



Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Tidewater Administration
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Secretary

August 22, 1989

TO: W.P. Jensen

FROM: R.S. Early

SUBJ: Teitt 8/10/89 request for Fisheries Division comments on loss of Patuxent River finfish forage by Chalk Point S.E.S. operations

PEPCO has estimated that less than 4% of Patuxent River bay anchovy stock are cropped by Chalk Point S.E.S. operations. VERSAR review at PPER request indicates that significant reduction (20-60%) of bay anchovy stocks is occurring. Bay anchovy is discussed specifically as a Resident Important Species although similar losses of other species (silversides etc.) are understood. Fisheries Division comments are requested.

This topic was rather thoroughly discussed in an 5/8/86 Tidewater Administration Statement from L. Zeni to V. Harrison re: NPDES Discharge Permit for Chalk Point Power Plant. Similar entrainment mortality rates (39-76% annually) were calculated and it was estimated this could result in annual losses of up to 120,000 pounds of top predators such as striped bass or bluefish. Similar magnitude losses of commercially/recreationally important species would occur as the result of cropping other forage base fish such as silversides at the same rate. Given the current estimate of the 1990 allowable striped bass harvest (750,000 pounds), the impact is clearly significant, deleterious and unacceptable.

Recent review (1989) being consistent with historical (1986), previous recommendations should remain operative. To wit:

1. Department of the Environment should act upon this conclusion to reduce the probable cumulative effects by causing a reduction of the direct effects, i.e., by causing a reduction of the power plant induced mortality of anchovies, as COMAR directs.
2. Department of the Environment should adopt the recommendations of MDNR as to the most cost effective method of reducing mortality.

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