

**2007 UMRCC Annual Meeting
Wildlife Technical Section Meeting
Fall, 2007**

Wildlife Technical Section

Illinois

Doug Dufford gave a powerpoint presentation reviewing Illinois battle against Chronic Wasting Disease. We now have a total of 189 cases of CWD in Illinois. Our Annual Reports and maps may be located on the IDNR website at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/cwd/>

Ray Marshall, Illinois Chief Waterfowl Biologist gave an update on the Pool 19 Scaup study and habitat development initiatives on the Illinois River.

Tom Beissel reviewed several new acquisitions in Illinois including the 2,472 acre Henderson Creek Drainage District #3 in Henderson County and efforts to acquire a key 94 acre parcel at Milan Bottoms.

Iowa

Iowa DNR helped with the vegetation surveys on Pool 6 and Pool 18. At least 12 boats helped with Pool 18. Agencies involved included Augustana College, Iowa DNR, Illinois DNR, and US FWS. Over 200 sites were visited and vegetation, water quality, and depth were taken at the sites.

EMP Iowa has been working on Completion of the Pool Slough HREP (moist soil) project in Pool 9. Construction is nearing completion on the Odessa HREP in Pool 17 and stage 2 is scheduled to start in FY 2008.

Iowa completed over 3500 CWD samples with 2500 coming from counties adjacent to Wisconsin and Illinois. No CWD positives have been found in Iowa yet from this sampling.

Planning continues on Beaver Island (pool 14), Huron Island (pool 18), Harpers Slough (Pool 9), Conway Lake (pool 9), and Pool 12 over wintering (pool 12) EMP HREP's.

Iowa continues to help with the scaup project in Pool 19.

Odessa and Green Island WMA were both successfully drawn down this year and the habitats in both areas are looking good for the fall migration. River conditions along Iowa's border were looking good as well but a high water event in August covered most of the new emergent moist soil and it will be undetermined if this habitat will be a factor in the coming migration.

Minnesota

Minnesota DNR is adapting to their reorganization. They have established a management zone for geese in the Rochester Area. The August floods, which broke out a couple of levees on WMA's. Otter season opens in SE Minnesota with a season limit of 2. Waterfowl season will open with a 6 duck limit. Bear numbers are up Statewide.

Wisconsin

We are doing the usual this fall: talking to the customers, including hunters cranky about closed area changes on the Upper Miss. Refuge. We are also helping with CWD monitoring and avian influenza sampling - quite a few hunters are cranky about CWD control efforts too

This past summer: we banded about 230 wood ducks, 180 mallards and 800 Canada geese. Surveyed vegetation, mussels and a few critters in preparation for the pool 6 drawdown (2008). Continued the long term mallard nesting study on pools 7 & 8 - nesting success has been terrible since 2003, when large numbers of trematode killed waterfowl started attracting large numbers of gulls, crows and smaller numbers of raccoons, opossums, foxes and coyotes to the nesting islands.

Fish and Wildlife Service Agency Report

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

The CCP implementation process has begun. The Fur Trapping Plan has been sent for final approval to the Regional office. The otter harvest on the Refuge will be limited to one otter per trapper.

New pool maps are available for all pools on the Refuge except Pool 4. The new maps have the new closed area boundaries that are effective this fall. They also include the Electric Motor Areas and Slow, No Wake Areas that will go into effect in 2008. The maps can be viewed on the internet at:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/maps.html>

Vegetation Ad Hoc

Pool 6 Aquatic Vegetation Sampling

This year's Veg Ad Hoc effort to sample aquatic veg on Pool 6 took place on July 31. Sixty two staff and volunteers from six agencies and one university agreed to assist with this effort and helped to make it a resounding success. After orientation sessions in the

morning on data recording, data collection, and vegetation identification, 20 crews departed to their assigned areas on the river. Most of the 296 sample points were visited on that day. Forty three of the sites that could not be raked were too deep and assumed to have no vegetation. Of the 230 sites that could be raked, 123 had some vegetation. Fourteen species of submersed vegetation and 19 species of emergent vegetation were recorded.

All of the data sheets have been reviewed for errors and about 2/3 of the data has now been entered into USGS' database. Efforts are being made to get funding for data entry and analysis.

The one day field effort is a valuable tool to get an extensive amount of data collected that would be a formidable task for one or two offices. Each year participants get more experience with the protocol and we learn ways to make the process run smoother.

Pool 18 Aquatic Vegetation Sampling

12 Boats hit 306 sampling points. As expected, very little veg was discovered, some floating leaf and emergent but no submerged. This effort will provide good baseline data for the future Pool Drawdown HREP.

LTRMP Additional Program Element (APE)

Joe Lundh reported on the submission of an APE request to fund additional analysis of the above Field Day data.