

Please see the information below and attached, and spread the word in any way possible. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas...please let me know!

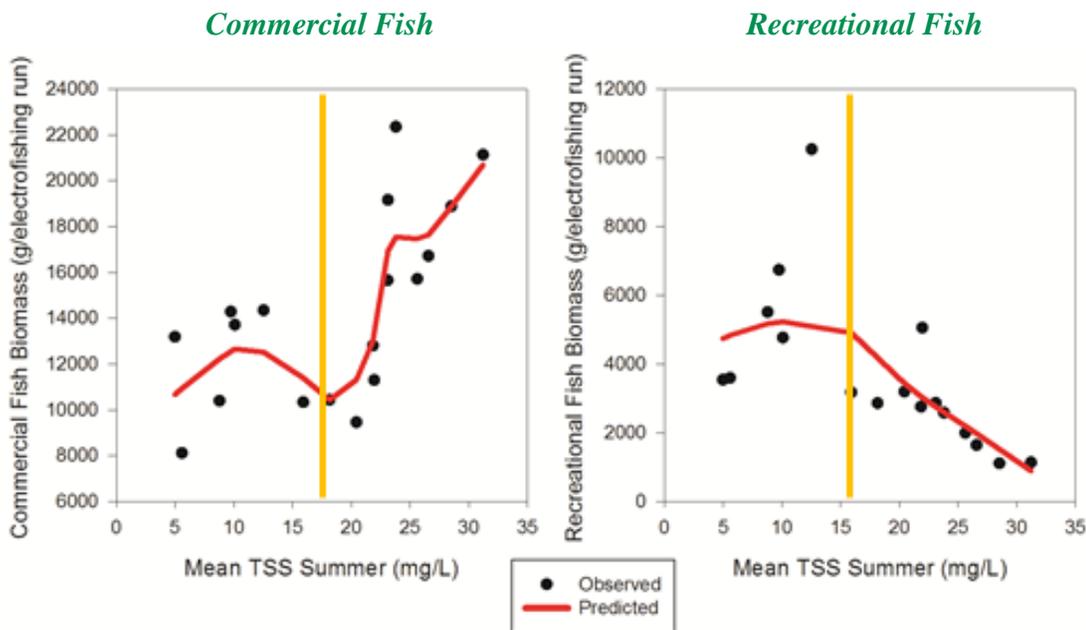
## STORMWATER 101

Water really quality matters in regard to the health of the Mississippi River Ecosystem! When we clean up the river we see more of the fish we like to fish for! Reducing stormwater runoff really helps to move water quality in a positive direction.

TSS (Total Suspended Solids) - the total amount of sediment, algae and other particulates in the water.

Graph 1. As summer TSS changes from a relatively clear value (5 mg/L TSS) to a relatively turbid value (30 mg/L TSS) we see a roughly 3 times increase in non-native fish biomass and a 3 times decrease in native fish biomass.

Graph 2. As summer TSS changes from a relatively clear value (5 mg/L TSS) to a relatively turbid value (30 mg/L TSS) we see a roughly 3 times increase in commercial fish (mainly rough fish like carp) biomass and a 3 times decrease in recreational fish (fish we like to fish for like bass, northern and bluegill) biomass.



Source credit: Shawn Giblin, Mississippi River Water Quality Specialist for the Wisconsin DNR.

## A GREAT PROJECT: STORMWATER LEARNING AT THE HABITAT RESTORE

*Soak It Up!* is making great progress. Native fruit trees have been planted, garden beds have been built, and volunteers have pulled weeds and washed rock from around the ReStore. In the next two weeks, Coulee Region EcoScapes will excavate around the ReStore to prep for biofilter installation. We invite you to come check out the progress first hand. To set up a private tour and speak with the contractors, email [amy.smith@onnewground.com](mailto:amy.smith@onnewground.com).

## LOCAL NEWS

The City of Onalaska is looking to partner with a developer for a planned Festival Foods support center near Nathan Hills Estates (across from the Habitat for Humanity ReStore) to cost share in the construction of new storm water treatment ponds that would treat storm water from both the new development and part of the surrounding neighborhood in the City of Onalaska. Onalaska is partnering in this project to improve their suspended solids removal rate from storm water runoff. Onalaska current City wide removal rate is 19.4% and the WDNR requires a removal rate of 40.0%. Click [HERE](#) for more info.



*Current stormwater treatment pond on Viking Avenue in Holmen.*



*Possible future stormwater treatment pond along HWY 16 across from the Habitat ReStore.*

## **YOU CAN HELP**

### *Spread the word!*

Continue to share the project through email, your website, a newsletter or social media ([www.lacrossewaters.org/stormwater](http://www.lacrossewaters.org/stormwater)).

### *Volunteer at Habitat for Humanity.*

The ReStore always needs people to help in the store. But on August 31, for this project volunteers are needed to remove and wash existing landscaping rock. *To pitch in, e-mail Amanda at: [volunteer@habitatlacrosse.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatlacrosse.org).*

### *Donate old garden tool heads at the ReStore.*

We're getting ready for artist Karl Unnasch and Western Technical College students to build a sculpture for the entry to the ReStore parking lot next winter. They'll use old garden tool heads and other reused material to draw attention to the ReStore's mission and water management learning opportunities at the store. Be part of the fun! Donate your old tool heads at the ReStore.

### *Schedule a private tour.*

Bring friends, family, co-workers, or your favorite organization to see the project and learn from the contractors! E-mail: [amy.smith@onnewground.com](mailto:amy.smith@onnewground.com)