

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**Fall Quarterly Meeting**

**November 19-20, 1998**

**AGENDA**

**BACKGROUND  
AND  
SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

**Plaza One Hotel  
Rock Island, Illinois**

**Environmental Management Program  
Coordinating Committee  
Fall Quarterly Meeting**

**Plaza One Hotel  
Rock Island, Illinois**

**November 19-20, 1998**

**AGENDA**

<b>Thursday, November 19    Partner Pre-Meetings</b>
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- 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.    **Corps of Engineers In-Progress Review**
- 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.    **State EMP-CC Members**

<b>Friday, November 20    EMP Coordinating Committee Meeting</b>
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- 8:00 a.m.    **Call to Order** — *Co-Chair Dusty Rhodes*  
**Introductions**
- A**    8:05    **Approval of Minutes of August 20, 1998 Meeting**
- 8:10    **Reauthorization**
- Chief's Report Status — *Buddy Arnold*
  - Congressional Activities — *Holly Stoerker*
- B**    8:40    **Program Management**
- FY 1998 Fiscal Performance — *Leo Foley*
  - FY 1999 Budget — *Leo Foley*
  - Draft Charter — *Barb Naramore*
- C**    9:45    **Habitat Needs Assessment**
- Scope of Work and Report Outline — *Mike Thompson*
  - Project Management Plan and Formation of Teams — *Mike Thompson*
  - Relationship to Nutrient Hypoxia Strategy — *Tom Pullen*
  - UMRCC/Audubon Coordinated Public Outreach Proposal —  
*Dan McGuinness and Jon Duyvejonck*
- 11:30    **Lunch**

(Continued)

**Friday, November 20      EMP Coordinating Committee Meeting**  
(Continued)

- 12:30 p.m.      **Long Term Resource Monitoring Program**
- Priority Team Recommendation Letter — *Tom Pullen*
  - A-Team Report
  - Status & Trends Report Executive Summary — *Ken Lubinski*
- D**      1:10      **LTRMP Showcase: Analysis of Catfish Catch** — *Todd Koel*,  
*LTRM Field Station, Havana, Illinois*
- E**      1:30      **HREP District Updates**
- 2:00      **HREP Showcase: Swan Lake Project** — *Dave Gates*
- 2:20      **Other Business**
- Future meeting dates and topics
- 2:30 p.m.      **Adjourn**

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Minutes of the August 20, 1998 EMP-CC Quarterly Meeting**

**DRAFT**

**Minutes of the  
Upper Mississippi River System  
Environmental Management Program  
Coordinating Committee**

**August 20, 1998  
Summer Quarterly Meeting**

**Moxie's/Best Western Midway Hotel  
La Crosse, Wisconsin**

John Blankenship of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. on Thursday, August 20, 1998. Other EMP-CC members present were Tom Hill (USACE), Ken Lubinski (USGS), Bill Franz (USEPA), Marvin Hubbell (IL DNR), Kevin Szcodronski (IA DNR), Bruce Hawkinson (MN DNR), Gordon Farabee (MO DNR), and Terry Moe (WI DNR). A complete list of attendees is attached.

**Minutes of the May Meeting**

The minutes of the May 14, 1998 meeting were approved as written.

Gordon Farabee reiterated his request from the May meeting that the St. Louis District correct its activity report to indicate that the Missouri Department of Conservation, not the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, is responsible for operating and maintaining the portion of the Cuivre Island project that is on state-owned lands.

**Program Management**

*MVD Reorganization*

Tom Hill reported that MVD and its six districts are reorganizing to implement a Chief of Engineers directive regarding project management. According to Hill, the new directive is designed to further the goal of having a single project manager from the inception of a project to its completion. Hill explained that the Chief's guidance left the divisions and districts with some latitude as to how to organize themselves to best meet this goal. In response, MVD is merging its planning and project management functions, and is requiring each of its six districts to do the same. Don Herndon will continue to head the Planning and Programs Management Directorate at MVD and will have the following four offices under him:

- Programs Execution (Dusty Rhodes)
- Programs Development (Cecil Bryant)
- Economics (Jesse McDonald)
- Environmental (Steve Cobb)

what tasks the LTRMP will undertake as part of the HNA. In response to a question from John Blankenship, Tom Hill confirmed that the Corps envisions the first cut of the HNA as a 2-year effort costing approximately \$1 million. In response to a question from Terry Moe, Hill said the FY 98 funds the LTRMP transferred back to the Corps to initiate the HNA will count against the \$1 million ceiling for the effort.

#### *LTRMP Management*

Jerry Skalak reminded EMP-CC members that MVD has tasked the Rock Island District with programming funds and tracking expenditures for the LTRMP. Skalak reported that the LTRMP has been working with the states to get final bills for past fiscal years. He emphasized that clearing these outstanding bills is important to the program's fiscal performance.

Skalak reported that the Corps' Priority Team met in June at the EMTC with Center staff. Skalak described the Priority Team's function as being to provide an internal mechanism for the Corps to coordinate its input to the LTRMP. The Priority Team will be responsible for technical review, articulating Corps comments, and upward reporting within the Corps. In response to a question from Ken Lubinski, Skalak said it is too early to tell whether the Priority Team will play any role with HREPs or the HNA.

#### *Joint EMP-CC/A-Team Charter*

Barb Naramore reported that UMRBA staff has not yet drafted a joint EMP-CC/A-Team charter, noting that several factors favored a delay. Most significantly, release of the draft Chief's Report and various EMP reauthorization proposals have raised issues with respect to the charter. In addition, discussions at the May EMP-CC meeting identified questions that should be clarified before a draft is developed. Naramore explained that several of these questions were outlined in an August 12 memo distributed to the EMP-CC.

