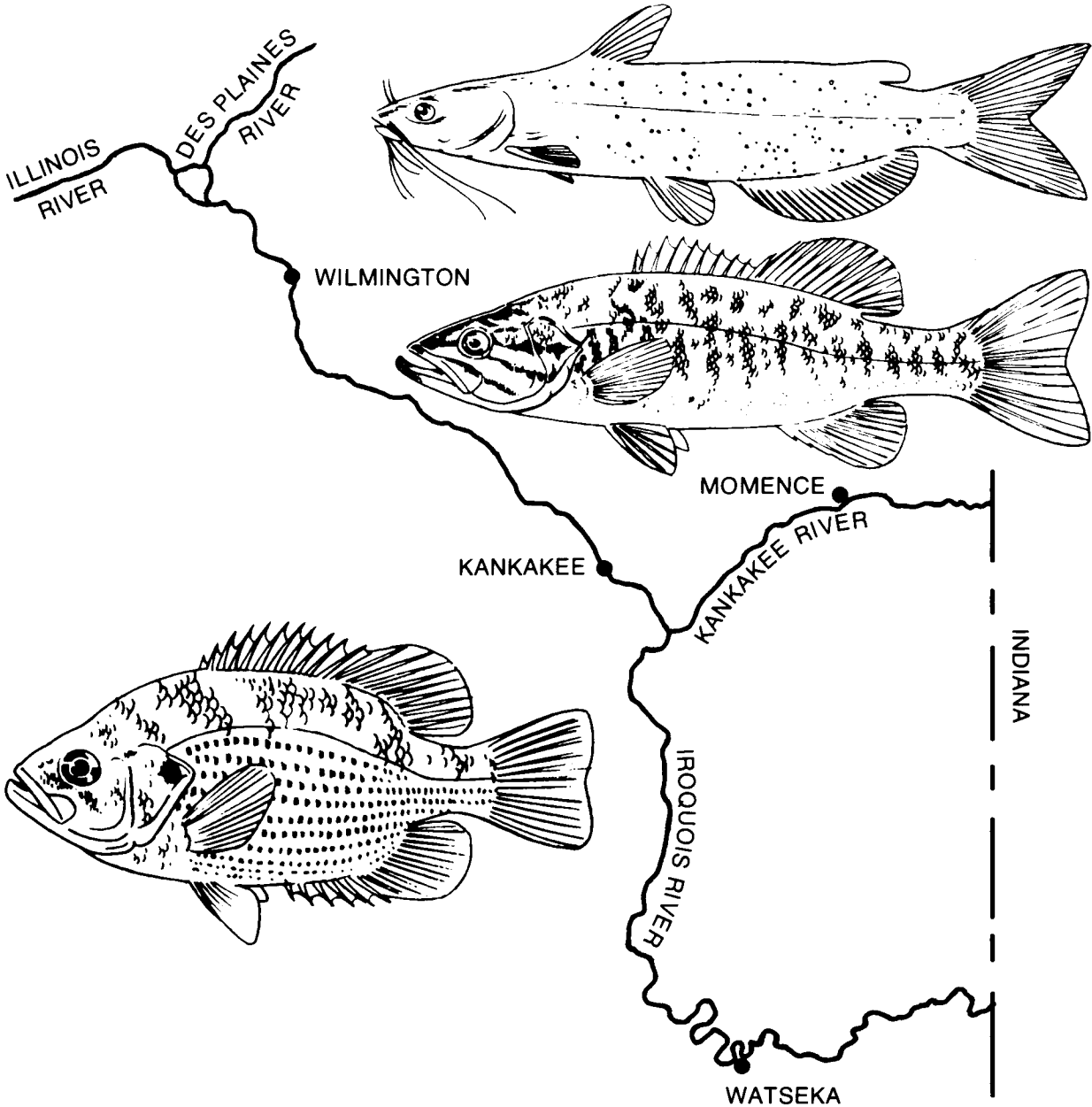
