



Fox River Status Update September 14th, 2023

**This Update is based on the current forecast and will be adjusted based on future forecasts and rainfall.*

Summary

Currently there is 0.05" of rain forecasted for the watershed during the next seven days. Based on the 7-Day Inflow forecast, levels will continue to drop throughout the entire system. This week's Drought Monitor remains unchanged (**Figure 5**). Expect to see nearly the same conditions this week as last week.

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows

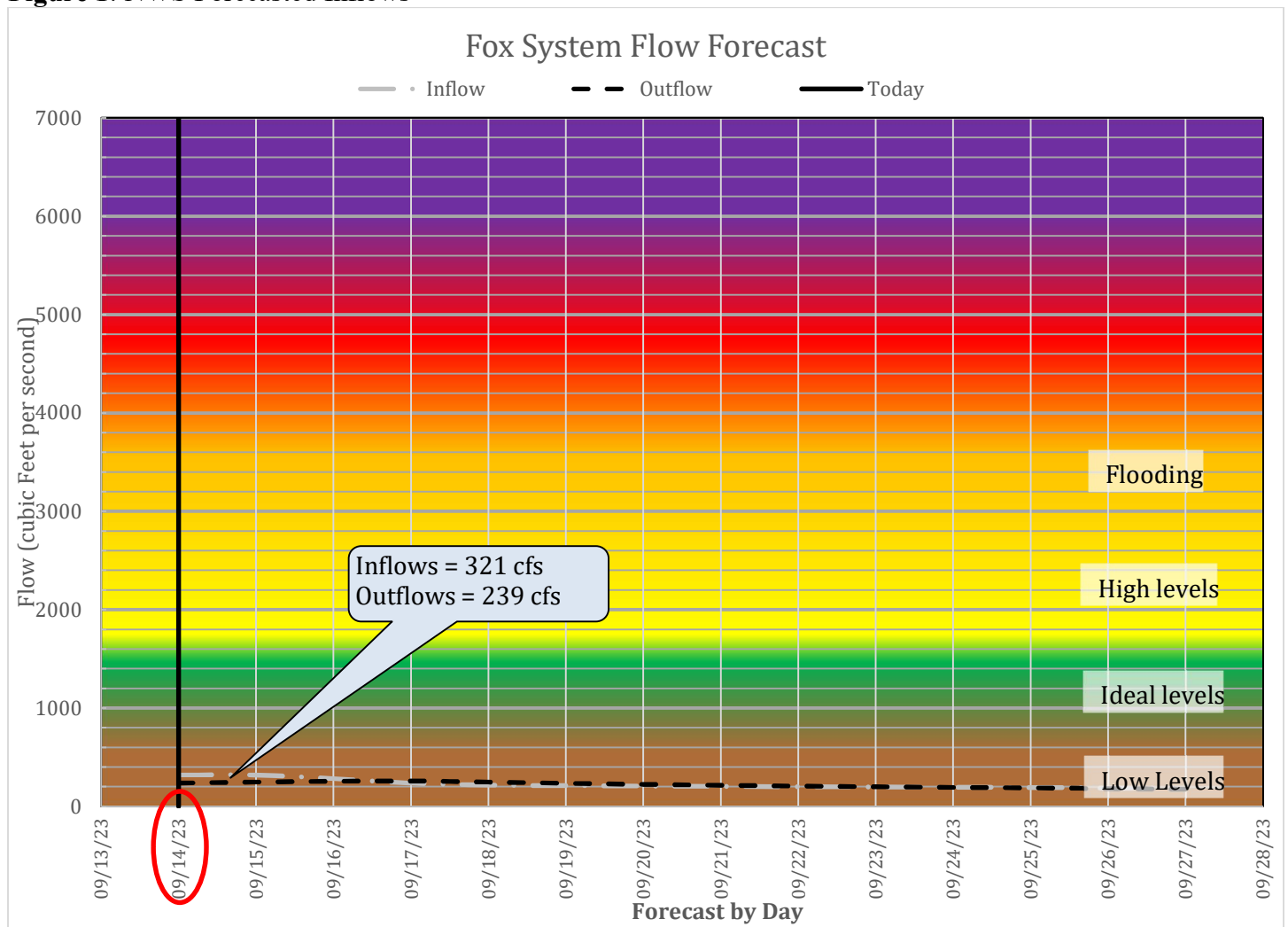


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

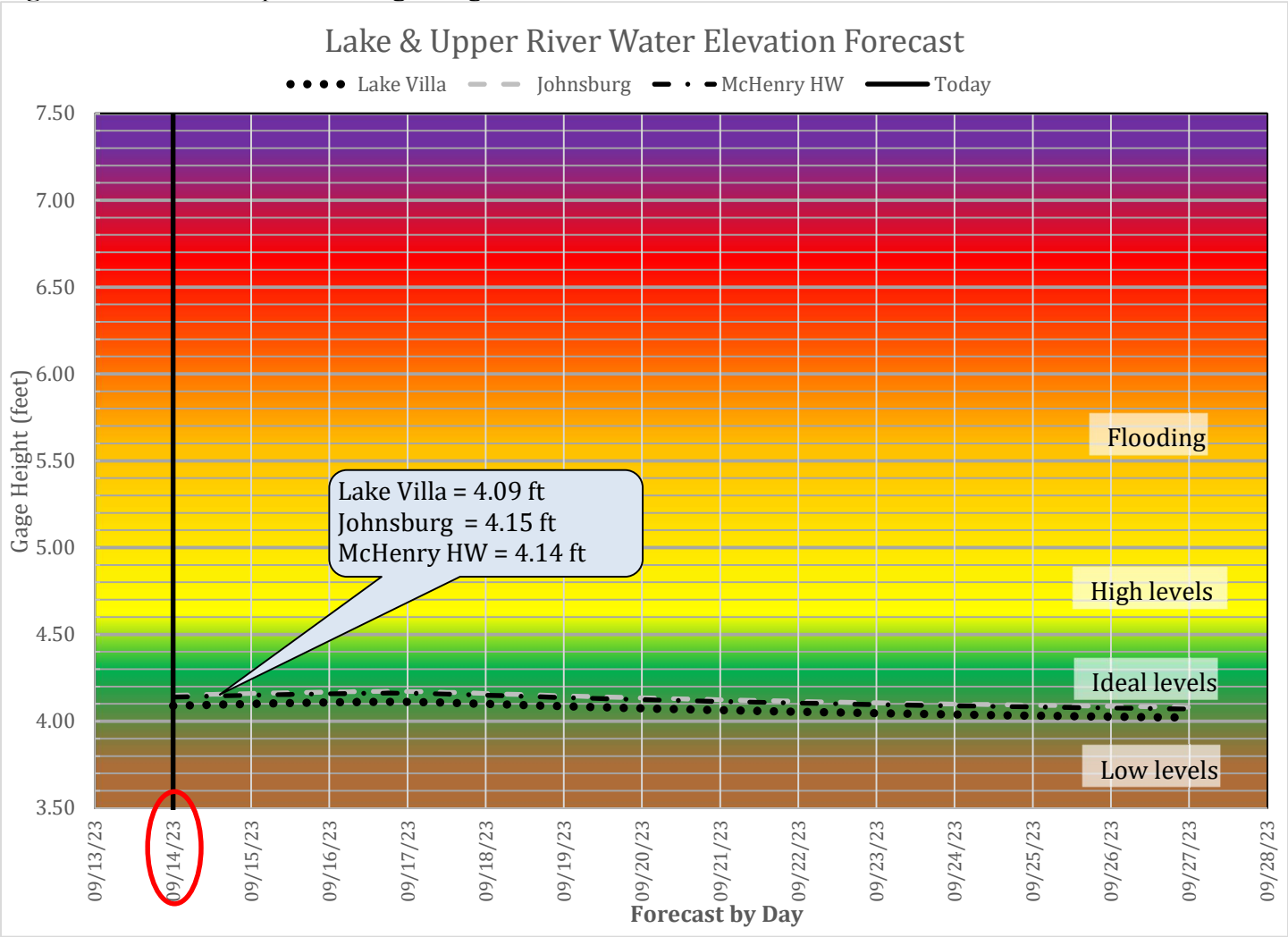
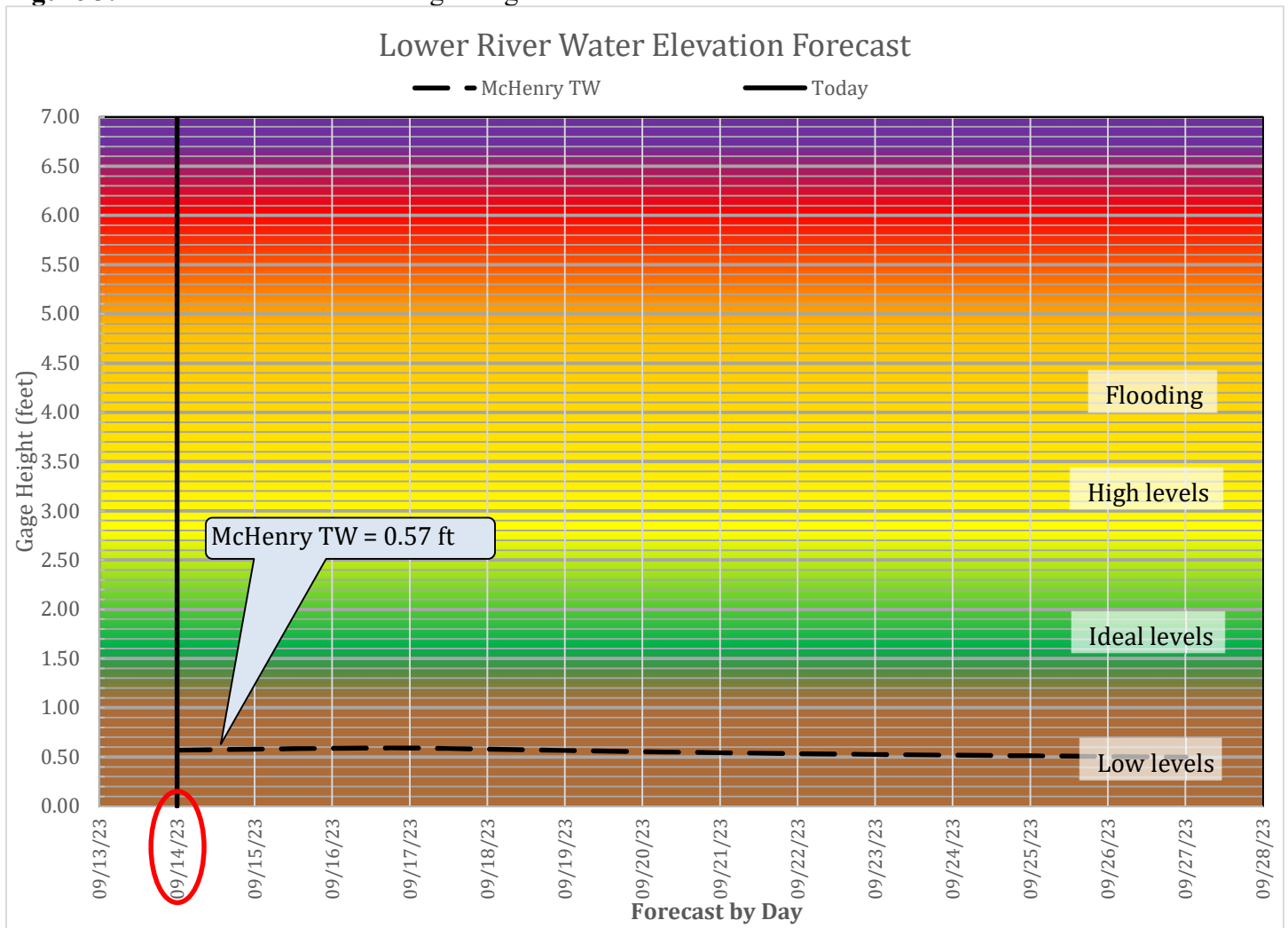