Naramore summarized the states' perspectives on some of the major questions highlighted in the August 12 memo. She said the states believe the EMP-CC should provide the Corps with the partners' perspectives on key policy and budgetary issues and program priorities, while the A-Team should focus on providing the partners' technical input related to the LTRMP. For both groups, the states believe it is essential for participants to represent their agency or state's official views. With respect to membership, she said the states would like to hear from others on two issues:

- the suggestion at the May meeting that the Corps and USGS should not be official members of the A-Team (and whether this would also apply to the EMP-CC), and
- the recommendation in the draft Chief's Report that EMP-CC membership be expanded to include non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Naramore said the states believe the A-Team advises the EMP-CC but, for practical reasons, should be empowered to communicate directly with the EMTC on technical issues. She said the states would like to establish an A-Team report as a regular part of EMP-CC meetings. On the question of group governance, Naramore said the states would like to explore the possibility of

Terry Moe noted that the Natural Resources Conservation Service is currently a member of the EMP-CC and the A-Team, and the Maritime Administration is a member of the EMP-CC. Given that neither agency participates in meetings regularly, he asked whether they should be included as official members under the new charter. Marv Hubbell said Illinois is working with NRCS on several specific HREPs and is anxious to keep the agency involved. Observing that neither NRCS nor MarAd was present, Naramore offered to contact Dave Carvey and Al Ames directly regarding their future involvement as part of developing the draft charter.

Ken Lubinski said the EMTC views the A-Team as providing partner perspectives to the EMTC regarding implementation of the LTRMP. As such, the EMTC believes it should listen and respond to the A-Team, but should not serve as a member of the team. Tom Pullen agreed with Lubinski, suggesting that both the Corps and the EMTC should serve as non-voting members of the A-Team, listening to the perspectives of other partner agencies on technical matters related to the LTRMP. John Wetzel expressed concern with the potential for confusion and conflicting mandates if the Corps provides guidance directly to the EMTC rather than as a voting member of the A-Team. Tom Hill said the Corps will direct the LTRMP as reflected in its flow chart - i.e., the Priority Team will develop the Corps' perspectives on the LTRMP and guide implementation of the program. Hill emphasized that the Priority Team will consider input from the EMP-CC and others prior to directing the EMTC. He said he views the A-Team as a technical advisor to the EMP-CC on the LTRMP and said the Corps should be represented at A-Team meetings, but not as a voting member.

Gordon Farabee said the A-Team has functioned effectively as a technical advisor for the LTRMP and has also served as a mechanism for members to articulate their state or agency's perspectives on LTRMP priorities. In addition to having routine A-Team reports at EMP-CC meetings, Farabee suggested that the EMP-CC co-chairs attend some A-Team meetings. Pete Redmon expressed concern that the A-Team has become overly focused on budget cutting questions at the expense of the technical issues it was established to address. Redmon said determining priorities under constrained budgets is a matter for the EMP-CC, not the A-Team.

Citing the USGS's considerable scientific expertise beyond the EMTC, Wetzel asked whether the USGS should be represented on the A-Team through one of its non-EMTC offices. Lubinski agreed that the USGS has extensive expertise beyond the EMTC and said that such offices may have a role in working on various LTRMP projects. However, Lubinski said he does not believe that USGS should participate as a voting member of the A-Team, even if the representative comes from another USGS office.

With respect to group governance, Szcodronski said the states believe the Corps should chair the EMP-CC, with the Interior Department and a state serving as vice chairs to demonstrate the program's partnership approach. John Blankenship said the Fish and Wildlife Service would be comfortable with such an arrangement. In response to a question from Blankenship, Szcodronski said the state EMP-CC members would probably rotate the state vice chair position.

Terry Moe suggested using the term "official members" rather than "voting members" to describe the membership of the EMP-CC and A-Team. Moe also stressed that the charter should clearly articulate the decision-making process that each group employs. Hubbell agreed with Moe, noting that the consensus approach has served both groups well but urging that a

obtaining final comments from the chapter authors. The report card portion of the report was extensively revised based on the June meeting and has been distributed to meeting participants for comment. Lubinski also reported that the first draft of a 20-30 page executive summary is complete and said it would be distributed to the EMP-CC for comment by the end of August. In response to a request from John Wetzel, Lubinski agreed to provide EMP-CC members with a three-week comment period for the draft executive summary. Lubinski estimated that the EMTC will complete its remaining work on the Status and Trends Report within four weeks. Final work by the contractor and printer will require an additional two months, according to Lubinski. Linda Leake said the EMTC plans to print 2,000 copies of the full Status and Trends Report.

### *State of the River Reports*

Lubinski said the EMTC has been considering various approaches to its annual State of the River Reports. One possibility would be to address topics that were not included in the Status and Trends Report, such as emergent vegetation or rates of change in geological processes. The annual reports could also update information in the Status and Trends Report, which will be comprehensively updated only every five to six years. Another possibility, at least during this time of transition for the LTRMP, would be to focus on ways of refining the program and making it more effective. Noting that the EMTC is currently evaluating potential refinements to monitoring design, Lubinski suggested that the results of these analyses be the subject of the first State of the River Report.

Terry Moe suggested that the annual reports focus on unique or significant events in the preceding year, such as a drought event or changes associated with zebra mussels. He emphasized that the annual reports should not attempt to rehash the entire Status and Trends Report and should not be a major undertaking. He urged that the annual reports be written for the general public, rather than for a scientific audience. Gordon Farabee said the annual reports should address issues such as the impacts of big head carp, an exotic species that is increasingly abundant on the Middle Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Lubinski agreed with Moe and Farabee that the annual reports should address notable events and issues.

Bruce Hawkinson asked whether the annual reports are intended to function as a program evaluation tool. Lubinski said EMTC has heard different perspectives on this question, with some people recommending that the yearly reports serve as updates to the Status and Trends Report and others suggesting that they also address issues related to LTRMP implementation, such as monitoring design. Marv Hubbell said the reports should provide land managers with information they can use. Hubbell said land managers particularly need information that helps them understand how their area compares with the system as a whole. Lubinski questioned how this might be done in the context of relatively modest annual reports.

