



To: Director Natalie Phelps-Finnie
From: Captain Joshua Mooi #509
Date: 05/06/2026
Subject: Conditions on the Fox River

Northeast Zone Commander Joshua Mooi, Joe Keller of the Fox Waterway Agency, Lockmaster Joe Farej, and regional law enforcement and emergency management partners advise that water levels on the Fox River have receded and are projected to recede further over the coming days to near normal levels...

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has authorization to designate Restricted Boating Areas when navigation is significantly dangerous, as well as rescind such closures when it is safe to do so.

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. Recision 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 the remaining Restricted Boating Area be lifted on the Fox River from the Stratton Lock and Dam in McHenry County, south to the Bridge Street Bridge in Millington, Kendall County, allowing for non-emergency boating traffic to resume effective at 12:00 pm on 05/07/2026. If you approve, please sign below and the Office of Law Enforcement will coordinate the cancellation of the Restricted Boating Area designation with the United States Coast Guard and local authorities.

Approved By Director Natalie Phelps-Finnie

05/06/2026

Date