The UMRCC Newsletter

Spring 2017

This Newsletter is a publication of the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) but does not necessarily represent the official views of the UMRCC. Suggestions or comments regarding its content should be directed to the Chairperson, 9053 route 148, Marion, IL, 62959. Please contact the Coordinator by e-mail (neal_jackson@fws.gov) or phone (618.579.3129) and visit our website at http://www.umrcc.org/

Chairperson's Letter

Greetings to the UMRCC. Another odd spring of weather is occurring. Up here in Minnesota, we had a fairly early ice out, but due to low snow pack, we did not have much of a spring pulse in the River. Then a real cold snap, with snow as recently as May 1. And now, beautiful weather and some rains have the River rising in some places. Obviously in stark contrast to the more southern reaches of the UMRCC. Any of you who are dealing with the flooding on a personal or professional basis, I wish you the best and hope you are safe and sound.

The 73rd Annual Meeting of the UMRCC was a great success, and we thank all who attended. Special thanks to Megan Moore and Kevin Stauffer for the program and logistical work, as well as all those who helped with the meeting. It was truly a job well done. We were very grateful that our Commissioner of Natural Resources, Tom Landwehr, was able to pry some time out of his busy schedule to give the welcoming address. He did tell me that he much preferred talking to you all rather than the legislators he had to rush back to. Shocking, I know! And also thanks to John Anfinson, who did a great job setting the theme and tone for the meeting, and the excellent lineup of speakers who followed.

The various technical sections all reported good attendance and participation in their meetings. Unfortunately I was only able to attend part of one of the meetings. The tech sections really are the life blood of this organization, and we will continue to do all we can to support their efforts.

The Board is very excited to have Neal Jackson on now as our Coordinator. We also extend our appreciation to the Fish and Wildlife Service for their commitment to filling this position and getting Neal on board in a timely manner. He has hit the ground running, including recently spending a week in La Crosse, where he was able to see the library issue we are dealing with, and wrangle some institutional knowledge out of Scott Yess. As we transitioned from Scott to Neal, the efforts of Sam Finney, Teresa Lewis, Heidi Keuler, and Louise Mauldin were also greatly appreciated.

There is a great deal going on in the UMRCC and the River in general, biologically, economically, and politically. Keep up the good work, and remember to take time to refresh yourselves with your favorite pastimes, whatever they may be.

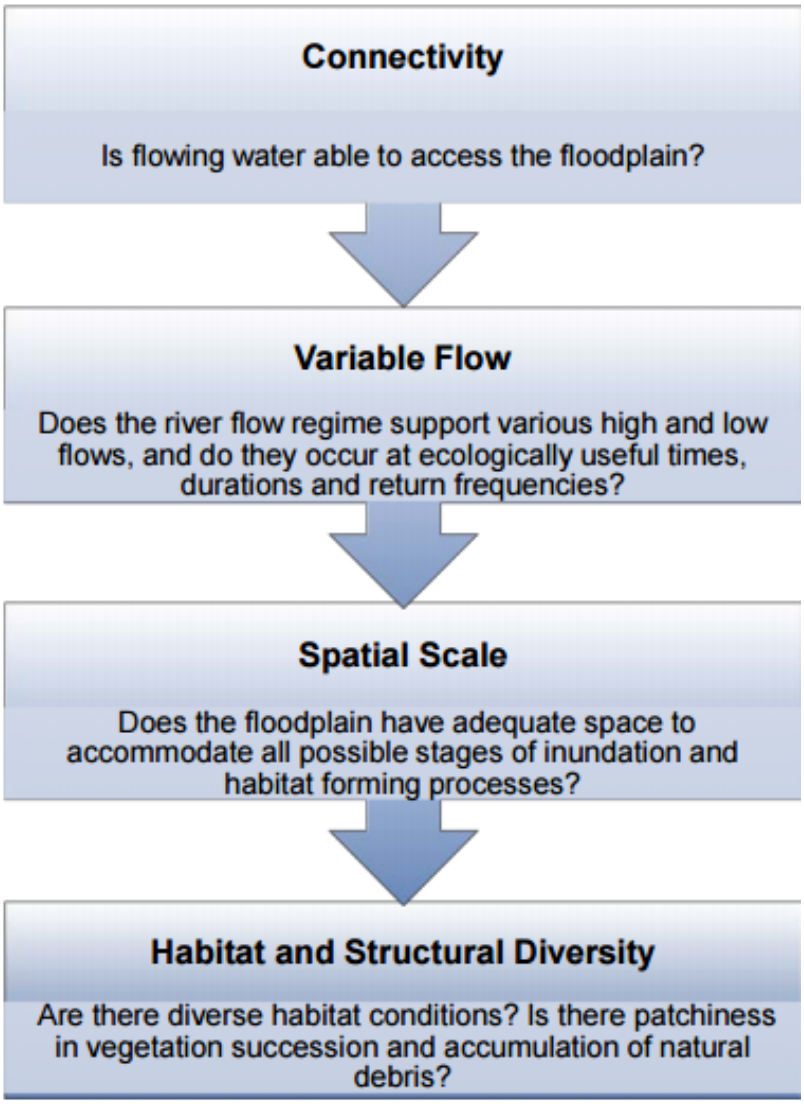
Brad Parsons, Chair UMRCC Executive Board

