# Analysis of the Relationship Between Fish and Water Quality in the Chicago Area Waterways System 

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Prepared for:
The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction ..... 1
1.1 Objectives ..... 1
1.2 Focus on Dissolved Oxygen ..... 1
1.3 Data ..... 2
1.3.1 Water Quality Data and Parameter Selection ..... 2
1.3.2 Fish Data ..... 4
1.3.3 Pairing of Fish \& Water Quality Data ..... 5
1.4 Organization of This Report ..... 8
2. Correlation of Fish Data with Dissolved Oxygen Conditions ..... 9
2.1 Statistical Tests Conducted ..... 9
2.1.1 Comparison of Attainment and Non-Attainment Populations ..... 10
2.1.2 Regression to Percent Time in Compliance ..... 10
2.1.3 Regression to Other Representations of Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations 1 ..... 11
2.2 Comparison of Attainment and Non-Attainment Populations ..... 11
2.2.1 Current Dissolved Oxygen Standards ..... 11
2.2.2 Proposed Dissolved Oxygen Standards ..... 13
2.3 Regression to Percent of Time in Compliance ..... 16
2.3.1 Current Dissolved Oxygen Standards ..... 16
2.3.2 Proposed Dissolved Oxygen Standards ..... 18
2.4 Regression to Other Representations of Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations ..... 18
2.4.1 Percent of Time Dissolved Oxygen Less than $5 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{l}$ in June through September ..... 19
2.4.2 48-Hour Average Antecedent Dissolved Oxygen ..... 19
2.4.3 48-Hour Minimum Antecedent Dissolved Oxygen ..... 20
2.5 Observations ..... 21
3. Correlation of Fish Data with Temperature Conditions ..... 23
3.1 REGRESSION TO PERCENT OF TIME IN COMPLIANCE ..... 23
3.1.1 Current Temperature Standards ..... 23
3.1.2 Proposed Temperature Standards ..... 24
3.2 Correlation of Fish Data with Antecedent Temperature Conditions ..... 26
3.2.1 24-Hour Antecedent Average Temperature ..... 26
3.2.2 48-Hour Antecedent Average Temperature ..... 27
3.3 Observations ..... 28
4. Findings ..... 30
5. References ..... 33

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1. CAWS Ambient Water Quality Monitoring (AWQM) and Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring (CDOM) Locations ..... 7
Figure 2-1. Example Box and Whisper Plot Used for Comparison of Populations ..... 12
Figure 2-2. Example Scatter Plot Used for Regression of Fish Metrics to Percent Compliance ..... 17
Figure 3-1. Example Scatter Plot Showing Regression of NSUN vs. Percent of time proposed daily maximum temperature standard exceeded in preceding 12 months ..... 25
LIST OF TABLES
Table 1-1. Fish Metrics Used in This Analysis ..... 5
Table 1-2. Pairing of AWQM and CDOM Stations ..... 6
Table 2-1. Statistical Characteristics of Attainment and Nonattainment Populations (Existing Standards, All Designated Uses Combined) ..... 12
Table 2-2. Statistical Characteristics of Attainment and Nonattainment Populations (Existing Standards, Secondary Contact Uses) ..... 13
Table 2-3. Statistical Characteristics of Attainment and Nonattainment Populations (Proposed Standards, All Designated Uses Combined) ..... 14
Table 2-4. Statistical Characteristics of Attainment and Nonattainment Populations (Proposed Standards, Designated Use A) ..... 15
Table 2-5. Statistical Characteristics of Attainment and Nonattainment Populations (Proposed Standards, Designated Use B) ..... 16
Table 2-6. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. Percent Attainment of Dissolved Oxygen Standards, Current Standards ..... 17
Table 2-7. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. Percent Attainment of Dissolved Oxygen Standards, Proposed Standards ..... 18
Table 2-8. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. Percent of time dissolved oxygen less than 5 in June through September ..... 19
Table 2-9. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. 48 Hour Average Antecedent Dissolved Oxygen ..... 20
Table 2-10. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. 48 Hour Minimum Antecedent Dissolved Oxygen ..... 20
Table 3-1. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. Percent of time proposed daily maximum temperature standard exceeded in preceding 12 months ..... 24
Table 3-2. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. Percent of time proposed daily maximum temperature standard exceeded by greater than $2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in regulatory period ..... 26
Table 3-3. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. 24 Hour Average Antecedent Temperature ..... 27
Table 3-4. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. 48 Hour Average Antecedent Temperature ..... 27

## LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A:Box Plots Comparing Attainment and Non-Attainment Populations of Fish
Attachment B: Regression Plots Comparing Fish with Dissolved Oxygen Conditions
Attachment C: Regression Plots Comparing Fish with Temperature Conditions

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a comparative analysis of fish and water quality data in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS). LimnoTech conducted this work as part of the Habitat Evaluation and Improvement Study currently underway to develop a clearer understanding of the environmental factors that affect fisheries in the CAWS, on behalf of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (the District).

### 1.1 OBJECTIVES

The CAWS Habitat Evaluation and Improvement Study is designed to identify the physical habitat factors that are most limiting to aquatic life (as represented by fish) in the CAWS and what potential exists for improvement. It is recognized, however, that water quality also plays a critical role in the health of aquatic ecosystems, so it is important to understand the relationship between fish and water quality in the CAWS in order to fully understand the conditions that favor or limit fish. Furthermore, the regulation of water quality through the Clean Water Act remains the only enforceable means that regulatory agencies have for improving the health of surface waters, so an understanding of the relationship between water quality standards attainment and fish success is important.

This analysis was undertaken to answer the following question: what changes, if any, can be expected solely from an improvement in water quality in the CAWS, if current uses and physical habitat conditions remain unchanged? In the analysis presented herein, this larger question was addressed by investigating four more focused questions:

- Do the data suggest a correlation between fish metrics and attainment of current water quality standards?
- Do the data suggest a response between fish metrics and attainment of proposed water quality standards?
- Are there correlations between fish metrics and other measures of dissolved oxygen?
- Are there other fisheries responses indicated by water quality metrics other than dissolved oxygen?

To answer these questions, comparative analyses of fish and water quality metrics were performed. The data used for these analyses are described below.

### 1.2 FOCUS ON DISSOLVED OXYGEN

It will be noted that the focus of the analyses presented in this report is on dissolved oxygen. There are several reasons for this:

- Dissolved oxygen is critical to fish. It well known that dissolved oxygen is a critical water quality constituent to support healthy fish populations. Low dissolved oxygen can create chronic health impacts on fish and severe depletion can cause fish kills. Therefore, an evaluation of fish and water quality would be incomplete without addressing dissolved oxygen.
- Dissolved oxygen has been a long-standing issue in the CAWS. There has been a history of dissolved oxygen depletion due to pollutant loading to the CAWS and the issue has been studied in the CAWS for decades. It was partly in response to these dissolved oxygen issues in the CAWS that the District established their continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring program and invested research, engineering, and construction resources in developing and building the sidestream elevated pool aeration (SEPA) stations that now exist in the CAWS.
- A rich dissolved oxygen dataset is available for the CAWS. As discussed below, the District has been collecting continuous dissolved oxygen data in the CAWS for several years. These data allow dissolved oxygen to be parameterized in a variety of ways not possible with event sampling data.
- Dissolved oxygen has been the focus of recent proposed changes to water quality standards. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has recently proposed changes to the water quality standards for the CAWS, and these proposed changes focus on dissolved oxygen.

