

STREAM CLASSIFICATION
Unnamed Tributary To Sawyer Harbor
Nasewaupee Sanitary District #1

DATE: November 7, 1978

SURVEY TEAM: Dennis C. Weisensel, District Biologist
Tim Rasman, Assistant Water Pollution Biologist

SUBJECT: The classification of the unnamed tributary to Sawyer Harbor in conjunction with a proposed discharge from Nasewaupee Sanitary District #1. Currently no discharge is occurring. Comments on a second choice discharge to Sawyer Harbor and a third choice discharge northwest to Green Bay.

HISTORY: The unnamed tributary to Sawyer Harbor is a small river system with its origin from surface water run off. It begins approximately 1-1/2 miles southwest of Sawyer Harbor and drains mostly fallow agricultural land. The tributary flows through a newly developed golf course which is located within the boundaries of the Sanitary District. Construction of the golf course disturbed the natural stream bed and altered northern pike spawning habitats. The Department sought and received some restoration of the natural stream bed. Lake Michigan District Fish Management personnel consider the stream an essential northern pike spawning habitat.

REPORT: Station "A" is located where the stream crosses county trunk "M". The stream at this location is only 2 feet wide and several inches deep. The banks and stream bed contain heavy growths of long stem grasses. The flow was minimal. The stream flowed in a straight line course and lacked natural meandering. Portions of the stream above county trunk "M" appeared to have been dredged in the past. It is known that dredging and rearrangement of the stream bed from county trunk "M" downstream to the end of the golf course occurred during the construction of the golf course.

Station "B" is located at the northeastern limit of the golf course. The stream in this area is channelized into an unnatural drainage way. The stream flows over a substrate of sand and gravel. Heavy algae and elodea growths are contained in the stream.

CONCLUSION: Lee Kernan, Area Fish Manager indicates the stream is essential to northern pike spawning habitat. Door County has a limited number of streams which are capable of providing spawning habitat. It is essential that the stream maintain adequate water quality to provide continuing northern pike spawning habitat. The unnamed tributary to Sawyer Harbor shall be classified as noncontinuous with no variance to fish and aquatic life requirement. The discharge must be water quality limited to maintain the northern pike spawning habitat presently there.

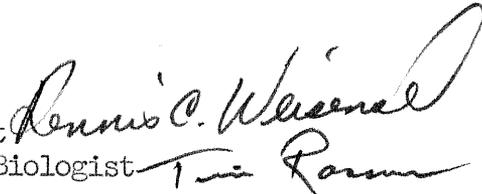
COMMENTS ON A SECOND CHOICE DISCHARGE TO SAWYER HARBOR:

Sawyer Harbor currently displays visual signs of eutrophication. It currently maintains a popular perch, walleye, northern pike and small mouth bass fishery. Several years ago, fish management initiated a walleye stocking program in the area. The return and public interest has been outstanding. Any discharge directed to Sawyer Harbor may increase the eutrophication rate and disrupt the successful fishery of the harbor area. Any discharge to the inner harbor area should be extremely water quality limited to prevent any possibility of further eutrophication.

COMMENTS ON THIRD CHOICE DISCHARGE NORTHWEST TO BAY OF GREEN BAY:

Discharging to Green Bay would create the least water quality problems of the three choices indicated. The large volume of water and current movements should provide rapid assimilation of any organic wastes discharged. Again we should be concerned with the well established and popular walleye, perch and small mouth bass fishery along the shores between Sand Bay and Sherwood Point. Any discharge should not be allowed to have any effect on the fisheries present.

Dennis C. Weisensel, District Biologist
Tim Rasman, Assistant Water Pollution Biologist
Lee Kernan, Area Fish Manager



The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is 'Dennis C. Weisensel' and the second is 'Tim Rasman'. They are written in dark ink and are positioned to the right of the typed names.

DCW:ds



STATION "A" FACING UPSTREAM



STATION "A" FACING DOWNSTREAM



STATION "B" FACING UPSTREAM



STATION "B" FACING DOWNSTREAM