Tom Edwards said other people would like access to LTRMP data in order to conduct their own analyses. Lubinski told Edwards that the LTRMP's raw data is available to anyone. Norm Hildrum said LTRMP data is posted on the Internet, but is also available in other formats upon request. Keith Beseke said it is not enough to identify status and trends. He urged that efforts to develop a decision support system be increased so river managers can respond appropriately to observed changes.

Committee, GIS Committee, and Public Involvement Committee. However, participants in the August 18 meeting recommended deferring decisions regarding organizational structure until the draft SOW is complete.

Yarbrough explained that the Corps will have ultimate responsibility for conducting the HNA, but will work closely with its Fish and Wildlife Service co-chair and the EMP-CC. He stressed the importance of involving environmental, agricultural, and river industry groups as well as members of the public. Stoerker agreed that decisions regarding a committee structure for the HNA should be deferred until the SOW is drafted. However, she emphasized that the EMP-CC should play an important role. She stressed that the HNA must be integrated with the HREP and LTRMP components of the EMP and said the EMP-CC is an obvious mechanism for ensuring that such linkages are made. Marv Hubbell and Gordon Farabee agreed that the EMP-CC will have an important role to play in development of the HNA. However, Farabee observed that the EMP-CC may have difficulty providing timely, detailed oversight. He said a Steering Committee that reports to the EMP-CC might serve this function well.

Terry Moe stressed that the HNA is an EMP effort being undertaken for the benefit of the EMP's two major components - i.e., HREPs and the LTRMP. Farabee asked whether the Corps will have funds available to assist other agencies with the expense of participating in the HNA. Tom Hill said the Corps will not be able to fund the entire cost of the HNA and will require contributions from other program partners. He encouraged the partner agencies to identify ways in which they can contribute, including staff time and travel. Moe said Wisconsin believes it is important for all agencies to fund the costs of their own participation. Farabee said Missouri DOC staff will not be able to travel to meetings for which the agency has not already budgeted. John Blankenship said the Fish and Wildlife Service has discussed the possibility of funding to support its role as co-chair of the HNA. Blankenship said he does not anticipate the Service will actually receive any such funding. Moe said Wisconsin supported the Service's offer to co-chair the HNA with the understanding that the Service would not seek reimbursement for this work.

Farabee emphasized the EMP-CC's previous guidance that the HNA should be a tool for the program, not a detailed plan for specific habitat projects. Stoerker encouraged the group charged with developing the SOW to review existing information and guidance, including the minutes of prior EMP-CC meetings and the two status sheets that Sharon Cotner developed. Stoerker said the EMP-CC spent considerable time reviewing and commenting on the first status sheet and was generally comfortable that the second status sheet reflected consensus partnership perspectives on the HNA.

In response to a question from Ken Lubinski, Yarbrough said he hoped to distribute the draft SOW seven to ten days in advance of the November EMP-CC meeting. Bruce Hawkinson emphasized that the public must be involved in discussing desired future conditions for the river system early in the assessment process. As a result, Hawkinson said the draft SOW in November should include a public involvement plan.

In response to a question from Kevin Szcodronski, Yarbrough said the group responsible for drafting the SOW is comprised of the following individuals: Bob Clevestine, USFWS; Bill Franz, USEPA; Carl Korschgen, USGS; Steve Gutreuter, USGS; Ken Lubinski, USGS; Gordon Farabee, MO DOC; Jeff Janvrin, WI DNR; Dan McGuinness, National Audubon Society; Tom

area has changed over time and in getting agency staff to understand one another's perspectives. Marv Hubbell asked whether similar decision support systems have been developed for other portions of the UMRS. Korschgen said the Pool 8 pilot is the first such effort. He noted that similar data exists for much of the rest of the system and said the decision support system could be extended to other pools. Ron Yarbrough emphasized that any tool used for the HNA would need to be available for the entire system.

### **HREP Database**

Jerry Skalak reported that the HREP database is available at:

<[http://suns01.er.usgs.gov/java/hrep\\_query/hrep\\_query\\_run.html](http://suns01.er.usgs.gov/java/hrep_query/hrep_query_run.html)>.

Fact sheets, site plans and related materials are being posted at:

<[www.emtc.usgs.gov/http\\_data/hrep\\_projects](http://www.emtc.usgs.gov/http_data/hrep_projects)>.

Skalak explained that both sites are under development. By maintaining the HREP database originally developed for the EMP Report to Congress, the Corps hopes to eliminate duplication, keep information more current, increase public access and information sharing, expedite information dissemination, and potentially reduce costs. Future refinements to the HREP database may include:

- direct links to specific project documents, such as plans and specifications;
- direct links to LTRMP data and coverages;
- pointers to other sites with related data and information;
- a comment page; and
- additional photos and, possibly, video clips.

Skalak briefly demonstrated the on-line HREP database. He explained that data entry privileges are currently limited to the three district HREP managers. Skalak said the Corps will develop a formalized procedure for adding to the database. This procedure will include a means for including information such as the Lake Onalaska duck nesting data that John Wetzel described at the May EMP-CC meeting. Skalak encouraged program partners to provide such data for inclusion in project performance evaluation reports as well as the HREP database.

Linda Leake said the EMTC is supporting the HREP database as part of its mission to serve as a data clearinghouse for the EMP. Marian Havlick said she and other private citizens have substantial amounts of data on the river that they could provide, but said they would require funding to process the data. Tom Edwards said it is critical to ensure that all data served by the EMTC is accurate.

### **HREP District Updates**

Don Powell reported that the Trempealeau Refuge, Rice Lake (MN), and Pool 8 Islands Phase II projects are under construction in the St. Paul District. Trempealeau is ahead of schedule, with two pump stations under construction and all construction scheduled for completion in FY 99. The only remaining work at Rice Lake is the channel excavation. The contractor has proposed doing that work in September using a hydraulic dredge rather than waiting until winter to do mechanical dredging from the ice. Poor ice conditions last winter precluded mechanical

channel. The Corps estimated a 30 percent probability of realizing this target range in any given year from mid-June to mid-August.