UMR Report

Reconnecting Rivers to Floodplains

Excerpts from a 2016 Report by American Rivers, River Restoration Program

Executive Summary: Riverine floodplains are dynamic systems that play an important role in the function and ecology of rivers. Where floodplains are connected to a river and periodically inundated, interactions of land, water, and biology support natural functions that benefit river ecosystems and people. In this paper we explore the hydrologic and ecological functions that floodplains provide, and how those functions are lost through floodplain disconnection and modification. We synthesize current river-floodplain science to develop an understanding of the biophysical and river flow attributes that underpin floodplain functions. We characterize four attributes that create and sustain functional floodplains; connectivity, variable flow, spatial scale, and habitat and structural diversity. To best restore floodplain systems, restoration practitioners should look beyond habitat features and focus on restoring floodplain functions. We propose a framework from which to consider process-based floodplain restoration using the four attributes of functional floodplains. Well-targeted restoration can return natural floodplain functions to rejuvenate rivers and benefit people.



Purpose:

1. To define riverine floodplains and the natural functions they support that benefit people and ecosystems
2. To examine how people have disconnected and modified floodplains, highlighting the need for floodplain restoration
3. To identify the biophysical and flow attributes that create ecologically functional floodplains
4. To propose a framework for considering process-based floodplain restoration, and actions for restoring floodplain functions

Full report available here

American Rivers
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UMR News

Asian Carp Collaboration "Netting" Results in the UMR -Kyle Mosel and Kevin Irons

This April, biologists and commercial fishermen worked together to efficiently remove nearly 100 bighead and silver carps from Pool 16 of the Upper Mississippi River. A "win" for science, the moment demonstrated how technological advancements in tracking the movement and concentration of Asian carps, and interagency collaboration, can translate into the strategic removal of the animals from our waters. Underpinning the success was the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee's Upper Mississippi River Fisheries Plan (2010) that speaks to collaborative management of Upper Mississippi River fisheries resources, including guidance on aquatic nuisance species, and the Fisheries Technical Committee's Ad Hoc Asian Carp Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee members provided the communication channel that relayed to commercial fishermen information regarding a congregation of bighead and silver carps in Lake Potter and a backwater behind Credit Island.

Bighead and silver carp are not typically captured in such high numbers in Pool 16 of the Upper Mississippi River. In addition to the numbers of fish collected, the condition and overall size of these fish are impressive too. In total, the 81 fish weighed a total of 2,340 lbs. Of note, 22 bighead carp weighed more than 40 lbs each, with two fish weighing 60 lbs each. Removing these large fish prior to the potential spawning season has even more benefit. Biologists and commercial fishing crews alike are excited by initial success of the collaboration and are hopeful that they can continue to improve the efficiency of removal efforts.

WIU Biologist, Courtney Cox holding one of the bighead carp from Pool 16. Photo credit: Shawn Price

Efforts to control Asian carp populations in the upper reaches of the Mississippi River began in earnest in 2015 when the Asian Carp Committee was formed. The purpose of the inter-agency forum was to develop and implement collaborative projects to manage and control Asian carp populations in the Upper Mississippi River. The committee members identified the reach between Lock and Dam 15 and Lock and Dam 19 as an intensive management zone for bighead, silver, and grass carps. Projects within the reach are focused on containment, removal and control, early detection, and population assessment to inform management actions.

