CORONAVIRUS IN ILLINOIS UPDATES

SUBSCRIBE

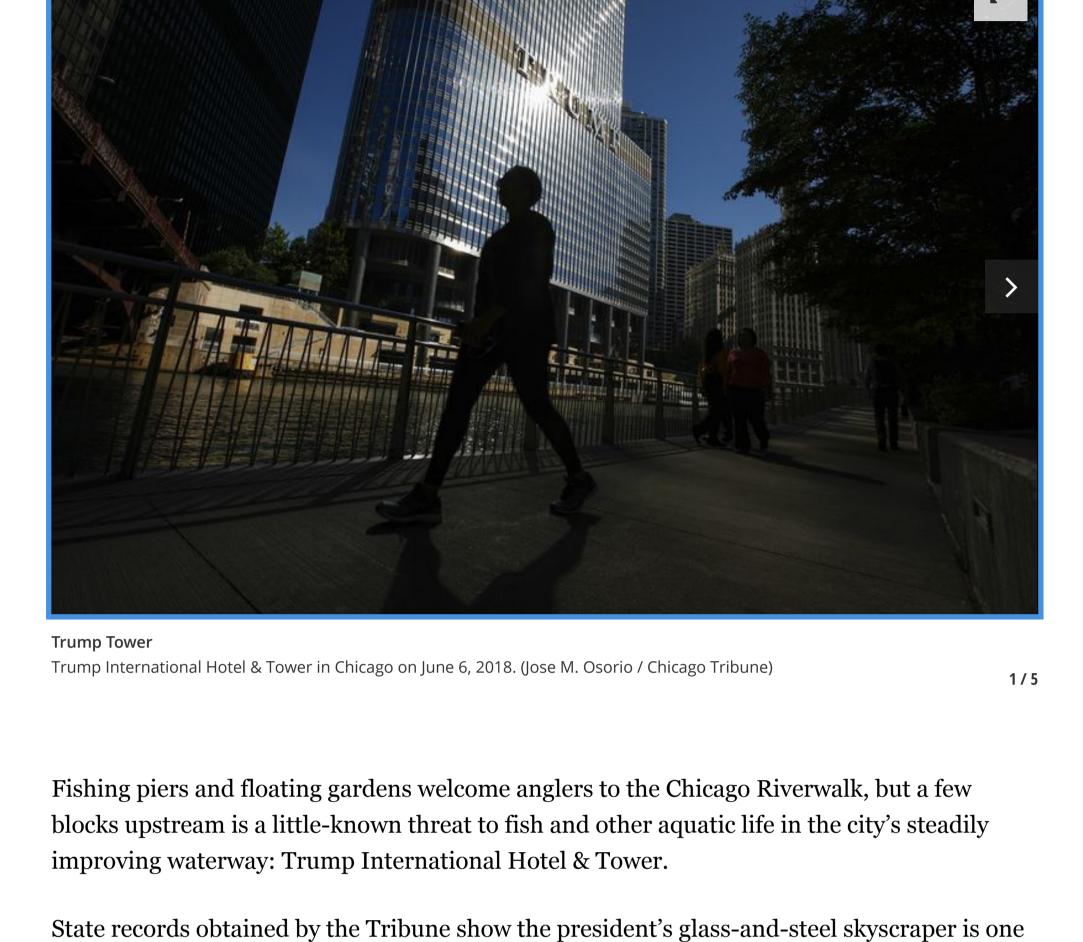
LOG IN

Trump Tower, one of largest users of Chicago River water, has never met EPA rules for protecting fish, records show

NEWS

BREAKING NEWS

By MICHAEL HAWTHORNE CHICAGO TRIBUNE | JUN 18, 2018 | 6:55 AM



of the largest users of Chicago River water for its cooling systems, siphoning nearly 20 million gallons a day through intakes so powerful the machines could fill an Olympic swimming pool in less than an hour, then pumping the water back into the river up to 35

degrees hotter.

special treatment?"