MVD granted the Rock Island District a temporary deviation from its operating plan in order to attempt the drawdown this summer. Carmack said the initial drawdown was maintained from June 21 through July 3. However, high discharges from July 4 to July 10 precluded maintaining the reduced level. After the discharge declined, the pool level was dropped again and the one-foot reduction was maintained for six days. At that point, flows were forecast to fall below 50,000 cfs and the pool level was raised again to avoid impacts to navigation. Carmack noted that, even when the target discharge range was being met, daily fluctuations made it difficult to drawdown and raise the pool.

Biologists believe at least 30 consecutive days of low water are needed for successful moist soil vegetation. With only 13 days of drying, some germination was observed. But Carmack said this vegetation was probably killed when it was inundated. According to Carmack, commercial navigation was not affected by the drawdown, though there were some modest impacts on recreational boating. In addition, a fish kill at the Thompson Causeway may have been related to the drawdown; but this has not been clearly established. Carmack said the Corps and others will monitor the area to assess the impacts of the drawdown attempt. In response to a question from Tom Edwards, Carmack said the Corps estimated that 400 acres would have been exposed if flows of 50,000 cfs were maintained for 30 days. Reduced water depths would have affected another 1,000 acres. However, discharges remained between 75,000 to 100,000 cfs during this summer's drawdown; so a smaller area was affected.

Mike Thompson reported that Item 2 of the Stump Lake project, which includes interior levees and miscellaneous water control structures, is scheduled for completion in October. The pump for Item 3 was delivered recently. The two pump stations for Swan Lake (Item 2) are 34 percent complete and scheduled for completion in February 1999. Item 4, the hillside sediment control measures, is 62 percent complete and on schedule. Thompson said the Cuivre Island Greentree Reservoir contract has been delayed due to high water but is scheduled for completion in November 1998. Plans and specifications for the Batchtown project have been started. The St. Louis District will break the Batchtown project into phases. Phase I will be a dredging contract, with construction slated for FY 99.

### **Other Business**

Holly Stoerker announced that the November 20 EMP-CC meeting will be held in the Quad Cities, not in St. Louis as originally planned. It will be preceded by meetings of the Governors Liaison Committee on November 18 and the UMRBA on November 19. The EMP-CC's winter meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, in St. Louis. The GLC and UMRBA will meet on February 16 and 17, respectively. Terry Moe requested that the EMP-CC's November agenda include discussions on the HNA SOW and prospects for increased expenditures if the EMP is reauthorized.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

**ATTACHMENT B**

**EMP Spreadsheet**

**EMP PROGRAM DATA**  
**FY-98 ACTUALS AND FY-99 PROPOSAL\***  
**(\$000'S)**

	FY-98 <u>Scheduled</u>	FY-98 <u>Obligated</u>	FY-98 <u>Expended</u>	FY-99 <u>Allocated</u>
<b>EMP TOTAL**</b>	19579	20462	19220	18900
<b>EMP ADMIN</b>	110	87	87	110
<b>HNA</b>	0	19	18	500
<b>HREP</b>	13608	15000	14340	12620
<b>S &amp; S</b>	973			913
<b>MVP</b>	3424	3802	3857	2928
<b>MVR</b>	5945	8243	7571	2377
<b>MVS</b>	3239	2955	2912	2530
<b>LTRMP**</b>	5861	5356	4775	5670
<b>S &amp; S</b>	0			410

\*Note: The actual spreadsheet with project details will be available at the EMP-CC

\*\* LTRMP scheduled included \$505k transferred to HREP program and \$643k carryover.

**ATTACHMENT C**

**UMRCC/Audubon Coordinated Public Outreach Proposal**

**Memo**

Date: November 2, 1998

To: EMPCC

From: Dan McGuiness, National Audubon Society and Jon Duyvejonck, UMRCC

Re: Potential for Joint Public Meetings to gather input for HNA and UMRCC  
"Operation and Maintenance Strategy" Report

**1. Background**

Two activities are currently taking place that could have a significant impact on how agencies and organizations work together in coming years to restore habitat in the floodplain of the Upper Mississippi River:

- A. A report is being prepared, entitled "A Strategy for Operation and Maintenance of the Natural Resources of the Upper Mississippi River System." This is a joint effort with past or current support from the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee, the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission, and the Upper Mississippi River Campaign of the National Audubon Society. It is in its fourth internal review draft stage at this point and will be produced as a final document by December, 1999
- B. A project called "A Habitat Needs Assessment (HNA) has just been initiated under the joint leadership of the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Funds are being provided from the Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Program (EMP). It is expected to be complete (Phase I) by mid-2000. (Draft Scope of Work available from Co-Chairs)

**2. A Proposal to Work Together**

On October 8, 1998 the National Audubon Society sponsored a discussion in St. Paul, Minnesota among non-profit organizations and government agencies regarding the habitat needs assessment and how best to proceed with a public involvement process. The co-chairs of the HNA were present, as were several agency and non-profit organization representatives. (Notes of the meeting available from Dan McGuiness.) While an array of public involvement activities are being contemplated by the HNA steering committee and its public involvement work team, there was general support for the idea of the idea of the hosting a series of up to ten public meetings in February, 1998 to gather input of use to the HNA process. The information gathered could also be useful for other efforts on the river, such as the UMRCC report and updates of the Upper Mississippi and Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge Master Plans.

I proposed that the meetings be both informative for the public as well as one of perhaps several means of obtaining public input. At these meetings I propose, at a minimum, that we have one or more brief presentation about the status of river restoration activities on the Upper Mississippi River followed by public input in a workshop format which will focus on a series of large wall-size maps of existing resource conditions.

(There are 126 maps covering 13 geomorphic river regions on the main stem of the river being prepared, with the help of the UMRCC and the Environmental Management Technical Center, for the river floodplain from the Twin Cities to Cairo.)

