

The Potomac River is a nexus of economic activity. In warmer months, it hosts boating and fishing and is lined with miles of riverfront parkland. It is a habitat to thousands of species, including the oysters harvested by rivermen in Maryland. Since the Potomac Interceptor collapse in January released millions of gallons of sewage into the river, a local economic ecosystem is under threat. In this project, I hope to document some of those affected by the spill and portray the consequences of the infrastructure failure.

After the massive sewage spill into the Potomac, a shitload of questions remain - *The 51st* <https://51st.news/potomac-spill-dc-trump-emergency-disaster/>

The Potomac sewage spill is a disaster for river activities this year – *Axios*
<https://www.axios.com/local/washington-dc/2026/02/13/sewage-spill-potomac-river-safety-fishing-swimming-future>

D.C. may soon lift water advisory as work continues after Potomac sewage spill – *The Washington Post*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2026/02/20/potomac-river-sewage-spill/>

A Potomac island was their haven. A sewage spill made it unreachable. – The Washington Post <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2026/02/22/island-potomac-river-sewage/>

Potential Contacts

Dean Naujoks, Potomac Riverkeeper Network – In contact

Rachel Rosenberg Goldstein, UMD School of Public Health – Photographed

Lena Wang, Georgetown Potomac Club

Interviewed on the street

Barbara Costa, Arlington resident and diplomat – 202-4445-4511

Rui Min, Parent – minrui@gmail.com

Shep Ardo, BMX biker – 202-594-0517

Joseph Enrico, Washington resident and federal worker – 704-904-2025

Kemal Korlam, Boater and fisherman – 202-866-9801

Places to go

Georgetown Waterfront, Northwest DC

C&O Canal Lock 10, Cabin John, Md.

The Wharf Marina, Southwest DC

Washington Sailing Marina, Alexandria, Va.

District Angling, Arlington, Va.