

**ILLINOIS
STATE REPORT
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Fish and Wildlife Highlights

Illinois Asian Carp Actions in Northeastern Illinois

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), as a major partner in the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, continues to work above and below the Corps of Engineers' electric barrier to monitor and prevent the upstream migration of Asian carp on the Illinois River and in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS). No Bighead or Silver Carp have been collected or seen on the Lake Michigan side of the electric barrier since efforts were heightened in 2010. Some highlights (as of May 2017) from our coordinated Asian carp efforts are as follows:

- A total of 85,710 Bighead Carp, 474,264 Silver Carp, and 3,226 Grass Carp were removed by contracted netting. The total weight of Asian carp removed was over 5.1 million pounds. Over 1,803 miles of gill/trammel nets, 15 miles of commercial seine, 88 pound-net nights, and 1,354 hoop net-nights have been fished since 2010.
- Removal efforts have contributed to maintain an overall 68% decline in relative biomass from 2012-2016 within Dresden Island Pool, the upstream limits of Asian carp in the Illinois Waterway.
- A new technique (Chinese Unified Method) to increase efficiency within a given lake/waterbody was deployed during 2016 and 2017 with nearly 1750,000 lbs of Asian carp removed in these efforts alone. Contracted removal efforts throughout 2017 will utilize findings from these efforts.
- Coordination between IDNR and other local, state, and federal partners on this issue remains high.
- Recent model results suggest heightened removal, both in the upper Illinois Waterway from contracted efforts and intensified commercial efforts in the lower Illinois and Mississippi rivers may further aid in prevention of spread and local negative impacts to native species.
- For further details regarding ongoing efforts: www.asiancarp.us

Illinois Alligator Gar Reintroduction Program

Alligator Gar (*Atractosteus spatula*) populations have been declining within their historic range for at least the past 50 years, and are considered to be extirpated from much of the northern reaches (Nature Serve 2015). Declines have been attributed to several factors, most notably over-exploitation and loss of important backwater spawning habitats from the construction of levees and lock-and-dams beginning in the early 1900s. While no single factor can be identified as the

definitive cause for the decline, it is likely that a combination of these factors over time resulted in the extirpation of the Alligator Gar from Illinois.

The Alligator Gar was not regulated or protected in Illinois prior to 1977. From 1977 to 1994, the species was listed as a state-threatened fish under the Illinois Threatened and Endangered Species Act. In 1994, the Alligator Gar was delisted and considered to be extirpated.

Illinois is now conducting efforts and activities necessary to successfully re-establish and extensively manage Alligator Gar populations in Illinois. As we move forward those efforts will be documented through annual progress and achievement reports for each management objective detailed in the Reintroduction Plan. Our plan is considered to be an evolving document and will be used as an adaptive management tool by Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fisheries.

Community Outreach and Resource Enhancement (formerly Urban Fishing) Program

The Community Outreach and Resource Enhancement Program (CORE), with only 3 full time coordinators and 20 summer fishing clinic instructors conducted 951 summer fishing programs with 18,932 participants and 268 aquatic education (non-fishing) events with 36,243 in attendance. Most of the participants were young anglers and students. In addition, the 142 "Access to Fishing" loaner sites throughout the state loaned out fishing equipment 13,752 times. In total the Urban Fishing Program, with three full-time coordinators, 20 summer interns and their volunteer network, held or sponsored a total of 1,771 fishing and non-fishing programs for nearly 90,285 participants in 2016.

Lake Michigan Program

Recreational anglers expended 408,697 angler-hours to harvest 11,232 yellow perch and 90,343 trout and salmon from the Illinois waters of Lake Michigan last year. The sport fishery remains stable; estimates of fishing effort decreased by 4%, salmon and trout harvest decreased by 3% and yellow perch harvest increased by 36% compared to the previous year. While yellow perch harvest improved last year it remained near historic lows for the spring-summer season (March-September). However, estimated yellow perch harvest during the fall-winter period (October-February) was relatively high last year (39,225 perch).