### **Illinois River**

A series of public meetings on the Illinois River has been suggested as well by some of the HNA Public Involvement Team members. I suggest those meetings be held in March, 1999, at 3 or 4 locations yet to be determined.

A public involvement work group is being formed for the NHA, which I will serve on and which will help guide the format and desired outcome of these joint-venture meetings. The first meeting of the group will be in November, 1998. I suggest we jointly develop a budget for the meeting series and an agreed-upon strategy for cost-share (in-kind or otherwise) by the Corps of Engineers, UMRCC, the National Audubon Society and others able and willing to participate.

## **4. Use of Public Input**

Information obtained at these meetings could be used in at least two ways:

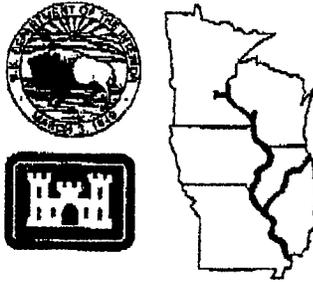
- A. Data would be used to finalize a set of maps to be contained in the two-volume UMRCC/MWBAC/NAS Report.
- B. Data would be used in the HNA study as among the first steps to seek "public expectations" as described in the draft (#6) Scope of Work as tasks 3.1-3.3..
- C. Information from the meetings would be used by National Audubon Society to help identify Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and potential sites and routes for its emerging Upper Mississippi River Birding Trail System.

## **5. Next Steps**

- Immediate Next Steps for Public Meetings
  - A. Jon Duyvejonck and Dan McGuinness will present a proposal for a coordinated strategy to the Environmental Management Coordinating Committee (EMPCC) (on November 20, 1998.)
  - B. Finalize the proposed meeting itinerary for the public meetings and advise everyone so they can begin scheduling staff and resources to participate. (Public Involvement Work Group) (by November 30, 1998)

## **ATTACHMENT D**

### **Spatial and Temporal Variability of Channel Catfish Populations in the Upper Mississippi River System**



# Project Status Report 98-11

Upper Mississippi River  
Long Term Resource Monitoring Program  
U.S. Geological Survey

## Spatial and Temporal Variability of Channel Catfish Populations in the Upper Mississippi River System

by  
Todd M. Koel

One application of Long Term Resource Monitoring Program (LTRMP) data is to evaluate long term trends in channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus* Rafinesque 1818) populations. This species is an important component of the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) fish community because it is numerically abundant, it comprises a significant portion of the total fish biomass, and it is avidly sought by both sport anglers and commercial harvesters.

Since 1989, biologists at the LTRMP Field Stations have monitored fish population and community structure at six pools and in multiple aquatic habitat types of the UMRS. These pools include the tailwater, impounded, side channel, main channel, and backwater habitats defined by navigation lock and dam 4, 8, 13, and 26 of the Mississippi River; the "Open" Mississippi River near Cape Girardeau, Missouri; and La Grange Pool of the Illinois River near Havana, Illinois. Both Pool 26 (at Alton, Illinois) and La Grange Pool Field Stations are operated by the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS).

Because certain gears are known to be selective for certain sizes and/or species of fish, LTRMP staff use several different gears for community and population assessment, including day and night electrofishing, small and large hoop netting, fyke netting (standard, tandem, and mini), seining, and trawling. The gears that capture the most channel catfish are hoop nets (small and large), accounting for

68.1% of the total catch. Fyke netting, day electrofishing, and trawling account for 8.3%, 8.3%, and 8.2% of the total channel catfish catch, respectively.

A combined total of over 42,000 channel catfish have been captured, measured, and returned to the UMRS by LTRMP fish biologists. There is a striking variability in the catch (and presumably abundance) of channel catfish from one pool to another and usually among habitat types within a pool (Figure 1). The La

while Pool 4, along the Minnesota portion of the Upper Mississippi River, yielded the least (1,707 fish or 4.1%). We noticed a strong south to north gradient in day electrofishing catch rates. During nearly all years, the catch rates were significantly higher at Pool 26, Open River Reach, and La Grange Pool than at Pools 4, 8, and 13. Catches by electrofishing ranged from over 10 channel catfish per hour at La Grange Pool in 1997 to less than 1 per hour at Pool 4 in 1994 (Figure 2). In 1993, we

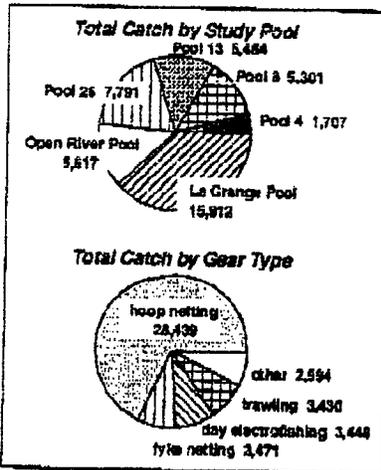


Figure 1. Total catch of channel catfish by each gear type at the Long Term Resource Monitoring Program study pools, UMRS, 1989-1997.

Grange Pool yielded the largest share of the combined catch (15,912 fish or 38.1%)

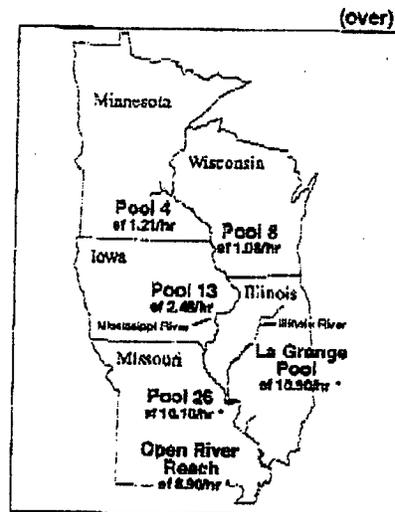


Figure 2. Long Term Resource Monitoring Program study areas of the Upper Mississippi River System with results of 1997 day electrofishing (ef) for channel catfish. Catch rates marked with an asterisk (\*) were significantly higher than those without ( $P=0.001$ ).