Western Illinois University and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources are leading efforts to target the removal of Asian carp in Pools 14 through 19 using contracted commercial fishers and intensive netting gears. The goal of the targeted removal effort is to decrease the abundance of Asian carp above Lock and Dam 19 near Keokuk, Iowa, for the purposes of slowing their spread and establishment, decreasing their effective population size, and reducing their ecological impact. Decreasing their effective population size reduces the opportunities for Asian carps to find mates and the probability of successful spawning events.

In support of these removal efforts, biologists from the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office collaborated with biologists from U.S Geological Survey's Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center to track acoustically tagged Asian carp above Lock and Dam 19. A fixed array of more than 100 stationary receivers now provides coverage to detect Asian carp movements in Pools 4 through 19. In

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UMR Report

Lake Odessa

UMRR - Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project
Upper Mississippi River Pools 17 and 18 - Louisa County, Iowa

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April 2017

Partners:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Description:

Lake Odessa is a 6,465-acre backwater complex that falls within the boundaries of the Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge and Odessa Wildlife Management Area. It is located on the Mississippi River at the confluence of the Iowa and Mississippi rivers near Wapello, Iowa. The complex is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

History:

Traditionally, Lake Odessa supported high numbers of waterfowl populations in the fall and significant duck production in the spring. Water-level management became limited overtime due to inadequate water control structures, high amounts of seepage and the overall size of the complex. Existing levee breaches resulted in frequent loss of aquatic vegetation used by migratory waterfowl. Additionally, sedimentation from frequent levee breaks and overtopping flood events decreased the extent of deep water aquatic habitat.

Project Goals:

The goals of the project are to restore and protect wetland, terrestrial, and aquatic habitat. The objectives identified to meet these goals were:

- Reduce forest fragmentation
- Increase bottomland hardwood diversity
- Enhance migratory bird habitat
- Restore native grasslands
- Increase habitat for overwintering fish
- Provide safe areas for developing fish
- Protect habitat features
- Protect archeological sites

Upper Mississippi River Restoration
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Lake Odessa

UMRR - Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project
Upper Mississippi River Pools 17 and 18 - Louisa County, Iowa

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April 2017

Features:

- Restore the existing perimeter levee system that protects the Lake Odessa complex. Efforts include appropriate levee heights and slopes, and a clay cap to protect from overtopping events.
- Construct spillways to protect the levee during flood events.
- Enhance water management capability at moist soil management areas through pump pads, portable pumps, water control structures, and placement of impervious material over sand lenses.
- Dredge deep channels to enhance overwintering habitat for the fishery.
- Plant hardwood trees.
- Construct ephemeral wetlands.
- Construct measures to protect archeological sites.

Milestones:

- The Definite Project Report (feasibility report) completed in 2005.
- The Stage I Contract awarded in 2006 and included the construction of a new spillway, enhancing the existing levee with pervious embankment, and construction of ephemeral wetlands.
- The Stage IIA awarded in 2007 and included hydraulic and mechanical dredging for overwintering habitat, construction of new water control structures, placement of riprap, and construction of articulated concrete mat pump pads.
- Portable electric pumps were purchased by the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program and provided to the project sponsors. These pumps are used to manage interior water levels throughout the site.
- The Stage IB awarded in 2009 and included enhancing the top two feet of the perimeter levee with impervious material to allow for uniform overtopping during flood events.
- The Stage IIB Contract awarded in 2009 and included mechanical dredging for overwintering habitat.
- The tree-planting contract awarded in 2010 and included planting over 1,000 trees on 403 acres for timber stand improvement.
- The Lake Odessa 2013 Flood Recovery Project awarded in August 2014. Work included the construction of two new spillways and levee repairs.

Project Cost:

The Lake Odessa Project was planned and constructed at a cost of approximately $22.8 million. These funds were allocated as part of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program which is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District. For more information on this program visit:

- http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Protection-and-Restoration/Upper-Mississippi-River-Restoration/
- https://www.fws.gov/refuge/port_louisa/
- http://www.iowadnr.gov/idnr/Hunting/Places-to-Hunt-Shoot/Wildlife-Management-Areas/Lake-Odessa-WMA

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UMR News

National Asian Carp Workshop

Ten years after the release of the National control plan for invasive carps, the USFWS led a workshop to discuss a shared long term vision for Mississippi River Basin Asian carp planning. The goals of the workshop were to combine multilayered independent plans into a single unified approach, build momentum by leveraging past and ongoing work, and improve communication and coordination within and among basins. The workshop was attended by representatives from thirty five separate state (15), federal (8), university (9), and non-governmental organizations (2). Presentations focused on the introduction of potential frameworks for decision support with a focus on incorporating information feed backs into project planning. Five minute lightning talks provided current information on available tools for Asian carp monitoring and control. Break-out sessions for each basin revealed an interest in improving communication between basins to avoid duplication of efforts and ways to improve coordination and success of future projects.