For these reasons, an emphasis on dissolved oxygen is warranted in the analysis. In addition to dissolved oxygen, other water quality parameters were considered, evaluated and are discussed in the following section. However, the importance of dissolved oxygen and the availability of continuous data make it the focal point of this analysis.

### 1.3 DATA

The data used in this analysis consisted of water quality and fish data collected by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago between 2001 and 2007. Details of these data are presented below.

### 1.3.1 Water Quality Data and Parameter Selection

The District's water quality data collection program in the CAWS includes continuous monitoring of certain parameters from several locations in the CAWS, as well as discrete sampling of water quality as part of their annual water quality monitoring program. These data collection programs are summarized below.

## Continuous Monitoring

The District currently deploys continuous dissolved oxygen monitors at dozens of locations throughout the CAWS and in Chicago area wadeable streams. These monitors
collect hourly dissolved oxygen readings and are serviced on a weekly schedule. A detailed discussion of the continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring (CDOM) program is represented in Minarik et al. (2008). For the analysis discussed in this report, CDOM data from 23 stations in the CAWS, collected between 2001 and 2007 were used. The locations of these CDOM stations are shown in Figure 1-1.

In addition to dissolved oxygen data, the District's CDOM program also collects continuous data on specific conductance, pH , and temperature. The data for these other parameters were reviewed to determine whether they should be included in this analysis. Specific conductivity was not included in this analysis because it is not regulated by water quality standards. pH data are limited in the CAWS, but review of available data show that all measurements are within the range of applicable water quality standards (i.e., between 6.5 and 9.0), therefore pH was not included in this analysis.

Temperature data collected in the CDOM program between 2001 and 2007 were reviewed to determine whether temperature should be included in this analysis, which showed that temperature conditions in the CAWS during this time might have exceeded the proposed water quality standards for temperature. Based on this review, temperature was included in this analysis.

## Annual Water Quality Monitoring

In addition to their CDOM program, the District also conducts an ambient water quality monitoring (AWQM) program. There are 26 AWQM stations in the CAWS, as depicted in Figure 1-1 ${ }^{1}$. Water quality is regularly sampled at these stations in accordance with the AWQM Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP, MWRDGC, 2007). Sampling is conducted on a monthly basis for most parameters. The water quality parameters sampled for the AWQM program include:

- Field-measured parameters (dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH , turbidity);
- Total phosphorus and nitrogen compounds (nitrate/nitrite, ammonia nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen);
- Sulfate;
- Total dissolved solids, suspended solids, and volatile suspended solids;
- Alkalinity, chloride, and fluoride;
- Total organic carbon;
- Phenol;
- Cyanide;
- Indicator bacteria (fecal coliform and E. coli);

[^0]- Chlorophyll;
- Total and soluble metals (arsenic, barium, boron, cadmium, calcium, chromium, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, and zinc); and
- Volatile organic compounds (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes).

The AWQM water quality parameters were first screened to identify those for which water quality standards did not exist. The remaining parameters were compiled and the results for the period of 2001 through 2007 were compared to their respective water quality standards to identify parameters that might significantly affect fish populations. Fecal coliform was not included in the analysis because it is not typically associated with impacts to aquatic life. Of the other AWQM parameters, the following were measured in excess of their respective water quality standards:

- Boron - The water quality standard for boron was exceeded in 3 of 2,336 water quality samples ( $0.1 \%$ ) collected from 2001 through 2007. All three exceedances occurred at one AWQM station.
- Chloride - The water quality standard for chloride was exceeded in 52 of 2,336 water quality samples ( $2 \%$ ) collected from 2001 through 2007. These 52 samples exceeded the water quality standard for chloride ( $500 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L}$ ) by a relatively small level ( $136 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L}$ on average).
- Fluoride - The water quality standard for fluoride was exceeded in 13 of 2,337 water quality samples ( $0.6 \%$ ) collected from 2001 through 2007. These 13 samples exceeded the water quality standard for fluoride ( $1.4 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L}$ ) by a relatively small level ( $0.56 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L}$ on average).
- Silver - The water quality standard for silver was exceeded in 56 of 2,336 water quality samples ( $2.4 \%$ ) collected from 2001 through 2007. These 56 samples exceeded the water quality standard for silver $(0.005 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L})$ by $0.003 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L}$ on average.

Due to the extremely low frequency which with these water quality parameters exceeded their respective water quality standards, they were not included in this analysis.

### 1.3.2 Fish Data

The District has been collecting fish data annually within the CAWS since 1974 (with the exception of 1981 and 1982). During the 2001-2007 period, the District collected fish data at 34 stations within the CAWS on a routine basis. Twenty-six of these 34 stations are part of the District's AWQM program. The total number of sample events across all stations and years includes 113 sample events. These fish data were analyzed to select a set of twelve representative fish metrics for the CAWS. The process for review and selection of fish metrics is documented in a separate report (LimnoTech, 2009). The fish
metrics selected for the CAWS Habitat Evaluation and Improvement Study, and used in this analysis, are listed in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1. Fish Metrics used in This Analysis

| Metric <br> Abbreviation | Description |
| :--- | :--- |
| \%DELT_( $n$ ) | \% Diseased or with eroded fins, lesions, or tumors |
| CPUE | catch per unit effort |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | \% lithophilic spawners by count |
| \%INSCT_(n) | \% insectivores by count |
| \%TC_(wt) | \% top carnivores by weight |
| PRTOL | proportion of Illinois tolerant species |
| LITOT | IL ratio of non tolerant coarse-mineral-substrate spawners |
| NMIN | number of IL native minnow species |
| NSUN | number of IL native sunfish species |
| GEN | IL ratio of generalist feeders |
| \%INT_(n) | \% intolerant species by count |
| \%MOD_(wt) | \% moderately intolerant species by weight |

### 1.3.3 Pairing of Fish \& Water Quality Data

For purposes of this analysis, it was necessary to pair fish sampling locations with water quality data locations. In the case of the AWQM data, water quality and fish samples are collected from essentially the same location in the system. However, CDOM stations are not necessarily collocated with the AWQM stations. Because of this, the locations of the CDOM stations were evaluated to identify the nearest CDOM station to each AWQM station and then to assess whether the CDOM station was within sufficient proximity to attribute CDOM data to the AWQM.

In some cases, AWQM and CDOM stations are essentially collocated. In other cases, a CDOM station is relatively close to an AWQM, so that the pairing of the two was straightforward. There are, however, instances where the nearest CDOM stations to an AWQM station are miles away or where an AWQM is located approximately equidistant between two CDOM stations. In these cases, the CDOM data upstream and downstream of the SWQM were examined to ascertain whether averaging of the upstream and downstream CDOM would be appropriate. The results of this exercise are presented in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2. Pairing of AWQM and CDOM Stations

