



# Illinois Conservation Police Memorandum

**To:** Director Colleen Callahan  
**From:** Director Timothy Tyler, OLE  
**Date:** 06/22/2021  
**Subject:** Rock River in Winnebago County

The Rockton Fire Chief has made a request through the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department. Chief Kirk Wilson is requesting the Rock River be closed to recreational boat traffic due to the large Chemtool Fire. The requested closure area in Winnebago County includes from the Rockton Dam, upstream to the border of Beloit, Wisconsin. Crews are working with equipment in the area. For the safety of personnel on scene and the boating public, I concur with the closure request. Chief Wilson is requesting the river be closed until crews have completed their mission and equipment has been removed.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has the authorization to designate Restricted Boating Areas during hazardous conditions as cited in the following:

#### 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. Rescission 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 that the Rock River in Winnebago County be designated as a Restricted Boating Area (recreational vessels only) effective June 22, 2021 5:00 PM. If you approve, please sign below and the Conservation Police will coordinate the Restricted Boating Area with the local authorities.

*Colleen Callahan by Justin O'Neil* 6/22/2021  
Approved by Director Colleen Callahan Date