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



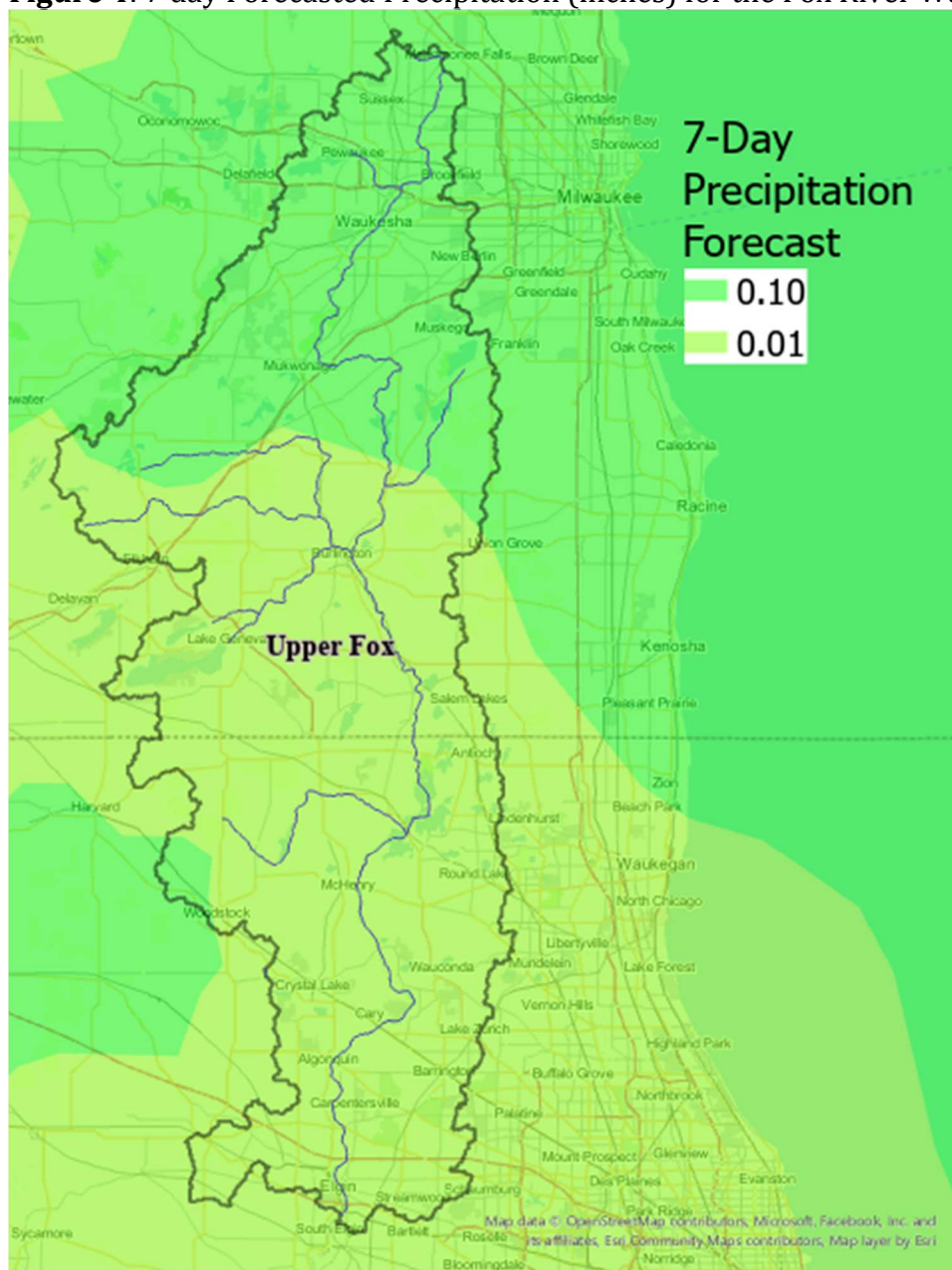
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 239 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 34 cfs. The total net system inflows are 321 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.09 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 0.57 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.22 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to continue slowly dropping over the next week, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and all areas upstream of the dam are forecasted to hover just above 4.1' during the next week, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River is forecasted to see water levels remain low, as shown above in **Figure 3**. The 7 Day Precipitation forecast is showing about 0.05" for the Chain of Lakes, **Figure 4**.

Figure 4: 7 day Forecasted Precipitation (inches) for the Fox River Watershed



Source: <https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/general#/layers=35225+40090+40146+40091+42149+42377+40134&x=-88.48082&y=42.38798&z=9.6&panel=layer>

System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels will slowly decline for the next 7 days.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

