



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

October 1, 2014

Kacie Norton
Rock Island USACE
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204 2004

RE: Soupbone Island and Riprap Island Repair
Project Number(s): 1503698
County: Carroll

Dear Ms. Norton:

This letter is in reference to the above mentioned project involving repair to riprap regulating structures at Soupbone Island and Riprap Island in Pool 13 of the Mississippi River (RM's 543.2 & 540.5) The natural resource review provided by EcoCAT identified the state-endangered western sand darter (*Ammocrypta clarum*) as occurring in the vicinity of the projects.

Representatives of the Department, US Fish & Wildlife, and USACE conducted a site visit at the two locations on September 24, 2014. A diver was deployed at Soupbone Island to check for signs of any viable mussel beds, listed mussel species, and substrate types. No mussels were found and substrate was mostly clay with some sand in the area searched. It was determined that a viable mussel bed or listed mussel species are unlikely to occur at this site. No diving was conducted at Riprap Island due to large amounts of woody snags resulting from significant erosion of the Island. Due to the erosion at this site, it was determined that a viable mussel bed or listed mussel species are unlikely to occur.

The Department has no objection to these projects proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. However, given the large amounts of woody snags at Riprap Island providing fish habitat and records of western sand darters in the vicinity, the Department recommends no instream work be conducted at both sites from April 15 through July 31 to avoid impacts during the primary spawning season of fishes.

Please note that this review by the IDNR, Impact Assessment Section does not preclude permit decisions made by the IDNR Office of Water Resources under the Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Nathan Grider
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
217-785-5500