

# **Biological and Water Quality Assessment of the Upper Des Plaines Watershed**

**Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup  
August 17, 2017**

**Chris O. Yoder  
Midwest Biodiversity Institute  
Columbus, OH**

# MBI is a 501[c][3] Applied Research Organization Specializing in Aquatic Bioassessments, Research, Education, & Training



## Major Projects:

1. National Aquatic Resources Assessment
2. Regional Bioassessments – New England, Upper Ohio & Upper Mississippi basins
3. Intensive Watershed Assessments – DRSCWG, MSDGC, DRWW, LDPWG, Black R. AOC

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**A Framework and Implementation  
Plan for Tiered Aquatic Life Uses:  
Illinois Rivers and Streams**

**IAWA sponsored an effort to add tiered  
aquatic life uses and biocriteria to the Illinois  
WQS (2010-present)**

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**The Development of a Biological  
Assessment Plan for the DuPage and  
Salt Creek Watersheds**

**A similar approach was followed for  
the Upper Desplaines & for the Lower  
Des Plaines in 2018**



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Columbus, OH**

# What is a Bioassessment?

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- **Bioassessment** – a systematic assessment of the aquatic resource using biological indicators AND chemical/physical

**Bioassessment is the essential**

- **implementation tool for a TALU based approach**

- ***Reasonably available* tools and criteria exist to assess and evaluate this for all waterbody types.**



# Aquatic Life Uses

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*ALUs inherently “drive” the determination of status & management responses, thus they are a critical determinant of overall program effectiveness.*

*This underscores the critical importance and “reach” of aquatic life uses – they influence every aspect of water quality management.*



**Chemical – excess nutrients from  
urban runoff and CSOs**

**Physical – extensively modified  
stream habitat**

**Biological – nuisance algal  
growth**

**Energy cycling – short nutrient  
spirals**

**Treating these independently  
will not solve the problem.**

*Mill Creek – Cincinnati, OH*

**Core indicators are measured routinely – independent of assessment & management questions**

Substrate Quality Riparian Conductivity Dissolved O<sub>2</sub>

**For Specific Designated Uses Add the Following:**

<b>AQUATIC LIFE</b>	<b>RECREATIONAL</b>	<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>
<p><i>Base List:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ionic s</li><li>• Nutrie</li></ul> <p><i>Supple</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Metals</li><li>• Organ</li><li>• Chloro</li></ul>	<p><i>Base List:</i></p>	<p><i>Base List:</i></p>
	<p><b>HUMAN/WILDLIFE CONSUMPTION</b></p> <p><i>Base List:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Metals (in tissues)</li><li>• Organics (in tissues)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chlorophyll a</li></ul>

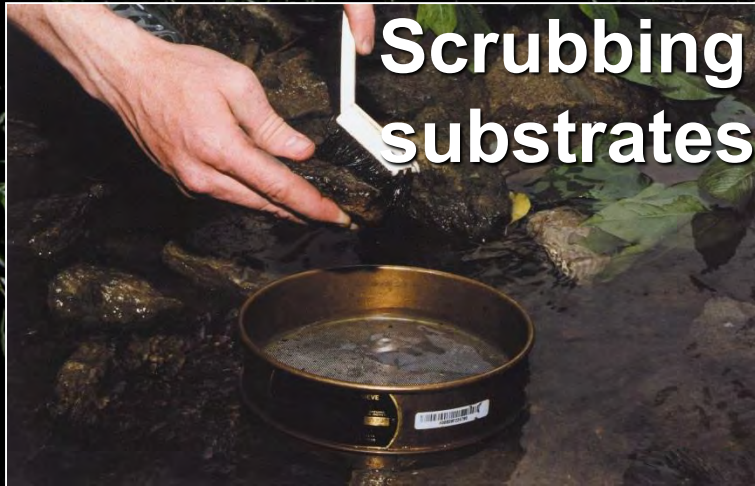
**Supplemental indicators are added depending on designated uses, study area setting, and monitoring objectives and questions**



# Benthic Macroinvertebrates

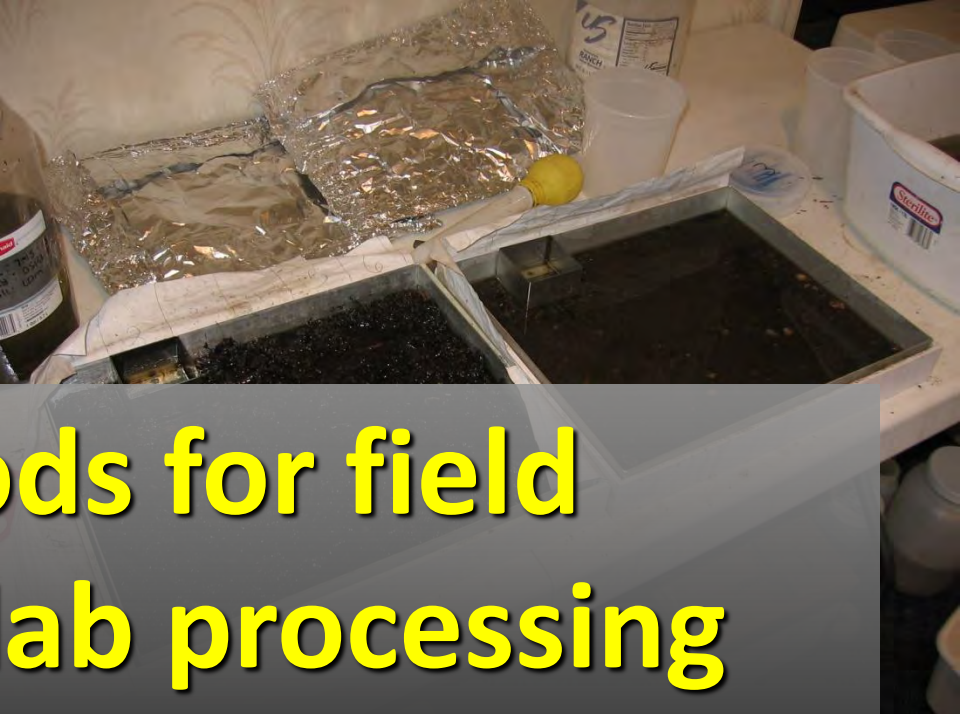
## Active Sampling Methods Examples

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**Net-based methods  
(including kicks,  
dips, jabs, sweeps,  
& picks)**





# IEPA methods for field collections & lab processing



**Fish are a widely identifiable component of aquatic systems and are valued for their recreational uses. Most species, however, are more obscure, and comprise the second most endangered group.**



# Illinois DNR "electric seine"



# MBI pulsed D.C. electrofishing methods



# The Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI)

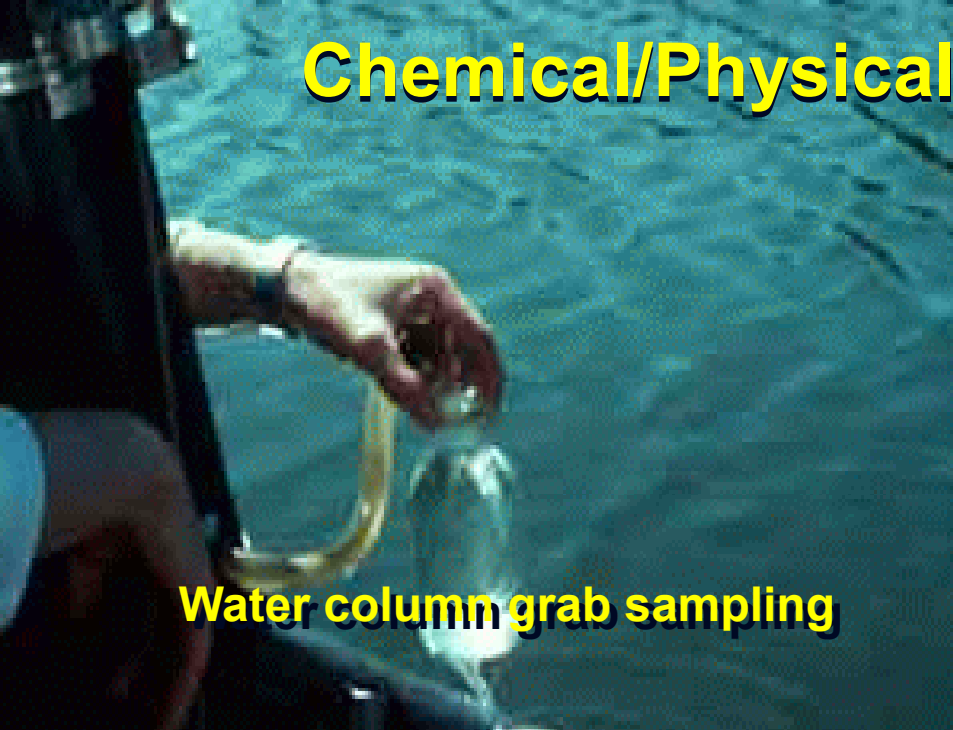
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## *QHEI Includes Six Major Categories of Macrohabitat*

- Substrate - types, origin, quality, embeddedness
- Instream Cover – types and quantity
- Channel Quality – sinuosity, development, stability
- Riparian – width, quality, bank stability & quality
- Pool/Run/Riffle – depth, current types, embeddedness, morphology
- Gradient – local gradient (fall per unit distance)

*Source: The Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (Rankin 1989)*

# Chemical/Physical Field Procedures



**Water column grab sampling**



**Depth integrated sampler**

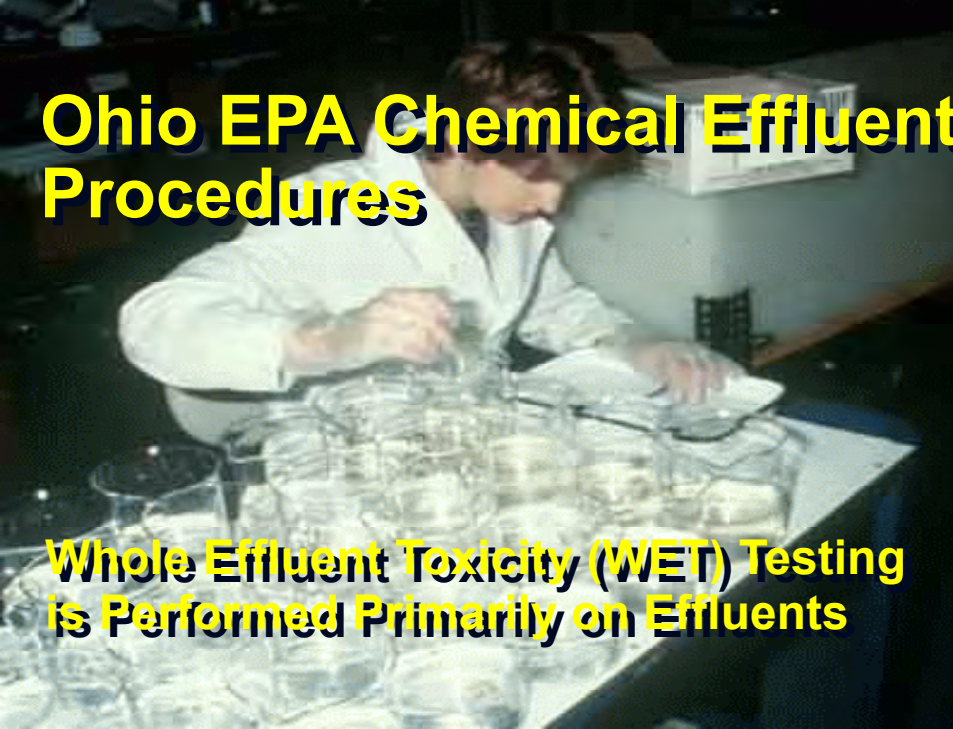


**Automatic composite samplers**

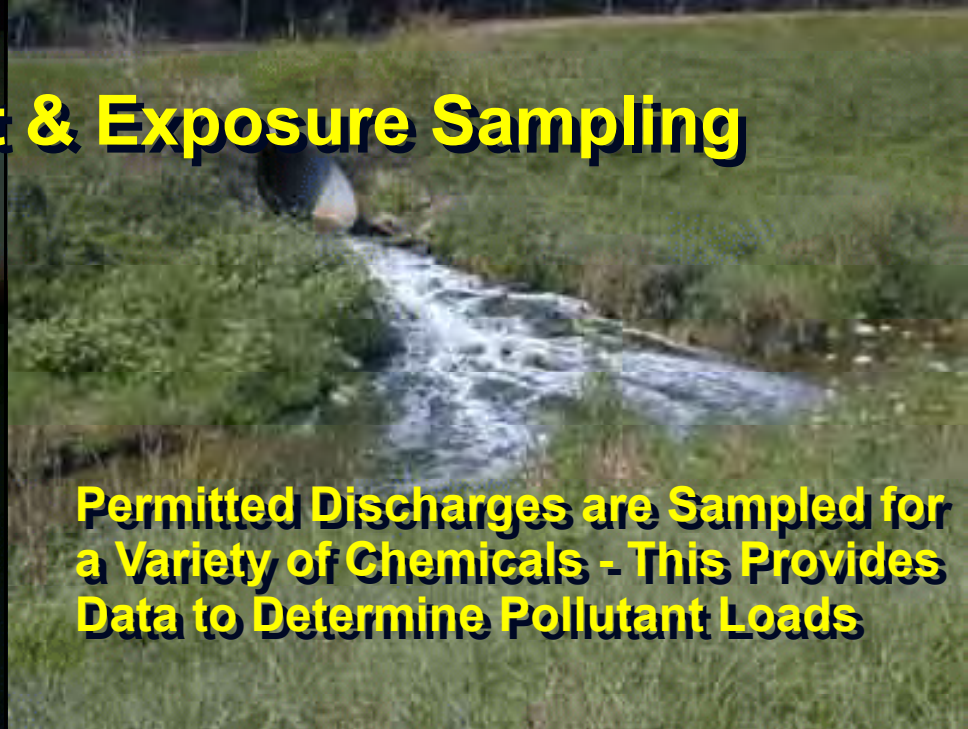


**Time-of-travel dye injection**

# Ohio EPA Chemical Effluent & Exposure Sampling Procedures



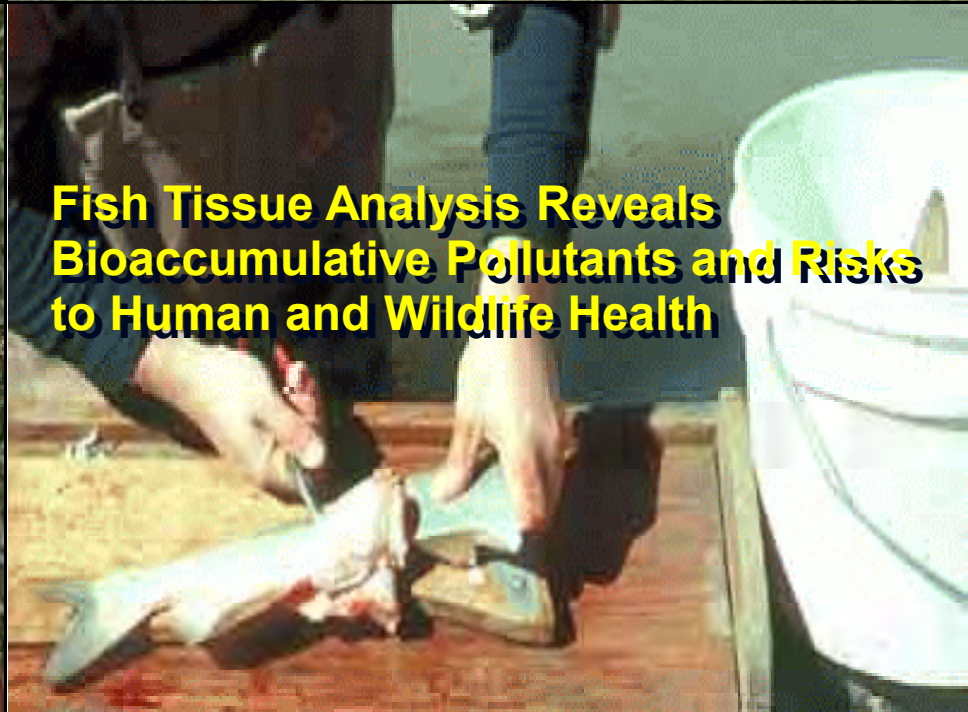
**Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing is Performed Primarily on Effluents**