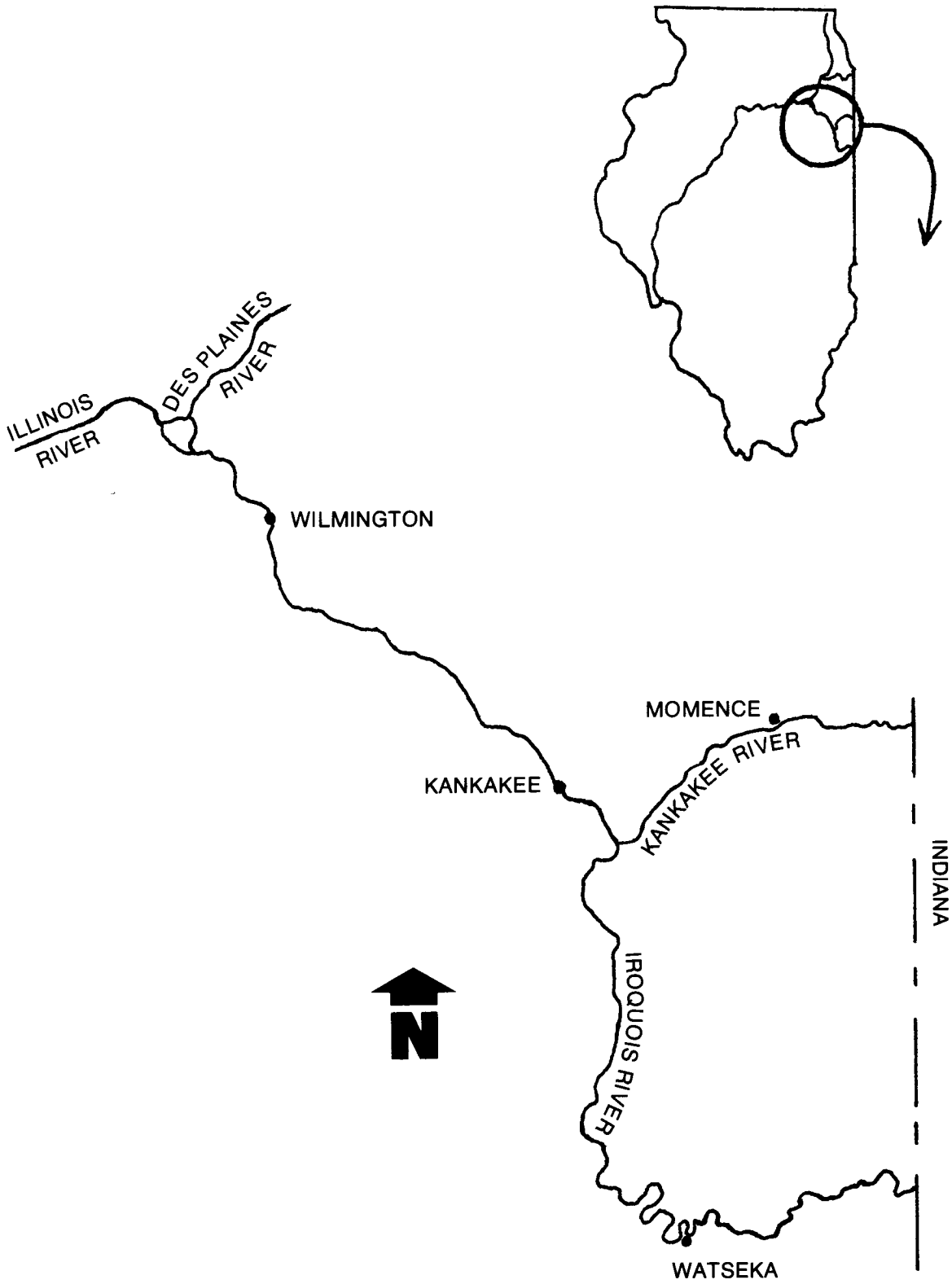


