



# ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Anacostia Watershed Society Applauds Passage of the Fisheries & Wildlife Omnibus Amendment Act of 2016**

(Washington DC, February 24, 2017) The Anacostia Watershed Society applauds Mayor Muriel Bowser and the DC City Council for the passage of the Fisheries and Wildlife Omnibus Amendment Act of 2016 – another important step toward our goal of making the Anacostia River fishable and swimmable by 2025.

The bill allows the District to take action to protect and promote wildlife and important natural ecosystems. Specifically, the bill:

- Designates the American shad as the official fish of DC and the Hay's Spring amphipod as the official amphipod of DC. The Anacostia Watershed Society is a leader in efforts to reintroduce Shad to the Anacostia River, working each year with area schools to collect shad eggs from the Potomac River and then hatch and release the shad in the Anacostia River;
- Identifies Critical Areas and Living Shoreline methods to enhance protections to the river's edge and ensure the natural connection between land and water is restored;
- Continues stream restoration projects, including important tributaries of the Anacostia River such as Pope Branch stream valley and the Springhouse Run stream through the U.S. National Arboretum; and
- Reaffirms the District's leadership on legacy sediment investigation and the commitment to reach a proposed clean-up plan and Record of Decision by June 2018.

“The Mayor, the D.C. Council, and the Department of Energy and the Environment under the leadership of Tommy Wells continue to be strong partners and leaders in restoring the Anacostia River for the benefit of the 1 million residents of this watershed,” said Jim Foster, President of the Anacostia Watershed Society.

**About the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS)**

The mission of the Anacostia Watershed Society is to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed communities by cleaning the water, recovering the shores, and honoring the heritage. The vision is to make the Anacostia River and its tributaries swimmable and fishable by 2025, in keeping with the Clean Water Act, for the health and enjoyment of everyone in the community. Community involvement is critical to achieving this vision and AWS seeks strong partnerships and coalitions with all parts of the community, government, and other stakeholders. Anacostia Watershed Society’s programs include environmental education, stewardship, recreation, and engaging the community through advocacy and volunteer opportunities. [www.anacostiaws.org](http://www.anacostiaws.org)

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