**Permitted Discharges are Sampled for a Variety of Chemicals - This Provides Data to Determine Pollutant Loads**

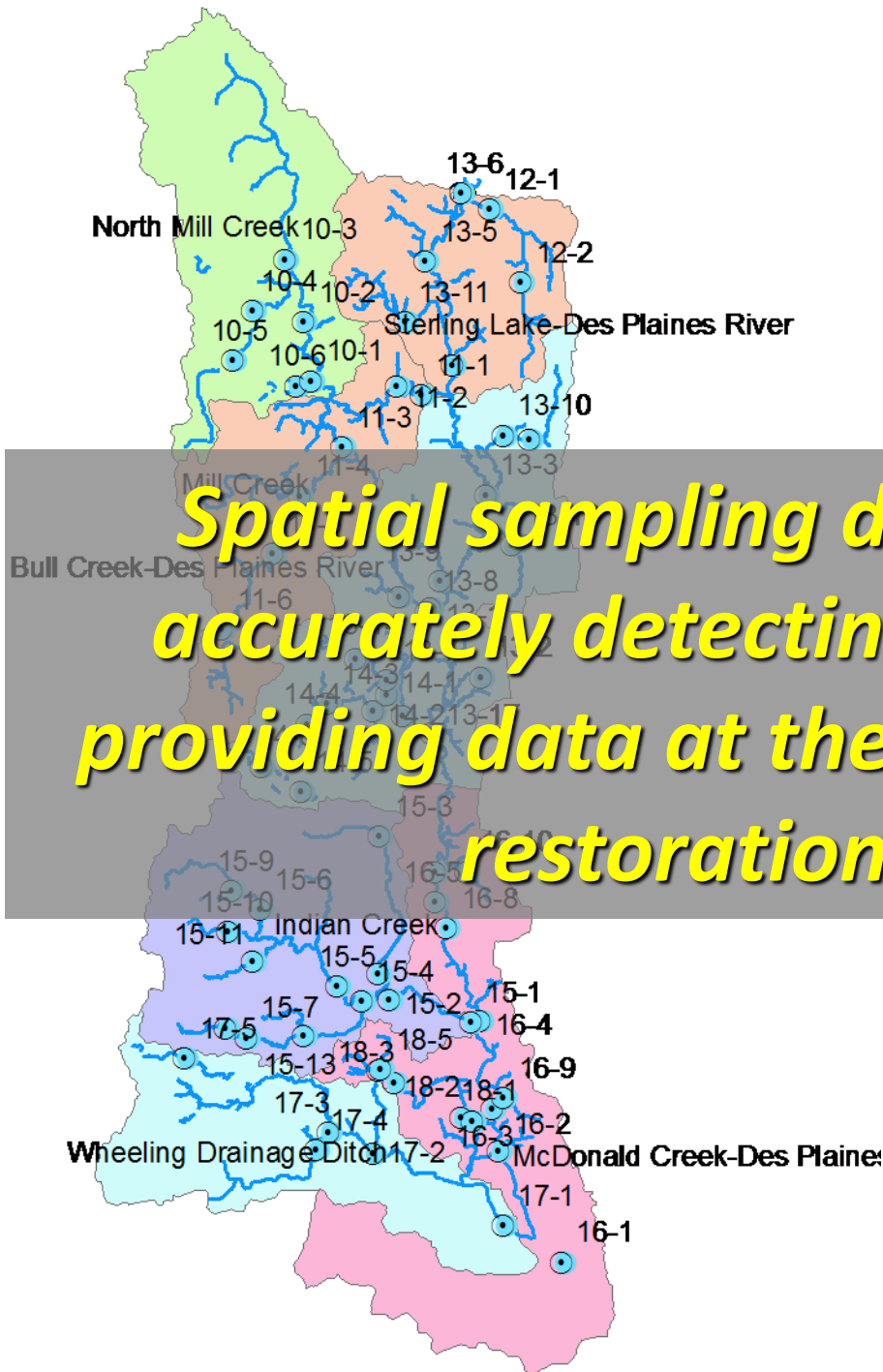


**Biochemical Markers (Biomarkers) are Useful for Discerning Problem Pollutants**



**Fish Tissue Analysis Reveals Bioaccumulative Pollutants and Risks to Human and Wildlife Health**

# Upper Des Plaines Watershed Bioassessment



***Spatial sampling design is critical for accurately detecting impairments and providing data at the same scale at which restoration is applied.***

- Pollution survey design – geometric allocation of sampling sites with additional sites positioned in proximity to suspected sources of stress & contamination.
- Each site assigned a consistent site number (e.g., 12-6).
- 70 sites sampled in mainstem & tributaries, 30 sites sampled for biological, habitat, & water quality parameters.
- Employed 3 crews over a July-October seasonal index period.
- Followed IEPA methods to ensure data consistency & relevance of results.
- Three year rotation will initiate in 2017.



# Completing the Cycle of WQ Management: Managing for Environmental Results

## Indicator Levels

<b>1: Management actions</b>	}	<b>Administrative Indicators</b>
<b>2: Response to management</b>		<i>[permits, plans, grants, enforcement]</i>
<b>3: Stressor abatement</b>	}	<b>Stressor Indicators</b>
<b>4: Ambient conditions</b>		<i>[pollutant loads, land practices]</i>
<b>5: Assimilation and uptake</b>	}	<b>Exposure Indicators</b>
<b>6: Biological response</b>		<i>[pollutant conc., habitat, ecosystem process, fate &amp; transport]</i>
	}	<b>Response Indicators</b>
		<i>[biological assemblage indices, other attributes]</i>

***“Ecological Health” The Endpoint of Concern***

# Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Pollutant Loading Tool

**Note:** The tool uses discharge monitoring report (DMR) data from ICIS-NPDES to calculate pollutant discharge amounts. EPA has verified the accuracy of the tool's calculations. EPA has also performed a limited review of the underlying data that has focused on facilities with the largest amounts of pollutant discharges. Due to the large amount of DMR data, some errors exist in ICIS-NPDES DMR data. Please see the [User Guides](#) page for instructions on how to use the tool and how to correct errors in ICIS-NPDES. The tool also uses wastewater pollutant discharge data from the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). [Contact Us](#) with any comments or questions about the tool, and sign up for our [e-mail news bulletin](#) to be notified when new data, enhancements, or training materials become available.

## Overview

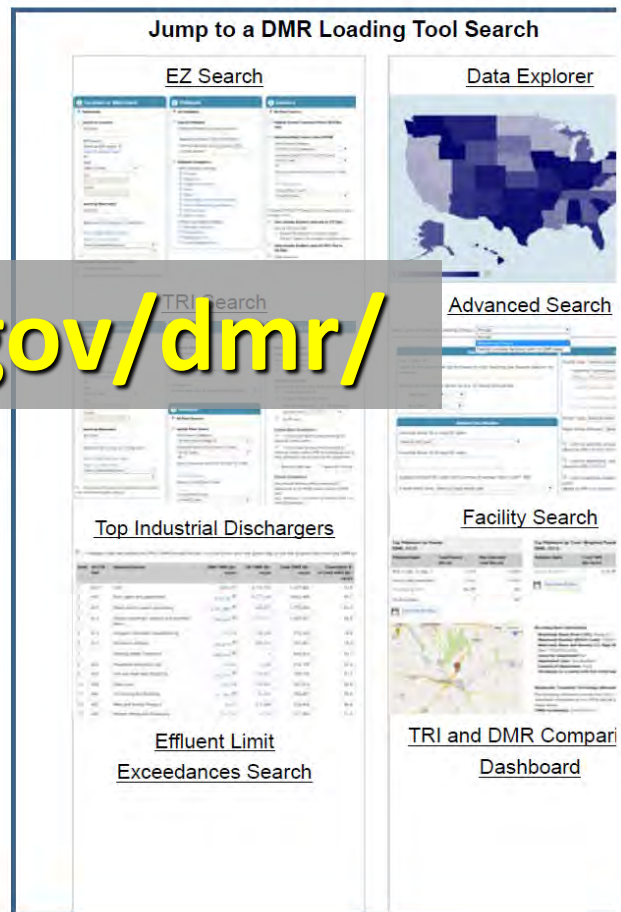
The Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Pollutant Loading Tool is designed to help you determine **who is discharging, what pollutants they are discharging and how much, and where they are discharging**. The tool calculates pollutant loadings from permit and DMR data from EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (ICIS-NPDES). Data are available from the year 2007 to the present. Pollutant loadings are presented as pounds per year and as toxic-weighted pounds per year to account for variations in toxicity among pollutants. The tool ranks dischargers, industries, and watersheds based on pollutant mass and toxicity, and presents "top ten" lists to help you determine which discharges are important, which facilities and industries are producing these discharges, and which watersheds are impacted.

The tool also includes wastewater discharge data from non-point sources (e.g., agriculture) available for the years 2007 to the present. Users can search for the top ten facilities with the largest pollutant discharges to surface waters or sewage treatment plants (a.k.a. Publicly Owned Treatment Works or "POTWs"). Users can also compare the DMR data search results against TRI data search results and vice versa. The tool clearly labels the source of data when displaying search results but does not mix TRI or DMR data when calculating pollutant discharges.

If this is your first time using the tool, you might want to start with the [EZ Search](#) (DMR data) or the [TRI Search](#) (TRI data). If you need more flexibility with your searches, try the [Advanced Search](#) (DMR data). If you have additional questions or would like more information about the tool, you can access more detailed information in the [User Guides/Tech Documents](#) tab.

Read on to learn more about:

- [How to Navigate the Tool](#)
- [Data Sources, Scope, and Limitations](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#)

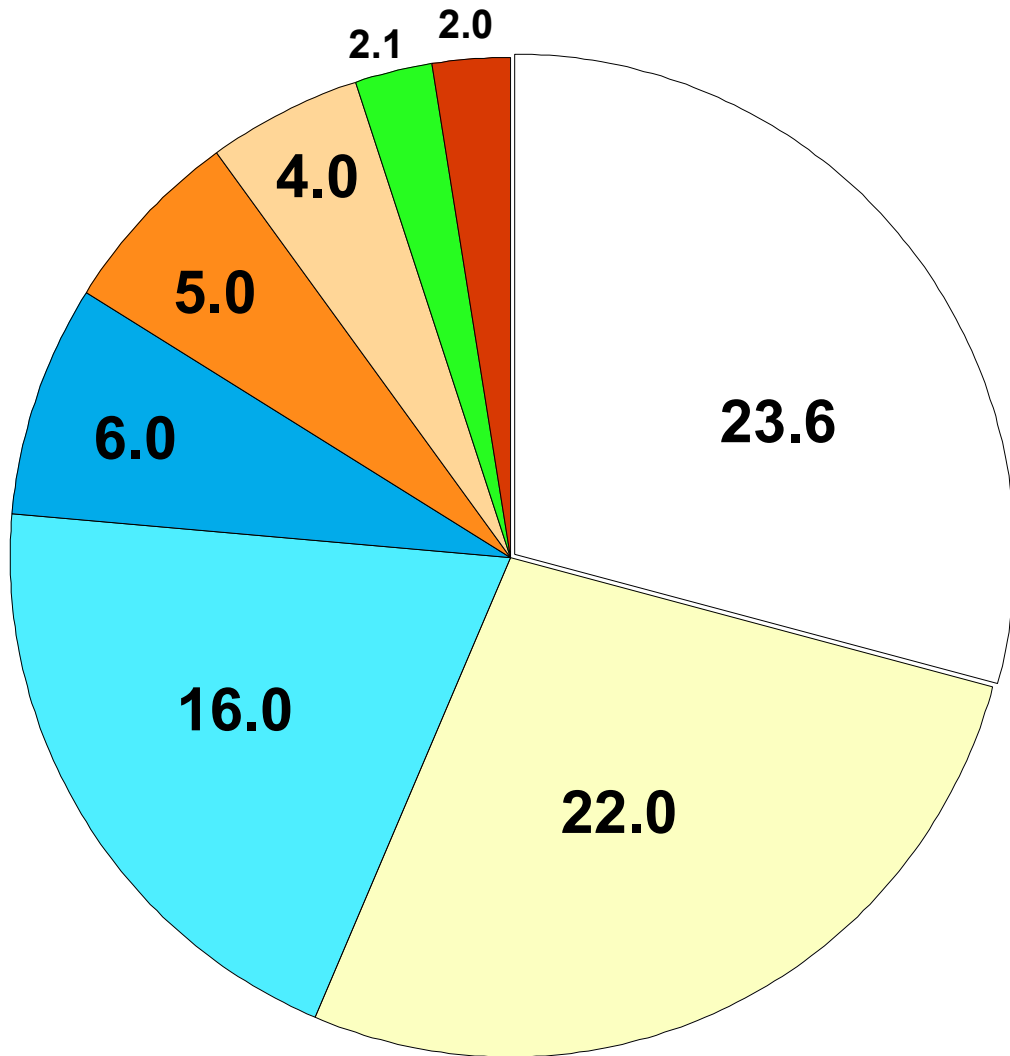


The screenshot displays the 'Jump to a DMR Loading Tool Search' interface. It features several navigation options: 'EZ Search', 'Data Explorer' (with a map of the United States), 'Advanced Search', 'TRI Search', 'Top Industrial Dischargers' (showing a table of results), 'Facility Search' (with a map), 'Effluent Limit Exceedances Search', and 'TRI and DMR Comparison Dashboard'.