| AWQM <br> Station <br> No. | AWQM Location Description | CDOM Stn. <br> For DO <br> Comp. | CDOM Stn. <br> For Temp. <br> Comp. |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 99 | Bubbly Creek at Archer Ave. | 13 | 13 |
| 58 | Cal-Sag Channel at Ashland Ave. | 37 | 37 |
| 59 | Cal-Sag Channel at Cicero Ave. | 29 | 39 |
| 43 | Cal-Sag Channel at Route 83 | 21 | 20 |
| 74 | Chicago River at Lake Shore Dr. | 10 | 21 |
| 100 | Chicago River at Wells St. | 14 | 10 |
| 75 | Chicago San. and Ship Canal at Cicero Ave. | - | - |
| 40 | Chicago San. and Ship Canal at Damen Ave. ${ }^{2}$ | - | 14 |
| 41 | Chicago San. and Ship Canal at Harlem Ave. ${ }^{3}$ | 19 | 19 |
| 92 | Chicago San. and Ship Canal at Lockport (16 |  |  |
| Sth $)^{4}$ | 16 | 16 |  |
| 42 | Chicago San. and Ship Canal at Route 83 | 16 | 17 |
| 48 | Chicago San. and Ship Canal at Stephen St. | 17 | 35 |
| 76 | Little Calumet River at Halsted St. | 35 | 34 |
| 56 | Little Calumet River at Indiana Ave. | - | AVG(6,7) |
| 73 | North Branch Chicago River at Diversey Pkwy. ${ }^{5}$ | 9 |  |
| 46 | North Branch Chicago River at Grand Ave. | 9 | 9 |
| 37 | North Branch Chicago River at Wilson Ave. | 5 | 6 |
| 35 | North Shore Channel at Central St. ${ }^{6}$ | - | AVG(1,2), 3 |
| in '05 |  |  |  |
| 101 | North Shore Channel at Foster Ave. | 57 |  |
| 102 | North Shore Channel at Oakton St. | 57 | 3 |
| 36 | North Shore Channel at Touhy Ave. | 3 | 3 |
| 108 | South Branch Chicago River at Loomis St. | 12 | 12 |
| 39 | South Branch Chicago River at Madison St. | 11 | 11 |

[^1]

Figure 1-1. CAWS Ambient Water Quality Monitoring (AWQM) and Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring (CDOM) Locations

### 1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THIS REPORT

The remainder of this report is organized as follows:

- Section 2 presents the analysis of dissolved oxygen as it correlates to fish data in the CAWS.
- Section 3 discusses the analysis of temperature data as it correlates to fish data in the CAWS.
- Section 4 summarizes the primary findings of this investigation.

Regression plots and summary statistics are included in Attachments to this report.

## 2. CORRELATION OF FISH DATA WITH DISSOLVED OXYGEN CONDITIONS

As stated in the preceding section, three of the key questions in this analysis pertain to the relationship between fish and dissolved oxygen. The statistical tests conducted to address these questions consisted of:

- Comparison of the sample populations of fish metrics collected during: 1) attainment and 2) nonattainment of water quality standards.
- Regression of fish metrics to the percent of time that the collection station was in attainment with applicable water quality standards.
- Regression of fish metrics to other representations of dissolved oxygen concentrations

The first two sets of tests were conducted both for the current water quality standard as well as the proposed standards. Tests were further stratified to see if significant differences existed between the different use classifications contained in the standards. This section is divided into discussions of:

- Statistical tests conducted
- Results of comparisons of sample populations of fish data representing attainment and nonattainment of dissolved oxygen standards
- Results of correlation of fish data with attainment of current dissolved oxygen standards
- Results of correlation of fish data with other dissolved oxygen indicators

Findings and observations are summarized at the end of this section.

### 2.1 STATISTICAL TESTS CONDUCTED

A series of statistical tests were conducted to estimate the correlation between observed fish metrics and dissolved oxygen concentrations at different locations in the CAWS. Three specific types of tests were conducted:

- Comparison of the sample populations of fish metrics from observations collected during attainment and nonattainment of water quality standards
- Regression of fish metrics to the percent of time that the collection station was in compliance with applicable water quality standards
- Regression of fish metrics to observed dissolved oxygen concentrations

The first two sets of tests were conducted both for the current water quality standard as well as the proposed standards. Each test is described below.

### 2.1.1 Comparison of Attainment and Non-Attainment Populations

The first set of tests divided all paired fish-dissolved oxygen measurements into one of two sample populations:

- In compliance with water quality standards, and
- Out of compliance with water quality standards.
"Compliance" with standards was defined as compliance with all representations (e.g. absolute minimum, average) of the standard in the period of time immediately prior to sample collection. If any representation of the standard was not met, the sample was deemed not in compliance.

The non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test was used to compare the two populations because the sample populations could not be accurately characterized with a standard parametric distribution.

These tests were conducted using different layers of stratification. Specifically, independent investigations were conducted first using the existing water quality standards to define attainment, followed by the same test using the proposed water quality standards. Within each category of water quality standards, additional stratification was considered for each of the use classifications defined in the respective standard. The stratification by use classification could not be fully conducted for all classifications, as insufficient quantity of data existed in some of the classifications to allow rigorous comparisons to be conducted.

### 2.1.2 Regression to Percent Time in Compliance

The second set of tests consisted of regression of fish metrics to the percent of time that the collection station was in compliance with applicable water quality standards. The entire period of record of dissolved oxygen data was compared to the applicable water quality standard in order to define a percent compliance value for each sampling station.

Standard parametric linear regression tests were conducted for this analysis, as the deviations of errors around the regressions were roughly normally distributed. Exceptions to this are noted as they occur.

Similar to the population comparisons discussed above, these regressions were conducted using different layers of stratification. Specifically, independent investigations were conducted first using the existing water quality standards to define attainment, followed by the same test using the proposed water quality standards. Additional stratification considering the use classifications defined in the respective standard was not conducted, as an insufficient quantity of data existed to allow rigorous comparisons to be conducted.

### 2.1.3 Regression to Other Representations of Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations

The final set of tests consisted of linear regressions between all observed fish metrics and other representations of dissolved oxygen concentrations (i.e., different than a strict interpretation of the water quality standard). A wide range of representations of the dissolved oxygen concentrations were examined. Results are presented here for the representations that showed the strongest correlations, which consisted of:

- percent of time dissolved oxygen less than $5 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{l}$ in June through September
- 48 hour average antecedent dissolved oxygen
- 48 hour minimum antecedent dissolved oxygen

Standard parametric linear regression tests were conducted for this analysis, as the deviations of errors around the regressions were roughly normally distributed. Exceptions to this are noted as they occur.

### 2.2 COMPARISON OF ATTAINMENT AND NON-ATTAINMENT POPULATIONS

This section presents the results of the comparison of fish metrics between two sample populations: 1) data collected during attainment of water quality standards, and 2) data collected during non-attainment of water quality standards. Comparisons are provided both for current and proposed water quality standards. In summary, fish metrics from observations where standards were being attained were generally better than fish metrics where standards were not in attainment, but the differences were not statistically significant. This same finding holds for both the current and proposed standards.

### 2.2.1 Current Dissolved Oxygen Standards

Analyses for current dissolved oxygen standards were first conducted on a global basis, by considering all data irrespective of designated use classification. Subsequent analyses investigated comparisons specific to each designated use classification (to the extent the quantity of data allowed).

## All Designated Uses Combined

Segregation of data into the attainment and nonattainment categories resulted in a total of 36 observations in the attainment category and 15 observations in the nonattainment category. Table 2-1 provides a summary of the statistical characteristics of the sample populations for each of the twelve fish metrics.

Box and whisker plots for each comparison are provided in Attachment A, with an example plot shown in Figure 2-1. The results in Table 2-1 indicate that fish metrics from sites in attainment of water quality standards are generally better than the corresponding
metric from sites in non-attainment, with significant differences between the two populations occurring for two metrics. The metrics showing a significant ( $\mathrm{p}<0.10$ ) difference are number of native minnows and number of native sunfish.

