

My name is Valerie Watson and my dad and I are residents of the route 9 area and we both fish. Our concern is from a family perspective with a generational history of fishing/ crabbing to support our life style. The environment in Delaware has changed to the point that fish cannot be consumed. Local areas to fish are too contaminated. And dad has to travel to other states to fish. This recreational sport which has helped our life style and mental wellbeing is disappearing. The changes in old new castle with no pier for fishing or crabbing is part of that scenario. Then in Wilmington the Christina river area is impossible because the water has chemicals and the fish taste bad which may be a part of the cancer rate in Delaware. The recreational sites for fishing are decreasing which increases those with fish unsuitable for family consumption jeopardizing its place in the food chain.

My other concern is the quality of water along with the environment for the future angler that pay for license to fish/crab. Delawareans will pay for a license and will have to pay to travel to fish in other states like Pennsylvania, New jersey, Maryland and Southern Delaware. Please note in the 1940 and early 50 Old new Castle was the top fishing/ crabbing, but has been destroyed over the years my man with changes that have harmed the environment. Mr. Charles A. Harding III from Wester Chester University stated in 1950 – 1968 more than a billion tons of liquid waste was poured into the river in his study of the environment. So how is your plan going to be supportive for families and the anglers of the future?