<https://cfpub.epa.gov/dmr/>

Facility	Receiving Water Body	River Mile	Latitude	Longitude	Average Flow 2016 (MGD)	Design Average Flow (MGD)	Treatment Type <sup>1</sup>	Nutrient Removal <sup>2</sup>
Lake Co. DPW Mill Creek WWTP	Mill Creek/Des Plaines R.	1.0/102.0	42°25'00"N	87°55'40"W	2.1	7.8	AWT	M
North Shore SD Waukegan WWTP	Des Plaines R.	98.1	42°22'15"N	87°54'53"W	22.0	44.0	AWT	P
North Shore SD Gurnee WWTP	Des Plaines R.	95.5	42°21'25"N	87°55'36"W	23.6	47.2	AWT	N
Libertyville WWTP (IL0029530)	Des Plaines R.	84.8	42°15'15"N	88°56'10"W	4.0	8.0	AWT	M
Mundelein WWTP (IL0022501)	Des Plaines R.	84.6	42°15'11"N	87°50'34"W	5.0	15.0	Secondary	M
Lake Co. DPW New Town Century WWTP (IL0071366)	Des Plaines R.	82.3	42°13'30"N	87°56'15"W	6.0	18.0	AWT	M
Lake Co. DPW Des Plaines WWTP (IL0022055)	Aptaksic Cr./Des Plaines R.	0.8/76.4	42°09'47"N	87°55'40"W	16.0	51.8	AWT	M
Lindenhurst SD WWTP (IL0020796)	Hastings Cr.	2.8	42°26'01"N	88°01'56"W	2.0	5.7	AWT	M

# Upper Des Plaines Major WWTP Average Flows 2016 (MGD)

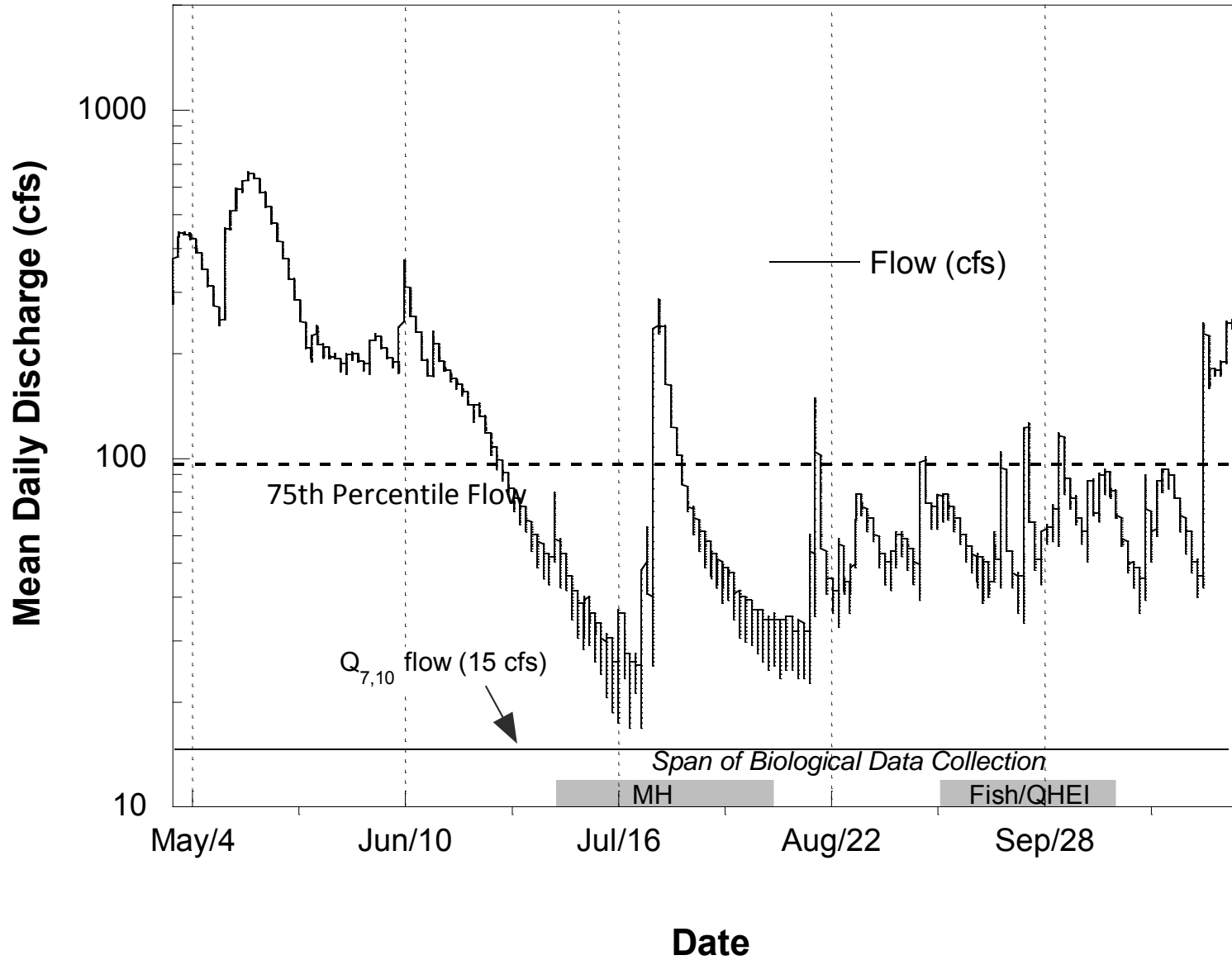


- NSSD Gurnee
- NSSD Waukegan
- Lake Co. Des Plaines
- Lake Co. New Town Century
- Mundelein
- Libertyville
- Lake Co. Mill Creek
- Lindenhurst

**Total (MGD) = 78.7**

(55% of 75th %ile flow;  
89% of  $Q_{7,10}$  flow)

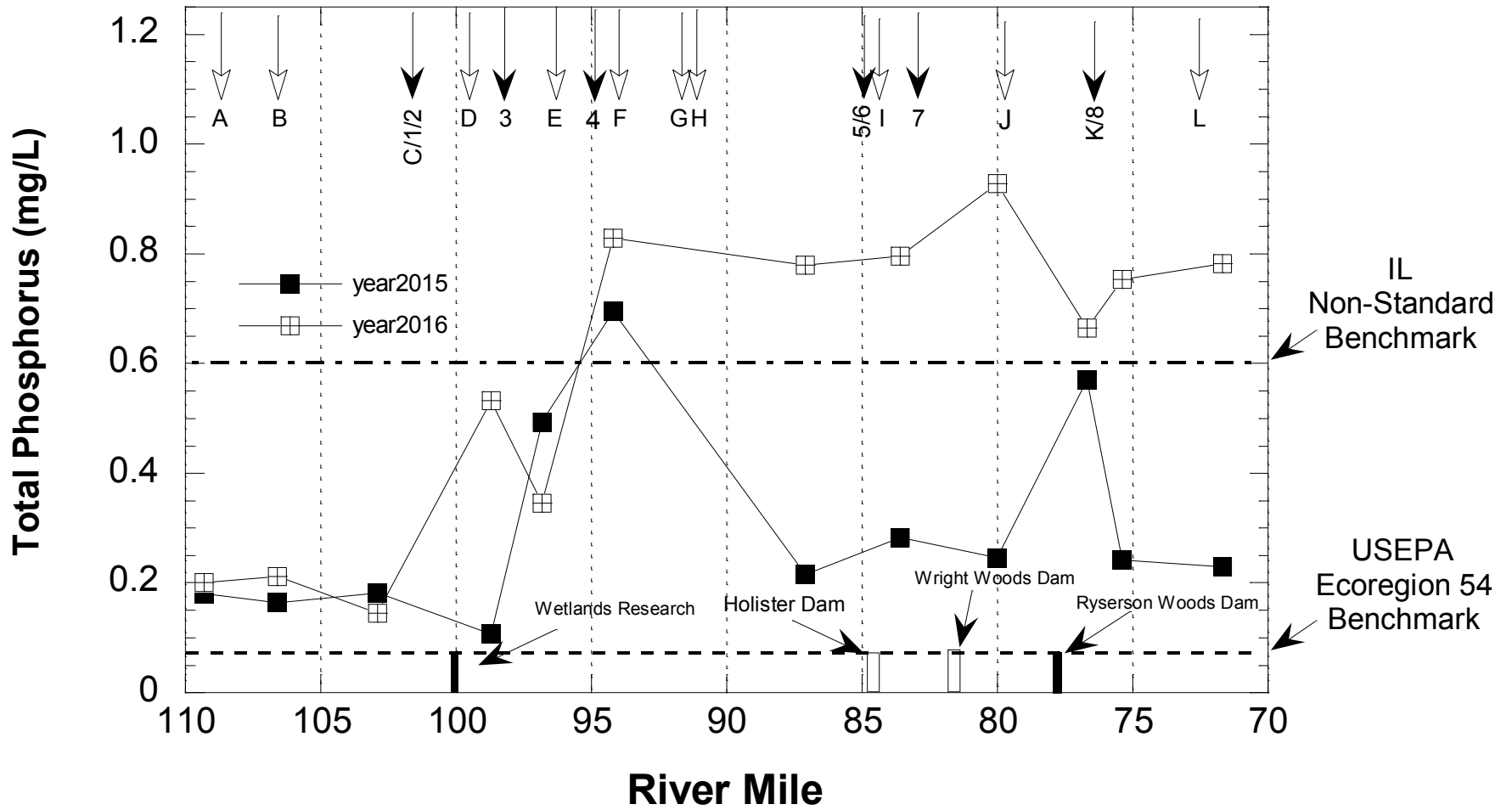
# Des Plaines River nr. Gurnee, IL



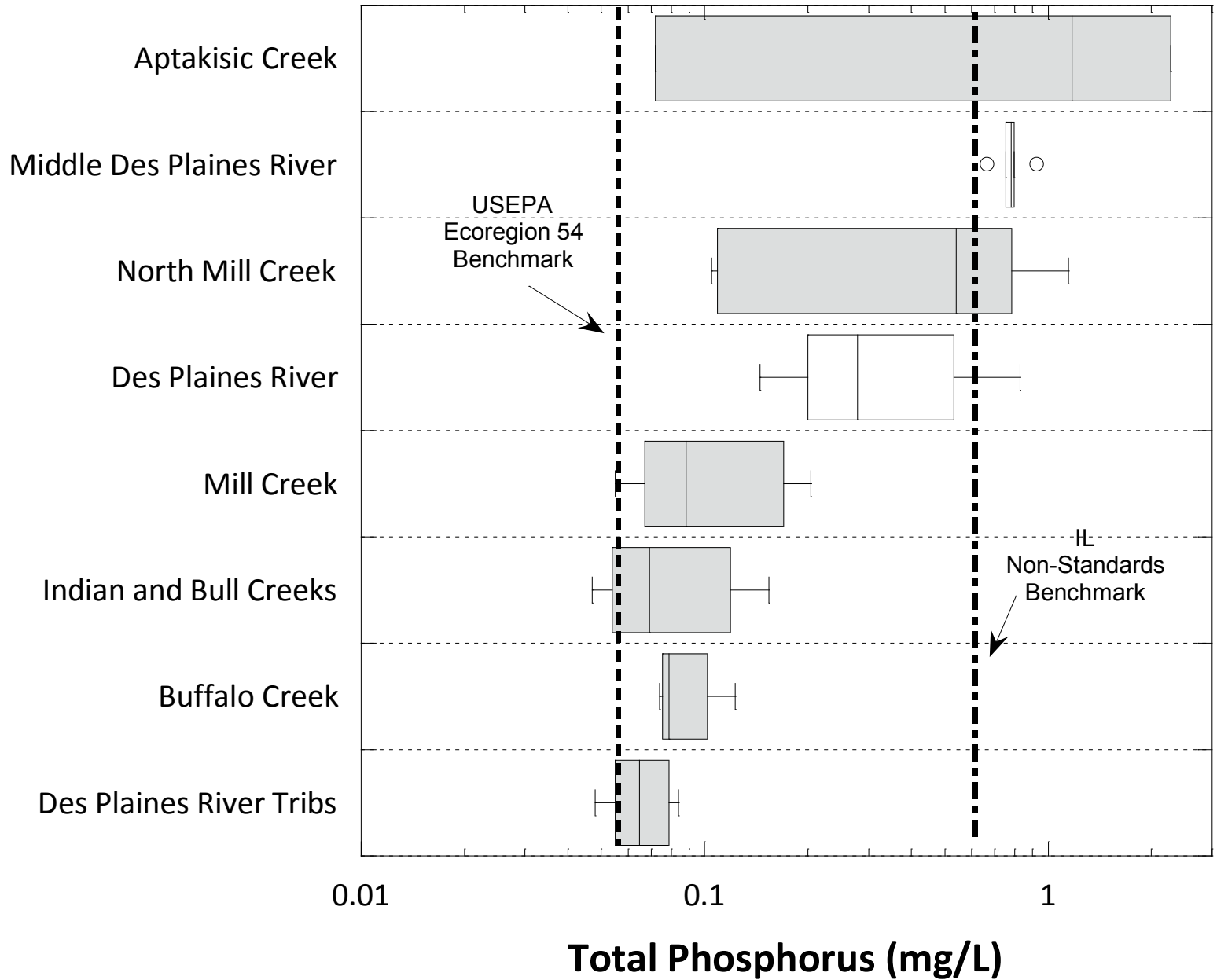
# Evaluating Chemical Results: WQC & Threshold Effects

Parameter	Water Quality Criteria		Effect Thresholds				Non-effect Benchmarks	
	IL Chronic	IL Acute	Ohio EPA	SW Ohio	NOAA SQRT	Other	Regional Reference	IL Non-Standard
<b>Demand Group</b>								
<b>BOD<sub>5</sub></b>	NA	NA	--	2.48 mg/L [HW Streams] 2.96 mg/L [WD Streams] 2.60 mg/L [BT Rivers]	--	--	2.00 mg/L [HW Streams]	--
<b>Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.)</b>	5.5./6.0 mg/L [7-day rolling avg.]	3.5/5.0 mg/L [minimum]	7.2 mg/L [HW Streams]	5.32 mg/L [All Streams]	--	--	6.6 mg/L [HW Streams]	--
<b>Suspended Solids (TSS)</b>	NA	NA	16.0 mg/L [HW Streams]	65.7 mg/L [HW Streams] 70.8 mg/L [WD Streams] 74.3 mg/L [BT Rivers]	--	--	28.0 mg/L [HW Streams]	--
<b>Nutrients Group</b>								
<b>Ammonia-N (NH<sub>3</sub>-N)</b>	1.24 mg/L [pH 8.0/25°C]	8.40 mg/L [pH 8.0/25°C]	0.05 mg/L [HW Streams]	0.31 mg/L [HW Streams]	--	0.15 mg/L [DRSCW IPS]	0.025 mg/L [HW Streams]	--
<b>Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)</b>	NA	NA	0.50 mg/L [HW Streams]	0.51 mg/L [HW Streams] 0.58 mg/L [WD Streams] 1.05 mg/L [BT Rivers]	--	1.00 mg/L [DRSCW IPS <sup>11</sup> ]	0.70 mg/L	--

