

Lock 18 Fish Passage

Rock Island District

Authority - Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act, as amended
(Modifications for Improvement of the Environment)

Location - The proposed project is located adjacent to Lock and Dam No. 18 at river mile 410.2 – 411.5 on the Mississippi River. The Federal Levee joins the Iowa River – Flint Creek Levee at river mile 411.4. The fish passage structure could be located in the vicinity of the juncture of these two levees using Swift Chute as the river connection or along the western end of the dam spillway section. The project is in Des Moines County, Iowa, approximately 5 miles north of Burlington, Iowa.

Background - The fishes of the Mississippi river are an extraordinary biological resource.

The Mississippi River is special among large rivers of the temperate zone in that it supports an unusually large number of fish species. At least 150 freshwater species have been reported on the upper Mississippi River. A typical midwestern lake often contains fewer than 15 species. Despite the continued presence of many fish species, their abundance, size, and distribution has changed as a result of human activity. The construction of the navigational dam system along the Mississippi River has impeded fish movement throughout the system. This project will reestablish movement between Pools 18 and 19. The most significant species to benefit from this reconnection are lake sturgeon, paddlefish, walleye/sauger, blue catfish, flathead catfish, channel catfish, and skipjack herring. The Two Rivers Levee and Drainage Association has expressed an interest in cost sharing this project.