**ATTACHMENT E**

**Corps Activity Report**

## Corps of Engineers Activity Report For Main-Stem Upper Mississippi River System Activities

### III. ST. PAUL DISTRICT (MVP)

#### A. Navigation

1. Channel Maintenance – Scheduled channel maintenance dredging will be completed for the season in early November using government and contract equipment. A total of 1.3 million cubic yards of dredging was accomplished this season at approximately 50 locations. No channel closures were experienced in 1998. Excavation of the Corps Island placement site in pool 3 was completed in early August. The contractor for this project successfully furnished an alternate site to the contract-specified site. The Grand Encampment excavation project in lower pool 4 began in September and was completed in October. Contract specifications for excavating three sites in lower pool 2 are being developed for advertisement in 1999. Plans are also moving forward for excavation of sites in pools 5A, 7, and 10.

#### 2. Channel Management Studies -

a. Lower Pool 8 B The final Definite Project Report was distributed to the River Resources Forum in May. Several actions will be taken at this time. Work in the Above Brownsville reach is deferred until more information can be obtained.

b. Pool 5 – Planning of various project features for channel maintenance/navigation and environmental purposes is nearing completion. The Definite Project Report is scheduled for completion in early 1999. Several minor structural modifications will be proposed. Dredged material islands in the lower pool will also be recommended.

c. Pool 3 and Upper Pool 4 – A study of this reach was initiated in July 1998. The problem identification and data gathering phase is continuing in cooperation with other agencies. Scheduled completion is in the year 2001.

3. Lock and Dam Rehabilitation – Progress continues on the crane carrier contract with approval of the first article test. The crane carrier and bulkhead hoist installation schedule will be amended as part of on-going negotiations with the supply contractor. The new crane for Lower St. Anthony Falls (LSAF) will be delivered when the carrier is delivered in May 1998. On-going construction activities include the control building and electrical controls at Lock & Dam 6 (Stage 2), the electrical and structural rehabilitation at Lock & Dam 10 (Phase C), and the tainter gate chain installation. Construction starts for FY 99 include: crane carrier installation at LSAF; the electric and structure rehabilitation (Phase C) at Lock & Dam 10; Stage 2 of the cribwall repairs at Lock & Dam 1; the control building and electrical controls (Stage 2) at Lock & Dam 5A; the embankments at Lock & Dam 3; and sandblasting and painting the service bridge at Lock & Dam 8.

4. Water Level Management - In coordination with the Water Level Management Task Force (WLMTF), the District initiated the study process necessary to support a recommendation to implement a pilot partial pool drawdown. Completion of the study process, including preparation of an implementation report, is scheduled for fiscal year 1999. Public meetings were held in June and July 1998 to obtain input for the decision process for drawing down pool 8. Implementation studies are ongoing.

#### B. Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program

1. Lansing Big Lake, IA - An O&M manual was sent and the project was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in October.

## 18. Biological Response Monitoring of Habitat Projects -

- a. Finger Lakes - A final synthesis report of the work performed and the study results is being prepared.
- b. Islands - The EMTC and the St. Paul District will complete a final synthesis report in fiscal year 1999 of the work performed and the study results.

### C. Natural Resource Management Activities

1. Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan (CRMP) - A plan of study for the CRMP was completed in May 1992. The goal of the plan is to document the importance of recreation within the study area and to recommend recreation management strategies that enhance the multi-purpose values and ecological integrity of the resource. The ad-hoc task force of the River Resource Forum's Recreation Work Group has completed a comprehensive access inventory, and with the assistance of the EMTC, has produced GIS-based inventory maps of the MVP navigation pools. Recreational boating data has been collected for five seasons (89, 91, 93, 95 & 97). This data is being built into a computer program using ArcView 3.0
2. Forest Management - The Natural Resource Section of the Mississippi River Project has completed a field inventory of bottomland hardwood forests and associated vegetation on Corps fee title lands. This information is scheduled to be fully digital in a computerized geographic information system using ArcInfo by spring 1999. The data will be used in the development of forest management prescriptions and available to other river resource agencies as needed. Annual forestry coordination meetings are now being held with other river resource agencies to discuss the forestry program. Management prescriptions to date have focused on reforestation. Nearly 29,000 trees have been planted since 1992. A salvage timber sale was conducted in 1995. Summer storms resulted in additional timber damage on Corps lands. Damage assessments have been conducted and areas will be proposed for salvage harvest operations this winter.
3. Shoreline stabilization was completed at Sand Run (RM745.66) in August to protect important wetlands and other high value wildlife habitat.
4. Peck Lake - Peck Lake is a 19-acre backwater lake located within the Corps' Blackhawk Park Recreation Area in pool 9. Water levels were drawn down during the active growing season to promote reestablishment of aquatic vegetation and improve fish habitat. The project is being monitored by the USGS Upper Mississippi Science Center to gather information that may be useful for larger scale drawdowns. High water levels on the Mississippi River in July forced a suspension of the drawdown in July. Pumping resumed on July 20<sup>th</sup> and continued until October 8<sup>th</sup>. Vegetation response was good, but plant size was small due to the limited growing season. A second drawdown in 1999 is being considered to more firmly establish the vegetation.

### D. Upper Mississippi River Summit

At the last Summit in Davenport on March 9-10, the participants agreed to "encourage the development of brief vision statements including measurable objectives by each stakeholder group". An Upper Mississippi River Visioning Conference will be held in St. Louis on November 12-13. The Summit Coordinating Committee has asked for submittal of proposed vision statements and expects this "visioning" session of river interests to identify important issues and set the stage for future discussions at the next Summit in the Twin Cities next spring.

11. Cottonwood Island, MO - Plans and Specifications for the last feature, mast tree planting, have been completed. Due to funding constraints, the construction has been scheduled for FY99.

