

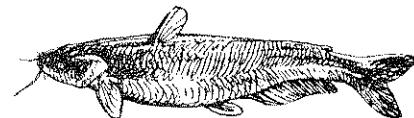
TEAMS MERGE

The Long Term Resource Monitoring Program Ecological Analysis Team and the Computerized River Information Center Analysis Team decided to merge into one team at their joint meeting in July. This will facilitate communication between the two disciplines. The membership will remain the same. Based on a rotational schedule, the States will chair the team for one year each. The Federal agencies will help on a rotational schedule also as assistant chairman and by keeping minutes. For the next fiscal year, Tom Boland, IA DNR will be the chairman and Dan Wilcox, St. Paul District, the assistant chairman.

Related to LTRMP, the Science Review Committee met last June to overview the program. Their first report has not been received yet. It is expected that they will recommend that a general conceptual ecological model be developed for the UMRS to assist in planning, identifying critical issues, and in problem solving. We hope to summarize it for you in the next Newsletter.

BANK EROSION TESTS

The ad says, "Just do it!" And the St. Paul District is. After years of discussing innovative approaches to erosion control along the river, particularly those designed to benefit fish and wildlife, the St. Paul District has started to look at the concept seriously. They have initiated a number of experimental techniques in Pool 5 near Alma, Minnesota. Work has been done to slope the bank at differing angles. Also, cut trees have been used as revetments every hundred feet on the resloped areas. Rock groins are being tried by placing about 25 feet on the shore and 25 feet in the water. At another site, willow mats are being placed on the shoreline to act as dormant cuttings. The successes of these efforts will be evaluated. Hopefully, the other two District's will "just do it!" too.



SHELLER'S GLEE

Commercial shell fishing has been going like gang busters this year. With the price of shells up significantly, literally everybody and his brother is getting into the business. A quick count of licenses sold to date indicates that around 1500 people may be working the river in the five States. This includes both the divers and the tenders. Its been heard that the divers are making up to \$1000 a day. When the shellers removed over 20 tons of mussels from a small stream in southern Wisconsin, the Wisconsin inland waters were closed to commercial shellfishing until the impact of this potential overharvest on the resource could be better understood.

Concern for exploitation of the resource prompted the Illinois Department of Conservation to call an emergency meeting of the UMRCC States in early July. The status of regulations and enforcement was discussed. Further discussion was deferred to the UMRCC Mussel Management Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee will be meeting in late August to discuss protection and conservation of the mussel resource.

WHERE'S THE SEDIMENT?

The objectives of the Lower Pool 11 Islands project were to restore islands, reduce sedimentation, deepen aquatic habitats, create island wave barriers, and in general restore river lake habitat. However, recent engineering surveys indicate that the bathymetry of the area has been relatively unchanged over the years. In other words, the physical habitat characteristics seemed to be as good as they ever were.

So what has happened to cause the decline of the fishery resource in the area? No one knows, but a rescoping of the project is in order. The Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee has recommended that a new fact