

Wisconsin Dells Sewage Treatment Plant
Columbia County

January 24, 1977

Wisconsin River - Surface Acres = 10,904 Miles, Miles = 65.8, Gradient = 0.5 feet per mile.

The Wisconsin River above Prairie du Sac drains over 8,944 square miles through central Wisconsin beginning in Lac Vieux Desert in Vilas County. Two dams provide a combined head of 63 feet in this county (Wisconsin Dells, 25 feet; Prairie du Sac, 38 feet). The water is normally colored reddish-brown and contains industrial by-products and organic materials assumed to cause a taste problem in river fishes. This is most noticeable in late winter and early spring in fishes caught below the dams.

The river has a complex fishery. Walleye, sauger, catfish, both largemouth and smallmouth bass and rock sturgeon are considered the dominant game fishes. An occasional muskellunge is caught below Lake Wisconsin. Bluegills, white bass, and crappies are harvested below the dams in the late spring and early summer. Paddle fish inhabit the river below the Prairie du Sac dam and are protected from capture by law.

Recommendations

The Wisconsin River in Columbia County should in its entirety be classified continuous fish and aquatic life.

The above recommendations represent a concurrence of opinion of the stream classification team who are as follows:

Robert Weber - District Engineer
Jim Congdon - Area Fish Manager
Tom Bainbridge - District Biologist
Roger Schlessler - Natural Resources Technician

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas Bainbridge
Stream Classification Coordinator

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