Table 2-1. Statistical Characteristics of Attainment and Nonattainment Populations (Existing Standards, All Designated Uses Combined)

| Metric | Attainment | Nonattainment | Significance $^{*}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Median | Median |  |
| \%DELT_(n) | 3.6 | 4.70 | 0.32 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 55.9 | 71.6 | 0.55 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.17 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 75.1 | 75 | 0.53 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 0.9 | 1.40 | 0.82 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 6.1 | 6.9 | 0.51 |
| CPUE | 11 | 7 | 0.24 |
| GEN | .81 | 0.87 | 0.42 |
| LITOT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.49 |
| NMIN | 3.0 | 2.0 | 0.003 |
| NSUN | 4.0 | 2.0 | 0.033 |
| PRTOL | 0.75 | 0.80 | 0.28 |

*It should be noted that statistical significance is calculated for the data distributions, not the median values.


Figure 2-1. Example Box and Whisper Plot Used for Comparison of Populations ( $\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathbf{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard)

## Stratification by Designated Use

The Secondary Contact use was the only designated use with sufficient data to conduct a comparison between attainment and nonattainment populations. Segregation of data into the attainment and nonattainment categories resulted in a total of 24 observations in the attainment category and 12 observations in the nonattainment category. Table 2-2 provides a summary of the statistical characteristics of the sample populations for each of the twelve fish metrics. The results in Table 2-2 again indicate that fish metrics from sites in attainment of water quality standards are generally better than the corresponding metric from sites in non-attainment. The stratification of the analysis to focus on the Secondary Contact use increased the number of significant differences between the populations ( $\mathrm{p}<0.10$ ) from two to four. In addition to significant differences in number of native sunfish and number of native minnows, additional significant differences were observed for the number of intolerant species by number and the catch per unit effort.

Table 2-2. Statistical Characteristics of Attainment and Nonattainment Populations (Existing Standards, Secondary Contact Uses)

| Metric | Attainment | Nonattainment | Significance* $^{*}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Median | Median |  |
| \%DELT_(n) | 3.75 | 4.3 | 0.40 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 58.9 | 49.75 | 0.87 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.08 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 74.75 | 77.75 | 0.92 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 1.05 | 1.45 | 0.81 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 6.25 | 6.5 | 0.87 |
| CPUE | 22.5 | 8.5 | 0.09 |
| GEN | 0.82 | 0.87 | 0.29 |
| LIT0T | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.35 |
| NMIN | 3.0 | 2.0 | 0.001 |
| NSUN | 4.0 | 2.5 | 0.05 |
| PRTOL | 0.75 | 0.79 | 0.33 |

*It should be noted that statistical significance is calculated for the data distributions, not the median values.

### 2.2.2 Proposed Dissolved Oxygen Standards

Analyses for the proposed dissolved oxygen standards were first conducted on a global basis, by considering all data irrespective of designated use classification. Subsequent analyses investigated comparisons specific to each of the two designated use classifications.

## All Designated Uses Combined

Segregation of data into the attainment and nonattainment categories resulted in a total of 27 observations in the attainment category and 24 observations in the nonattainment
category. Table 2-3 provides a summary of the statistical characteristics of the sample populations for each of the twelve fish metrics.

Box and whisker plots for each comparison are provided in the Attachment A. The results in Table 2-3 indicate that there are no statistically significant ( $\mathrm{p}<0.10$ ) differences between fish metrics from sites in attainment of water quality standards and fish metrics from sites not in attainment.

Table 2-3. Statistical Characteristics of Attainment and Nonattainment Populations (Proposed Standards, All Designated Uses Combined)

| Metric | Attainment | Nonattainment | Significance $^{*}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Median | Median |  |
| \%DELT_(n) | 3.1 | 4.7 | 0.15 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 55.85 | 71.85 | 0.10 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.38 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 77.7 | 74.7 | 0.27 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 0.85 | 1.45 | 0.32 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 6.0 | 7.2 | 0.68 |
| CPUE | 8.0 | 10.5 | 0.85 |
| GEN | 0.82 | 0.85 | 0.39 |
| LITOT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.28 |
| NMIN | 3.0 | 2.0 | 0.46 |
| NSUN | 4.0 | 3.0 | 0.19 |
| PRTOL | 0.76 | 0.77 | 0.94 |

*It should be noted that statistical significance is calculated for the data distributions, not the median values.

## Stratification by Designated Use

The available data were split approximately equally across the two designated uses of the proposed standards, allowing the analysis to be stratified into individual analyses for Use Categories A and B.

Segregation of data into the attainment and nonattainment categories resulted in a total of 13 observations in the attainment category and 10 observations in the nonattainment category for Designated Use A. Table 2-4 provides a summary of the statistical characteristics of the sample populations for each of the twelve fish metrics.

Table 2-4. Statistical Characteristics of Attainment and Nonattainment Populations (Proposed Standards, Designated Use A)

| Metric | Attainment | Nonattainment | Significance $^{*}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Median | Median |  |
| \%DELT_(n) | 2.8 | 4.7 | 0.17 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 53.9 | 76.1 | 0.09 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.66 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 77.7 | 55.8 | 0.12 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 0.65 | 1.3 | 0.21 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 7.35 | 12.2 | 0.14 |
| CPUE | 9.5 | 16.0 | 0.56 |
| GEN | 0.82 | 0.79 | 0.75 |
| LITOT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.83 |
| NMIN | 3.0 | 3.0 | 0.45 |
| NSUN | 5.0 | 4.0 | 0.61 |
| PRTOL | 0.76 | 0.68 | 0.22 |

*It should be noted that statistical significance is calculated for the data distributions, not the median values.

Box and whisker plots for each comparison are provided in the Attachment A. The results in Table 2-4 indicate that fish metrics from sites in attainment of water quality standards are generally better than the corresponding metric from sites in non-attainment, with significant differences ( $\mathrm{p}<0.10$ ) between the two populations occurring for only one metric, the number of insectivores by count.

The above analysis was also conducted for Designated Use B. Segregation of data into the attainment and nonattainment categories resulted in a total of 14 observations in the attainment category and 14 observations in the nonattainment category. Table 2-5 provides a summary of the statistical characteristics of the sample populations for each of the twelve fish metrics.

Table 2-5. Statistical Characteristics of Attainment and Nonattainment Populations (Proposed Standards, Designated Use B)

| Metric | Attainment | Nonattainment | Significance* |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Median | Median |  |
| \%DELT_(n) | 4.20 | 4.7 | 0.47 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 62.0 | 57.1 | 0.62 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.07 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 75.5 | 75.0 | 0.69 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 1.0 | 1.9 | 0.70 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 6.0 | 4.90 | 0.66 |
| CPUE | 8.0 | 7.0 | 0.59 |
| GEN | 0.82 | 0.87 | 0.39 |
| LITOT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.07 |
| NMIN | 3.0 | 2.0 | 0.20 |
| NSUN | 3.0 | 2.0 | 0.44 |
| PRTOL | 0.764 | 0.778 | 0.58 |

*It should be noted that statistical significance is calculated for the data distributions, not the median values.

Box and whisker plots for each comparison are provided in the Attachment A. The results in Table 2-5 indicate that fish metrics from sites in attainment of water quality standards are slightly better than the corresponding metric from sites in non-attainment, but that significant differences between the two populations are uncommon. The only metrics showing a significant ( $\mathrm{p}<0.10$ ) difference are \% intolerant species by number and the IL ratio of non tolerant coarse-mineral-substrate spawners.