IDNR Fish Hatchery System Report

The IDNR operates three state hatcheries: Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery, Little Grassy Fish Hatchery and the LaSalle Fish Hatchery. The hatchery section's mission is to maintain, restore, establish, or sustain sport fish populations in lakes, rivers and Lake Michigan in order to diversify sport fishing opportunities through supplemental production and stocking of hatchery reared fish. Fishing continues as one of the most popular outdoor activities in Illinois and direct spending by anglers in 2011 was nearly one billion dollars, which generated approximately three billion to the State's economy.

Fish produced by the hatchery system are utilized in three types of stockings. They are the stocking of newly impounded or chemically rehabilitated public waters, supplemental stocking of existing fish populations with poor recruitment, and the establishment and maintenance of sport fisheries in existing waters.

In FY16, the system produced and stocked into state and public waters a total of 20,993,234 fish, including black crappie, bluegill, blue catfish, brown trout, channel catfish, coho

salmon, Chinook salmon, largemouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike, rainbow trout, redear sunfish, sauger, striped bass, striped bass hybrids, smallmouth bass, steelhead trout, walleye, and walleye-sauger hybrids.

Chicago Area Waterway Habitat Improvement Project

Friends of the Chicago River (Friends), in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) received a \$105,003 grant from the Chi Cal Rivers fund to plant native emergent aquatic vegetation in the North Shore Channel and the North Branch of the Chicago River as habitat for fish and other aquatic species. The project involves the planting of 2,000 Water Willow and 2,500 Lizard's Tail starts at locations upstream of Oakton Avenue. During April, planting sites were identified for each species and detailed project plans were discussed. IDNR will employ several large boats for plant transport and have all Region II staff on deck to assist, along with Friends staff and a host of volunteers. The plantings are scheduled for June and July 2017. Once established, the plants will create stands of high-quality habitat for aquatic organisms, protect the shoreline from bank erosion, create shelter for aquatic life during floods, and improve the aesthetics of the channel for recreational users. The selected plant species are particularly appropriate for the unique conditions of the Chicago River. As part of the project the IDNR stocked Northern Pike in 2016, a fish species often associated with aquatic vegetation.

The Kankakee River Walleye Enhancement Program

The Kankakee River walleye program entered its 17th year with collection of brood fish at Wilmington and Kankakee. A total of 38 brood fish from the Kankakee River were sent to the LaSalle Hatchery where over 1 million eggs were fertilized. Fry were placed in rearing ponds and will and will be stocked into the river in May and June, as 2-inch fingerlings. The number of fingerlings placed throughout the Kankakee and Iroquois Rivers averages about 90.00 per year. Electrofishing catch rates were high again this year and many anglers reported having a very successful spring as well. Prior to the stocking program, walleye were in very low abundance.

Des Plaines River Sauger Stocking

IDNR Region II Streams Program released 33,840 fingerlings Sauger into the Upper Des Plaines River on Wednesday. Although there has been a successful stocking program downstream of the Riverside/Lyons area since 2000, this is the first release of Sauger in the upper Des Plaines River. During the past several years, nine of the eleven dams on the Des Plaines River have been removed by IDNR, Army Corps of Engineers, Cook County Forest Preserve and Lake County Forest Preserve. These removals have created many additional miles of natural, free-flowing riverine habitat, allowing for expansion of the stocking program. The recently released Sauger were raised at IDNR's LaSalle Fish Hatchery and were released at Irving Park Road and upstream of the former site of Dam #2. The Des Plaines was once a highly degraded urban stream. Thanks to the Clean Water Act and the cooperation of State, Federal, and Local entities, the river has become the focus of restoration efforts and a great recreational resource for Illinois' urban residents.

Dam Removal Update

In the past 14 years, 30 dam projects have been completed in northeastern Illinois, including 27 removals and three fish passage projects. Fishery evaluations have been completed on a number of these projects and have clearly established the benefits of dam removals. Many miles of stream habitat have been reconnected and fish have rapidly recolonized areas where they were previously absent due to dams. Through the IDNR Statewide Dam Removal Initiative, three additional dams on the Des Plaines River were in the past two years. The two dam remaining on the Upper Des Plaines River are also slated for removal, which would reestablish over 100 miles of free-flowing river, a Nationally significant accomplishment. Another dam removal on the Skokie River was completed in late 2016. Two dams on the Fox River are in the early stages of study. The Army Corps of Engineers and the IDNR have an ongoing feasibility study for remaining dams on the Fox River as part of the Section 519 Ecosystem Restoration Program. Most of the dam removal effort, including three on the Chicago River, are on hold due to lack of State Budget.