Tapping the river

Like other large users that draw water directly from rivers or lakes, Trump Tower is required to follow federal and state regulations detailing how facilities should limit the number of fish pinned against intake screens or killed by sudden changes in pressure and temperature. Yet of the nearly dozen high-rises that rely on the Chicago River for cooling water, the

decade-old skyscraper developed by Donald Trump is the only one that has **failed to document** it took those measures, state records show. Trump's Chicago managers also haven't conducted a study of fish killed by the luxury hotel and condominium complex another step required five years ago by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in a permit for the building's water intakes.

state's latest permit gives building managers another three years to complete the ecological study and confirms state inspectors failed to ensure the skyscraper has complied with the fish-protecting regulations. "I can't keep a library book checked out for more than two weeks without getting a fine," said

Albert Ettinger, an environmental lawyer challenging the permit on behalf of the Illinois

chapter of the Sierra Club and Friends of the Chicago River. "Why should Trump Tower get

Estimates of Trump Tower fish kills likely won't be available anytime soon. A **draft of the**

Trump Tower draws nearly 20 million gallons of water from the Chicago River each day, far more than most buildings in the area and on par with a water plant that helps supply cooling water to many downtown buildings. 2 Trump Tower 6

4 7

RANDOLPH

CONGRESS

9

For selected buildings, in gallons per day

Enwave Merchandise Mart plant*

MADISON

10

Lake

Michigan

23.8 million

19.7 million

WATER DRAWN FROM THE CHICAGO RIVER PER DAY

2 Trump Tower

7 333 N. Michigan

River City

150 S. Wacker

10 400 E. Randolph**

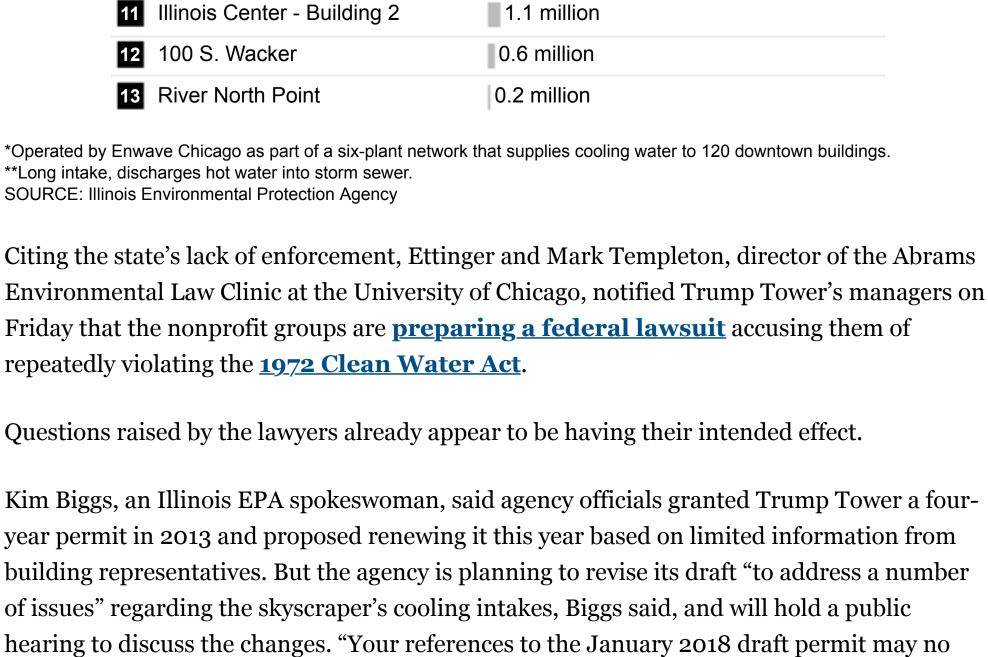
Old Post Office 17.3 million Jewelers Building 11.5 million Civic Opera 4.0 million 6 300 N. LaSalle 1.9 million

1.8 million

1.7 million

1.3 million

1.1 million



longer be relevant once the new draft permit is put to notice," she said in an email.

