

## **Board Adopts Aquatic Life Use Designations for the Chicago Area Waterways System and Lower Des Plaines River**

On February 6, 2014, the Pollution Control Board adopted a rule that designates aquatic life uses for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and the Lower Des Plaines River (LDPR). The Board adopted three aquatic life use designations and has developed definitions of those aquatic life use designations: CAWS Aquatic Life Use A, CAWS and Brandon Pool Aquatic Life USE (ALU) B, and Upper Dresden Island Pool (UDIP) Aquatic Life Use (ALU).

Generally, CAWS Aquatic Life Use A Waters are capable of maintaining, tolerant and intermediately tolerant species such as channel catfish, largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, spotfin shiner, orangespotted sunfish, common carp, and goldfish. The CAWS ALU A waters are Upper North Shore Channel, Lower North Shore Channel, North Branch of the Chicago River, South Branch of the Chicago River, Calumet-Saganashkee (Cal-Sag) Channel, Calumet River, Little Calumet River, Grand Calumet River, Lake Calumet, and Lake Calumet Connecting Channel.

CAWS and Brandon Pool ALU B waters are capable of protecting aquatic life populations predominated by individuals of tolerant fish species, such as common carp, golden shiner, bluntnose minnow, yellow bullhead, and green sunfish. The Board adopts as ALU B waters the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and Brandon Pool.

The Board adopted a UDIP ALU that is defined as waters capable of maintaining, and having quality sufficient to protect, aquatic-life populations consisting of individuals of tolerant, intermediately tolerant, and intolerant types such as largemouth bass, bluntnose minnow, channel catfish, orangespotted sunfish, smallmouth bass, shorthead redhorse, and spottail shiner.

The Board has determined that maintaining the General Use standard for the Chicago River is appropriate as the Chicago River can meet the CWA goals in the foreseeable future.

The Board also adopted language to establish numeric water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria applicable to Primary Contact Recreation Waters.

The rulemaking is docketed as In the Matter of: Water Quality Standards and Effluent Limitations for the Chicago Area Waterway System and Lower Des Plaines River: Proposed Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 301, 302, 303, and 304 (R08-9C).

Opinions and orders of the Board, hearing transcripts, and other documents in rulemaking records are posted on the Board's Web site and may be downloaded from the Web without charge. Hard copies may be obtained from the Clerk's office upon payment of reproduction fees as prescribed by Section 6 of the Freedom of Information Act [5 ILCS 140/6].

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