

Dunkard Creek Fish Kill Assessment September 2009



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Wildlife Resources Section



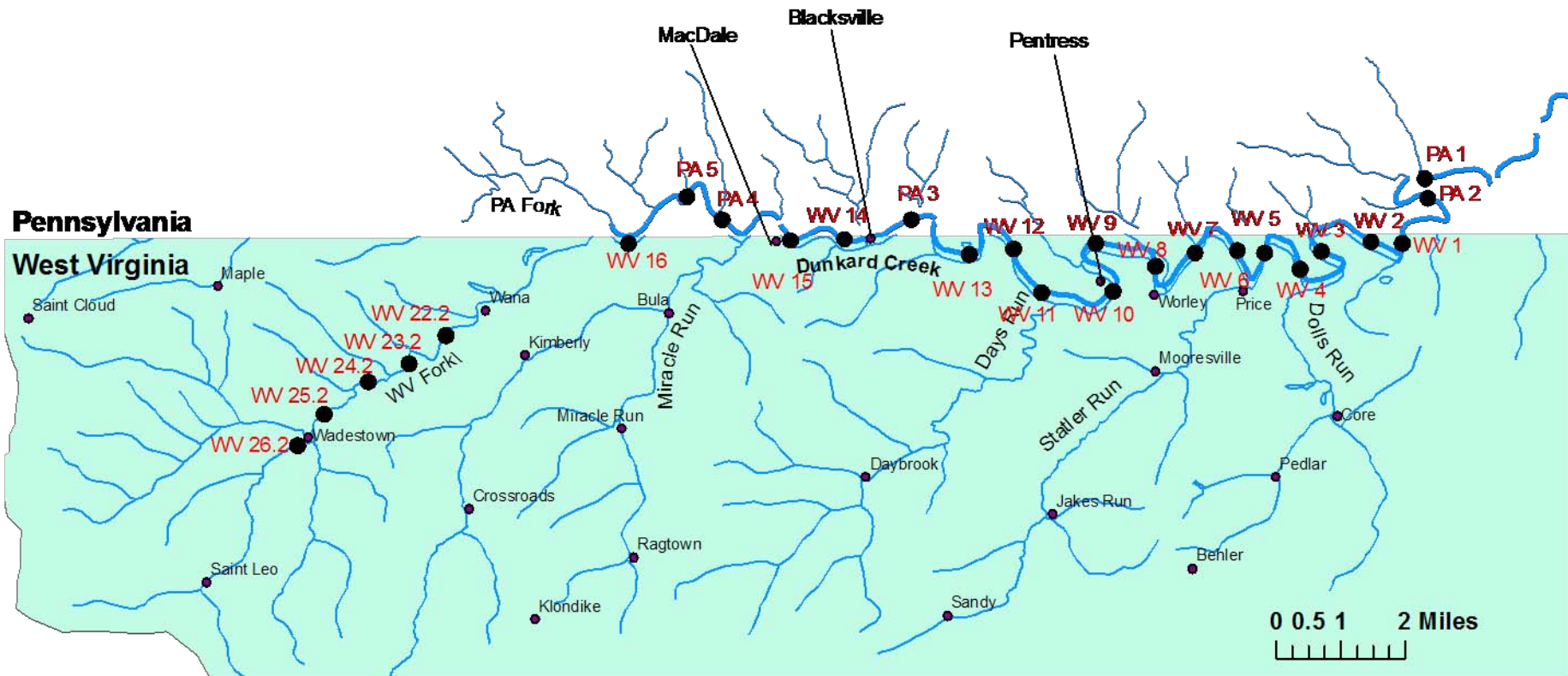
- **September 1: Dead fish first reported to WVDEP at Pentress**
- **September 2: DNR conducts fish assessment from state line near Buckeye Church upstream 10 miles; Concurrent mussel assessment.**
- **September 9: Additional dead fish reported ~ 7 miles upstream from most upstream fish counted on 9/2.**
- **September 9-14: Fish counts conducted daily up to 26 miles upstream of state line.**
- **September 21: Last official dead fish count. However, observations are still on-going by WVDNR.**

WVDNR role is to assess damage:

- Determine the number of fish killed;
- Size groups of fish killed
- Restoration of fishery



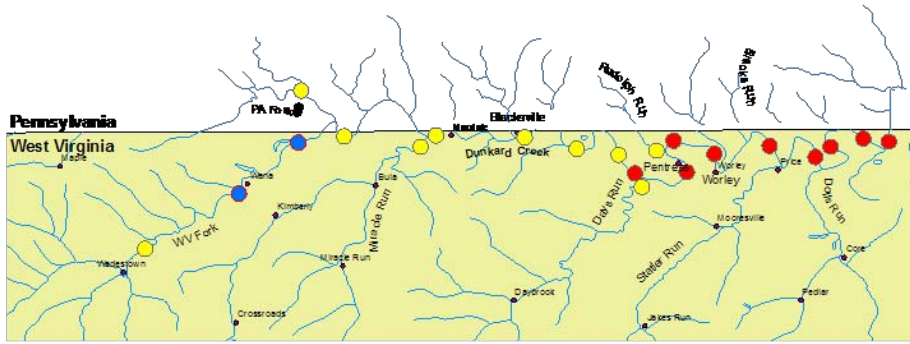
WVDNR - Dunkard Creek Fish Kill Assessment Sites September 2009



Milepoint 0 was established where Dunkard Creek crosses state line between Pennsylvania and West Virginia near Buckeye Church, West Virginia. Station WV 1 was randomly selected within the first mile of Dunkard Creek upstream of the state line. The remaining stations were then placed at 1 mile intervals.