## Comparison of Existing and Proposed Standards

Fish metrics from observations where standards were being attained were generally better than fish metrics where standards were not in attainment, but most differences were not statistically significant. This same finding holds for both the current and proposed standards, although the current standards showed a higher number of significant differences than do the proposed standards. This may imply that compliance with current standards is a better predictor of fish health than are the proposed standards.

### 2.3 REGRESSION TO PERCENT OF TIME IN COMPLIANCE

This section presents the results of regression of fish metrics to the percent of time that the collection station was in compliance with applicable water quality standards. Comparisons are provided both for current and proposed water quality standards.

### 2.3.1 Current Dissolved Oxygen Standards

Table 2-6 provides regression results between all twelve fish metrics and percent attainment of dissolved oxygen standards for the current standards. Also included is a comparison to a "combined fish metric". This value represents the sum of the
standardized values of the non-ACM metrics (i.e., not including \%_DELT(n) and CPUE). This "combined fish metric", or CFM, is also used to evaluate physical habitat data in the CAWS. Scatter plots for each regression are provided in the Attachment B, with a sample plot shown in Figure 2-2. The results in Table 2-6 indicate a slight positive correlation between fish metrics and percent attainment of water quality standards. Significant regressions (i.e. slope unequal to zero at a significance level $<0.10$ ) are observed for two metrics, number of native sunfish species and the percent top carnivores. The percent moderately intolerant species by weight metric had a significance of 0.10 . R-squared values are less than 0.05 for all regressions except for the three mentioned above, which range from 0.16 to 0.21 .

Table 2-6. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. Percent Attainment of Dissolved Oxygen Standards, Current Standards

| Metric | $\mathbf{r}^{2}$ | Significance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| \%DELT_(n) | 0.03 | 0.48 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 0.0 | 0.95 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.06 | 0.35 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 0.02 | 0.62 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 0.16 | 0.10 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 0.21 | 0.06 |
| CPUE | 0.0 | 0.87 |
| GEN | 0.05 | 0.40 |
| LITOT | 0.05 | 0.38 |
| NMIN | 0.02 | 0.59 |
| NSUN | 0.21 | 0.05 |
| PRTOL | 0.02 | 0.57 |
| Combined Fish Metric | 0.02 | 0.6 |



Figure 2-2. Example Scatter Plot Used for Regression of Fish Metrics to Percent Compliance

### 2.3.2 Proposed Dissolved Oxygen Standards

Table 2-7 provides regression results between all twelve fish metrics and percent attainment of dissolved oxygen standards for the proposed standards. Scatter plots for each regression are provided in the Attachment B. The results in Table 2-7 also indicate a positive correlation between fish metrics and percent attainment of water quality standards. Significant regressions (i.e. slope unequal to zero at a significance level < 0.10 ) were observed for only one metric, the number of native sunfish. The significance of the regression with the percent top carnivores was 0.10 .

Table 2-7. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. Percent Attainment of Dissolved Oxygen Standards, Proposed Standards

| Metric | $\mathbf{r}^{2}$ | Significance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| \%DELT_(n) | 0.05 | 0.37 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 0.001 | 0.91 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.12 | 0.17 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 0.02 | 0.56 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 0.15 | 0.12 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 0.16 | 0.10 |
| CPUE | 0.02 | 0.61 |
| GEN | 0.03 | 0.47 |
| LITOT | 0.10 | 0.19 |
| NMIN | 0.0 | 0.89 |
| NSUN | 0.30 | 0.02 |
| PRTOL | 0.08 | 0.26 |
| Combined Fish Metric | 0.07 | 0.28 |

## Comparison of Existing and Proposed Standards

The relationships between fish metrics and attainment of standards are not any stronger for the proposed standards than for the existing standards. In fact, attainment of existing standards appears to have a slightly better correlation to fish metrics than the proposed standards.

### 2.4 REGRESSION TO OTHER REPRESENTATIONS OF DISSOLVED OXYGEN CONCENTRATIONS

The final set of tests compared all observed fish metrics and other (i.e. different than a strict interpretation of the water quality standard) representations of dissolved oxygen. Results for the representations that showed the strongest correlations to fish metrics are provided below, and consist of:

- percent of time dissolved oxygen less than $5 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L}$ in June through September
- 48 hour average antecedent dissolved oxygen
- 48 hour minimum antecedent dissolved oxygen


### 2.4.1 Percent of Time Dissolved Oxygen Less than $5 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{l}$ in June through September

Table 2-8 provides regression results between all twelve fish metrics and the percent of time dissolved oxygen concentration are less than $5 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{l}$ in June through September. Scatter plots for each regression are provided in Attachment B. The results in Table 2-8 also indicate a positive correlation between fish metrics and percent attainment of water quality standards. Significant regressions (i.e. slope unequal to zero at a significance level $<0.10$ ) are seen for over half of the metrics, with four of these significant regressions, including the combined fish metric, having significance levels less than 0.001. Despite the significant regressions, r-squared values are still low, with all but three being less than 0.2 .

Table 2-8. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. Percent of Time Dissolved Oxygen Less Than 5 in June through September

| Fish Metric | $\mathbf{r}^{\mathbf{2}}$ | Significance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| \%DELT_(n) | 0.05 | 0.06 |
| CPUE | 0.12 | 0.004 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 0.005 | 0.59 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 0.02 | 0.24 |
| PRTOL | 0.26 | $8.81 \mathrm{E}-06$ |
| LITOT | 0.09 | 0.01 |
| NMIN | 0.16 | $6.99 \mathrm{E}-04$ |
| NSUN | 0.44 | $9.31 \mathrm{E}-10$ |
| GEN | 0.01 | 0.55 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.12 | 0.005 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 0.01 | 0.35 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | $6.50 \mathrm{E}-05$ | 0.95 |
| Combined Fish Metric | 0.27 | $5.91 \mathrm{E}-06$ |

### 2.4.2 48-Hour Average Antecedent Dissolved Oxygen

Table 2-9 provides regression results between all twelve fish metrics and the 48 hour average antecedent dissolved oxygen. Scatter plots for each regression are provided in Attachment B. The results in Table 2-9 also indicate a positive correlation between fish metrics and percent attainment of water quality standards. Significant regressions (i.e. slope unequal to zero at a significance level $<0.10$ ) are seen for half of the metrics. Despite the significant regressions, the maximum observed r-squared was 0.17 .

Table 2-9. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. 48 Hour Average Antecedent Dissolved Oxygen

| Fish Metric | $\mathbf{r}^{2}$ | Significance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| \%DELT_(n) | 0.04 | 0.14 |
| CPUE | 0.01 | 0.38 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 0.002 | 0.75 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 0.07 | 0.03 |
| PRTOL | 0.07 | 0.04 |
| LITOT | 0.04 | 0.10 |
| NMIN | 0.08 | 0.02 |
| NSUN | 0.17 | $6.98 \mathrm{E}-04$ |
| GEN | 0.01 | 0.36 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.06 | 0.06 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 0.01 | 0.41 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 0.001 | 0.77 |
| Combined Fish Metric | 0.08 | 0.02 |

### 2.4.3 48-Hour Minimum Antecedent Dissolved Oxygen

Table 2-10 provides regression results between all twelve fish metrics and the 48 hour minimum antecedent dissolved oxygen. Scatter plots for each regression are provided in Attachment B. The results in Table 2-10 also indicate a slight positive correlation between fish metrics and dissolved oxygen. Significant regressions (i.e. slope unequal to zero at a significance level $<0.10$ ) are seen for four of the metrics. Despite the significant regressions, $r$-squared values are still low, with all but one being less than 0.12 .