12. Gardner Division, IL – Based upon coordination meetings held on 14 November 1997 and 15 January 1998, as well as phone conversations since then, it was decided to delay the work on the draft DPR to allow refuge management time to reevaluate the project features. The draft DPR is now scheduled for June 1999.

13. Rice Lake, IL - The draft DPR was distributed on 3 November 1997. A coordination meeting was held on 3 March 1998 with the Illinois DNR, the project's cost sharing sponsor. The IL DNR requested that the report be held up until a decision could be reached on the size of project that the state could financially support. As of July 1998, that decision had not been reached. The report for public review will be completed and issued when the state's input is received.

14. Bioresponse. Aerial waterfowl inventories have been conducted at the Peoria Lake and Lake Chautauqua projects covering fall and spring migration for the last 8 years. Continuation of weekly waterfowl censuses during fall 1998 and spring 1999 and subsequent preparation of the 1998-99 Annual Report by the Illinois Natural History Survey will complete the eighth year of waterfowl bioresponse studies at these two projects. A study of larval fish use of Lake Chautauqua was initiated in spring 1996, and a report summarized the results of the first year of study was completed in October 1997. The third year of field study is nearing completion. PD-E has contracted with the Havana LTRM field station to perform post-construction bioresponse studies for both projects. Post-construction surveys at the Peoria Lake HREP during 1997 evaluated woody vegetation in the Forested Wetland Management Area, aquatic vegetation, and fish communities in the lake segment of the project. Bioresponse monitoring efforts for 1998 have been scoped in coordination with the Havana Field Station. Initiation of field data collection for 1998 monitoring is underway.

#### 15. HREP Performance Evaluation Reports

CEMVR has modified the Acknowledgement page of its performance evaluation reports (initial and supplemental) to include signature blocks of all significant participants in the document development process. Although acquiring these external signatures is requiring a certain amount of additional coordination time, they provide a powerful visual demonstration and validation of the partnership approach being taken with respect to the implementation and subsequent evaluation of District HREPs.

#### 16. UMRS-EMP Report to Congress (RTC)

(Division should now be providing status information)

#### 17. Long Term Resource Monitoring Program (LTRMP)

The Corps has established a multi-disciplined, multi-/District LTRMP prioritization team. This team is responsible for coordinating LTRMP-related activities within the Corps, reviews of LTRMP products, and annual work plan processing requirements.

#### 18. Public Outreach

CEMVR will have a display booth dedicated solely to the various environmental restoration programs it supports at the 25-28 February 1999 Quad Cities Outdoor Show. Displays will highlight planned and completed HREPs as well as Section 1135, 204, and 206 projects. This effort is a proactive initiative intended to broaden public awareness and knowledge of these programs and their purposes. Note: Booth staffing support by partner agencies will be welcomed.

### C. Water Level Management

1. The Fish & Wildlife Interagency Committee (FWIC) requested the Rock Island District conduct a temporary deviation in the regulation plan for Lock and Dam 13 at Fulton, Illinois, to benefit environmental resources. The FWIC requested that the District attempt a 1-foot drawdown below the normal operating band for a continuous 30-

SECTION 1135 PROJECT STATUS:

HQ Approved Projects:

**PROJECT:** *Green Island Headwall Modification Project*

**LOCATION:** Mississippi River, Pool 13, Jackson County, IA

**DESCRIPTION:** The project proposal improved the water control of a 3,722 acre wildlife area by constructing a new headwall/gate structure. Correcting the problem of flooding during the growing season maximizes the wildlife values of the area by ensuring a good food source and diverse habitat for migratory waterfowl and other game and non-game species.

**STATUS:** **Construction completed.** The sponsor is operating the project. The construction modifications have been resolved with the contractor. The District has completed the final closeout and submitted the required project completion report to HQ.

**COST:** \$255,000

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT(S):** Iowa 2

**SPONSOR:** Iowa Department of Natural Resources

**PROJECT:** *Mississippi River Mast Tree Planting Project*

**LOCATION:** Pools 13 (Jackson Cty, IA), 18 (Des Moines Cty, IA), and 21 (Adams Cty, IL.)

**DESCRIPTION:** The proposal will restore an oak-walnut-pecan component to 558 acres of bottomland forest by planting seedlings and acorns. Actual tree planting was planned take place over a 3-year period. The tree establishment process consists of planting plus follow-up control of undesirable competing species through herbicide applications, mowing, and planting of redbud grass in specific areas. Restoring mast producing trees will provide wildlife with food, cover, and nest trees for a period of up to 100 years or more.

**STATUS:** **Implementation is complete.** The District is in the process of fiscal closeout and preparing the final completion report.

**COST:** \$370,000

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT(S):** Iowa 2,3; Illinois 17

**SPONSORS:** Trees Forever and American Forests

**PROJECT:** *Buck Run Modification Project*

**LOCATION:** Mississippi River, RM 343.0 - 347.7, Lewis County, MO

**DESCRIPTION:** The project proposal involves the construction of a water control structure between the Mississippi River and Buck Run near RM 346.8. Benefits include a reliable, oxygenated water supply to improve water quality, flow, and depth for fish and other aquatic organisms. Mast tree planting will improve terrestrial habitat along the corridor as well as moderating summer water temperature by shading the slough. The slough is about 3.8 miles long and covers approximately 13 acres. The average water depth is 3.7 feet.

**STATUS:** Active. The MDOC is continuing with the mast tree planting component only. Berms have been created. The mast tree planting is expected to take place by Dec 1998.

**COST:** \$128,300

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT(S):** Missouri 9

**SPONSOR:** Missouri Department of Conservation

**PROJECT:** *Oquawka Refuge Habitat Restoration Project*

**LOCATION:** Mississippi River, Pool 18, RM 411.0, Henderson County, IL

**DESCRIPTION:** The proposed project would involve the construction of a water control structure (rock trench), installation of a siphon to provide flow to a wetland complex, some ditch shaping and cleanout, berm construction, and construction of a stop log type structure. The 480 acre refuge is managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The goal is to provide high quality mid-migration habitat for waterfowl rather than just a resting area.