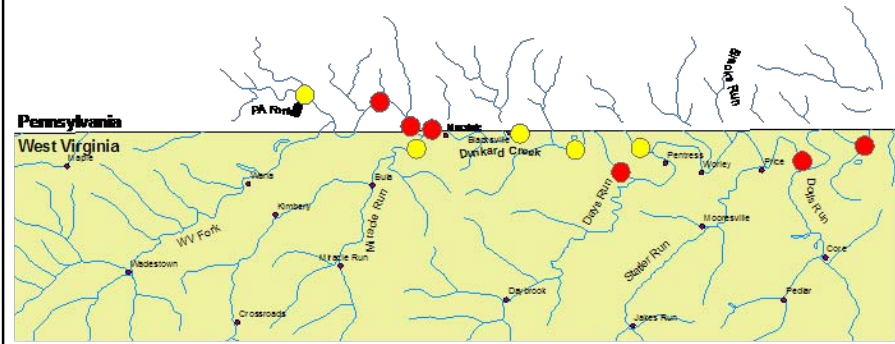


**WVDNR - Dunkard Creek Fish Kill Assessment
September 3, 2009**



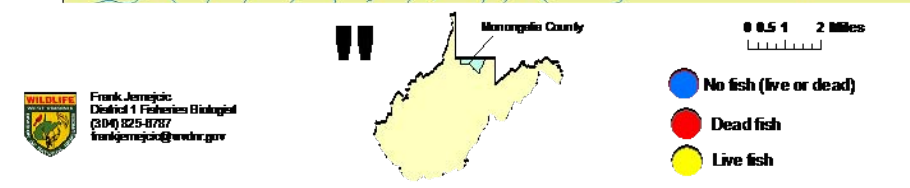
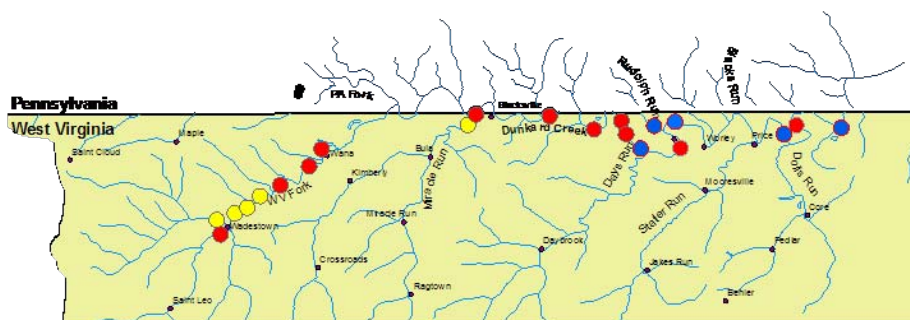
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**WVDNR - Dunkard Creek Fish Kill Assessment
September 11, 2009**



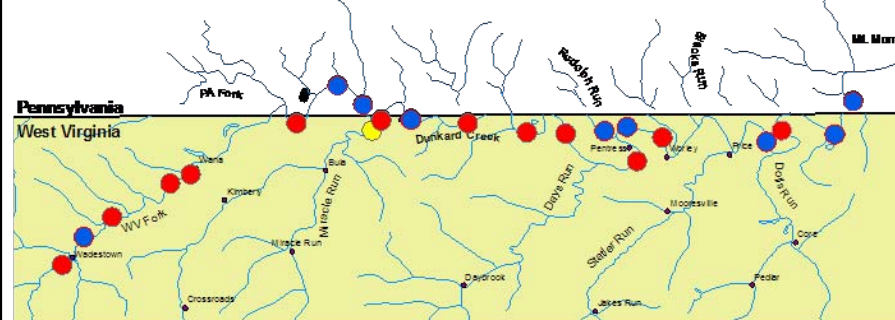
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**WVDNR - Dunkard Creek Fish Kill Assessment
September 17, 2009**



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**WVDNR - Dunkard Creek Fish Kill Assessment
September 21, 2009**



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Tributary mouths served as refugia. However, flows were too low to allow large fish to move upstream and escape toxicity of Dunkard Creek.



Rudolph Run near Pentress



Blood and organ analysis.
Still waiting for final results.



- 18 fish species (does not include minnow and darter species)
- Fish kill estimate numbers currently unavailable, but are easily in the thousands



- 14 mussel species dead
- 100% mortality
- Was the last major stronghold for mussels in the Mon River drainage.
- May take generations to restore mussel population.



Mud puppy



Fish Restoration

- Game fish (i.e. musky, smallmouth bass) will not be stocked until the cause of the kill is confirmed and it is determined that the conditions will not reoccur.



Musky stocked in Summer 2009





WVDNR Questions

- What other fisheries are at risk?
- Are there other basins with similar water quality that could experience a similar situation?



Questions?