# Des Plaines River

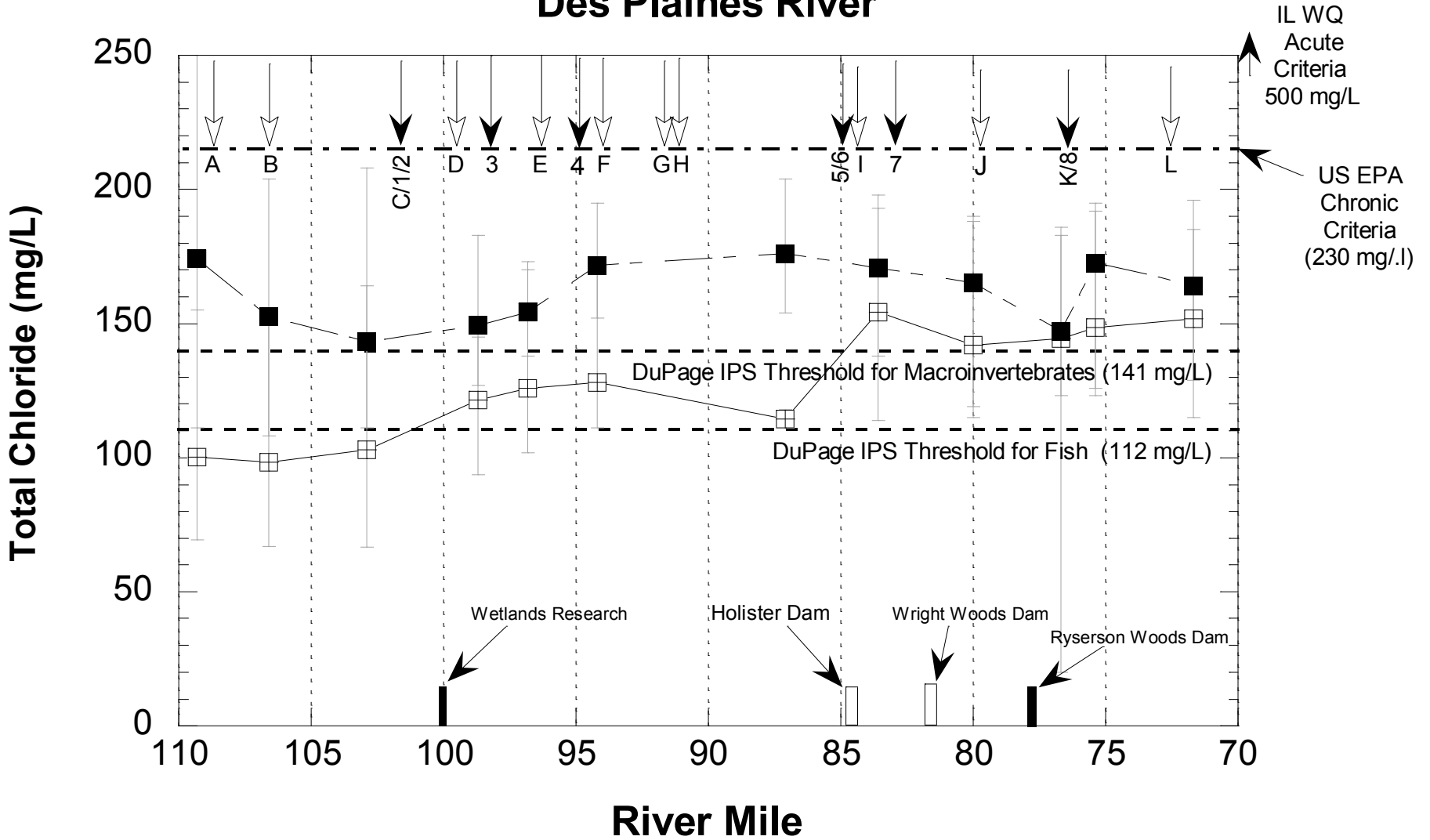


# TP by Sub-Watershed

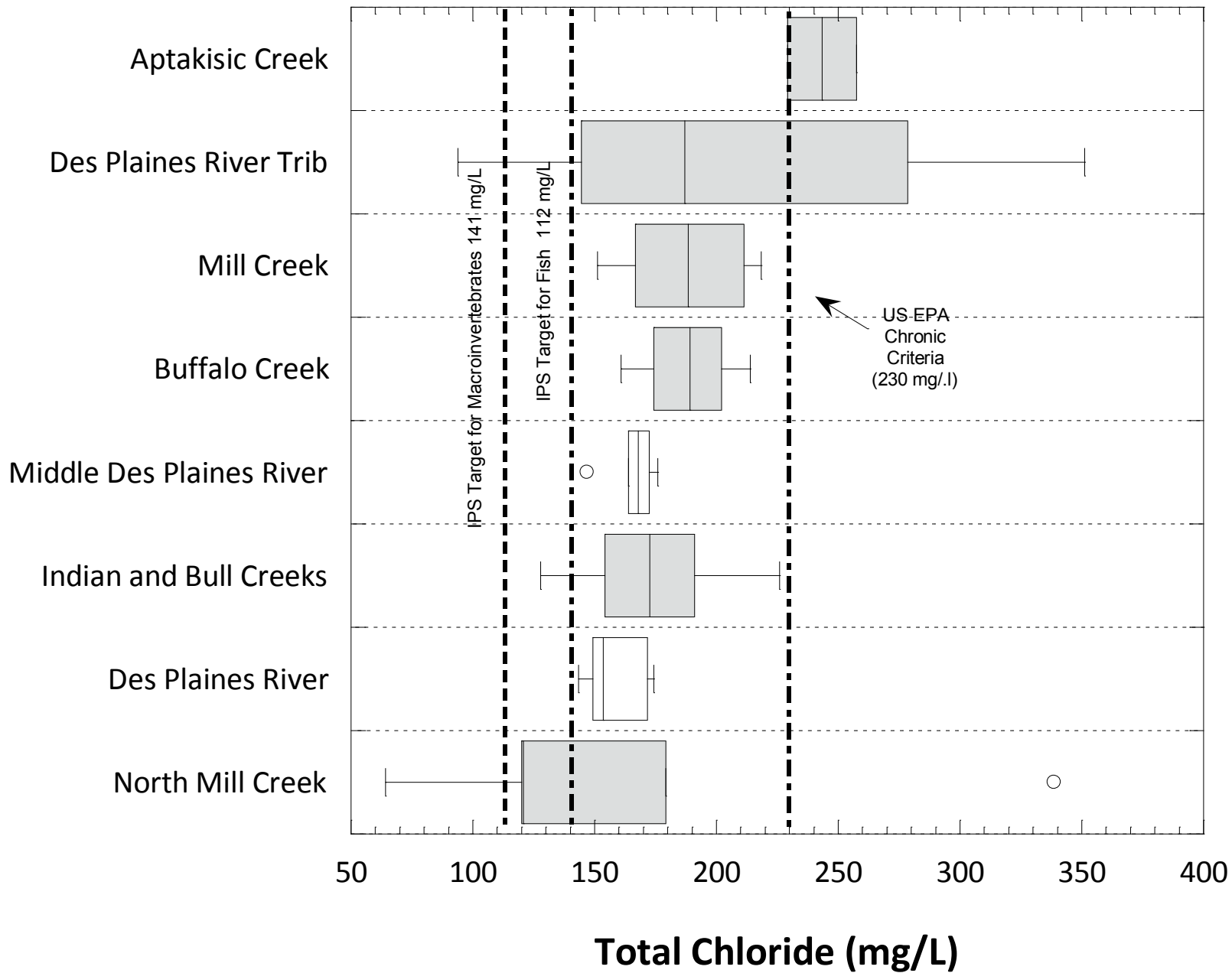




# Des Plaines River



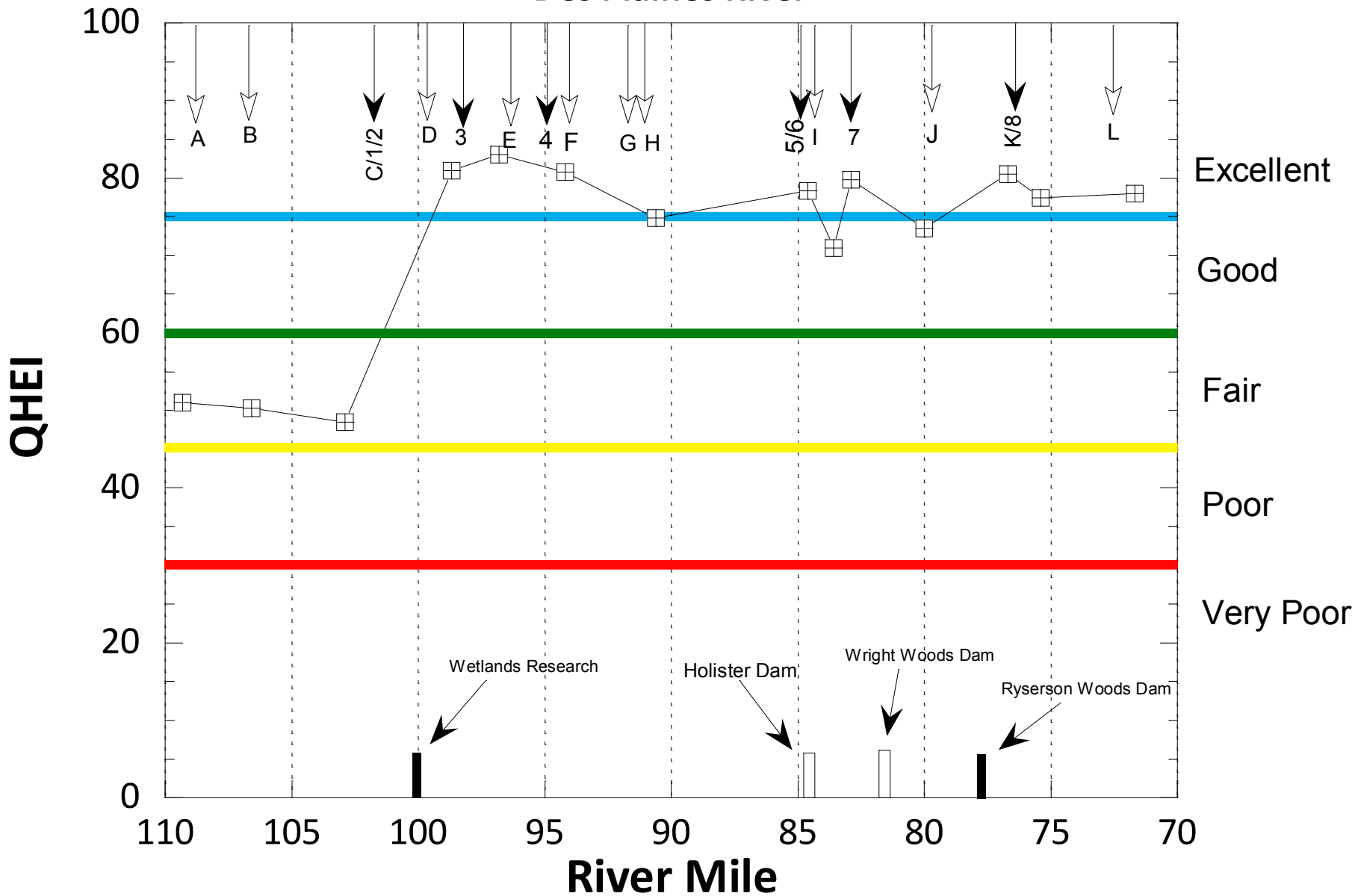
# Chloride by Sub-Watershed



**Table 13.** Concentrations of organic compounds (mg/kg) in sediments at sites in the Des Plaines River study area October 2016. Values above the MacDonald et al. (2000) PEL and TEL thresholds or the elevated and extremely elevated ranges of Short (1998) are shaded in accordance with the color-code key at the end of the table.

Site ID	Basin code	Stream Code	RM	Acenaphthene (mg/kg)	Acenaphthylene (mg/kg)	Anthracene (mg/kg)	Benzo(a)anthracene (mg/kg)	Benzo(a)pyrene (mg/kg)	Benzo(b)fluoranthene (mg/kg)	Benzo(g,h,i)perylene (mg/kg)	Benzo(k)fluoranthene (mg/kg)	Chrysene (mg/kg)	Dibenzo(a,h)anthracene (mg/kg)	Fluoranthene (mg/kg)	Fluorene (mg/kg)	Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene (mg/kg)	Naphthalene (mg/kg)	Phenanthrene (mg/kg)	Pyrene (mg/kg)
<b>Des Plaines River</b>																			
13-6	95	656	109.30	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
13-5	95	656	106.60	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95
13-4	95	656	102.90	169	169	169	297	292	519	267	210	402	169	869	169	202	169	380	600
13-3	95	656	98.70	79	79	156	891	926	1460	797	480	1090	141	2700	90	617	79	1300	1950
13-2	95	656	96.82	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	65	61	61	61	61	61
13-1	95	656	94.20	86	86	86	88	116	195	112	86	157	86	282	86	89	86	86	221
16-5	95	656	83.60	133	133	199	1730	1970	3430	1720	897	2490	302	5800	133	1360	133	1820	3960
16-4	95	656	80.00	72	72	72	273	317	573	298	194	439	72	849	72	235	72	231	648
16-3	95	656	76.7	80	80	80	142	187	364	177	104	266	80	485	80	136	80	160	367
16-2	95	656	75.40	90	90	90	279	365	692	357	223	510	90	1050	90	274	90	334	723
16-1	95	656	71.7	444	71	729	3590	2790	3960	1760	1080	3080	412	10200	529	1550	71	4880	5750
<b>Newport Drainage Ditch</b>																			
12-2	95	708	3.03	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
12-1	95	708	0.70	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
<b>Seavey Drainage Ditch</b>																			
15-3	95	390	3.66	52	52	52	221	258	414	244	150	308	52	651	52	183	52	287	478
15-8	95	390	0.45	98	98	208	2250	2710	4640	2360	1110	3320	401	6980	134	1930	98	1940	5210
<b>Aptaksic Creek</b>																			
18-3	95	701	4.30	135	135	178	1570	2010	3650	1720	980	2590	311	6110	135	1390	135	2090	4050
18-2	95	701	0.8	84	84	84	84	84	156	102	84	120	84	178	84	84	84	84	133
18-1	95	701	0.50	88	88	88	567	549	760	373	270	603	88	1480	88	321	88	478	1070
<b>Buffalo Creek</b>																			
17-3	95	703	7.7	63	63	63	63	63	65	63	63	63	63	99	63	63	63	63	84
17-2	95	703	6.10	93	93	93	275	340	577	281	192	446	93	865	93	225	93	344	662
17-1	95	703	0.75	89	89	121	1160	1430	2540	1270	732	1790	214	3680	89	1000	89	1200	2620
<b>Buffalo Creek Tributary</b>																			
17-4	95	713	0.68	76	76	82	421	498	917	517	291	700	86	1560	76	403	76	612	1140