The fact that lawyers are invoking an obscure provision of federal law to protect fish in the

Chicago River is another sign of the improving health of a sluggish prairie stream that city

Engineers reversed the river away from Lake Michigan more than a century ago to keep the

multibillion-dollar stormwater diversion projects have cleaned it up enough that kayaks

can be rented along the popular Riverwalk and other spots that draw people to the

city's waste out of its source of drinking water. Advances in sewage treatment and

Trump Tower representatives did not return telephone calls.

water's edge.

encourage reproduction.

on June 6, 2018.(Jose M. Osorio / Chicago Tribune)

throughout the nation.

show.

aid in future voluntary compliance."

to be frozen again at the ice plants.

leaders once treated as little more than an industrialized sewage canal.

Federal and state biologists found nearly 30 types of fish swimming in the murky green water during the past four years, including largemouth bass, bluegill, white perch and walleye. In October, a boy fishing on the Riverwalk a block away from Trump Tower caught the first American eel ever seen in the river.

Most of the fish arrived naturally and appear to be growing in number, based on periodic

catfish, a relatively easy catch for anglers that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

stocked in the North Branch four years ago after building artificial nesting cavities to

surveys by federal, state and local officials. Another species found downtown is channel

A city of Chicago Fleet and Facility Management boat makes its way down the Chicago River near Trump International Hotel & Tower

"A politician once told me fish don't vote," said John Quail, director of watershed planning at

Friends of the Chicago River, a nonprofit group that has pushed for decades to change how

A diverse fish population in the river might not mean much to a tourist looking down at the

progress in meeting the Clean Water Act's goal of "fishable and swimmable" waterways

Trump Tower's developers initially failed to get a permit for a new cooling-water intake on

Lisa Madigan's office **filed a complaint in 2012**, three years after Trump opened his

glistening Chicago high-rise at 401 N. Wabash Ave., and a year later the corporation in

charge of the hotel and condo tower agreed to follow the law and pay a \$46,000 fine.

the former site of the drab, low-slung Chicago Sun-Times Building. Illinois Attorney General

In settlement documents, the state said the fine would "serve to deter further violations and

All of the other users of river water have filed documents with the state outlining how their

slow the velocity of their intakes to increase the chances fish can swim away safely, records

One of the most extensive collections of documents is for 300 N. LaSalle, a 60-story office

building that uses about 2 million gallons of river water a day, compared with the nearly 20

cooling systems limit fish kills. Most draw substantially less water than Trump Tower and

water from the Michigan Avenue Bridge, Quail said, but it is an important indicator of

the waterway is managed. "But the city and others have invested hundreds of millions of

dollars on the river, banking on the idea that it's going to continue to improve."

million gallons withdrawn daily by the 98-story Trump Tower built during the same period. Building engineers at 300 N. LaSalle are required to check the water intakes three times a day. The vast majority of the 183 fish found during the past five years were dead, records show.

the U.S. EPA to revise its regulations, which the agency concluded most users could meet either by installing cooling towers or reducing the velocity of water intakes. Energy companies are the chief targets of the regulations. The Tribune reported in 2011 that dozens of old power plants on the Great Lakes kill hundreds of millions of fish each

year while sucking in massive amounts of water to cool equipment.

to block or delay clean air and water rules. Last year the American Public Power Association urged the Trump administration to add the **cooling intake regulations** to its list of environmental rules to overhaul or abolish. For now, at least, the rules are still in effect.

Tab**29**Ia Feed

after covering the environment and state government in Ohio, Illinois and Florida.

Michael Hawthorne is a Pulitzer-finalist investigative reporter who focuses on the environment and

public health for the Chicago Tribune. A downstate Illinois native, Hawthorne joined the Tribune in 2004

CONTACT

Protective Cloth Masks with PM2.5 Filter BRAVE NEW LOOK | SPONSORED

8 Reasons Why (Literally 22 Worst Movies Ever, Everyone) Should Get Bombas According to Rotten Tomatoes Socks POPSUGAR | SPONSORED **BOMBAS** | SPONSORED Skip the Doctor and Upgrade Chico's Just Released Their to the World's Smartest CPAP New Summer Arrivals For

Learn more about phones for seniors. LEARN MORE LATEST BREAKING NEWS CORONAVIRUS Coronavirus in Illinois updates: Here's what's happening Monday with COVID-19 in the Chicago area CORONAVIRUS Lightfoot advances plan to delay part of worker scheduling protection rules due to virus outbreak

greatcall.