Table 2-10. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. 48 Hour Minimum Antecedent Dissolved Oxygen

| Fish Metric | $\mathbf{r}^{\mathbf{2}}$ | Significance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| \%DELT_(n) | 0.03 | 0.15 |
| CPUE | 0.002 | 0.71 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 0.001 | 0.77 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 0.06 | 0.05 |
| PRTOL | 0.02 | 0.30 |
| LITOT | 0.04 | 0.12 |
| NMIN | 0.08 | 0.03 |
| NSUN | 0.12 | 0.01 |
| GEN | 0.02 | 0.32 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.05 | 0.08 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 0.03 | 0.22 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | $2.78 \mathrm{E}-04$ | 0.90 |
| Combined Fish Metric | 0.05 | 0.09 |

### 2.5 OBSERVATIONS

The statistical analyses presented here support the following observations:

- Fish metrics from observations where standards were being attained were slightly better than fish metrics where standards were not in attainment, but most of the differences were not statistically significant. This same finding holds for both the current and proposed standards.
- There is generally a small positive correlation between observed fish metrics and percent attainment of dissolved oxygen standards. These correlations are also typically not statistically significant. This same finding holds for both the current and proposed standards.
- The relationships between fish metrics and attainment of existing standards are similar to those between fish metrics and attainment of proposed standards, giving no strong indication that the proposed water quality standards will improve fisheries.
- The correlation of top carnivores with water quality standards is worth noting. Top carnivores can be an important indicator metric, because a robust top carnivore population indicates that fish species farther down the food chain are also thriving. In this analysis the percent top carnivores by weight was one of the most strongly correlated variables with the percent of time existing water quality standards are attained $\left(r^{2}=0.21 ; p=0.06\right)$. However, although this metric was also correlated with the percent of time proposed water quality standards would be attained, the relationship is noticeably weaker ( $r^{2}=0.16 ; p=0.10$ ). This indicates that the current water quality standards are sufficient to support top carnivores and that changing the water quality standard for dissolved oxygen will not necessarily improve the percentage of top carnivores.
- There is a statistically significant $(\mathrm{p}<0.1)$ correlation between dissolved oxygen concentration and several fish metrics. However, the r-squared values for these significant regressions are relatively low (generally less than 0.2 , with only three exceptions noted), indicating that dissolved oxygen concentrations alone cannot serve as strong predictor of fish health.
- The dissolved oxygen metric that exhibited the strongest correlations with fish metrics was the percent of time dissolved oxygen was less than $5 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L}$ between June and September. Three fish metrics had r-squared values greater than 0.2 for this D.O. metric and one of them (NSUN) had an r-squared of 0.44 ( $\mathrm{p}<0.000001$ ), suggesting a significant, relatively strong relationship between that fish metric and that D.O. metric.

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## 3. CORRELATION OF FISH DATA WITH TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS

As discussed in Section 1 of this report, water quality data from the AWQM and CDOM programs were reviewed to identify water quality parameters, in addition to dissolved oxygen, that should be included in this analysis. For the reasons outlined in section 1.3.1, the only water quality parameter other than dissolved oxygen included was temperature.

For this analysis, temperature data were parameterized to represent two sets of conditions:

- Water quality standards for temperature.
- Temperature conditions in the period immediately preceding collection of fish samples.

Each of these is discussed in detail below.

### 3.1 REGRESSION TO PERCENT OF TIME IN COMPLIANCE

This section presents the results of regression of fish metrics to the percent of time that the collection station was in compliance with applicable water quality standards relating to water temperature. Comparisons are provided both for current and proposed water quality standards.

### 3.1.1 Current Temperature Standards

Temperature data collected from CDOM stations in the CAWS were reviewed to identify data events that were not in compliance with water quality standards, as well as the frequency and location of these events. The following observations were made from this review:

- In General Use waters, the only exceedances of temperature water quality standards occurred in 2001 and were limited to two CDOM stations. No exceedances of temperature water quality standards were noted in General Use waters from 2002 through 2007.
- In Secondary Contact and Indigenous Aquatic Life waters, the only events of noncompliance with current water quality standards for temperature occurred in 2001 and 2005. Available data indicated full compliance with water quality standards in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, and 2007. Furthermore, the recorded exceedances of the current water quality standard for temperature in these waters were limited to one CDOM location on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, near the Midwest Generation power plant.

Because only limited exceedances of current water quality standards for temperature occurred from 2001 to 2007, it was decided that evaluation of rate of compliance with the current water quality standards would not be useful in this analysis.

### 3.1.2 Proposed Temperature Standards

The water quality standards proposed by the IEPA include different use assignments for waters in the CAWS as well as more stringent numeric criteria for temperature. The CDOM temperature data from 2001 through 2007 were evaluated to assess what rates of compliance would have been, had the proposed standards been in place during the data period and how that would relate to fish in the CAWS. The results are presented below.

## Percent of Time Daily Maxima Exceeded in Preceding 12 Months

Table 3-1 provides regression results between all twelve fish metrics and the percent of the time the daily maximum temperature exceeded the maximum proposed water quality temperature standard in the twelve-month period preceding each fish sampling event. Scatter plots for each regression are provided in Attachment C and an example is presented in Figure 3-1. Although the results in Table 3-1 indicate a positive correlation between fish metrics and percent attainment of water quality standards, the $r$-squared values are very low (all less than 0.04). Furthermore, only one of the regressions (NSUN) is statistically significant at the $90 \%$ confidence level (i.e., significance $<0.10$ ).

Table 3-1. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. Percent of Time Proposed Daily Maximum Temperature Standard Exceeded in Preceding 12 Months

| Fish Metric | $\mathbf{r}^{2}$ | Significance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| \%DELT_(n) | 0.003 | 0.65 |
| CPUE | 0.002 | 0.74 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 0.002 | 0.71 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 0.011 | 0.37 |
| PRTOL | 0.004 | 0.61 |
| LITOT | 0.007 | 0.74 |
| NMIN | 0.002 | 0.74 |
| NSUN | 0.038 | 0.10 |
| GEN | 0.028 | 0.16 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.007 | 0.48 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | $1.44 \mathrm{E}-07$ | 1.00 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 0.006 | 0.53 |
| Combined Fish Metric | 0.03 | 0.18 |



Figure 3-1. Example Scatter Plot Showing Regression of NSUN vs. Percent of Time Proposed Daily Maximum Temperature Standard Exceeded in Preceding 12 Months

## Percent of Time Period Maxima Exceeded by More than $2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

Table 3-2 provides regression results between fish metrics and the percent of the time daily maximum temperature exceeded the maximum proposed water quality temperature standard by greater than $2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ within a regulatory period. Scatter plots for each regression are provided in Attachment C. The results in Table 3-2 indicate a positive correlation between fish metrics and percent attainment of water quality standards, but the r-squared values are all less than 0.02 and none are statistically significant at a significance level < 0.10 .

