



Illinois Department of  
**Natural Resources** **MEMORANDUM**

to: Acting Director Flood  
from: Gary R. Clark *GRC*  
date: April 9, 2008  
subject: Conditions on the Fox River between Stratton and Montgomery Dams

Sergeant Brett Scroggins of the Conservation Police has requested a boating restriction due to hazardous navigation conditions on the Fox River between Stratton and Montgomery Dams. Conditions cited are high flows, submerged piers, obstructions to navigation such as floating debris, and swift currents especially at the dams. These conditions make the Fox River significantly hazardous to boating and also make it treacherous to safety personnel who are called to rescue boating mishaps. Commander Joe Marvin of the McHenry County Marine Unit and Don Bryant Director of Kane County Office of Emergency Management concur with Sergeant Scroggins assessment of the hazardous conditions.

Flows on the Fox River are 4285 cfs at Stratton Dam. The National Weather Service is predicting additional rainfall over the Fox River watershed on Thursday and Friday. The ground is saturated so any additional rain will contribute large volumes of runoff.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has authorization to designate Restricted Boating Areas during hazardous conditions as cited in the following:

**Section 2030.80 Hazardous Navigation Conditions - Designated Restricted Boating Areas**

In the event that the Department of Natural Resources determines the presence of conditions that make navigation of a body of water significantly dangerous to the public, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources may, in coordination with the federal government, designate Restricted Boating Areas on any affected body of water within the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois. This designation shall be made by public announcement in local media and by posting at local public boat launches and marinas, and the restricted area shall be physically marked by buoys, signs, manned watercraft or yellow police tape. This designation will remain in effect until the Director of the Department of Natural Resources determines that navigation is no longer significantly dangerous to the public, but in no case shall the designation remain in effect longer than 90 days. Rescission of the Restricted Boating Area designation shall be publicly announced in local media and posted at local public boat launches and marinas and any markings shall be removed.

(Source: Added at 29 Ill. Reg. 15550, effective September 27, 2005)

I recommend that the Fox River from Stratton Dam to Montgomery Dam be designated as a Restricted Boating Area. If you approve, please sign below and this Office will coordinate the Restricted Boating Area with the U.S. Coast Guard.

*Sam Flood*      *4-9-08*  
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Approved By Acting Director Flood      Date