FISHING THE KANKAKEE AND THE IROQUOIS



Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISHERIES

FISHING THE KANKAKEE AND THE IROQUOIS

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INTRODUCTION

The scenic Kankakee River and its primary tributary, the Iroquois, are streams offering excellent fishing opportunities in a section of the state where fishing areas are in high demand. Good populations of smallmouth bass, walleye, northern, rock bass, channel catfish and crappie are found in the system. Although public access is in short supply on the Iroquois, the fishery of this stream is of such quality that fishing may be good wherever access is attained. The value of this river system to the fishing public can hardly be overstated.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SYSTEM

The Kankakee River System has a watershed of 5,280 square miles of which 3,125 are in Indiana and 2,155 are in Illinois. The Illinois portion of the watershed comprises nearly all of Kankakee and Iroquois counties, about half of Will County and small parts of Grundy, Vermilion and Ford counties.

The Kankakee-Iroquois River System contains a rich assemblage of some 72 different species of fish. A very fine, diversified sport fishery composed of: smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rockbass, walleye, northern pike, crappie, bluegill and channel catfish exist within the basin. Unusual species such as the ironcolor shiner, weed shiner, lake chubsucker, starhead topminnow, northern longear sunfish, least darter and the rare river redhorse and blacknose shiner occur within the system.

The Kankakee River rises in St. Joseph County, near South Bend, Indiana, a few miles south of the

Michigan State Line. The Kankakee flows south westerly 121 miles to Aroma Park, Illinois, where it is joined by its largest tributary, the Iroquois River. The Kankakee then flows northwesterly for 38 miles to its junction with the Des Plaines River where the two form the headwaters of the Illinois River.

The Kankakee is predominately a clear shallow stream with gravel-rubble riffles, sand-bottom pools and swampy-marshy areas along the upper portion. Larger pools are formed by the Momence, Kankakee and Wilmington dams and by the Dresden lock and dam on the headwaters of the Illinois River. The Kankakee provides an aquatic resources of some 3,338 acres.

The 94 mile long Iroquois River has its origin in Jasper County, southwest of San Pierre, Indiana. From south of San Pierre the river flows southwesterly to Watseka, Illinois, where it turns abruptly northward towards its union with the Kankakee River at Aroma Park.

The Iroquois is rather sluggish, brushy and turbid along its 54 miles course in Illinois. A few fee access and picnic areas occur, but the primary recreation intensity is generally greater in the lower river sections. Motorboats can navigate a short distance up the Iroquois from the 6 mile pool formed on the Kankakee River behind the Kankakee Dam. As is the case with the Kankakee River, the Iroquois River has not been channelized in Illinois: consequently the river retains much of its native beauty and recreational value. This river provides an aquatic resource of some 1,547 acres.

SAFETY ON THE RIVER

A certain amount of respect for the river is only good judgment. Small boats are fine on quiet backwaters, but if a person intends to travel on the main river where he may encounter strong current, or wakes from large pleasure craft, a stable boat is needed. A wise man would use nothing smaller than a 12' jon boat or V-bottom boat with 6 to 10 horsepower motor to navigate the main river. Boats of this size and larger can still be easily swamped if overloaded or handled by an inexperienced or careless person. Here are some additional points to take note of:

1. pay full attention to navigation of your boat
2. stay well away from large pleasure craft
3. watch for ripples on the water surface indicating underwater obstructions
4. wear life vests, at least while travelling to and from the place you fish

Before operating a boat on any water of this state, a person should obtain and read the pamphlet on the boat registration and safety act. These are available from the Department of Natural Resources, 600 N. Grand Ave. West, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

FISHING REGULATIONS

Fishing regulations for the Kankakee River are the same as for the rest of the state. Copies of the current regulations may be obtained at local sporting goods dealers or by writing to: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fisheries, Lincoln Tower Plaza, 524 S. Second, Springfield, IL 62706.

