

The Menomonee River Fish Passage Project implemented by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District will generate environmental data including Hydraulic and Hydrologic data, Geomorphological data, and fish population data. Data on fish will include species richness and biotic integrity, and information on fish with deformities, disease or tumors. This information will be used to determine the overall health of the fish community. Data sets will provide information on fish populations, primarily sampled using a Smith –Root backpack shocking unit, and other protocols developed by Lyons (1952) to develop quantitative index of biotic integrity and species richness pre and post project completion.

District will use staff and students from the Wisconsin Lutheran College to conduct fish sampling before and for two years after the project is completed. The fish monitoring will be under the supervision of Professor Robert Andersen, PhD in fisheries biology. The students and faculty at WI Lutheran have over fifteen years of experience conducting qualitative and quantitative fish sampling on S.E. Wisconsin streams and rivers. For this project, fish sampling reaches above and below the barrier removal project will be established that include areas of greatest usable fish cover to ensure adequate numbers of specimens to ascertain species richness for comparison of the pre and post project. Fish sampling will be conducted in the fall and spring prior to barrier removal work and the fall and spring for two years after the project is completed. Hydraulic and Hydrologic data, Geomorphological data, fish population data will initially be gathered from computer models, field notes and laboratory notes, and later transferred to electronic spreadsheets for storage and analysis. The collected data and details about the methods will be available starting January 1st, 2015. Contact David C Fowler, MMSD Senior Project Manager at DFowler@mmsd.com for more information or to make a data request. We do not plan on submitting these results to a peer reviewed journal, but will share this information with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries staff and the AOC Remedial Action Plan Stakeholders and Milwaukee Estuary Fish and Wildlife Technical Team. In the past, we have shared similar data through grant progress reports and presentations to Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Commission, watershed stakeholder groups, community groups, and professional organizations at conventions and workshops.