2016-17 Deer Season Harvest

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 144,303 deer during the 2016-17 seasons, including all methods and special hunts. Male to female sex ratio was 55:45 (45% antlered; 55% antlerless) in the total harvest. There were 3 fewer late-winter season (antlerless-only) counties open compared to last year. The prior year's harvest was 155,229 (54:46 male to female ratio), and the Illinois record harvest of 201,209 occurred in 2005-06.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

The number of white-tailed deer identified as being infected with CWD in Illinois was 75 during 2016-17, which is slightly above the number of cases found in 2015-16. More than 7,800 deer samples were submitted for testing statewide. CWD was found in Carroll County for the first time this year bringing the total number of counties with CWD to 17. Hunter-harvested deer accounted for 43 positives, while deer taken by IDNR sharpshooters accounted for 24 positives. The cumulative number of CWD cases in Illinois is 685, with 68% of those found in the original four counties: Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, and DeKalb.

Urban Deer Population Control

A total of 40 Deer Population Control Permits (DPCPs), not including permit extensions for additional time and/or deer, were issued to 11 natural resource management agencies, municipalities, arboretums/botanic gardens, federal research facilities, and homeowner associations in seven northern Illinois counties during winter 2016-2017. Permittees were authorized to remove 1,342 white-tailed deer via sharpshooting; 1,105 (82%) deer were actually collected over the five-month period (November 2016-March 2017). All usable deer carcasses were processed and donated to charity.

Deer Removal Permits (DRPs)

A total of 160 Deer Removal Permits (DRPs) were issued in 48 counties in 2016, compared to 179 permits in 48 counties the previous year. Only one permit authorized hazing of deer only; 159 DRPs authorized the lethal removal of 1,225 deer. These permits resulted in the collection of 615 animals (50.2%). Excessive deer damage to corn and soybeans accounted for 62.5% of the DRPs issued during 2016. Approximately 21% of the 2016 DRPs were issued due

to concerns about deer on airport runways/taxiways. Permits were also issued for deer-related damage to specialty/truck crops (sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, cantaloupes, strawberries, peas, pumpkins, flowers, etc.), nursery stock, and fruit trees/orchards. As usual, DRP issuance peaked in June and July with 63% of the permits issued for these months.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)

A low to moderate number of EHD reports was received in 2016; 97 reports involving 194 deer located in 33 counties. Notable mortality events were reported in Fulton County (50 deer) in west central Illinois and in Lake (34 deer) and Cook (27 deer) counties in northeastern Illinois. Low level reports (less than 10 cases) were received from counties scattered throughout the southern two-thirds of the state. EHD reporting levels in 2016 approximated 2015 levels (206 suspected cases from 37 counties). EHD was very low in 2014 (13 suspected cases from 10 counties). EHD activity was also low from 2008-2011 averaging 52 dead deer reported each year. Significant outbreaks occurred in 2012 (2968 dead deer from 87 counties), 2013 (1224 dead deer from 64 counties), and 2007 (1,966 dead deer from 54 counties).

2017 Spring Turkey Harvest

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 15,719 wild turkeys during the 2017 spring turkey season, including the youth season, compared with a total harvest of 15,484 in 2016. The state-record harvest of 16,605 turkeys was set during the spring of 2006. Youth turkey hunters harvested a preliminary record total of 1,541 birds during the 2017 Illinois Youth Turkey Season. This was the first year two youth turkey hunting weekends were open for the entire state rather than one weekend dedicated for the north zone and one for the south. Last year's youth season harvest total was 1,045 and the previous record was set in 2012 with 1,300. The number of Illinois counties open to spring turkey hunting remained at 100 of the 102 counties statewide.