# Des Plaines River



# QHEI by Sub-Watershed

Very Poor

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

Middle Des Plaines River

Des Plaines River

Buffalo Creek

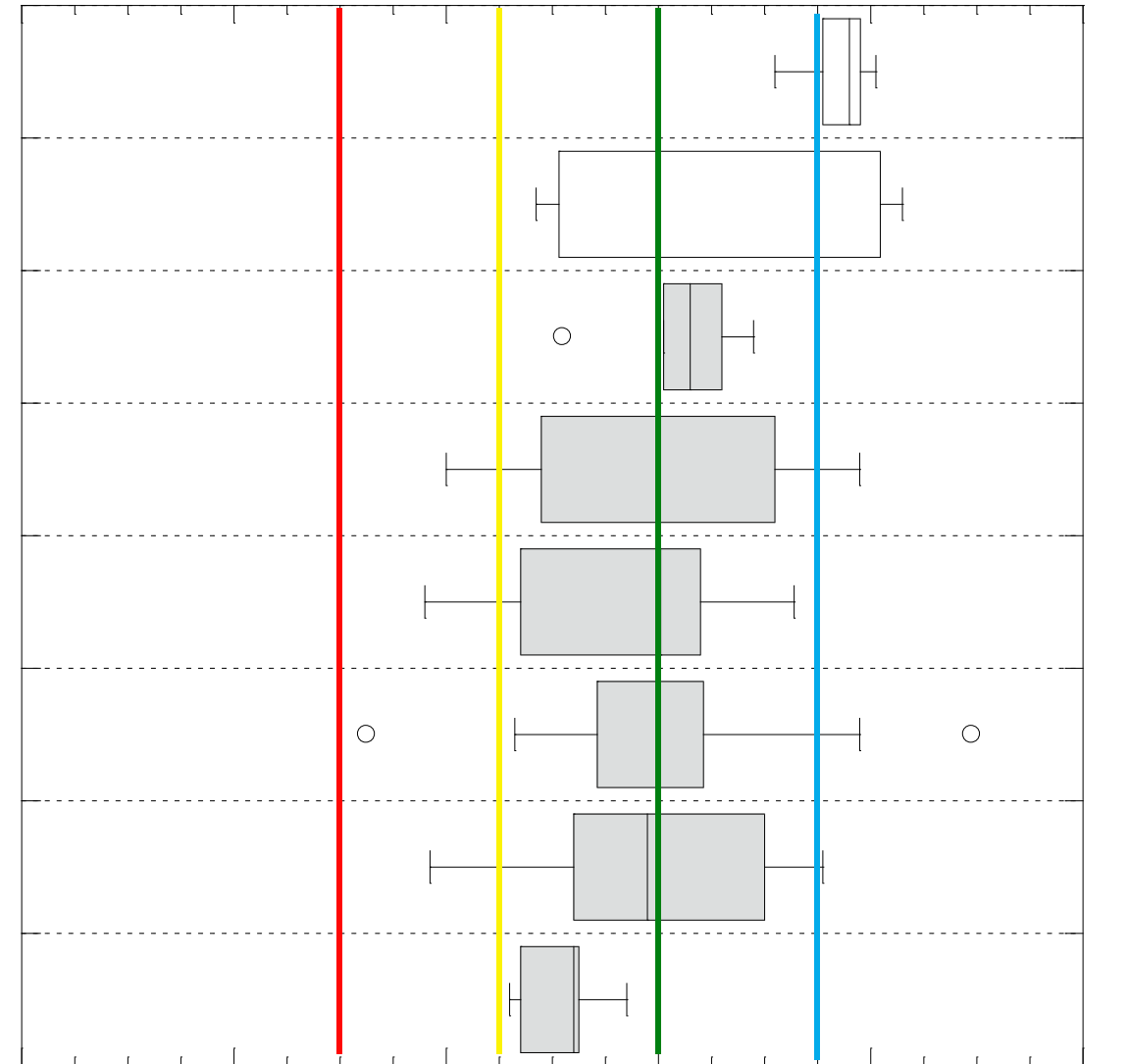
Mill Creek

Des Plaines River Trib

Indian and Bull Creeks

North Mill Creek

Aptakistic Creek



0

20

40

60

80

100

QHEI Score

**Table 11.** Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) matrix showing good and modified habitat attributes at each site in the Upper Branch Des Plaines River study area in 2016. (■- good habitat attribute; ● - high influence modified attribute; ● - moderate influence modified attribute).

Site ID	River Mile	QHEI Score	Good Habitat Attributes									High Influence Modified Attributes					Moderate Influence Modified Attributes									Ratios							
			No Channelization	Boulder, Cobble, Gravel	Silt Free	Good-Excellent Development	Moderate-High Sinuosity	Moderate-Extensive Cover	Fast Flow w Eddies	Little to No Embeddedness	Max Depth > 40 cm	No Riffle Embeddedness	“Good” Habitat Attributes	Channelized or No Recovery	Silt/Muck Substrates	No Sinuosity	Sparse No Cover	Max Depths <40 cm	High Influence Poor Attributes	Recovering from Channelization	Mod-High Silt Cover	Sand Substrates (Boatable sites)	Hardpan Origin	Fair- Poor Development	Low Sinuosity	≤2 Cover Types	Intermittent Flow or Pools <20 cm	No Fast Current Types	Mod-Extensive Embeddedness	Mod-Extensive Riffle Embeddedness	No Riffle	Poor Habitat Attributes	Ration of Poor (High) to Good
<b>Des Plaines River</b>																																	
13-6	109.3	51.0	■				■	■		■	4	●				1		●			●					●	●		●	5	0.83	1.20	
13-5	106.6	50.3	■				■	■		■	4	●				1		●			●					●	●		●	5	0.83	1.20	
13-4	102.9	48.5	■							■	3	●				1		●			●	●				●	●		●	6	0.57	1.75	
13-3	98.7	81.0	■			■	■	■	■		6					0		●	●							●	●	●		5	1.17	0.86	
13-2	96.8	83.0	■	■		■	■	■	■		7					0		●	●							●	●	●		5	1.33	0.75	
13-1	94.2	80.8	■	■		■	■	■	■		7					0		●	●							●	●	●		4	1.60	0.63	
13-16	90.6	74.8	■	■		■	■	■	■		6					0		●	●							●	●	●		5	1.17	0.86	
16-7	84.6	78.3	■	■		■	■	■	■		7					0		●	●							●	●	●		5	1.33	0.75	
16-5	83.6	71.0	■	■		■	■	■	■		6					0		●	●							●	●	●		5	1.17	0.86	
16-8	82.9	79.8	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	8					0			●							●		●		3	2.25	0.44	
16-4	80.0	73.5	■	■		■	■	■	■		6					0		●	●							●	●	●		5	1.17	0.86	
16-3	76.7	80.5	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	8					0		●	●							●		●		4	1.80	0.56	
16-2	75.4	77.5	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	7					0		●	●							●	●	●		5	1.33	0.75	
16-1	71.7	78.0	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	8					0			●							●		●		3	2.25	0.44	
<b>Aptaksic Creek</b>																																	
18-4	4.7	52.5	■	■			■	■		■	5	●		●	●	3						●					●		●		3	1.50	0.67
18-3	4.3	57.0		■				■		■	3				●	1	●	●			●	●				●	●			6	0.57	1.75	
18-2	0.8	46.0		■					■		3			●		1	●	●			●	●				●	●	●		7	0.50	2.00	

# Illinois EPA Fish Index of Biotic Integrity

Table 3. Ten metrics selected for inclusion in revised Illinois IBIs. Metrics in **bold type** are new to Illinois IBIs; four others are slight variants of previous metrics.

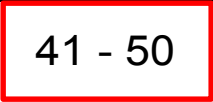
Metric Name	Description
<i>Species-richness metrics</i>	
NFSH	Number of native fish species
NSUC	Number of native suckers (i.e., in family Catostomidae)
NSUN	Number of native sunfish species (i.e., in family Centrarchidae)
INTOL	Number of native intolerant species
NMIN	Number of native minnow species (i.e., in family Cyprinidae)
NBINV	Number of native benthic invertivore species
<i>Trophic- or reproductive-structure metrics</i>	
<b>SBI</b>	<b>Proportion of individuals of species that are specialist benthic invertivores</b>
<b>GEN</b>	<b>Proportion of individuals of species that are generalist feeders</b>
<b>LIT0T</b>	<b>Proportion of individuals of species that are obligate coarse-mineral-substrate spawners and not "tolerant" (i.e., excludes creek chub and white sucker)</b>
<i>Tolerance metric</i>	
<b>PRTOL</b>	<b>Proportion of tolerant species</b>

The end goal are biological assemblages that meet the State's aquatic life use "biocriteria"

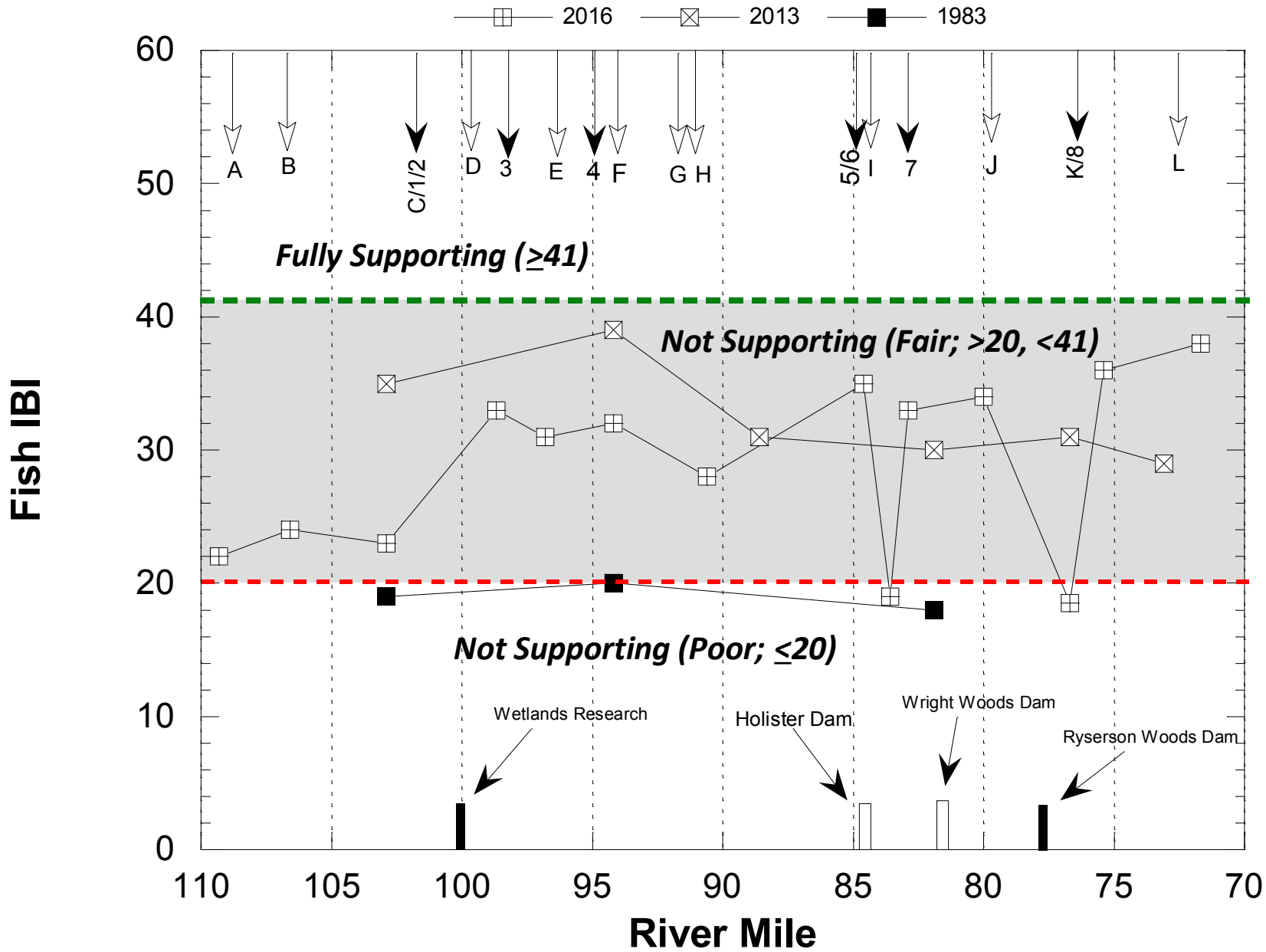
# Illinois EPA IBI Narrative Evaluations