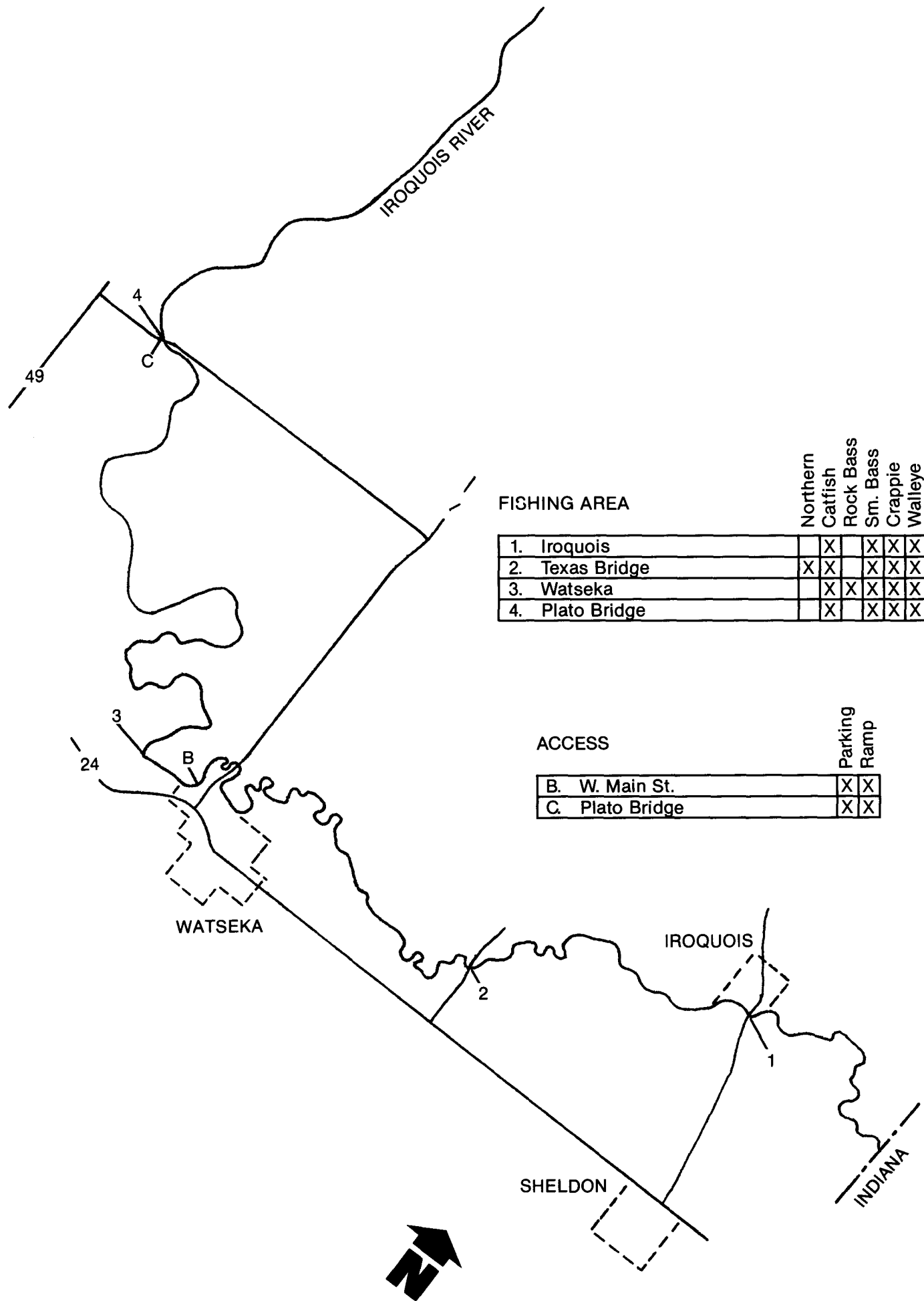
ACCESS

In the following maps section some of the access areas available to the public are noted. Certain public areas and private areas open to the public are available only after paying a fee and such fees are usually posted. *Unless an area is known to be public or is posted as a public area, it should be assumed that it is private and permission from the owner is necessary to use that area.*

SPECIFIC AREAS TO FISH

On the following maps areas have been marked that are known to have good sport fish populations. For each area marked and *numbered*, the sport fish most likely to be taken are checked in the box on the same page. It is realized that the areas marked represent only a portion of those occurring on the river, and as more fishing spots are discovered this guide may be updated. Access sites are *lettered* and listed in a second box with the basic facilities found at each site checked. No attempt was made to list all access sites, but only those nearest fishing areas marked on the map.