Table 3-2. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. Percent of Time Proposed Daily Maximum Temperature Standard Exceeded by greater than $2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in Regulatory Period

| Fish Metric | $\mathbf{r}^{\mathbf{2}}$ | Significance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| \%DELT_(n) | 0.009 | 0.41 |
| CPUE | 0.001 | 0.84 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 0.003 | 0.64 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 0.009 | 0.42 |
| PRTOL | 0.008 | 0.45 |
| LITOT | 0.002 | 0.63 |
| NMIN | 0.003 | 0.63 |
| NSUN | 0.014 | 0.32 |
| GEN | 0.019 | 0.25 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.003 | 0.67 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | $2.22 \mathrm{E}-04$ | 0.90 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 0.002 | 0.73 |
| Combined Fish Metric | 0.013 | 0.34 |

## Exceedance of Period Average Temperature

Station compliance with regulatory period average temperature limits was evaluated for correlation with fish metrics, but it was found that only two fish surveys occurred in conjunction with data that would have exceeded the proposed water quality standards for temperature ${ }^{7}$. Because of the very low number of fish sampling events that were concurrent with conditions that would have exceeded the proposed average temperature standard, correlation of that standard with fish metrics was not useful.

### 3.2 CORRELATION OF FISH DATA WITH ANTECEDENT TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS

Fish metrics were also correlated with temperature conditions antecedent to fish sampling events to identify possible relationships to short-term temperature conditions. The results are discussed below.

### 3.2.1 24-Hour Antecedent Average Temperature

Table 3-3 provides regression results between all twelve fish metrics and the 24-hour average antecedent temperature $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. Scatter plots for each regression are provided in Attachment C. As with other comparisons to temperature metrics, the results in Table 3-3 indicate a positive correlation between fish metrics and 24-hour antecedent average temperature, but low r-squared values suggest relatively weak relationships. Only three of

[^2]the individual fish metrics in these regressions were found to have statistical significance at the $90 \%$ confidence level (significance level < 0.10): LIT0T, NSUN and \%INT_(n). The combined fish metric also had a statistically significant r-squared value.

Table 3-3. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. 24 Hour Average Antecedent Temperature

| Fish Metric | $\mathbf{r}^{\mathbf{2}}$ | Significance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| \%DELT_(n) | 0.02 | 0.21 |
| CPUE | 0.02 | 0.26 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 0.002 | 0.75 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 0.02 | 0.26 |
| PRTOL | 0.002 | 0.74 |
| LIT0T | 0.04 | 0.08 |
| NMIN | $3.40 \mathrm{E}-04$ | 0.88 |
| NSUN | 0.18 | $2.13 \mathrm{E}-04$ |
| GEN | 0.03 | 0.13 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.05 | 0.07 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 0.02 | 0.23 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 0.01 | 0.51 |
| Combined Fish Metric | 0.06 | 0.04 |

### 3.2.2 48-Hour Antecedent Average Temperature

Table 3-4 provides regression results between all twelve fish metrics and the 48-hour average antecedent temperature $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. Scatter plots for each regression are provided in Attachment C. These results are similar to those for the 24-hour antecedent temperature condition, with very low r-squared values, and statistically significant regressions only for LITOT, NSUN and \%INT_(n).

Table 3-4. Regression Characteristics of Fish Metrics vs. 48 Hour Average Antecedent Temperature

| Fish Metric | $\mathbf{r}^{\mathbf{2}}$ | Significance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| \%DELT_(n) | 0.02 | 0.28 |
| CPUE | 0.03 | 0.17 |
| \%LTHPL_(n) | 0.002 | 0.73 |
| \%TC_(wt) | 0.02 | 0.28 |
| PRTOL | 0.003 | 0.65 |
| LIT0T | 0.06 | 0.04 |
| NMIN | $4.56 \mathrm{E}-04$ | 0.86 |
| NSUN | 0.21 | $9.57 \mathrm{E}-05$ |
| GEN | 0.03 | 0.19 |
| \%INT_(n) | 0.06 | 0.04 |
| \%MOD_(wt) | 0.02 | 0.25 |
| \%INSCT_(n) | 0.01 | 0.44 |
| Combined Fish Metric | 0.08 | 0.02 |

### 3.3 OBSERVATIONS

The statistical analyses presented here support the following observations:

- As with comparison to dissolved oxygen, there is a slight positive correlation between observed fish metrics and percent attainment of proposed temperature standards, but correlations are rarely statistically significant.
- Very small positive correlations are also apparent between fish metrics and shortterm antecedent temperatures, but the correlations are statistically significant only for three individual metrics, LIT0T, NSUN and \%INT_(n) and for the combined fish metric. The very low r-squared values for these significant regressions indicate that temperature alone is not a strong indicator of fish health.

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## 4. FINDINGS

The following overall findings can be drawn from this analysis:

- Fish metrics are positively correlated to dissolved oxygen, but dissolved oxygen is a poor predictor of fish metrics. A few fish metrics showed statistically significant correlation to observed dissolved oxygen concentration, with higher dissolved oxygen concentrations resulting in slightly better metrics. This result does not necessarily indicate that oxygen concentrations are the primary factor controlling fish health. The statistical maxim "Correlation does not imply causation" applies here. Furthermore, the r-squared values between fish metrics and dissolved oxygen concentration are relatively low for the most part (i.e. generally less than 0.2 ). It should be noted that this finding does not necessarily indicate that oxygen concentrations are an unimportant predictor of fish health. The dissolved oxygen concentrations used in these regressions do not fully represent the historical exposure of the sampled fish to oxygen. Fish are mobile, and may be exposed to dissolved oxygen concentrations significantly different that the ones reflected at the oxygen monitoring location during the time of fish collection.
- In terms of ability to explain fish data in the CAWS, compliance with new standards is similar to compliance with existing standards. Fish metrics from observations where standards were being attained were generally better than fish metrics where standards were not in attainment, but most differences were not statistically significant. In addition, fish metrics showed a positive correlation to the percent of time that standards were attained at a station. These findings hold for both the current and proposed standards, although the current standards showed a higher number of significant differences than do the proposed standards. This may imply that compliance with current standards is a better predictor of fish health than are the proposed standards.
- Some fish metrics are positively correlated to temperature, but more poorly than with dissolved oxygen. Relatively few fish metrics showed statistically significant correlation to observed temperature data. Applying the proposed water quality standards for temperature to the $2001-2007$ CDOM data set does not suggest that attainment of these proposed standards is a good indicator of fish health.

These findings indicate that water quality alone is not a sufficient indicator of fisheries in the CAWS and suggest that other factors may also be important to fish in the system. With respect to the primary question stated in Section 1 (i.e., what changes, if any, can be expected solely from an improvement in water quality in the CAWS, if current uses and physical habitat conditions remain unchanged?), while no definitive statement can be made about causation from regression analysis, the weak correlations between fish metrics and dissolved oxygen indicate that incremental improvements in water quality
alone may have, at best, a small benefit to fish if all other conditions affecting fish in the system remain unchanged.

