

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 26, 2015

From: Matt Markley
To: Janet Sternburg
Subject: UMRCC Law Enforcement Tech Section Annual Meeting 2015

UMRCC law enforcement technical session at St. Charles Mo on 03/26/2015. Present at the meeting were 6 Illinois Conservation Police Officers and 10 Missouri Conservation Agents.

Missouri Update:

Missouri is updating all commercial permit inspections. This year is the first time we are inspecting every commercial fisherman for compliance with receipts and record keeping.

Electronic permits have been approved for Mo. will be a challenge to see how tagging requirements will be met.

Catfish, Sturgeon, and Paddlefish studies on the Mississippi River. Tagging and sampling information.

A review of reciprocal commercial fishing regulations was discussed for both states.

Mo Training Supervisor Cheryl Fey gave presentation on the new Captive Wildlife Task Force that has been formed in Mo. five officers have taken a 2-3 year assignment to focus on the captive wildlife industry. Cheryl's presentation covered the captive cervid inspections that were just completed.

Illinois Update

Commercial fisherman helpers need sport fishing license

Bobcat season was vetoed by the outgoing Governor. Will be reintroduced next session. Limit of 1 bobcat.

Outfitter regulations: new permits depending on the different type of animal being hunted.

ATV park being introduced

May lose up to 30 Officers due to budget cuts.

Minnesota Update via email

MN enforcement has seen 2 lean years in regards to the budget. There is no out of state travel.

Our joint state airboat training was cancelled. We usually train with WI and area Sheriff's departments.

We are currently short 29 officers. We have 149 field officers. That is putting a strain on the officer covering open stations. Our river stations are currently all filled.

We just completed our 5th year with antler point restrictions. We really haven't had any real issues.

Below our lock and dams the boat fishermen have been hard at it for a couple of weeks. Plenty of walleye are being caught. Usual enforcement issues: short fish, boat registrations, etc.

We just started using a new records management system. We will be getting new note books that will be replacing our laptop computers. We will be expected to carry the notebooks into the field when practical. We no longer will have paper copies of our citations / warnings and other forms. They have issued us printers for our patrol trucks. Once again when practical we're expected to print out a copy of a citation otherwise one will be sent. That's the easy part. Those of us that are not interested in computers and spend a small of time on other electronics have our hands full trying to learn the complicated steps filling out a citation / seizure / report writing. I, one of the older guys, sure miss my ticket book. I also miss just heading out to the field to get some good game warden work done. It seems I've been spending too much time in front of a computer screen. With that being said the new records management has limitless possibilities. We will finally have a system where we can look up and get information statewide. MN is moving into the next century. Our new generation of officers will do very well with this technology.

MN had very little to no snow this past winter after experiencing three months of high water last summer. Lack of snow allowed for plenty of ice fishermen. Last summer's high water had a major affect on the fishing and boating traffic.

MN / WI are still trying to make the border fishing laws the same. The two state have had a long standing agreement to reciprocate the respective state fishing license. Now we need to continue heading in the direction of having the angling laws the same. MN just changed an experimental bluegill limit from 10 back to 25. Both states are once again the same.

The railroad companies and state agencies have offered training for a rail car derailment. With the large number of oil cars and the number of trains daily increase, it will be only a matter of time before an incident occurs.

Conservation Officer

Scott Fritz

Wisconsin- no report

Iowa-no report