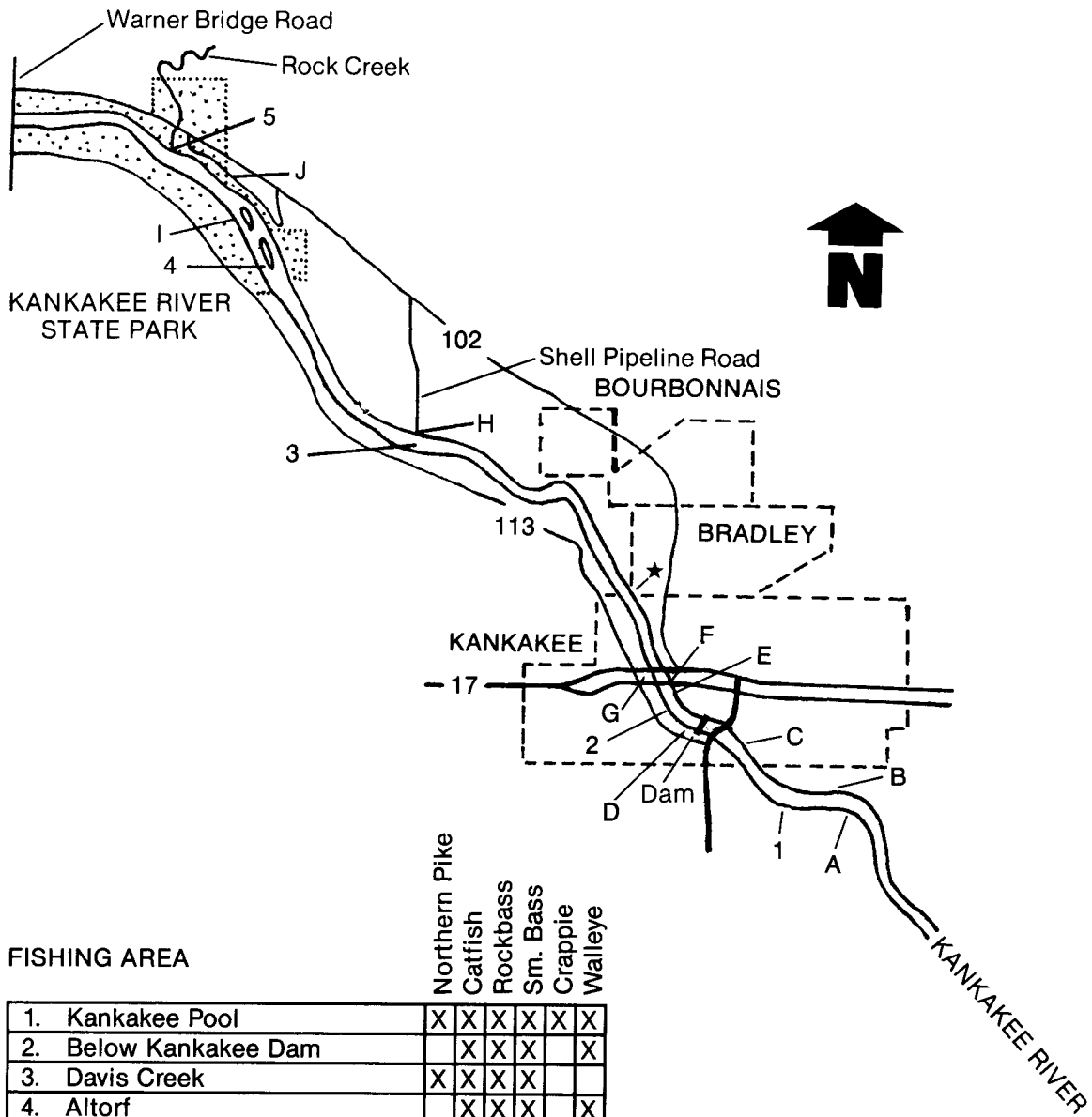


FISHING AREA

	Northern	Catfish	Rock Bass	Sm. Bass	Crappie	Walleye
1. Iroquois		X		X	X	X
2. Texas Bridge	X	X		X	X	X
3. Watseka		X	X	X	X	X
4. Plato Bridge	X		X	X	X	X