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## 5. REFERENCES

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## ATTACHMENT A:

## BOX PLOTS COMPARING ATTAINMENT AND NONATTAINMENT POPULATIONS OF FISH

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Existings Standards - All Designated Uses

$\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard
 adjusted for ties

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

adjusted for ties

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

adjusted for ties

## C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard


adjusted for ties
$\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

adjusted for ties

$$
\text { C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; } \mathrm{N}=\text { data not in compliance with D.O. standard }
$$


adjusted for ties
$\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

$\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard
 adjusted for ties

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

adjusted for ties
$\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard
 adjusted for ties

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

adjusted for ties

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

## Existing Standards - Secondary Contact Use



| Kruskal-Wallis |  | Test on | PRTOL |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Compliance | N | Median | Ave Rank | Z |  |
| C | 24 | 0.75 | 16.8 | -1.41 |  |
| N | 12 | 0.789 | 22 | 1.41 |  |
| Overall | 36 |  | 18.5 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{H}=1.99$ | DF $=$ | $1 \mathrm{P}=$ | 0.159 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{H}=1.99$ | DF $=$ | $1 \mathrm{P}=$ | 0.158 |  | adjusted for ties |

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

$\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard


C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard


[^3]
$\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard


| Kruskal-Wallis |  | Test on | \%MOD_(wt) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Compliance | N | Median | Ave Rank | Z |  |
| C | 24 | 1.05 | 18.8 | 0.22 |  |
| N | 12 | 0.9 | 18 | -0.22 |  |
| Overall | 36 |  | 18.5 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{H}=0.05$ | DF $=$ | $1 \mathrm{P}=$ | 0.827 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{H}=0.05$ | DF $=$ | $1 \mathrm{P}=$ | 0.827 |  | adjusted for ties |

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard


## $\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard



C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard


| Kruskal-Wallis | Test on | GEN |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Compliance | N | Median | Ave Rank | Z |  |
| C | 24 | 0.763 | 17.8 | -0.59 |  |
| N | 12 | 0.854 | 20 | 0.59 |  |
| Overall | 36 |  | 18.5 |  |  |
| H $=0.34$ | DF $=$ | $1 \mathrm{P}=$ | 0.557 |  | adjusted for ties |

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard


C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard


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[^4]Proposed Standards - All Designated Uses


| Kruskal-Wallis | Test on | PRTOL |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: | :--- |
| Compliance | N | Median | Ave Rank | Z |

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathbf{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard


[^5]

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard


[^6]
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$$
\text { C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; } \mathrm{N}=\text { data not in compliance with D.O. standard }
$$


| Kruskal-Wallis |  | Test on | \%TC_(wt) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Compliance | N | Median | Ave Rank | Z |  |
| C | 27 | 9.6 | 26.9 |  | 0.47 |
| N | 24 | 5.7 | 25 |  | -0.47 |
| Overall | 51 |  | 26 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{H}=0.22$ | DF $=$ | $1 \mathrm{P}=$ | 0.637 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{H}=0.22$ | DF $=$ | $1 \mathrm{P}=$ | 0.637 | adjusted for ties |  |

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| Boxplot of NMIN vs Compliance-P |
| :--- | :--- |

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| Boxplot of \%DELT_(n) vs Compliance-P |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Comp | ce-p |  |  |
| Kruskal-Wal | llis | Test on | \%DELT_(n) |  |  |
| Compliance | N | Median | Ave Rank |  |  |
| C | 13 | 2.7 | 9.8 | -1.77 |  |
| N | 10 | 5 | 14.9 | 1.77 |  |
| Overall | 23 |  | 12 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{H}=3.12 \mathrm{D}$ | DF $=$ | $1 \mathrm{P}=$ | 0.077 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{H}=3.13 \mathrm{D}$ | $\mathrm{DF}=$ | $1 \mathrm{P}=$ | 0.077 |  | adjusted for ties |

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[^8]Proposed Standards - Designated Use B

$\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathbf{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

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$\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard
 adjusted for ties

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

adjusted for ties

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

adjusted for ties
C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

adjusted for ties
$\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard


| Kruskal-Wallis | Test on | CPUE |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Compliance | N | Median | Ave Rank |  | Z |
| C | 14 |  | 7 |  | 14.4 |
| N | 14 | 6.5 | 14.6 | 0.09 |  |
| Overall | 28 |  | 14.5 | 0.09 |  |
| H $=0.01$ | DF $=$ | $1 \mathrm{P}=$ | 0.927 |  |  |
| H $=0.01$ | DF $=$ | $1 \mathrm{P}=$ | 0.927 |  |  | adjusted for ties

$\mathrm{C}=$ data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

adjusted for ties

C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

adjusted for ties
C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

adjusted for ties
C = data in compliance with D.O. standard; $\mathrm{N}=$ data not in compliance with D.O. standard

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## ATTACHMENT B:

## REGRESSION PLOTS COMPARING FISH WITH DISSOLVED OXYGEN CONDITIONS

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## Regression of Fish Metrics and Compliance with Existing Water Quality Standards for Dissolved Oxygen




Regression of Fish Metrics and Compliance with Existing Water Quality Standards for Dissolved Oxygen


## Regression of Fish Metrics and Compliance with Proposed Water Quality Standards for Dissolved Oxygen




## Regression of Fish Metrics and Compliance with Proposed Water Quality

 Standards for Dissolved Oxygen




## Regression of Fish Metrics and Percent of Time from June through September with Dissolved Oxygen Less Than 5.0 mg/L




## Regression of Fish Metrics and Percent of Time from June through September with Dissolved Oxygen Less Than $5.0 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{L}$




## Regression of Fish Metrics and 48-Hour Antecedent Minimum Dissolved Oxygen Concentration




## Regression of Fish Metrics and 48-Hour Antecedent Average Dissolved Oxygen Concentration



Regression of Fish Metrics and 48-Hour Antecedent Average Dissolved Oxygen Concentration

## ATTACHMENT C:

## REGRESSION PLOTS COMPARING FISH WITH TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS

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## Regression of Fish Metrics and Percent of Time Daily Maximum Temperature Exceeded (Proposed Water Quality Standards)




## Regression of Fish Metrics and Percent of Time Daily Maximum Temperature Exceeded (Proposed Water Quality Standards)








## Regression of Fish Metrics and Percent of Time Daily Maximum Temperature Exceeded by More Than $2^{\mathbf{0}} \mathrm{C}$ (Proposed Water Quality Standards)




## Regression of Fish Metrics and Percent of Time Daily Maximum Temperature Exceeded by More Than $2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Proposed Water Quality Standards)








Regression of Fish Metrics and Compliance with 24-Hour Antecedent Temperature



Regression of Fish Metrics and Compliance with 24-Hour Antecedent Temperature




## Regression of Fish Metrics and Compliance with 48-Hour Antecedent Temperature




Regression of Fish Metrics and Compliance with 48-Hour Antecedent Temperature

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ For purposes of this analysis, three of the stations were excluded because they are outside of the portion of the CAWS addressed by the Habitat Evaluation and Improvement Study. The excluded stations are AWQM 49 (Calumet River near Lake Michigan), AWQM 55 (mouth of the Lake Calumet connecting channel), and AWQM 86 (Grand Calumet River).

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ AWQM 40 is located downstream of Bubbly Creek and the nearest CDOM stations are in Bubbly Creek and just upstream of Bubbly Creek; neither of these was deemed representative of conditions at AWQM 40. ${ }^{3}$ AWQM 41 is located between CDOM stations 14 and 15 and the data show poor correlation between dissolved oxygen at CDOM 14 and 15, but good temperature correlation. CDOM 15 is downstream of the Stickney WRP and is likely more representative of conditions at AWQM 41.
    ${ }^{4}$ AWQM 92 is located between CDOM 18 and 19 ; there is relatively good dissolved oxygen correlation between these station and good temperature correlation.
    ${ }^{5}$ AWQM 73 is located between CDOM stations 6 and 7; the data show poor correlation between dissolved oxygen at CDOM 6 and 7, but good temperature correlation.
    ${ }^{6}$ AWQM 35 is located between CDOM stations 1 and 2; the data show poor correlation between dissolved oxygen at CDOM 1 and 2, but good temperature correlation between CDOM 1, 2, and 3 .

[^2]:    ${ }^{7}$ AWQM \#75 averaged $32.7^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in August 2005 and AWQM \#92 averaged $30.4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in early September 2002, which were both greater than the average temperature standard for their respective regulatory periods

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