-Neal Jackson, USFWS

Dale Burkett, Great Lakes Fish Commission, facilitates a discussion on Asian Carp Research Priorities at the January Asian Carp workshop in Springfield, IL.

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addition to the stationary receivers, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey biologists manually track tagged Asian carp in pools 16 and 19 from boats, roughly 280 river miles, on a monthly basis. The additional manual tracking efforts enable biologists to identify areas and times that the fish are most vulnerable to harvest. Known as "telemetry," the method can greatly improve the efficiency of removal efforts, especially above Lock and Dam 19 where Asian carp densities are low and in areas of the Illinois River where similar techniques are used.

Since 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided $900,000 in funding to partners to support the implementation of collaborative Asian carp control projects in support of the *Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework for the Upper Mississippi River*. The fourth species of Asian carp, black carp, have not been collected above Lock and Dam 19 and therefore has a different intensive management zone. To learn more about what is being done to prevent the movement of Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi River, please visit www.AsianCarp.us

Coordinator's Quiz

A new aquatic invasive species was recently discovered in the Illinois River. What species was found, and from where did it originate?

The first person to send the correct answer to neal_jackson@fws.gov will receive a prize.

USFWS Hosts Chinese Delegation

-Mike Weimer, USFWS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regularly participates in international scientific exchanges with fishery biologists and other conservation professionals and agency representatives from the People's Republic of China (PRC). These exchanges include visits to the United States by PRC representatives, and reciprocal visits by agency biologists and managers from the USFWS to China. In April 2017, the USFWS Midwest Region hosted a delegation of five representatives from the PRC focusing on providing a professional exchange of expertise, information and lessons-learned from fisheries biologists and managers from the two countries on the management of Asian carp species in large river systems, including species life history, behavior, and ecology.

The scientific exchange was structured to provide mutual benefits to both nations in their respective efforts to manage Bighead and Silver carp. These include: 1) allowing U.S. Federal and State biologists to gain valuable insight on management and behavior of the two focal species of concern (Bighead and Silver carp) of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee and other State and Federal agencies in their efforts to protect the Great Lakes and large rivers of the Midwest from invasive Asian carp through early detection, rapid response, prevention and control projects; and 2) providing most current knowledge on Asian carp biology, feeding ecology, reproductive behavior, and other factors garnered through U.S. Federal agency research and management efforts that could be used by Chinese biologists and managers to help effectively restore and manage Asian carp species in large river systems of China (their native historic geographic range) to support their use as a source of food through commercial and subsistence harvest in the PRC. Additional dialogue covered other topics of interest to the delegation, including the nation's State/Federal model of interjurisdictional fisheries management; how individual states manage their respective fisheries and issue annual or other licenses for both recreational and commercial fishing; and the broader state, regional and national economies supported by these fisheries.

The itinerary included a field visit to the COE electric dispersal barrier at Romeoville, Illinois, to provide an opportunity for demonstration of the project as a primary prevention and dispersal tool in the strategy for Great Lakes protection. The dialogue on-sight offered an opportunity for the Chinese delegation to provide any feedback and

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UMR News

USDA: Conservation efforts reducing Mississippi River Basin runoff

A federal study shows Conservation measures by farmers have reduced nitrogen and phosphorus runoff along the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says voluntary agricultural conservation practices helped reduce nitrogen downstream in the Upper Mississippi River Basin watershed by as much as 34 percent. The impact on phosphorus reduction was less promising, with reductions topping out at 10 percent.

Researchers sample a restored oxbow for Topeka Shiners in the Boone River watershed, IA. This restored oxbow on Lyons Creek is the result of partnership including Fishers and Farmers, The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Soybean Association, USFWS, IA State University, Iowa DNR, USDA-NRCS, and others. Photo Credit: Nick Simpson (IA State University)

Last week, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack said the study provides evidence that investments by federal, state, local, and nonprofit groups are improving water quality. Vilsack says more farmers in the basin are using cover crops and no-till practices and embracing precision agriculture to cut down on runoff of nitrogen, phosphorous, and other pollutants from fertilizer and manure.