2016 Waterfowl Season

Habitat conditions varied across the state in 2016, from quite good to quite poor. Unpredictable growing season weather continues to complicate waterfowl management in many of Illinois' most important waterfowl regions. Poor habitat attracts fewer waterfowl to the state which may reduce hunter success and effort. Additionally, mild weather throughout much of the fall seemed to delay migration of mallards, Illinois' most harvested duck, reducing early and mid-season harvest in some locations, although freeze-up dates were near average. Despite these factors, duck abundance along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers were greater in 2016 than 2015. Duck numbers peaked along the Illinois 14 November, but were 37% below the 5-year average. Duck numbers along the Mississippi peaked 12 December, 54% above the 5-year average, and the 10th highest peak since record keeping began in 1948. Aerial surveys indicated duck numbers peaked in late December in northeast and southern Illinois, with numbers declining after many wetlands froze. Freezing temperatures pushed Canada geese into northern and central Illinois in late December. Goose counts in northeast and west-central Illinois confirmed this, indicating good numbers of geese present in these parts of the state from mid-December through mid-January.

2015-16 Upland Harvest

The 2015-16 survey estimated that 13,955 hunters shot 24,765 wild pheasants in Illinois, compared to the 2014-15 totals of 15,549 hunters and 41,316 wild birds. The average number of pheasants per hunter/day decreased 8%. The 2015-16 quail survey estimated that 7,655 hunters

shot 29,089 wild quail compared to 11,328 hunters and 54,199 quail in the 2014-15 survey. The number of quail per hunter/day was down 38%. Estimates from 2015-16 indicate that 35,183 hunters (down 14.8%) harvested 745,902 doves (harvest essentially unchanged from 2014-15). The number of birds per hunter/day was up 16.7% for mourning doves. The number of rabbit hunters in 2015-16 (23,586) was down 47.9% from the previous year and they harvested 113,999 rabbits (down 15.7%). Despite the decrease in participation, the number of rabbits per hunter/day increased 10%.

Agency Highlights

Feral Swine

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (APHIS-WS) and IDNR have removed 460 feral swine in Illinois since 2009. The two known breeding populations of feral swine in Illinois have been eliminated with the removal of the last two boars (1 from each area) in 2015. Trapping (262 feral swine removed), shooting (146 feral swine removed, utilized for small groups and as a follow-up to trapping efforts), and aerial control (52 feral swine removed) are the methods utilized. APHIS-WS efforts are currently directed toward follow-up of citizen reports of feral swine; no additional populations have been confirmed. Legislation passed in 2014 allows the IDNR to regulate feral swine in Illinois; importation, possession, and commercial take of feral swine are prohibited. Feral swine hunting is limited to firearm deer seasons, and landowners are required to obtain a no-cost nuisance animal removal permit from the IDNR to remove feral swine from private property.

Bobcat Hunting

Illinois offered its first open season for bobcat since 1972. More than 6,400 people applied for 500 permits to take a bobcat by hunting, trapping, or salvage from roads. Successful applicants took 141 bobcats.

Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP)

Utilizing a grant from the USDA, the IDNR created the Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) so that outdoor enthusiasts have more places to go. In 2016, IRAP leased over 16,000 acres of private land in 41 counties, creating over 400 opportunities for spring turkey hunting and another 63 opportunities for archery deer hunting in the month of October. Hunting opportunities for squirrel, rabbit, quail, pheasant and waterfowl are also available through IRAP. Several sites are also available for pond and river bank fishing as well as hiking. IRAP had written habitat management plans on 79 properties, in cooperation with IDNR, USDA and SWCDs, on qualified leased private property. These plans are specifically written to provide a diverse habitat to improve Wildlife Action Plan targeted species. In 2016, IRAP completed more than 2,500 acres of nonnative invasive species control, 840 acres of timber stand improvement, 32 acres prairie prep/planting, and 515 acres of prescribed burning, and 24 miles of burn break.

Endangered Species

During 2016, the Department updated more than 1,714 element occurrence records of listed species, and issued 235 permits for scientific research, personal possession, educational programs, and zoological/botanical institutions.

To better understand range and status of listed species, IDNR actively surveyed species such as Illinois Chorus Frogs, Kirtland's Snake, Mudpuppy, Smooth Softshell Turtle, Timber Rattlesnake, Eastern Small-Footed Bat, Indian Bat, Eryngium Stem Borer, and Hine's Emerald Dragonfly.

