



Figure 3. Connections between land management changes and improvements in biological condition in the Auglaize River mainstem, Ohio. **Upper Panel.** The percentages of regional farmed acreage managed with conservation tillage or no tillage BMPs increased with incentives for their use, beginning in 1990 (data from Myers et al. 2000). **Middle Panel.** Loading of suspended solids declined sharply in the 1990s, especially in summer, at the USGS Auglaize River gaging site, Ft. Jennings, Ohio, after regional adoption of conservation and no tillage (data from Myers et al. 2000). **Lower Panel.** River health, as measured by the fish index of biotic integrity (IBI) at multiple sampling stations between river miles 39 and 80, generally did not attain the minimum biological criterion level for warmwater habitat (IBI = 40) in the 1970s and 1980s. After widespread adoption of conservation tillage and no tillage, all sampling stations came into compliance with warmwater habitat criteria (IBI \geq 40), and many sites attained IBI levels characteristic of exceptional warmwater habitat (IBI \geq 50; data from Ohio EPA).