



Letters to the Editor (Originally published June 10, 2007)

Time to reclaim river from polluters

Kudos to the O'Malley administration, to Shari T. Wilson of the Maryland Department of the Environment and to state Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler for making enforcement of environmental laws a priority in Maryland ("Md. taking on polluters," June 6).

For far too long, Maryland has failed to enforce its existing laws, allowing polluters to dirty our water, air and land with impunity.

Just look what happened last weekend: We got proof positive of the pollution in our own Patapsco River and in the Baltimore harbor when 7,000 fish died overnight ("Harbor water reeks of dead fish and algae," June 6).

We still don't know whether the fish kill was caused by an algae bloom from a flush of lawn fertilizer as a result of last weekend's rain or by something more catastrophic such as a sewage or chemical spill.

What we do know, however, is that the river's pollution level is off the charts.

For years, Maryland has allowed pollution to run into local waterways, making the Patapsco River virtually unusable.

We can't eat from it, we can't swim in it and, apparently, many fish can't live in it, either.

The time is ripe to reclaim our river from the polluters.

We, the people of Maryland, will all benefit from clean and usable rivers and streams.

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