Source: NAFB News Service

2017 River Rat Awards

Above: UMRCC Members receiving 5-year River Rat Awards: Nick Schlesser, Levi Solomon, Brenda Kelly, Heidi Keuler, Kat McCain, and Ben Vandermyde (not pictured: Travis Kueter, Richard Lewis, and Jim Jansen).

Right: UMRCC Members receiving 10-year River Rat Awards: Louise Mauldin and Kirk Hansen (not pictured: Bill Ohde and Jon Stravers).

Other Receiving River Rat Awards (not pictured): Eilleen Kirsch—15 years, Dan McGuiness –20 years, Dan Dieterman and Jeff Janvrin-25 years, and Jerry Rasmussen –30 years.

2017 UMRCC Conservation Award

At the 2017 annual meeting of the UMRCC in Red Wing, MN, Mike Davis was presented the 2017 UMRCC Conservation Award for demonstrating a career long commitment to natural resource conservation and preservation on the Upper Mississippi River (UMR), and for his many significant contributions to native mussel restoration and management.

Mike, a true river rat, grew up on the Mississippi River near Winona, Minnesota. In his early working years, Mike was a self-employed commercial fisherman, trapper, and farmer. These experiences helped Mike develop a personal relationship and understanding of the river, and cemented a life-long passion to protect its fragile resources.

Mike began his "professional" career as a creel clerk with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) in Lake City in 1986. Over the next 30 years, except for a short venture to Hawaii, Mike has held several positions with MN DNR that have allowed him to work on Mississippi River issues. He was the first team leader for the Long Term Resource Monitoring (LTRM) field station in Lake City, served as MN DNR's Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement (HREP) Coordinator and helped plan many of MN's early HREP's, and has flourished as a Mussel Ecologist.

Over the years Mike represented MN DNR on a host of UMR partnership activities including implementation of the Great River Environmental Action Team 1 Recommendations, Lock and Dam #26 Plan of Study, On-Site Inspection Teams, River Resources Forum, Fish and Wildlife Work Group, Recreational boating impact studies, UMRCC Fisheries and Mussel Technical Sections, Adaptive Environmental Assessment, Environmental Management Program, Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program Science Panel, and Mussel Coordination Team.

During Mike's early tenure with MN DNR he helped steer their Mississippi River Team towards a vision of a sustainable Mississippi River. This vision was built upon the recognition of how important the river's natural processes of flow, sediment movement, and floodplain connectivity were to the health of the UMR system. He has an extraordinary gift for simplifying the complex and being honest to his conservation values, and used that gift to help develop this vision for the UMR. This vision has remained strong and has directed the actions of DNR's Mississippi River Team for nearly 3 decades, resulting in significant progress on floodplain restoration, water level management, and flow restoration across the UMR.

Perhaps most significant are Mike's leadership and accomplishments with freshwater mussels, for which he has a deep passion and commitment. Among Mike's first mussel-related jobs with the MN DNR was a survey of the Cannon River drainage, which he completed single-handedly. When Zebra mussels invaded the UMR in the 1990's, they changed how managers approached the management of native mussels. Mike collected data and provided guidance that resulted in closing the commercial harvest of mussels in Minnesota due to concerns about long-term impacts. The long-term monitoring sites he established at that time continue to provide valuable information on native mussel populations in Lake Pepin

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In 1999, Mike and a few other UMR biologists took action to save the federally endangered Higgins eye mussel from extinction. They developed mussel propagation and relocation techniques and constructed a mussel culture facility at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, and were successful in producing approximately 92,000 juvenile Higgins eye. Mike personally installed propagation cages in Pool 4 of the UMR which produced juvenile Higgins eye in a river setting. This technique later proved to be a valuable tool for production of subadult Higgins eye for stocking.

In 2000, as a result of the Biological Opinion by the US Fish and Wildlife Service that the existing 9-foot channel project would jeopardize the continued existence of Higgins eye, and negatively affect the federally endangered Winged mapleleaf, a Mussel Coordination Team (MCT) was formally established. Since 2000, the MCT has been actively involved in propagation and stocking of Higgins eye and Winged mapleleaf; inoculating fish with glochidia to establish new populations; conducting long-term monitoring of mussels at population establishment sites and Essential Habitat Areas; and a variety of outreach efforts. Throughout this time, Mike has been a leader on the MCT and deeply involved in all MCT activities. He is always eager to provide technical assistance to the MCT, help out with all kinds of field work, and try out new ideas. Mike also was involved in helping the Mussel Ad hoc committee become elevated to a full section within UMRCC.