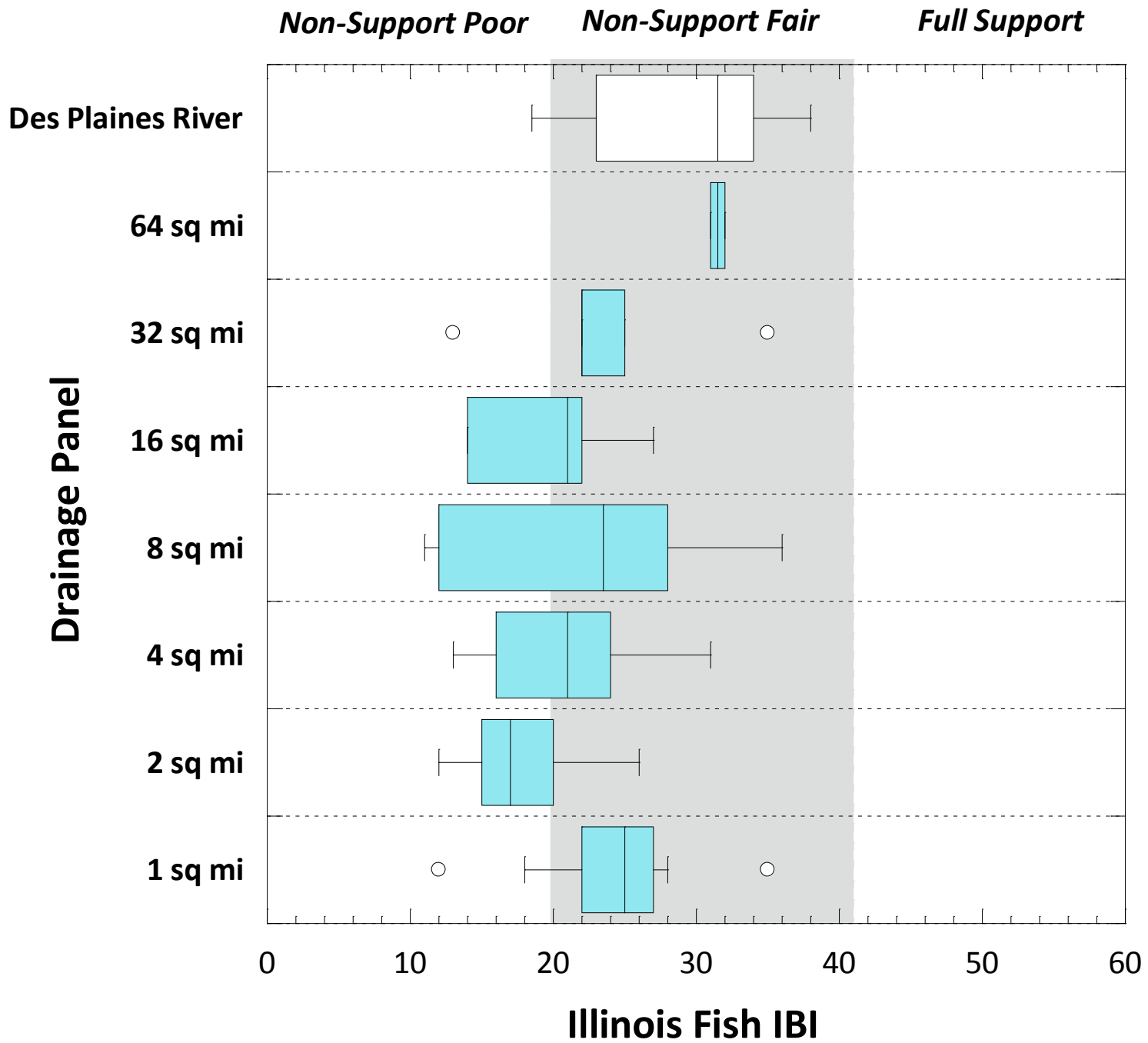
Prior IBI-score Range	Class	Description
51 - 60	A	Unique Aquatic Resource (Exceptional)
41 - 50	B	Highly Valued Aquatic Resource (Good)
31 - 40	C	Moderate Aquatic Resource (Fair)
21 - 30	D	Limited Aquatic Resource (Poor)
< 21	E	Restricted Aquatic Resource (Very Poor)

**IL General Use Attainment Threshold**

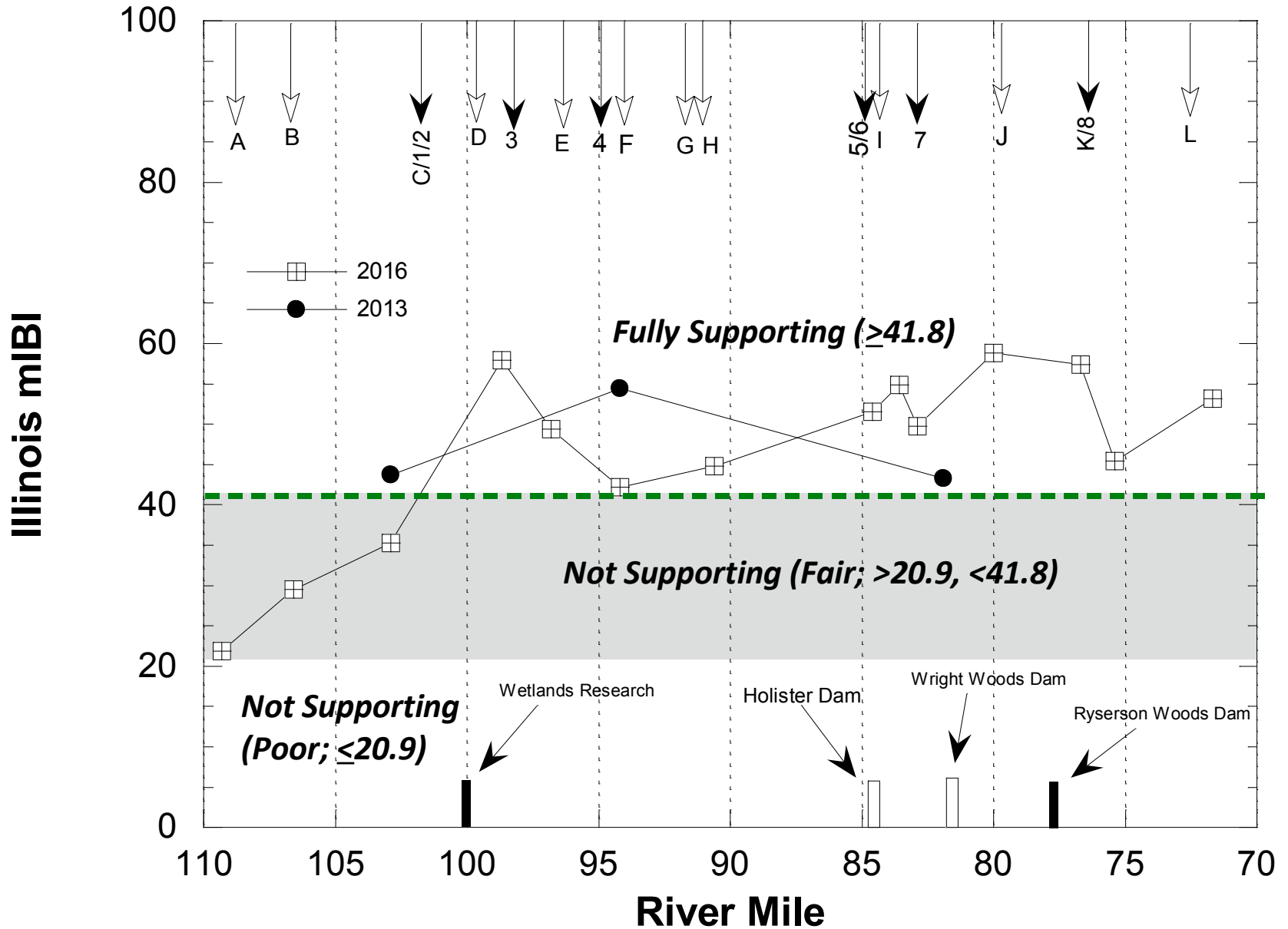


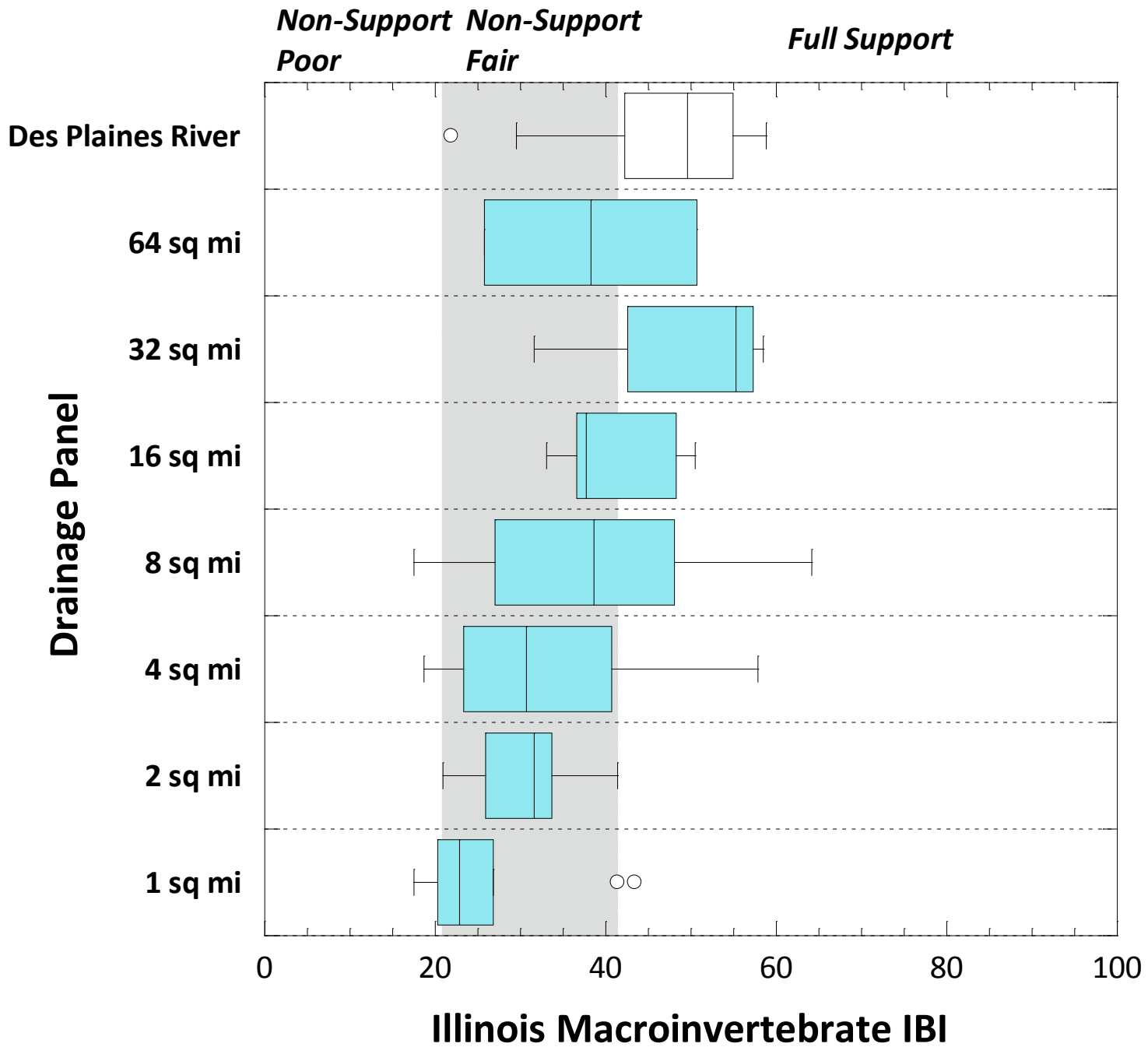


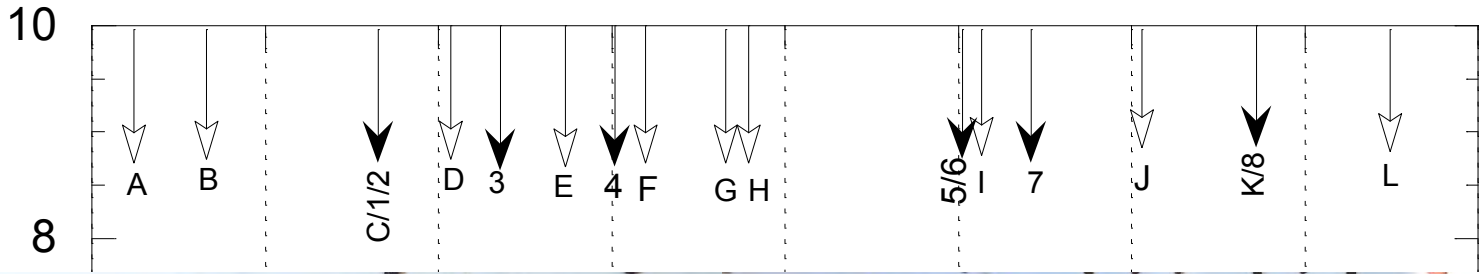




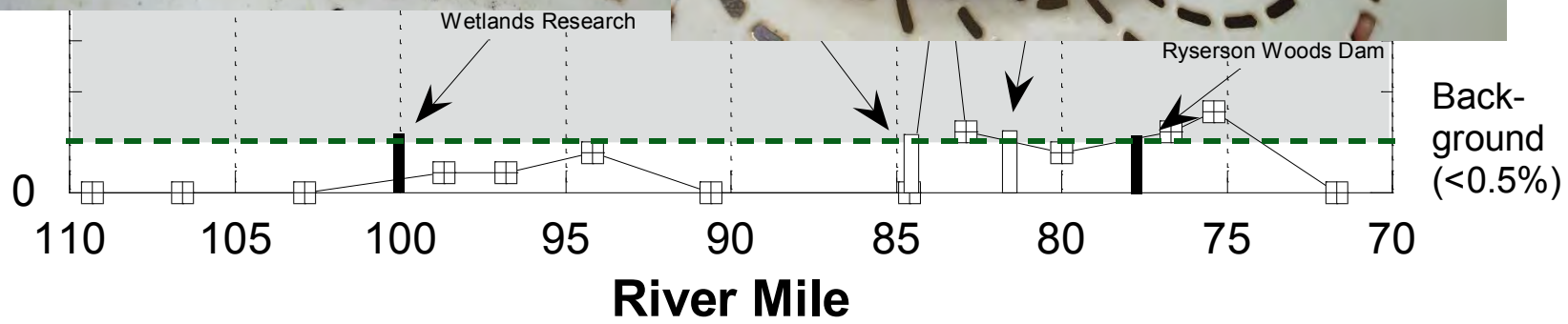
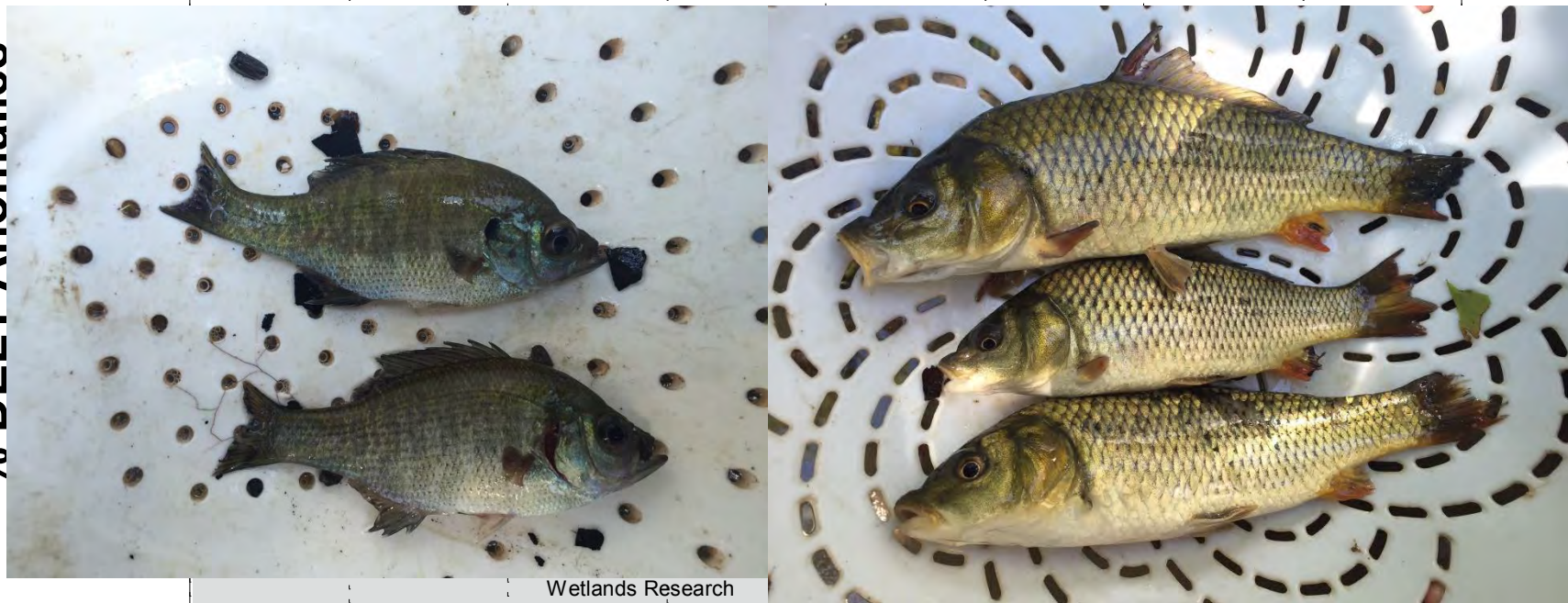
# Des Plaines River