The Department focused recovery efforts on the following species: Alligator Snapping Turtle, Blanding's Turtle, Eastern Massassauga Rattlesnake, Jefferson and Silvery Salamanders, Barn Owl, Osprey, Greater Prairie Chicken, Chuck-will's-widow, Clubshell Mussel, Northern Riffleshell Mussel, and Eryngium Stem Borer.

Conservation guidance was finalized for King Rail, Blanding's Turtle, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Illinois Chorus Frog. Guidance drafts are being reviewed for Black Sandshell Mussel, Clubshell Mussel, Regal Fritillary, Indiana Bat, Northern Long-Eared Bat, Southeastern Bat, and Iowa Darter.

Illinois Habitat Team

The Illinois Habitat Team Program provides technical assistance, seed, plants, equipment and labor for wildlife habitat establishment and improvement on state Pheasant Habitat Areas, Habitat Areas and private lands. In 2016, the team reported the following accomplishments: seeded 492 acres of native grasses and forbs, 17 acres of fire breaks, sprayed 351 acres for site preparation, weed and invasive plant control, mowed 440 acres for weed control, fire break maintenance and seed bed preparation, treated 495 acres for woody encroachment and conducted prescribed burns on 504 grassland acres.

Natural Areas Stewardship

Natural Areas Stewardship activities target the maintenance and improvement of high quality natural communities or the management of habitat to benefit Endangered or Threatened species. In 2016, Natural Heritage staff conducted 169 prescribed burns on over 12,100 acres. Burns conducted improved the quality of 25 natural communities such as Loess Hill Prairie, Dry-mesic Prairie, Mesic Upland Forest, Limestone Glade, and Southern Flatwoods. The burns also improved fire-dependent habitat for occurrences of 109 listed species such as Prairie Rose Gentian, Royal Catchfly, Buffalo Clover, Pale False Foxglove, Loggerhead Shrike, Barn Owl, Eryngium Stem Borer, Regal Fritillary Butterfly, and Ornate Box and Blanding's Turtles. In 2016, staff joined forces with Kentucky to implement a project funded through State Wildlife Grant that will improve habitat and monitor the population-level response of the Rattlesnake-master borer moth (Federal candidate species), and its host plant. These practices are just a few of the many activities carried out by the dedicated Natural Heritage Biologists, Natural Areas Preservation Specialists and volunteers working on identified natural areas throughout the state.

Incidental Take Authorizations

The IDNR has the authority to permit the take of listed species, if the taking is incidental to some otherwise legal action. Since 2001, the Department has 168 Incidental Take Authorizations either issued or pending. Examples of project types for which this permit is sought include transportation (river, road, and rail), utility corridors (power and pipeline), wind farms, mining, dam removals, and commercial development. Notably for 2016, the Department strived to apply a consistent standard for mitigation of potential impacts to imperiled species as required by statute. The Department defines adequate mitigation as bringing conservation

benefit to the species. Applicants are encouraged to provide support for on-the-ground efforts such as habitat acquisition and restoration; propagation, translocation, or species/habitat research to support recovery efforts; or outreach materials that provide land management and impact minimization recommendations for future applicants. Through this effort, the Department is experiencing an increase in partnerships between the agency and local land trusts, biological consultants, university researchers, and other conservation agencies to define timely and applicable mitigation strategies to support species.

Monarchs

In June 2016, the Department initiated a statewide survey to capture all of the diverse activities that were occurring for monarch butterfly conservation throughout Illinois. Approximately 250 organizations and individuals responded to the survey. The results were used to frame Illinois' Summit and identify active partners and gaps in sector participation. Illinois' first Summit was held on September 9, 2016 at the IDNR Headquarters in Springfield. Approximately 90 conservation partners from the sectors were represented. Sector-specific working sessions allowed each group to build upon existing partnerships and synergies, and identify additional partners that need to be involved. Since the Summit, more than 100 people have joined the list-serve for Illinois monarch updates. Sector leaders representing agriculture, conservation lands, urban, and rights of way met monthly to coordinate development of an Illinois monarch strategy.