ACCESS

	Parking	Ramp
B. W. Main St.	X	X
C. Plato Bridge	X	X

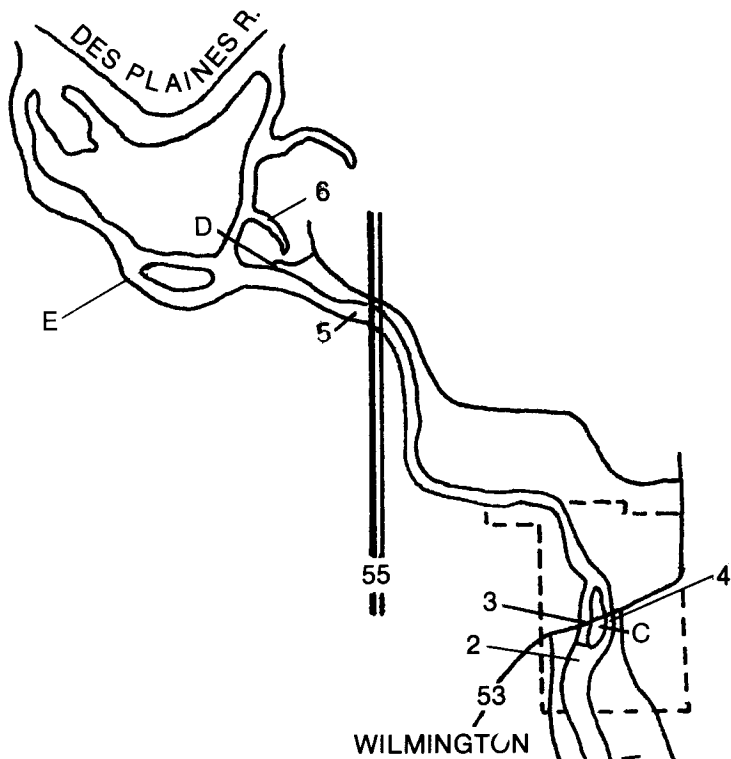


FISHING AREA

	Northern Pike	Catfish	Rockbass	Sm. Bass	Crappie	Walleye
1. Kankakee Pool	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Below Kankakee Dam		X	X	X		X
3. Davis Creek	X	X	X	X		
4. Altorf		X	X	X		X
5. Rock Creek	X	X	X	X		X

ACCESS

	Parking	Ramp	Table	Toilet	Camping	Concession	Boat Rental
A. River Rd. Park	X	X	X	X			
B. Beckman Park	X	X	X	X			X
C. Cobb Park	X		X	X			
D. Jeffers Park	X		X	X			
E. Legion Park	X						
F. Alpiner Park	X		X	X			
G. Bird Pk. Quarry	X	X	X	X			X
H. Kankakee St. Pk.	X	X	X	X	X		
I. Kankakee St. Pk.	X		X	X	X	X	X
J. Kankakee St. Pk.	X		X	X	X	X	X
★ LeVausser Park	X			X			



FISHING AREA

FISHING AREA	Northern Catfish	Sm. Bass	Lm. Bass	Crappie	Walleye	Rockbass	Bluegill
1. Kankakee State Pk.		X	X		X	X	X
2. Above Wilm. Dam	X	X	X			X	X
3. Below Wilm. Dam	X	X	X			X	X
4. Wilm side channel	X	X		X	X		X
5. Below I-55	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6. Kankakee R. cutoff	X	X		X	X		X

ACCESS

ACCESS	Parking	Ramp	Table	Toilet	Camping
A. Kankakee St. Pk.	X	X	X	X	
B. County Road Access	X			X	
C. Wilmington Is.	X		X	X	
D. Des Plaines Cons. Area	X	X	X	X	X
E. Marina Boat Ramp	X	X		X	
* Kankakee State Park	X	X	X	X	
** River Front Lounge (Fee Ramp)	X	X	X	X	X