**% DELT Anomalies**



# Biological Attributes & “Signatures”

DRWW Site ID	River Mile	Drainage Area (mi <sup>2</sup> .)	Fish Assemblage							Macroinvertebrate Assemblage								
			fIBI	MIwb	Native Sp.	%DELT Anomalies	Intol. Sp.	%Mineral Spawners	%Tolerant	mIBI	Total Taxa	Intol. Taxa	%Tolerants	EPT Taxa	% EPTs	MBI	%Toxic Tolerant	% Org. Enrich. Taxa
<i>Des Plaines River</i>																		
13-6	109.30	123.67	22	5.86	11	0	1	3.45	36.36	21.92	16	0	0.794	2	3.17	5.3	0	0.6
13-5	106.60	137.29	24	7.65	11	0	1	2.74	18.18	29.53	20	1	1.379	4	11.03	5.3	0.7	16.2
13-4	102.90	145.55	23	7.78	12	0	1	6.67	41.67	35.3	17	1	0.794	3	49.21	5.4	0	2.9
13-3	98.70	220.29	33	9.74	23	0.2	2	9.49	26.09	57.86	34	3	7.958	7	22.82	5.4	3	4.8
13-2	96.82	225.36	31	9.15	19	0.21	2	11.78	26.32	49.39	34	4	6.571	4	4.49	5.7	9	8.3
13-1	94.20	232.03	32	9.41	20	0.37	1	15.38	30	42.19	25	2	5.786	7	8.01	4.7	0.3	11.9
13-16	90.60	253.75	28	6.91	12	0	1	55.88	41.67	44.77	23	5	10.093	5	16.15	5.1	5.9	5.3
16-7	84.60	266.48	35	9.25	24	0	3	9.97	25	51.61	32	5	2.824	8	7.31	4.8	4.7	11
16-5	83.60	268.07	19	7.13	11	2.56	0	15.38	36.36	54.92	31.5	4	4.57	6.5	29.45	4.9	0.8	11.1
16-8	82.90	268.9	33	9.12	22	0.60	2	14.33	27.27	49.75	36	5	9.627	8	8.7	5.7	0.6	19.3
16-4	80.00	273.21	34	8.64	18	0.36	2	15.11	27.78	58.79	28	6	2.027	9	47.3	5.0	0	6.8
16-3	76.70	314.68	18.5	4.87	10	0.58	1	5.06	13.16	57.42	32	5	2.93	11	26.95	3.4	0	4.7
16-2	75.40	323.96	36	8.78	22	0.83	3	19.05	27.27	45.37	21	3	1.104	5	38.17	4.4	0.3	15.1
16-1	71.70	358.68	38	8.53	20	0	3	43.68	30	53.15	28	6	2.694	7	38.05	5.1	0.3	16.2
<i>Bull Creek</i>																		
14-6	5.95	2.42	12	na	1	0	0	0	0	22.09	12	0	19.544	0	0	6.4	0	10.7
14-5	4.70	1.32	25	na	4	0	0	0	50	17.45	24	1	22.484	0	0	7.4	5	60.1
14-2	1.00	8.44	28	na	8	0	0	31.51	37.5	35.31	18	2	6.832	1	0.31	5.9	0.3	14.9
14-1	0.50	11.69	36	na	21	0	2	20.61	28.57	62.89	39	4	9.241	5	5.94	5.8	1	14.2
<i>Seavey Drainage Ditch</i>																		
15-3	3.66	5.05	15	na	5	0	0	0	40	25.99	24	1	16.667	1	0.65	6.5	0.3	40.5
15-8	0.45	9.77	24	na	12	0	1	0.73	50	25.74	23	1	21.838	0.5	0.17	7.3	0	50.5
<i>Aptaksic Creek</i>																		
18-4	4.70	1.09	27	na	5	0	0	0	60	18.46	13	0	12.541	0	0	6.1	0	16.6
18-3	4.30	2.3	17	na	7	1.49	0	0	71.43	25.61	23	1	8.766	0	0	6.0	8.1	19.8
18-2	0.80	4.94	26	na	18	0.49	1	0.74	33.33	30.74	27	2	13.934	3	6.23	6.3	7.9	19.3
18-1	0.50	5.5	24	na	12	1.14	1	1.71	33.33	22.97	22	2	14.047	0	0	6.9	47.8	33.8

**Table 1.** Aquatic life use attainment status in the 2016 Upper Des Plaines River watershed study area with associated causes and sources of impairment listed for partial and non-supporting sites determined by this study and by IEPA (2016) for matching sites (see footnote for fIBI and mIBI use support thresholds). fIBI, MIwb, and mIBI values that do not meet the threshold are asterisked (\*) and poor values are underlined. The most limiting assemblage for partial support is indicated by a F (fish) or M (macroinvertebrates).

DRWW Site ID	River Mile	Drainage Area (mi. <sup>2</sup> )	fIBI	MIwb <sup>1</sup>	mIBI	QHEI	Attainment Status <sup>2</sup>	MBI Causes	MBI Sources	IEPA Causes
<b>Des Plaines River</b>										
13-6	109.30	123.7	22*	<u>5.9*</u>	21.2*	51.0	Non - Fair	Siltation; Org. Enrich.; Nutrients; Chlorides	Urban runoff	D.O., TSS,
13-4	102.90	145.6	23*	7.8 <sup>ns</sup>	32.3*	48.5	Non - Fair	Siltation; Org. Enrich.; Chlorides	Urban runoff	D.O., Siltation, TSS
13-3	98.70	220.3	33*	9.7	57.9	81.0	Partial (F) <sup>3</sup>	Org. Enrich; Siltation; Chlorides PAHs	WWTP, Urban runoff	NA <sup>4</sup>
13-2	96.82	225.4	31*	9.2	49.4	83.0	Partial (F)	Siltation; Chlorides	WWTP, Urban runoff	NA
13-1	94.20	232.0	32*	9.4	42.2	80.8	Partial (F)	Org. Enrich; Nutrient; Siltation; Chlorides	WWTP, Urban runoff	NA
13-16	90.60	253.8	28*	6.9*	44.8	74.8	Partial (F)	Org. Enrich; Nutrients; Siltation; Chlorides	WWTP, Urban runoff	Arsenic, Chloride, TP

Finding Biological impairments is a first step in impaired waters listings. A “lines-of-evidence” approach is used to assign causes & sources.

**Table 2.** *E. coli* values (cfu/100 ml) for samples collected in the Upper Des Plaines study area during May-October 2016. Yellow shaded values exceed the recommended U.S. EPA (2012) recreation use criteria.

DRWW Site ID	Basin Code	Stream Code	River Mile	N	Minimum (cfu/100 mL)	Geometric Mean (cfu/100 mL)	Maximum (cfu/100 mL)
<b>Des Plaines River</b>							
13-6	95	656	109.3	6	27.2	92.6	387
13-5	95	656	106.6	5	6.3	49.9	131
13-4	95	656	102.9	6	42.2	111.6	548
13-3	95	656	98.7	5	65.7	214.4	1050
13-2	95	656	96.82	6	1	106.1	816
13-1	95	656	94.2	6	88.4	147.1	219
16-5	95	656	87.1	6	81.6	126.8	325
16-4	95	656	80	6	64.4	145.8	228
16-3	95	656	76.7	6	65.1	138.3	411
16-2	95	656	73.3	6	3.2	106.1	308
16-1	95	656	71.7	6	2	49.9	387
<b>Hastings Creek</b>							
10-5	95	702	3.12	5	3.1	106.2	921
10-4	95	702	1.68	5	179	390.9	980
<b>North Mill Creek</b>							
10-3	95	996	10.2	5	1	115.3	816
10-2	95	996	8.1	6	98.5	374.2	1050
10-1	95	996	1.1	6	1	150	866
<b>Mill Creek</b>							
11-6	95	995	17.2	6	435	656.3	921
11-5	95	995	13.8	6	1	50.8	201
11-4	95	995	10.1	6	115	189.7	345
11-3	95	995	7.2	5	1	74.5	488

Is *E. coli* a sufficiently reliable indicator of risks to human health?



**Priority Rankings based on Estimated  
Restorability for Stream Segments in  
the DuPage-Salt Creek Watersheds**

Midwest Biodiversity Institute  
Center for Applied Bioassessment & Biocriteria

P.O. Box 21561

Columbus, OH 43221-0561

Center for Applied Bioassessment & Biocriteria

[mbi@mwbinst.com](mailto:mbi@mwbinst.com)

# An Integrated Prioritization System (IPS) was developed for DRSCWG in 2009-10.



## Integrated Analyses

- Analyzed 2006-7 database for stress:response patterns & thresholds.
- Used a series of analytical techniques to extract relationships.
- Nine "categorical" stressors were identified – some are representative of multiple effects.
- Revising in 2017-18 with expanded regional data.
- Incorporation of better visualization tools.

# Statistically Demonstrated Stressor Indicators

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>mIBI</b>	<b>fIBI</b>
– Riparian Score	5	Continuous
– Riffle Score	4	3
– Channel Score	Continuous	10
– Substrate Score	9	Continuous
– Pool Score	7	7
– Chloride	141 mg/l	112 mg/l
– TKN	Continuous	1.0 mg/l
– BOD <sub>5</sub>	Continuous	Continuous
– NH <sub>3</sub> N	Continuous	0.15 mg/l

## Kress Creek - WB02

### Recommended Projects and Impairments:

#### Proximate stressors contributing to restoration score

- Ammonia-nitrogen, riffle, substrate, channel

#### Project Description

- Stormwater Treatment; Habiata Restoration

#### Confidence

- High

#### Project Objective

- increase assimilative capacity, reduce organic load

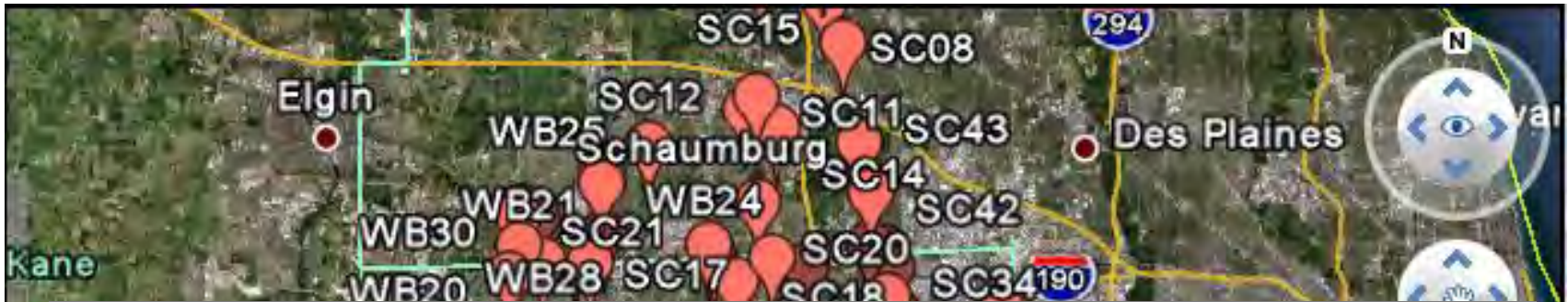
#### Long-term Goal

- General aquatic life use (MIBI=Good; FIBI=Good)

Imagery Date: 6/30/2010

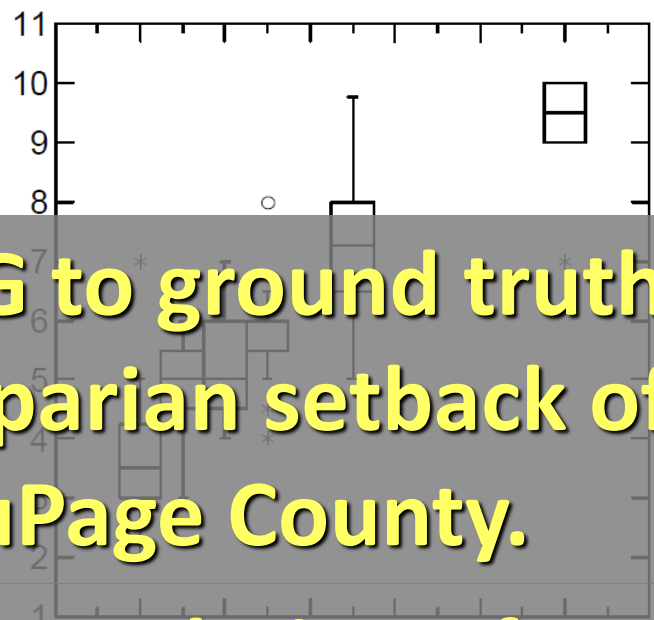
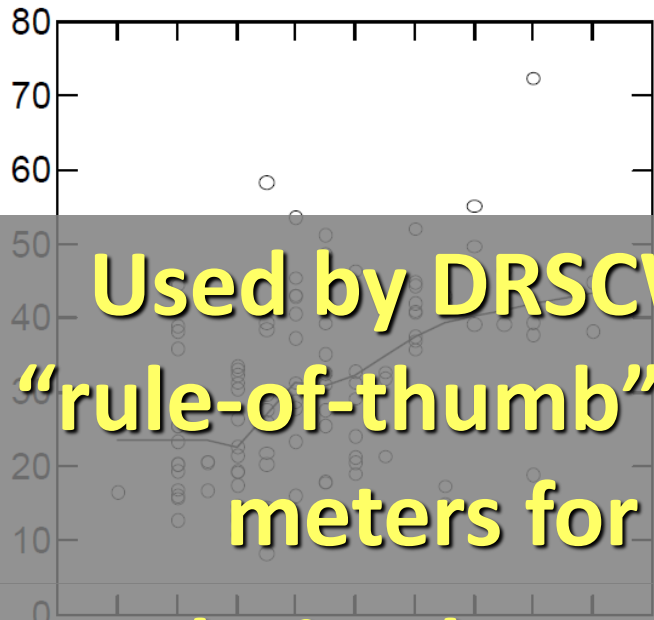
41°52'58.18" N 83°19'43.00" W elev 0 ft

Eye alt 36.17 mi



Google Earth based display at:  
<http://www.drscw.org/ge>





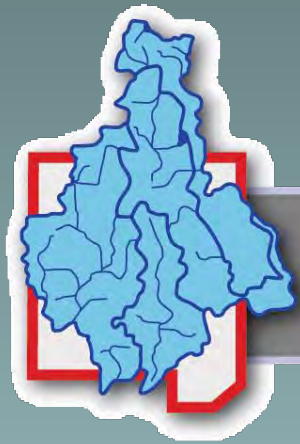
**Used by DRSCWG to ground truth “rule-of-thumb” riparian setback of 5 meters for DuPage County.**

**IPS derived recommendation of 30 m as minimum riparian width (gain of 6.5 mIBI points for every 5 m >25 m).**

**What range of widths corresponds to the MIBI threshold?**

Assumptions: A double checking of the “wide” riparian width option on the QHEI field form was assigned a riparian width of 50 meters; a split checking of “wide” and “moderate” was assigned a width of 25 m; moderate and narrow were assigned 15 m, and so on. After widths were assigned based on inspecting which width choices were checked, the riparian scores were plotted (as box plots) by the width category to determine how the two corresponded. The resulting plot suggests that a width of 25 m is needed on both sides (part of the assumption of how I binned the widths) to confidently be on the positive side of the IPS threshold (i.e., a riparian score greater than 5).

