



To: Director Jim Montgomery
From: Deputy Chief John L. Miller
Date: 09/22/2026
Subject: Conditions on the Lower Fox River

Office of Law Enforcement Deputy Chief John Miller in consultation with Stratton Lock and Dam Lockmaster Joseph Farej advise that high water levels, swift current, floating debris, submerged structures, and piers have created conditions significantly hazardous to navigation on the Illinois portion of the Fox River, from the Stratton Lock and Dam, in McHenry County, south to the Algonquin Dam. The conditions are also treacherous for emergency service personnel called upon to rescue people involved in boating mishaps.

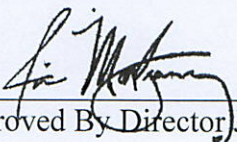
The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has authorization to designate Restricted Boating Areas when navigation is significantly dangerous.

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. Recission 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)

Based on the current and forecasted conditions, I recommend implementing a Restricted Boating Area on the Fox River from Stratton Lock and Dam in McHenry County, to the Algonquin Dam, until such time as water levels and navigation conditions return to a safe and manageable state. This restricted boating area would be effective starting at 9:00 am on 09/23/2026. If you approve, please sign below and the Office of Law Enforcement will coordinate the implementation of the Restricted Boating Area designation with the United States Coast Guard and local authorities.


Approved By Director Jim Montgomery

9-23-26
Date