

## About the UMRCC



The Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) was formed in 1943 by 22 fisheries biologists and natural resource managers from five states with an interest in conserving the fish and wildlife resources of the Upper Mississippi River (UMR).

In 1948, the UMRCC Executive Board was established along with technical sections that included fisheries, wildlife, water quality, recreation, and law enforcement. Recently the recreation technical section has evolved into the outreach, recreation, environmental education and interpretation technical (OREIT) section.

Over the years, the member states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin have joined forces with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and others to provide continuing cooperation between conservation and regulatory agencies responsible for fish, wildlife and recreation management on the UMR.

The membership has grown to more than 200 resource managers and biologists from state, federal and non-governmental agencies. The UMRCC continues to serve as an important forum for discussion and resolution of the many management issues facing the Upper Mississippi River today and tomorrow.

### UMRCC Objectives and Guiding Principles

**To promote the preservation and wise utilization of the natural and recreational resources of the Upper Mississippi River**

**To formulate policies, plans and programs for carrying on cooperative surveys and studies**

**To keep necessary records, publish and distribute reports**

**To make recommendations to the governing state bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the UMRCC**



### Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee

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### UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER FISHERIES PLAN 2010



Conservation Through Cooperation



*The full fisheries plan can be downloaded at:*

[mississippi-river.com/umrcc/](http://mississippi-river.com/umrcc/)

# Upper Mississippi River Fisheries Plan



1993 UMRCC Fisheries Plan

The Upper Mississippi River Fisheries Plan - 2010 was developed by members of the UMRCC Fish Technical Section.

The previous plan was written in 1993 to address a broad range of topics and issues during a ten year time span.

Since then, the UMRCC has developed specific plans for water quality and freshwater mussels and federal agencies have developed comprehensive plans for land use. Therefore, the 2010 fisheries plan focuses on fishery concerns and issues.

The plan contains five goals which are evaluated according to:

- the current status of the goal,
- developing a strategy to address the goal,
- and monitoring and evaluating progress.

The intention of this fisheries strategic plan is to define the issues and address those concerns using a holistic approach for river resource management that will ensure a healthy UMR fishery into the future.



## Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee Fisheries Plan Goals and Priorities

A variety of state and federal agencies have the legal authority to implement and achieve many of the objectives and strategies identified in this plan. To help in this effort, the UMRCC has identified two high priority strategies and/or performance measures from each of the five goals.

### Goal 1. Restore and maintain the biological diversity of the Upper Mississippi River and the richness of its native fish species.

- Prepare an action plan for restoring and maintaining the relative abundance and species richness of the native Upper Mississippi River fishery.



- Develop a standardized method for assessment of the fish community response to restoration actions.

### Goal 2. Restore and maintain aquatic habitat and the ecological wholeness of the Upper Miss. River.

- Develop habitat goals to be incorporated into a variety of Upper Mississippi River planning efforts, and restoration, enhancement and maintenance actions.
- Identify critical fish habitat such as overwintering, spawning, etc. for enhancement and/or protection.



### Goal 3. Provide improved and sustainable recreational and commercial fishing opportunities through unified state management strategies.

- Review existing fish data and develop a population status and relative abundance scale from "optimum" to "minimally sustaining" fishing opportunities.
- Monitor and evaluate fishing activity to determine the impact on Upper Mississippi River fisheries.



### Goal 4. Slow or eliminate the spread or introduction of aquatic nuisance species, including pathogens, to the Upper Miss. River.

- Establish an Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee under the Fish Technical Section to track issues and programs.
- Prepare a listing of Upper Mississippi River species and associated habitats at risk or under siege due to aquatic nuisance species and pathogens.



### Goal 5. Inform, educate, and involve the public in resource issues affecting the Upper Mississippi River.

- Produce and distribute Upper Mississippi River literature to the public.
- Identify river-related, public groups and share information with them.

