

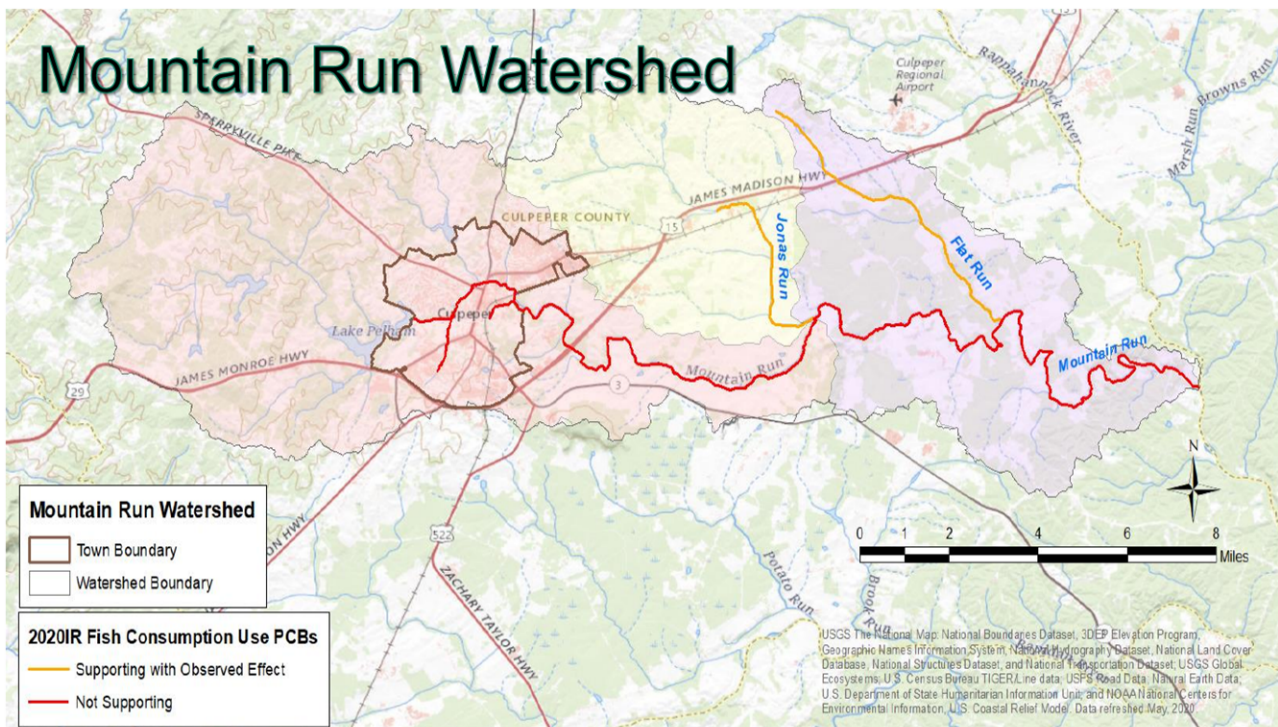


Mountain Run PCB TMDL Study

Culpeper, Virginia

PCBs are chemicals that were used in electrical transformers and other equipment until the late 1970s. When it was discovered that PCBs could be harmful to people, most of their uses were banned in the United States. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working to address PCBs in our waterways across the Commonwealth.

In the Mountain Run Watershed in Culpeper, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) issued a PCB [fish consumption advisory](#) for Mountain Run from the Route 15/29 bridge crossing downstream to the confluence with the Rappahannock River, noting that consumption of American Eel should be limited to no more than two meals per month. Additionally, monitoring data collected by DEQ indicate elevated levels of PCBs in fish tissue and in the water column. Based on the VDH advisory and DEQ monitoring, Mountain Run and two of its unnamed tributaries are listed as not supporting the Fish Consumption Designated Use in the 2020 [water quality assessment Integrated Report](#). Two tributaries to Mountain Run are also listed with Observed Effects due to PCBs.



Placing Mountain Run on the impaired waters list is the first step in the [total maximum daily load \(TMDL\)](#) process that will be used to remediate this pollutant. A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body may contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, PCBs will have to be reduced to the amount specified by the TMDL study. DEQ initiated the [TMDL study for Mountain Run](#) in January 2021. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made up of local stakeholders was formed to help guide the TMDL study process. The TAC will meet throughout the study process to provide feedback on potential PCB sources and reduction scenarios. Once a draft study has been completed, DEQ will host a public presentation, followed by a 30-day comment period. Stakeholders interested in learning more about this project should contact Rebecca Shoemaker at rebecca.shoemaker@deq.virginia.gov

