

## 2009 UMRCC LE TECH SECTION NOTES:

Chairman Steve Dewald from Wisconsin welcomed 24 people to the meeting including staff from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, USFW Service, and Corps of Engineers.

Topics discussed were as follows:

1. Sturgeon caviar issues – Group discussed MICRA’s consideration of “Similarity of Appearance (SOA)” proposed federal rule to close commercial harvest of shovelnose sturgeon in Missouri river and in Mississippi River from St. Louis south. Missouri wardens advised they do not believe their state will support the change. Missouri will have a new roe harvest permit starting July 1, 2009 which will include record keeping requirements.
2. River wardens discussed holding a river-wide commercial fishing check on the river on a specific day this May to monitor sturgeon harvest activity.
3. Wholesale fish dealer issues - Recently there has been an increase in cross border trade of Mississippi River fish with out-of-state buyers coming into Wisconsin to buy fish. A comparison of wholesale fish dealer license requirements and record keeping issues between the States was discussed. Some states such as Wisconsin have strict rules but others have almost no regulations requiring buyer records to be kept by wholesalers.
4. Wisconsin’s efforts to revise commercial fishing rules on WI/IA boundary waters were reviewed.
5. Discussion on progress to deal with open water hunting issues.
6. Review of implementation of USFW Service rules on shotshell littering and immediate retrieval of waterfowl.
7. Boating enforcement initiatives and results from summer of 2008 on Wisconsin/Iowa waters were discussed.
8. Distributed most recent revision of WI/IA/MN boundary rules template by Steve Dewald
9. Review of legality of harvesting willowcats (madtom minnows) from the Mississippi River. WI prohibits this as does MN. MN advises that there is a legal source of willowcats from the Brainerd MN area.
10. Jennifer Lancaster from Iowa will be the chairman for the LE section for the next year.