CORONAVIRUS 2.3 million more Illinois jobs at risk: The devastating economic toll of the virus in 6 charts 16m

ADVERTISEMENT

MOST READ • BREAKING NEWS

Crash on eve of Mother's Day leaves

Pregnant Chicago teen was gunned down after \$5,000 bounty was placed on her head for testifying in murder

four moms dead

trial, prosecutors say

MAY 14, 2012

APR 2, 2020

Most other downtown buildings, including many on the river, rely on different methods to keep cool. Some have cooling towers connected to the public water system. Others tap into an

underground network of pipes that deliver chilled water from a handful of "ice

batteries" scattered around the Loop. The facilities act like massive radiators by freezing

water-filled coils at night when electricity prices are low, then circulating the cold water to

The federal regulations at issue for Trump Tower were prompted by a Clean Water Act

more than 120 buildings during the day through a closed-loop system that returns hot water

provision intended to help restore lakes and rivers by forcing polluters to significantly reduce

their water withdrawals. Enforcement was spotty at best until a 2007 court order required

Breaking News Newsletter As it happens ? Get updates on the coronavirus pandemic and other news as it happens with our breaking email alerts ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

As a presidential candidate, Trump repeatedly condemned environmental regulations and

vowed to abolish the federal EPA. The anti-regulation agenda he has pushed since taking

office is carried out in part by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who as Oklahoma attorney

general scaled back enforcement of environmental laws and sued the federal agency 13 times

mhawthorne@chicagotribune.com Twitter @scribeguy **MORE COVERAGE:** <u>Trump Tower sign invisible in marketing brochure — and the web takes notice »</u>

Chicago deflates plan to fly giant pig balloons in front of Trump Tower »

At Trump Tower, an 'amazing' number of condos for sale or rent »

Topics: Donald Trump

?

Michael Hawthorne

EASY BREATHE CPAP ... | SPONSORED CHICO'S | SPONSORED CHICAGO TRIBUNE CHICAGO TRIBUNE Pregnant Chicago teen gunned Ask Amy: Daughter wants down after bounty was placed distance after wedding on her head nightmare By AMY DICKINSON **O** NY DAILY NEWS What your flight attendant

notices about you as you board

2020

The 26 Greatest Boxers Of All Time (Floyd Doesn't Even Crack GAME DAY NEWS | SPONSORED

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

'I am not f___ing losing to Joe

campaign team as internal po... By ZEKE MILLER AND JONATHAN LÉMIRE

Biden': Trump erupts at

NBA Mock Draft 2020

CORONAVIRUS

NEWS

51m

CORONAVIRUS

24/7 Sports

Yeah Motor

You May Like

Anymore

Far & Wide

MoneyWise.com

15 States Where Americans Don't Want To Live

All 50 State Capitals, Ranked From Worst to First

40 Images of Sofia Vergara Before the Fame

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Coronavirus in Illinois updates: Here's what's happening Monday with COVID-19 in the Chicago area

Watch live: Gov. J.B. Pritzker and health officials provide an update on the coronavirus in Illinois

?

MOST READ ON CHICAGO TRIBUNE

endowment as it eyes 'significant shortfall' due to coronavirus pandemic 1 h

Northwestern University furloughs

staff, cuts executive pay and taps

f 0

Terms of Service Archives Coupons Local print ads TAG disclosure Media kit

Contact us Best Reviews Tribune Web Notifications FAQ

Privacy Policy

Do Not Sell My Info

Newsletters

About us

Subscribe here

ADVERTISEMENT

Copyright © 2020, Chicago Tribune

The Top 5!)

If You Like to Play, this Strategy

FORGE OF EMPIRES | SPONSORED

Game is a Must-Have. No Install.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ANGELES TIMES

Sick as a dog, Kathy Griffin, an

Oak Park native, hit the ER

with coronavirus concerns....

By CHRISTIE D'ZURILLA, LOS