**STATUS:** Active. The Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP) was approved by HQ on 23 Dec 1997 and funding has been provided to begin the next phase. Since this project is below the \$300,000 federal threshold, no feasibility report will be required. The current combined planning and design phase includes

**DESCRIPTION:** A closing structure was constructed by the Corps of Engineers between Ballard's Island and the southern bankline. Sedimentation in the side channel is causing reduced water depths and is affecting fish/wildlife habitat. Additionally recreational boat access is negatively affected. A potential solution is to remove the closing structure combined with dredging of the side channel. Some hydraulic analysis is necessary to determine potential wildlife benefits and impacts on navigation, if any.

**STATUS:** Rep Mary K. O'Brien has provided \$250,000 in the FY 99 Illinois state budget.

**COST:** \$950,000

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT(S):** Illinois 11

**SPONSOR:** The IL DNR plans to test a new dredge prototype, with possible placement within a Corps dredge material placement site. At this time, a project under the Section 1135 authority is not being considered.

**E. Upper Mississippi River - Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study.**

The Nav Study is approximately 75% complete. The scoping process and data collection phase of the study has been completed. The Nav Study team is in the process of completing the model development and testing phase of the study. Before completing this phase, and prior to initiating the next phase, each model is now required to undergo an independent technical review. Originally the independent review process was scheduled to be completed in the back ground and while formulation was on-going. Beginning last January the Nav. Study team took a step back to complete independent technical reviews or "quality checks" prior to proceeding with the formulation of the NED plan. This was done in response to concerns raised, both internally and externally, over several key models. The Nav. Study team is now nearing completion of the independent review process in our economic forecasting models, environmental effects models. This is not about endless delays, it is about what we owe our public - the best possible technical answers.

Once the independent technical review process is completed during the November time frame, the Nav. Study team will evaluate the schedule and publish a revised schedule. The Nav. Study team will also commence with the next phase of the study which will be the formulation phase. During this phase the Nav. Study will develop the NED plan; evaluate several alternatives and select a recommended plan. Upon selection of the recommended plan we will enter the final phase of the study which is documentation, internal review, public review and signature of a public notice.

## **B. Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program**

1. Clarksville, Missouri - Construction was completed in Apr 90. Missouri Department of Conservation reported that the 1995, moist soil plant production was excellent. Bottom profile survey showed a significant decrease in sedimentation rates. The final project evaluation report was completed in July 96.
2. Dresser Island, Missouri - Construction was completed in Sep 91. Monitoring results have suggested that the desired water temperature and water level controls are being achieved. Final bottom profiles surveys have been completed. The draft project evaluation report was completed in March 1998. The final report is schedule for December 1998.
3. Pharrs Island, Missouri - Construction was completed in May 92 on the Phase I upstream, bull-nosed dike. A post-1993 flood bottom profile survey was completed. The post-project fish survey is still in progress, with final survey anticipated for FY00. Fish cover enhancement consisting of cedar tree placement, as identified in the DPR, was installed at the site in FY 96 by MDOC staff. The draft project evaluation report is scheduled for completion in FY00.
4. Stump Lake, Illinois - The project, approved for construction in Oct 92, has been subdivided into three items of construction: Item 1 includes the riverside levee, Item 2 includes interior levees and miscellaneous water control structures, and Item 3 includes the pump station. Item 1 contract is now complete. Item 2 contract was completed in September 1998 and final inspection performed October 1998. Item 3 contract is 100 percent complete. The 5,000 GPM portable pump was delivered to the COE in July 1998, coordinating delivery to IDNR. Initiation of close-out documentation has begun for official project delivery to partner.
5. Swan Lake, Illinois - The project was approved for construction in Jun 93 and in Oct 93 the hillside sediment control plan was directed to be initiated. The project is subdivided into four items of construction: Item 1 is the Fuller Lake levee, Item 2 is the two pump stations, Item 3 is the Swan Lake levee and miscellaneous site work, and Item 4 is the hillside sediment control measures. Item 1 contract is complete. Item 2 contract was awarded to Calhoun County Contracting on 5 Sep 97. Item 2 contract is 34% complete and scheduled for completion in November 1998. Item 3 contract is complete. Item 4 is approximately 62 percent complete.  
Pre-drawdown bottom profiles will be gathered in FY99.
6. Cuivre Island, Missouri - NCD approved the final DPR (under delegated authority) in Mar 95 and in May 95, Corps Headquarters concurred with the LMS and NCD position to maintain Federal responsibility and funding for the O&M on the portion of the project located on L/D 26 mitigation lands. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDOC) will be responsible for the O&M on the portion of the project located on state-owned lands. A Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was completed on 14 Mar 97. A service clearing contract was completed in Aug 97. A supply contract for mast trees was completed in Sep 97. The Cuivre Island Greentree Reservoir (GTR) contract was awarded to DKW Construction (8A) on 30 Sep 97. The GTR contract is 60% complete and is scheduled for a November 1998 completion date.
7. Batchtown, Illinois - The final DPR was approved in Feb 97. A Value Engineering study was completed on this project in Sep 96. The plans and specifications are started, PED work moving forward. Phase I contract to be awarded in FY99.
8. Calhoun Point, Illinois - The final DPR was sent to HQUSACE in July 1996. The final DPR was forwarded from HQUSACE in Apr 97 for ASA approval. As a result of HQUSACE - ASA conversation, it was decided to return DPR without approval since EMP program did not contain funding sufficient to construct the project.
9. Stag Island, Missouri - A recommended plan was selected in Jan 97. The recommended plan consists of emergent dikes that close off side channel to establish slack water habitat for riverine fishes and migratory waterfowl. The DPR was approved as noted in late April 1998. Completion of plans and specifications were

