



Hook, Line, and Sinker

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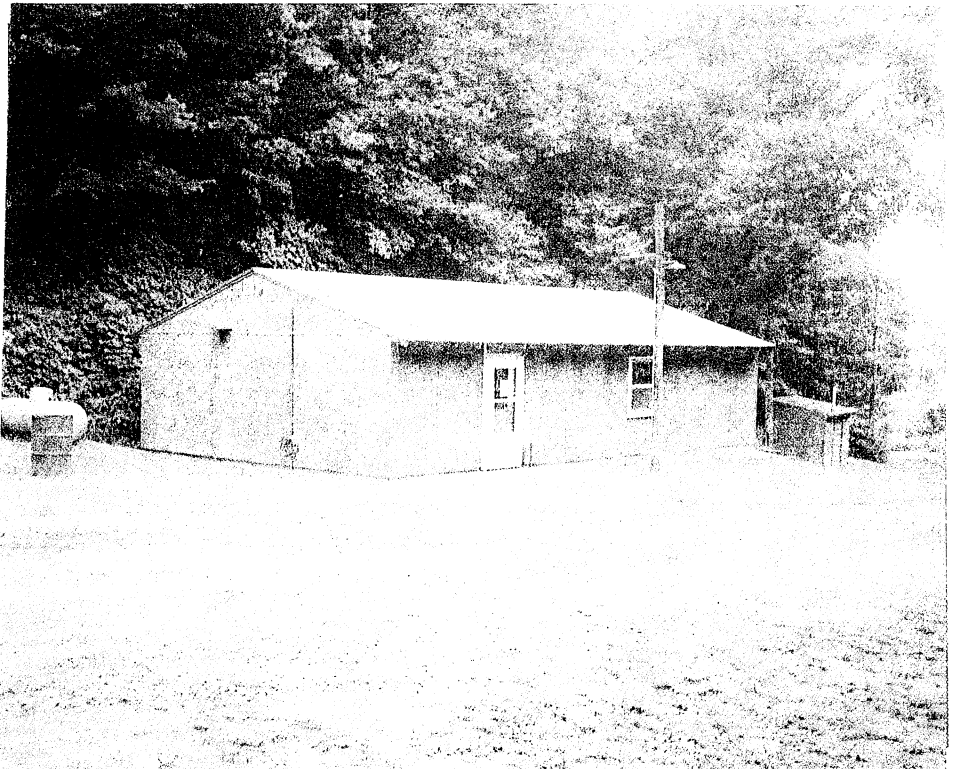
The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

Belle Plaine Clean-up

This past spring several members of our club joined the RRATs from 3M in a clean-up project at a salvage yard in Belle Plaine. That day we just scratched the tip of the iceberg. We are planning another trip to the site to try and get some more of this area cleaned up. We will be taking a bus from New Ulm to the site in Belle Plaine. There will be about 4 or 5 hours of work, then we will have lunch and head back to New Ulm. We plan to have door prizes and refreshments for everyone on the ride back to town. Let's have a big turnout that day and show everyone that we are serious about cleaning up the Minnesota River.

For more information and times, come to the next meeting or give Mike Deinken a call at 359-9650.

Club House Day Sept. 25



On September 25th, starting at 9:00 a.m., we will spend the day finishing up some projects at the Club grounds. The storage shed needs to be finished. Three sides need to have steel put on and we need to do some caulking. The club house also needs to have a window replaced along with a general cleaning. There are also a few other things that need to be taken care of. The club house has been good to us so we would like to see a big turn-out that Saturday.

Club Calendar

- September 25th - Club House Day - 9:00 a.m.
- September 30th Meeting - Club House - 7:30 p.m.
- October 1,2,3 - Food Stand - Texaco Super Stop
- October 16th - River Clean-up at Belle Plaine
- October 28th - Meeting - Club House - 7:30 p.m.

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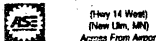
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"PIT STOP" ON FARM TIRE SERVICE

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

Tom Dixon gave a great presentation. I hope it inspired all of you to try some other angling opportunities, the pleasures are many. This is an ideal fall to try it out from shore along the river. There are lots of spots that are accessible and open to the public. Remember to be sure of knowing where you are going and if you have any questions as to whether the property is private or not make sure to find out before you go there.

I'm kinda excited about a little Fall fishin' for walleye on the river, if last year was any indication of what this year will be I can't wait. That segways into our guest for the next NUASF meeting on the 30th. We will be having a presentation from Lee Sundark of DNR Fisheries at Hutchinson that will cover the latest creel census data and flathead catfish tagging and tracking info. We also have several topics to cover at the meeting so make sure to show up for this important meeting. One of the things that will be discussed at length is our Fall River clean up day scheduled for Saturday, October 16th. We had preliminarily agreed to pay for a bus and some prizes for any participants who go up to Belle Plaine for the clean up. Many of you remember the Spring clean up that was co-sponsored and coordinated by the 3M RRATs. They provided many prizes and the bulk of the payment for the bus ride to and from. At our May meeting we had said that we would like to reciprocate by doing something this Fall. So we need to finalize our plans at the September meeting. Two NUASF members have agreed to spearhead planning, coincidentally they are also both RRATs. Tony Miller and Glen Setterholm have already started the ball rolling and it will be leading a discussion of it at our September meeting. Let's get a good turnout for this one. Many members had conflicts last Spring and expressed interest in helping. It is my hope that all who had said they would have liked to participate will remember and will sign on for the half a day's work. You should be back to New Ulm by 2:30 p.m.