Mike was also instrumental in designing and implementing mussel surveys to evaluate the impacts of water level drawdowns on mussel populations. These data have helped managers mitigate impacts to mussels from this management tool.

Mike is currently the leader of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Mussel Team stationed in Lake City, Minnesota. He and his staff routinely assist in the collection and propagation of mussels which has now expanded to include other Federal and State-listed species on the UMR and elsewhere. They remain actively involved in MCT and UMRCC activities, and other related mussel collection, propagation and monitoring activities including participation on the Interagency Dive Team. Mike is also an active member of the Freshwater Mussel Conservation Society. In addition, Mike is a strong advocate and has promoted the concept of restoring 7 miles of rapids below St. Anthony Falls in the Twin Cities that are currently inundated by Lock and Dam 1, to benefit mussels and fish.

Mike's team is often contracted by federal and state agencies to conduct a variety of mussel activities on the UMRS and other waters. Mike was actively involved in setting up a mussel mitigation program with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for highway projects affecting mussels. He also actively participated in the development and implementation of Minnesota's Statewide Mussel Survey which includes portions of the UMRS. He and his team were instrumental in photographing and conducting research on the life history of several mussel species. Mike is a natural presenter, and his given dozens of talks to conservation groups and schools highlighting the significance of mussels and how important they are to water quality.

After many years in developing the idea and securing the support and funding, Mike was instrumental (almost single handedly) in establishing the Minnesota DNR's Center for Aquatic Mollusk Conservation. This Center is a state of the art mussel restoration and research facility in Lake City, MN with a focus on research related to Federal and State-listed species. Mike currently serves as MN DNR's Mussel Program Coordinator, and is responsible for activities and operations of the Center.

Coordinator's Comments

Since I received the news that I would become the next coordinator of the UMRCC, I have spent a lot of time trying to grasp the opportunity in front of me and understand my role within the organization. My early experiences as coordinator are already providing glimpses into the soul of the UMRCC and some understanding of the "river rats" who keep the organization afloat. The 73rd Annual Meeting of the UMRCC in Red Wing, MN was a great way to see a new section of river and witness the UMRCC at work. The meeting was a success by all measures. Technical section chairs reported good attendance at meetings and informative presentations that spawned fruitful discussions. A suite of general session presentations provided historical context and empowered us to think critically about our role in the broad scope of river management and restoration in the future (presentations posted here: www.umrcc.org) . Evenings at the Elks Lodge and the banquet overlooking the river provided an introduction to many new faces and a great fellowship of like minds. This organization succeeds through it's willing volunteers such as our outgoing chairs and delegates: Janet Sternberg, executive board chair; Martin Konrad, Iowa delegate; Kevin Irons, Illinois delegate; and Travis Moore, mussel tech chair. All of these folks have shown a great commitment to this organization and we owe them many thanks. Since the meeting, I was able to spend a productive week in Lacrosse visiting the Harper's Slough HREP, the UMRCC Library (big thanks to Jeff Janvrin for his help), staff at the UMR Refuge in Winona, and a visiting Chinese Delegation. Thank you to all who provided introduction to the UMRCC. I look forward to many more great meetings and productive trips north.

UMR Upcoming Events

UMRBA/UMRRCC Quarterly Meeting- May 23-24 - St. Louis, MO

UMRBA Water Quality Executive Committee and Water Quality Task Force Joint Meeting - June 7-8 - Davenport, IA

Upper Mississippi Hydroelectric Power Workshop - July 18 - Moline, IL

MRBP Annual Meeting - July 18-19 - Omaha, NE

UMRCC Vegetation Sampling (Harper's Slough HREP) - August 8 & 9: contact Cale.Severson@wisconsin.gov

American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting - August 20-24 - Tampa Bay, FL