Wildland Fire Programs

IDNR staff managed 119,206 acres in 276 units with prescribed fire during the last burn season. Eight introductory wildland firefighting classes were held for IDNR staff and volunteers. Eleven IDNR staff completed advanced wildland fire training classes at the Midwest Wildfire Training Academy. Fourteen G130 – 190 wildland fire classes were presented to the volunteer fire departments. A total of 70 fire departments were represented with 301 firefighters completing the classes. Through federal excess equipment programs, IDNR acquired approximately \$3,000,000 of surplus fire equipment, including fire engines, trucks, rescue boats, lighting standards, generators, tools and a variety of other items. IDNR provided a 20-person Type 2IA crew to assist in wildland firefighting efforts in the State of Montana.

IDNR Nursery Program

For FY17, the IDNR Nursery Program produced 487,000 bare-root trees and shrubs in 12 different species. Additional nursery production included 2,000 containerized trees and shrubs in 17 different species; 12,000 containerized prairie forbs and grasses in 45 different species; 1,440 pounds of cleaned prairie forb seed in 45 different species, and 6,525 pounds of cleaned prairie grass seed in five different species. The Mason Nursery also assembled 250 packets of Monarch/Pollinator native seed mix.

Illinois Forestry Development Act (IFDA) Forest Management Program

IFDA requires landowners to have a current IDNR-approved forest management plan. These comprehensive plans define forest resources that are present, current condition, needs of the forested area for long term forest health, and recommendations. Illinois has approximately 543,625 enrolled acres engaging 9,513 forest landowners. As a result, approximately 15% of non-industrial private forest land in Illinois is being managed for long

term forest health. Recommended forest improvement practices include afforestation, reforestation and forest stand improvement.

Illinois Forest Legacy Program

The Forest Legacy Program is a partnership between the IDNR and the USDA Forest Service to identify and acquire environmentally important forests. Conservation easements are the main tool used for protecting these important forests. The IDNR Division of Forestry maintains eligibility to complete up to three projects per year. Illinois has seven Forest Legacy Properties within its borders totaling 558 acres.

Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF)

The UCF program administers the Tree City USA, Tree Campus, Tree Line and Growth programs. Communities received education and recognition for their local forest management programs. Illinois has been ranked first for the number of Tree Campuses in the nation since program began. Illinois has 182 Tree Cities, 18 Tree Campuses, 27 Growth Award winners.

Illinois Forest Utilization & Marketing Program

IDNR bonded and licensed 410 individual timber buyers or companies listing 787 total authorized agents to purchase timber from any Illinois forestland owner. Seventy-five sawmills and additional hobby or portable mills are currently operating in the state. Verified sales of timber and products, primarily as hardwood logs, from private forests exceeded \$38 million. The total economic value of the forest products industries to Illinois, including all primary and secondary sectors, exceeded \$23 billion as measured in 2012. The agency, through its forestry division Utilization and Marketing Program with support from the Illinois Forestry Development Council is engaged in a 2017_2018 effort, under a multi-state competitive USDA Forest Service grant to closely analyze Illinois and most northeastern US states full timber output and economic forest/forestry values.

Illinois Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Illinois Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a State Incentive Program combined with the USDA Federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CREP provides long term environmental benefits by allowing 232,000 acres of eligible environmentally sensitive lands within the Illinois River and Kaskaskia River watersheds to be restored, enhanced and protected over a period of time from 15 years to perpetuity. Since CREP was established in 1999, 1,408 easements have been placed, protecting 90,990 acres. However, CREP was temporarily suspended effective July 1, 2015 and has not accepted any new easement enrollments to date.

Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

IDNR staff are involved with planning and implementation efforts for The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs). The 2008 Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan, calls for each of the 12 states in the Mississippi River Basin to produce a plan to reduce the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen carried in rivers throughout the states and to the Gulf of Mexico. In 2011, U.S. EPA provided a recommended framework for state plans. Illinois' plan was developed by a policy working group that includes representatives from state and federal agencies, including IDNR, agriculture, and non-profit organizations as well as scientists and

wastewater treatment professionals. IDNR staff area actively involved in the Nutrient Monitoring Council that is charged with coordinating water quality monitoring efforts by government agencies, universities, non-profits, and industry; the Agriculture Water Quality Partnership Forum that steers outreach and education efforts to help farmers address nutrient loss; and the Urban Stormwater Working Group that coordinates and improves stormwater programs and education.