



SPECIAL EDITION

Cattail Chronicles and Illinois Lakes
Management Association



Cattail Chronicles and Illinois Lakes Management

Spring 2012

ILLINOIS LAKES MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY

By: Carol Shobrook, Chair, Governmental Affairs Committee

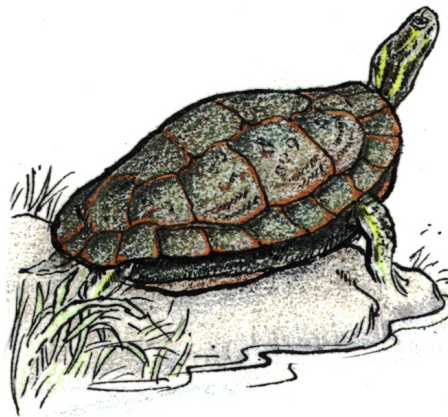
We are about halfway through the Illinois legislative session in Springfield, where several bills have been introduced that impact lakes and watersheds. In this issue, we will take a look at these, as well as a bill in the U.S. Congress.

This has been a busy legislative year on the environmental front, and ILMA is working closely with the Illinois Environmental Council to track these initiatives. Some of the bills introduced this year have been in the works for some time and are only now gaining more public attention. Other bills, like the Fox Waterway bill, were re-introduced this year, after failing to be signed into law in 2011.

ILMA member Mike Clifton of Loon Lake, this year's winner of the Frank Loftus Award at the annual ILMA conference, fought hard to have

legislation introduced prohibiting aquatic life and plants from being transported from lake to lake. These "hitchhikers" are often invasive species that harm native plants and animals.

If you have an opinion on any of these bills, let your voice be heard and contact your elected officials. If you have any questions, you can reach me at carol.shobrook@gmail.com.



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Population Health
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847- 377- 8030

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Health/want/BeachLakeInfo.htm>



LakeCounty
Health Department and
Community Health Center

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**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Illinois HB 3888: Boats-Aquatic Life Transport

- Introduced by Rep. JoAnn Osmond & sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Suzi Schmidt
- Status 2-29-12: Passed out of the House; first reading in Senate; referred to Assignments

The bill provides that no person may place, operate, transport on a highway, or take off with a vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object of any kind in

waters of the State if it has any aquatic plants or aquatic animals attached to the exterior. ILMA sent a letter supporting the bill to Rep Osmond, and on

Jan 20, a slip with our letter was submitted to the House Committee for the record.

Illinois SB3509: Counties CD-Prohibit Coal Tar

- Introduced by Sen. Pam Althoff
- Status 3-9-12: Re-referred to Assignments



SB3509 authorizes counties to prohibit the use of coal tar pavement product on all roadways, driveways, and parking lots within the county. Coal tar contains high amounts of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) that

are harmful to aquatic life. Runoff enters Illinois waterways, carrying with it PAH, a dissolved contaminant that kills, injures, stunts and causes tumors in fish and many other aquatic animals, causing significant damage

to the food chain and reducing diversity of aquatic life. On Jan 20, ILMA drafted a letter in favor of this bill which was submitted to the Senate Committee for the record.



Illinois SB3503: Counties CD-Regulate Road Salt

- Introduced by Sen. Pam Althoff
- Status 3-9-12: Re-referred to Assignments

SB3503 authorizes counties to regulate by ordinance the use of road salt and de-icing chemicals and may require a permit for the use of road salt or de-icing chemicals. Runoff

containing road salt and de-icing chemicals enters Illinois waterways, where it threatens aquatic life. This runoff exposes fish and other animals to high amounts of chloride, a

harmful contaminant. On Jan 20, ILMA drafted a letter in favor of this bill which was submitted to the Senate Committee for the record.

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Illinois SB2843: Fox Waterway Public Use

- Introduced by Senator Pam Althoff
- Status 3-9-12: Re-referred to Assignments in the Senate
- Amendments: One amendment filed on March 2

This bill is the re-draft of SB91 from last year, which was vetoed. On Feb 2, 2012, it was assigned to the Transportation Committee in the Senate. The bill concerns the Fox River and interconnecting lakes, commonly known as the Chain O' Lakes, from the Wisconsin State line to the Algonquin Dam, all within the State of Illinois.

The bill states, among other things, that the "Chain of Lakes Fox River Recreational Waterway" also includes all streams, side channels, and improved channels that connect with, discharge into, or are open to the river. The bill provides that all waters within the waterway are public waters which the public

has a right to use and enjoy. The stated purpose of the legislation is for (1) opening these waterways to the public for navigation, and (2) to conduct maintenance dredging, although maintenance is not explicitly mentioned in the bill.



Illinois HB5642: EPA-NPDES Fees (for CAFOs)

- Introduced by Rep. Michael Tryon; co-sponsor is Rep. Sandy Cole
- Status 3-7-12: Scheduled for 3rd reading

This bill amends the Environmental Protection Act and establishes NPDES discharge and sludge

permit fees for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).



HR2018: the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act

- Introduced by Rep. John Mica (R-FL7)
- Status 3-7-12: Passed out of House; stalled in Senate

This bill rolls back the Clean Water Act. HR 2018 would significantly hinder the federal government's ability to ensure the

protection of interstate waterways and the maintenance of common standards. ILMA wrote a

letter to Congress opposing this bill.