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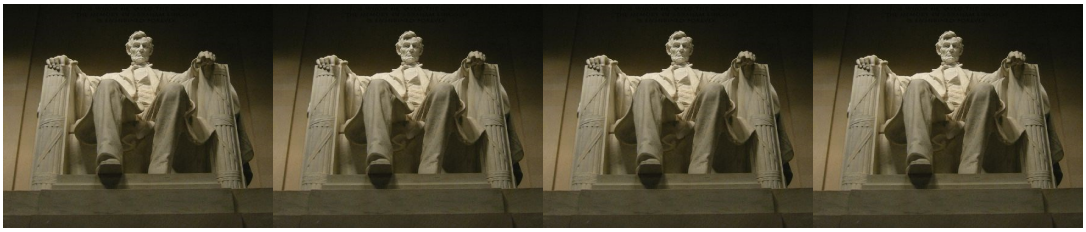
professional technical insights/observations based on their experience in managing Asian carp in large rivers systems and other waters in the PRC. Additional field trips and site visits included on-water demonstrations of monitoring and harvest techniques by USFWS Wilmington staff and ILDNR, demonstrations of laboratory techniques (e.g. eDNA analysis) and emerging potential control tools (e.g. Microparticles, water jets, CO2) at the Midwest Fisheries Center and USGS UMESC, plus a tour of the Genoa NFH (with cookout). The second week of the itinerary included visits to the USFWS Midwest Regional Office, Minnesota Valley NWR, and the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Center; and site visits on the Upper Mississippi River with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The delegation was accompanied by representatives from USFWS HQ (International Conservation) and USFWS Midwest Regional Office (Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation), as well as a translator.

UMR-Related Congressional Legislation



Bill H.R. 2079 Sponsor: D. Young (AK-at large)

To Preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen.

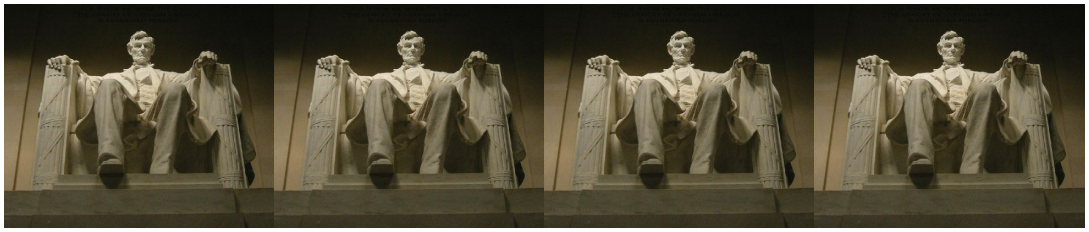
Introduced 6 April 2017; referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources (6 April 2017)

Bill S.826 Sponsor: J. Barrasso (WY)

A bill to reauthorize the Partners for the Fish and Wildlife Program and certain wildlife conservation funds, to establish prize competitions relating to the prevention of wildlife poaching and trafficking, wildlife conservation, the management of invasive species, and the protection of endangered species, and for other purposes.

Introduced 4 April 2017: referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works (4 April 2017)

UMR-Related Congressional Legislation



Conservation

Bill S. 168 Sponsor: R. Wicker (MS)
UMR Co-sponsor: None

A bill to amend the *Commercial Vessels Incidental Discharge Act* requiring complete ballast water changes at least 200 nautical miles from the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

Introduced 17 Jan 2017; Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (24 Jan 2017).

Bill H.R. 581 Sponsor D. Young (IA-3)

A bill instructing the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to benefit certain conservation programs authorized by the Department of Agriculture for a 4-year period.

Introduced 13 Jan 17; Referred to House Agriculture Committee (13 Jan 2017)

Bill H.R. 502 Sponsor R. Grijalva (AZ-3)

UMR Co-sponsors: J. Schakowsky [IL-9]; G. Moore [WI-4]; M. Pocan [WI-2]; D. Loebsack [IA-2]

A bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to make permanent the authorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Introduced 12 Jan 17; Referred to Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans (10 Feb 17).

Wildlife

Bill S. 159 Sponsor: A. Hastings (FL-20)
UMR Co-sponsor: None

A bill To expand the workforce of veterinarians specialized in the care and conservation of wild animals and their ecosystems, and to develop educational programs focused on wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine.

Introduced 3 Jan 2017; Referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands (10 Feb 2017)

Bill H.R. 368 Sponsor E. Crawford (AR-1)

A bill providing for certain regulations that allow for the taking of double-crested cormorants that eat fish at aquaculture facilities.

Introduced 9 Jan 17; Referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands (10 Feb 2017)

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Neal Jackson - Coordinator - USFWS - Carterville, IL

The Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) was established in 1943 with the goal to: "Promote the preservation and wise utilization of the natural and recreational resources of the Upper Mississippi River and to formulate policies, plans, and programs for conducting cooperative studies".

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MINNESOTA WISCONSIN IOWA ILLINOIS MISSOURI