-back programs to keep pharmaceuticals out of our water supply



WWW.POTOMAC.ORG

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

PLEASE SIGN OUR PETITION TO REQUEST MORE  
FUNDING FOR RESEARCH INTO THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

[WWW.FISHMYSTERY.COM](http://WWW.FISHMYSTERY.COM)