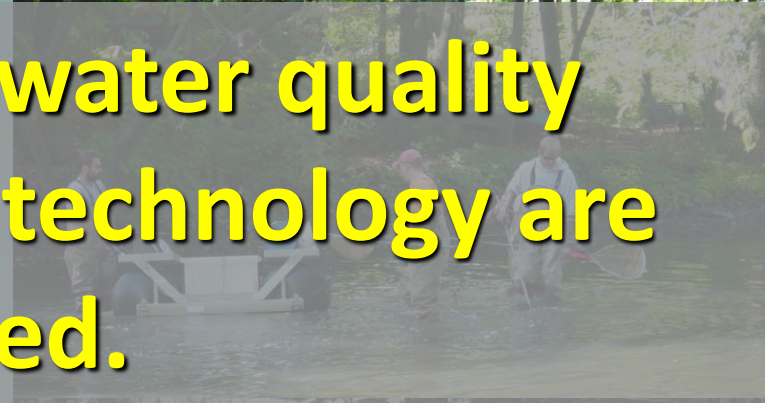
**What are the advantages of pushing the buffer beyond the threshold?**



DRSCW

**An example of where water quality criteria based on 1970s technology are now outdated.**

Stephen McCracken, DRSCW  
Fresh Water Society Road Salt Symposium  
2.3. 2012



# MSDGC Integrated Prioritization System (IPS)



## MSDGC IPS Dashboard

Developed in 2015 and benefiting from the DRSCWG IPS experience.

Start Exploring Data

Site ID	River Mile	WQ	WQ	WQ	Habitat Axis	Channel Status
0013	58.05	5.5	5.5	5.5	4.2	1.0
0014	56.86	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.7	1.0
0015	54.12	5.5	5.5	5.5	3.9	1.0
0016	33.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.7	1.0
0017	62.88	5.5	5.5	5.5	3.7	1.0
0018	52.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.9	1.0
0019	29.98	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.9	1.0
0020	28.15	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.9	1.0
0021	26.0	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.9	1.0

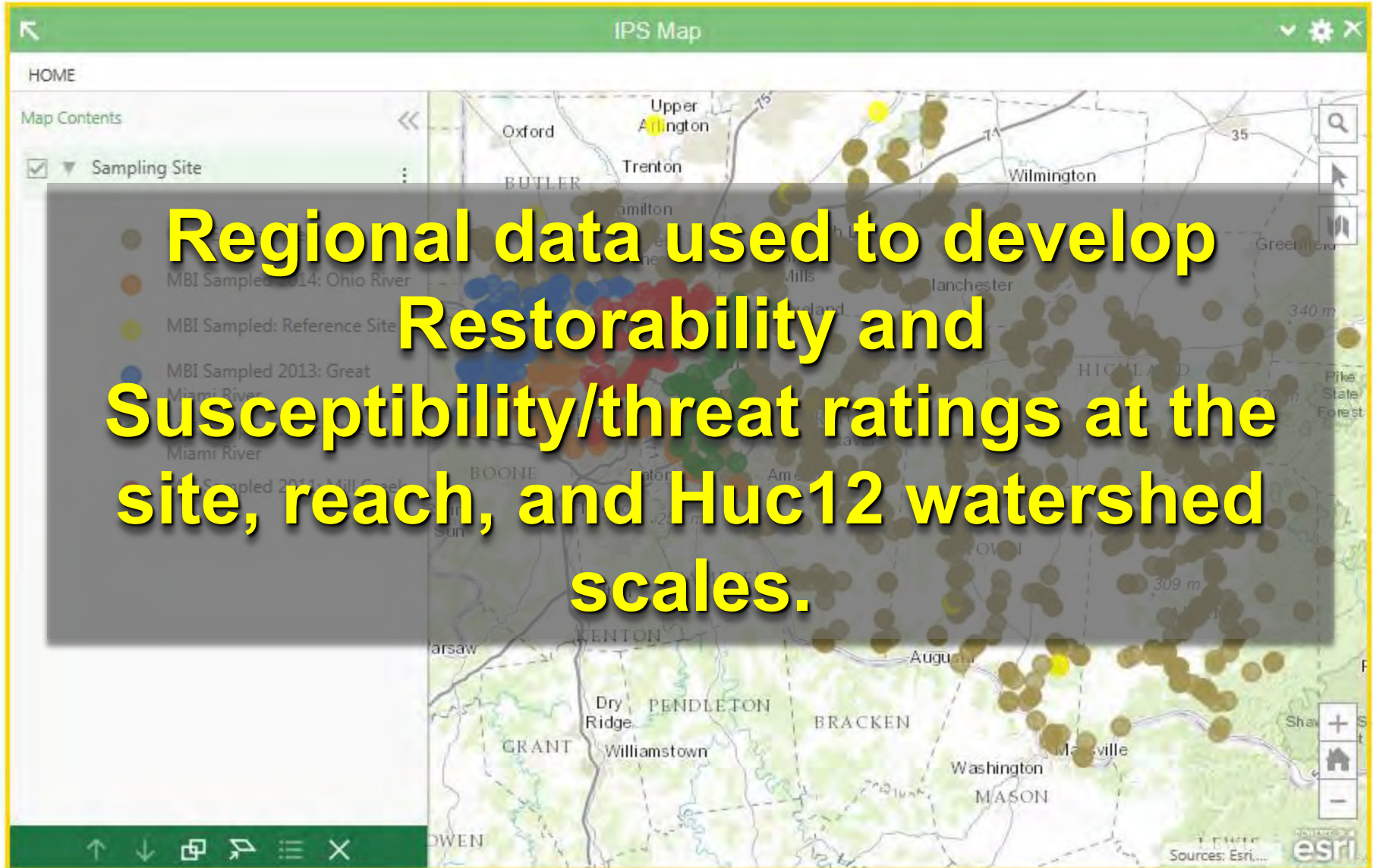


# What is the IPS?

- Allows user to **visualize and rank** aquatic life use aspects of CWA water quality issues:
  - Identifies designated aquatic life uses (goals) for streams and rivers.
  - Identifies aquatic life impaired reaches including severity and extent.
  - Identifies probable causes of impairment.
  - Standardized approach to viewing data linked to attainment of aquatic life uses.
  - Sites, reaches, and watersheds ranked by **Restorability** (for impaired waters) and Susceptibility & Threat (for attaining waters).

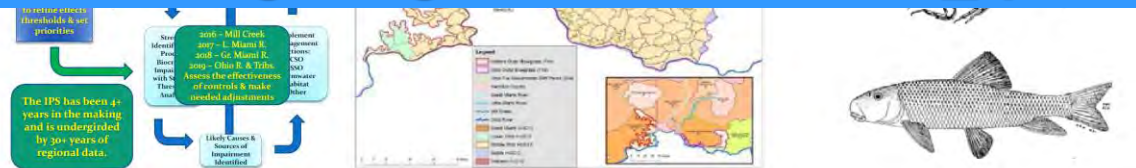


# Data Used in the MSDGC IPS

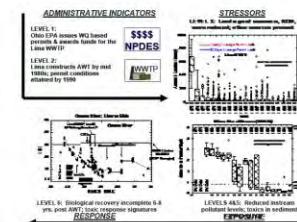
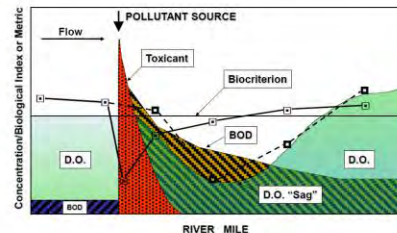
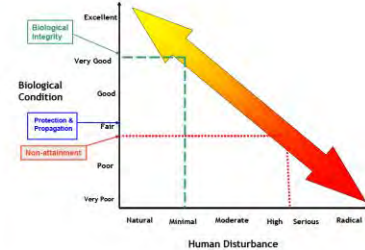
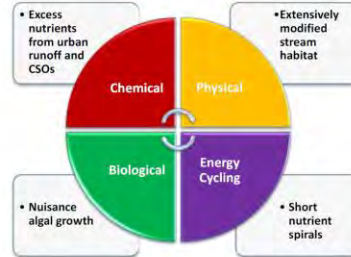
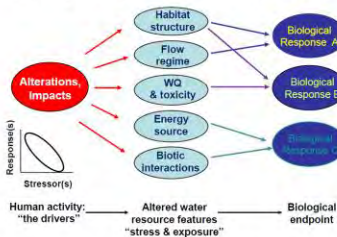


# Integrated Prioritization System (IPS) Documentation and Atlas of Biological Stressor Relationships for Southwest Ohio

[http://www.msdbg.org/initiatives/water\\_quality/index.html](http://www.msdbg.org/initiatives/water_quality/index.html)



## Linking Biological Responses to Stressors

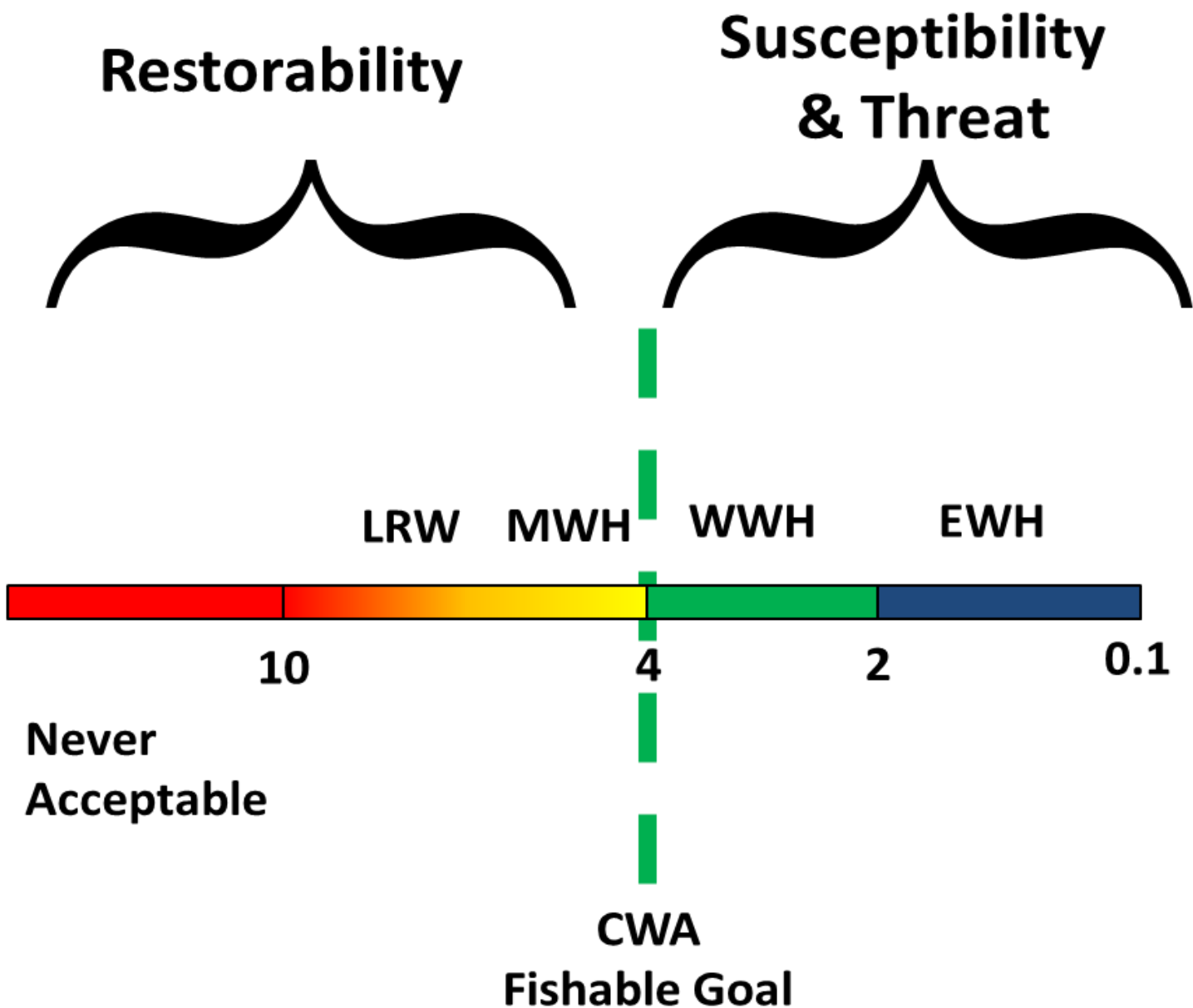


# Stressor and Response Variables are Normalized to the Same Scale

Stressor Rank Guide		
Narrative Description	Aquatic Life Use Equivalent	Numeric Range
Excellent	Exceptional Warmwater Habitat (EWH)	0-2
Good	Warmwater Habitat (WWH)	2-4
Fair	Modified Warmwater Habitat (MWH)	4-6
Poor	Limited Resource Water (LRW)	6-8
Very Poor	Never Acceptable	8-10

# Principal IPS Outputs

Indivi
Response
Narrative
Scale/Aq
Use
Excellent
Good
Fair
Poor
Very Poor



threat
threat
w 0-50
gh 51-100
<i>threat red to s.</i>

# NE Illinois IPS Data

**DRSCWG IPS re-development includes DRSCWG, DRWW, and IEPA regional databases which will expand the stressor and response gradients in 2017-18 across NE Illinois.**