As always, introduce our club to potential new members. Membership not only provides us with new ideas and perspectives, it breathes life into the existing group. Don't assume anyone wouldn't be interested in membership to our fine organization, or that they don't fit the "type", you may be quite surprised if you only take time to make the invitation. How boring if we were all put together the same way. It would be like fishing for only one kind of fish all the time, very predictable and bland and as you know by our meetings, we are anything but that. Most anglers have a little kid inside them that is excited to go fishin' with people they like to be with. That's a good start for a "type" to look to invite. See ya' at the next meeting.

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The Hook Line and Sinker is published monthly by copy haus for the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of respective writers and not to be construed as the opinion of the NUASF or its members. Send all correspondence and submissions to Mike Deinken, Editor, 1022 Spring Street, New Ulm, Minnesota 56073.

The NUASF Board

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Gulf's Dead Zone Larger Than Before

Excerpt from the *Mississippi Monitor*

The largest ever low oxygen zone off the coast of Louisiana has just been mapped by a team of research scientists on route to Cocodrie, Louisiana, aboard the research vessel Pelican.

A preliminary estimate of the bottom area made by Dr. Nancy Rabalais of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium puts size at 20,000 square kilometers (7,728) square miles). "This year's size is much larger than the previously recorded maximum size in 1995, by about 2000 square kilometers or 700 square miles," said Rabalais. The expanse is about the size of the state of New Jersey, and if placed in the heart of the country would extend from Chicago, Illinois to Des Moines, Iowa.

The low oxygen zone, commonly referred to as the "dead zone", or region of "hypoxia" in scientific terms, stretched west from the Mississippi River delta all the way to the Texas border, and from very near shore along most of the Louisiana coast out to 100-foot water depths. Off Grand Isle, Louisiana, the low oxygen extended from shore to 24 km (15 miles), off Atchafalaya Bay 72 km (45 miles) and off Cameron, Louisiana it reached 88 km (55 miles) off-shore.

The popularized name of the "dead zone" derives from the lack of sea life such as shrimp, crabs and fish in its bottom waters. Trawling boats were noticeably absent from the extensive area of low oxygen, with exception of fleets working off Sabine, Texas and west of Atchafalaya Bay, Louisiana.

When the bottom oxygen levels fall below 2 milligrams per liter (ppm), anything that can swim leaves the area, and trawlers catch nothing. The dislocated shrimp are concentrated on the periphery of the dead zone where trawlers were concentrating their efforts.

Animals that cannot escape, such as the clams, snails, and worms that live in the mud, eventually die if the oxygen levels are too low for too long.

Evidence of Mississippi and Atchafalaya River waters was apparent during the mapping cruise in the form of much lower salinity surface waters and dense concentrations of phytoplankton (microscopic algae or plants).

Low oxygen waters usually form each spring and summer as a result of discharge from the Mississippi

River system. The fresh waters bring with them nutrients and overlie the saltier Gulf waters and form a two-layer system. The phytoplankton flourish in the nutrient-enriched waters. Eventually the phytoplankton die and sink to the bottom, or they are consumed by zooplankton and the zooplankton fecal pellets to the bottom.

The organic matter that falls into lower waters and reaches the sealed is decomposed by bacteria, a process that uses up the oxygen in the lower water column.

Low winds and calm seas occur more commonly in the summer and provide the perfect conditions for persistence of the two-layer system and development of expansive zones of hypoxia off the coast. Low oxygen levels persistence for much of the spring and summer only to be relieved when a tropical storm or cold front pushes across the Gulf and stirs up the water column.

The mapping was just completed for the period of July 23-28 on an 8-day cruise that will return to Cocodrie on Friday. Research continues on Friday to retrieve and redeploy oxygen meters on an instrument mooring in 21-m (67-ft.) water depth off Terrebonne Bay.

The instrument mooring is part of the long-term research program of Rabalais and her collaborators, Gene Turner and Bill Wiseman of Louisiana State University. "The instruments give us a 15-minute record of oxygen values at the bottom at one location, while the shelfwide cruise we just completed given us an estimate of the mid-summer size of the zone across the whole coast.

"We also conduct monthly surveys off Terrebonne Bay along a 9-station transect from near shore to 100-foot water depths". Dr. Quay Dortch of LUMCON conducts phytoplankton research in collaboration with Drs. Rabalais, Turner and Wiseman.

Prosecutors Make Mississippi Polluters Pay

Excerpt from the *Mississippi Monitor*

by Jennifer Loven, Associated Press Writer

When federal prosecutor Charles Grace looks at the Mississippi River, he thinks of how the waterway once was revered as a source of sustenance and how drastically that attitude has changed.