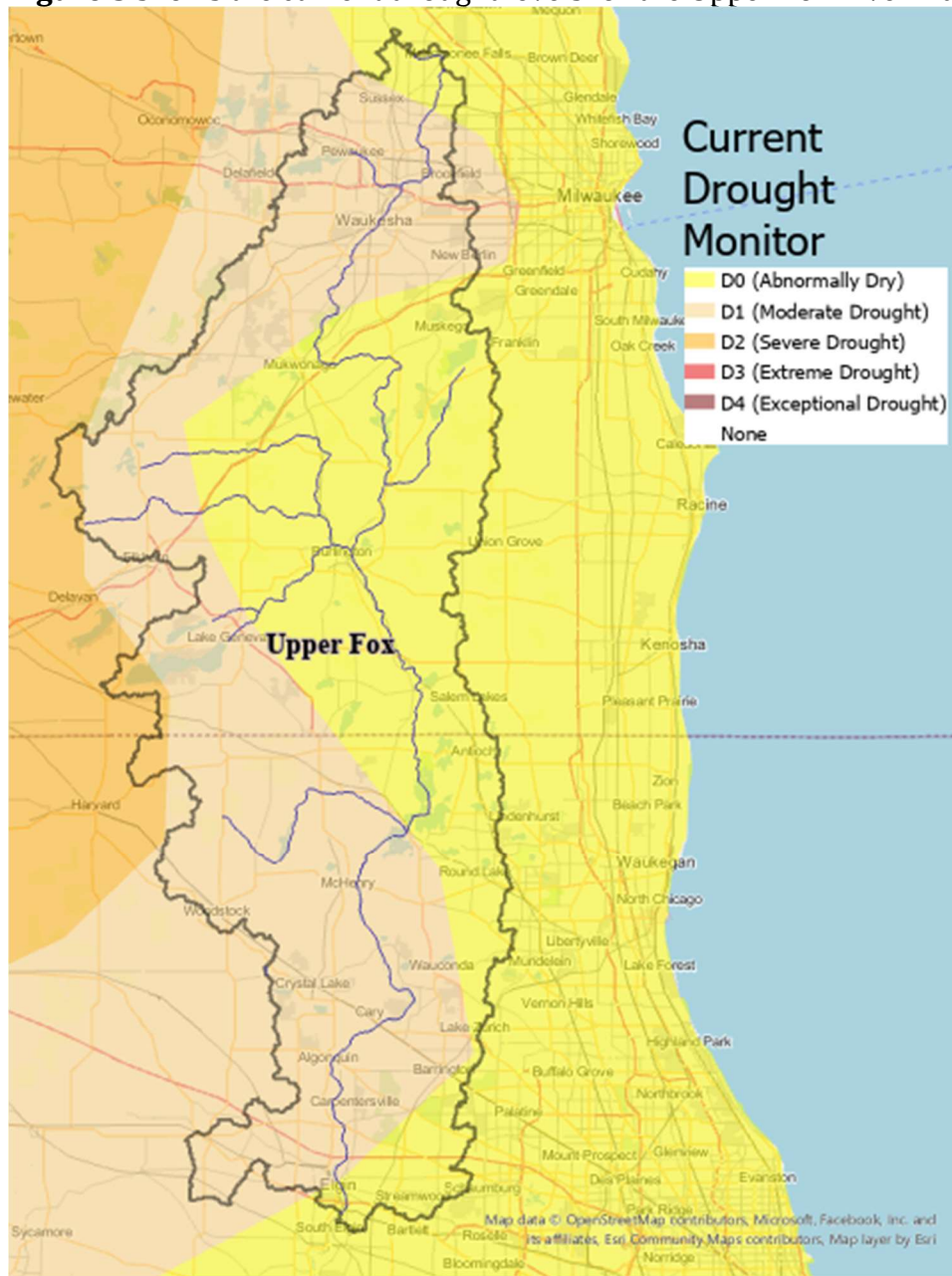
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Lower River Outlook

The Lower River is forecasted to remain low, near the current level, until inflows increase.

U.S Drought Monitor

Figure 5 shows the current drought levels for the Upper Fox River watershed.



IDNR-OWR will continue to monitor conditions and make changes as necessary pending future forecasts and conditions.

IDNR Office of Water Resources

Two public surveys have been added to the web page. If either applies to you or someone you know, please think about completing it. This information will be used to assist in further studies regarding the lakes and river.

Business Stage Effect Survey: This survey will assist in determining the “Economic Benefits” of the different river dredging options that are currently being analyzed.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nwgia7qOPEaE9TFxIQ-QBQKxPd7cXLJOK10jTZLKFWZUMkJFUKgxODJDMkE1RklLUUNTNI4VzdBTy4u>

Boat-Ground Impact Survey: As impacts are entered, the map will update to warn fellow boaters of hazards.
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/c5794aaa79e34853b8cd9df48ed6c31f?portalUrl=https://IDNR.maps.arcgis.com>

Boat-Ground Impact Survey Map:

<https://idnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=af5b2bd0bde140f5ae9e5c771036cc3f>

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham
Office of Water Resources
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
<https://dnr.illinois.gov/waterresources/strattonoperationsupdate.html>