"This is probably one of the top two or three great resources this country has physically," Grace says. "But we have used this resource in modern times in a way that has degraded it."

It is now often unsafe to swim in or eat fish from much of the world's third longest waterway, and the habitats that the river basin provides for birds and animals from the Allegheny Mountains in the east to the Black Hills in the west are fast disappearing. Environmentalists also believe pollution from the Mississippi has caused a 7,000-square mile dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico that has either killed or chased away many fish.

Such concerns prompted Grace, who oversees federal cases in Illinois' 38 southernmost counties to work to reverse the tide of pollution. To do so, he pulled together people from many levels of government: the Environmental agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Coast Guard and other U.S. attorneys.

Led by the Justice Department, in the past two years they've gone after polluters throughout the 31-state Mississippi River basin. The federal Mississippi River Initiative, or Attorney General Janet Reno's "Huck Finn" project, as it is affectionately known, has produced dozens of criminal convictions and millions of dollars in civil penalties and restitution.

Polluters have been caught dumping raw sewage and industrial waste into the river and its tributaries, destroying nearby wetlands, even emitting toxic chemicals into the air that could turn into acid rain and harm the water. The accused include: an oil refinery in Chicago's south suburbs; another in Roxanna, Illinois; the city-owned wastewater treatment plant in Youngstown, Ohio; a Colorado concrete company; a Louisiana truck driver, a hog farm in Iowa and a riverboat casino in Saint Louis.

Even environmentalists accustomed to criticizing the government's performance as a steward of natural resources cheer the program.

Reno and Assistant Attorney General for Environment and Natural Resources Lois Schiffer have "pursued this like Elliot Ness pursued Al Capone. These are two tough ladies," said Scott Faber of the Washington-based conservation group American Rivers. "I think it's terrific that people who dump tires or oil into the Mississippi River are going to jail.

But dedicated Mississippi watchers, including those responsible for the program, also recognize its limited ability to make a huge dent in how dirty the river system is. The most significant source of the water's ills is runoff from the farms, construction and residential areas. That type of pollution is not regulated by the Clean Water Act.

And since the agencies involved, which already are financially strained, get virtually no new money, they cannot handle many of the complex, science-heavy cases. Instead, they've picked the most gregarious examples and hoped the ensuing publicity makes potential polluters think twice.

"It's hard to say that what we're doing directly positively benefits the health of the river," Grace said. "But if we're not doing anything at all, we know we're not helping."

In the intensified effort's first year, 142 cases were filed, resulting in \$28.9 million in penalties and restitution. By September 1998, there were 54 criminal convictions, as well as 18 civil action and 93 administrative cases brought by the EPA.

Since then, there have been 14 new civil actions, bringing in another \$52.9 million in fines and commitments to clean up their messes, purchase wetlands, stabilize stream banks and perform other environmental restoration, as well as 120 new administrative cases. The Justice Department could not give a total number of the additional criminal cases, but they include:

- Indictments against Chemetco Inc.'s Hartford Illinois, copper smelting plant and five of its employees for allegedly installing a secret pipe a decade ago that has spewed metal-laden sludge into Long Lake, a creek that empties into the Mississippi. A sixth employee pleaded guilty and is cooperating with Grace's office.
- \$19 million in fines and restitution assessed in December against Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co., for dumping thousands of tons of lead waste at a rail car cleaning operation in Cherryville, Missouri.
- A pending settlement with Material Service Corp. that would require the company to pay \$7.5 million in penalties and to buy wetlands for letting its dolomite mining operation destroy about 40 acres of wetlands near the Des Plaines River near Chicago.

Food Stand

The food stand has been a tremendous success this year. The move to Texaco has made a huge improvement in sales. So far we have made about \$1500 this summer. All of these profits will be put towards the restocking of Clear Lake. It has been tough at times, finding people to work. Some of the guys have put in quite a few hours. There is one person that deserves all the credit for making the stand the success it has been. Hats off and a big thanks to Jerry Carlson.

We have one more weekend scheduled for the food stand this year. We will be open for Oktoberfest at Texaco Super Stop. We still need people to work that weekend. If you can spare a couple of hours to help us raise some more moeny, give Jerry Carlson a call or come to the next meeting.

Clear Lake Update

In the last newsletter we reported that the Clear Lake project was probably dead for the year. The inability of a couple of the landowners to come to an agreement with the DNR had put the project on hold. At the last meeting we got word that there might be some movement towards an agreement. If this happens we could still get the lake treated this fall and be on track for restocking in the spring. I expect to have all of the details at the next meeting.

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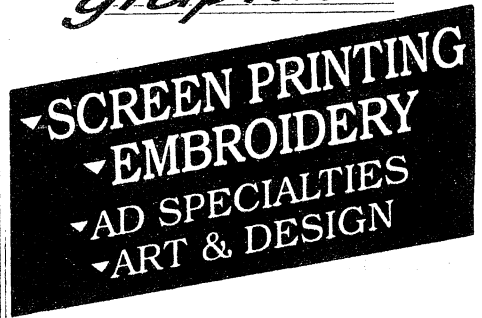
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