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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

WATERFOWL PROGRAM

PERIODIC REPORT NO. 98
13 November 1998



RESULTS OF THE 1997-98 LAKE SHELBYVILLE FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WATERFOWL HUNTER) SURVEY

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Abstract: Waterfowl hunters who used the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area (LSFWMA) were surveyed via mail questionnaire to obtain information on hunting activity and hunter conflicts during the 1997-98 season. The mailing list included the names/addresses of all residents who obtained a 1997-98 Waterfowl Hunter Permit Card for the LSFWMA. Of 764 potential waterfowl hunters, the U.S. Postal Service successfully delivered questionnaires to 723 (94.6%). Usable questionnaires were received from 537 individuals (74.3% response), of which 348 (64.8%) reported hunting waterfowl (ducks, geese, and/or coots) on the LSFWMA in 1997-98. These hunters expended an average of 5.7 days on the area during the entire season, and they were in parties that averaged 2.56 hunters each. Hunting pressure was heaviest during the 60-day regular duck season, attracting 95.0% of the hunters and 86.0% of the days afield. The Fishhook Subimpoundment accounted for 56.6% of the hunters and 44.6% of the days afield. Percentages for the McGee, North Dunn, and Jonathan Creek subimpoundments were 33.4%/29.7%, 20.5%/13.0%, and 28.0%/12.7%, respectively. Three-fourths (74.4%) of the hunters said they liked the waterfowl program on the LSFWMA. However, 19.1% of the hunters experienced problems with other hunters moving too close to them, and 15.2% of the hunters felt that they had been threatened or interfered with. The vast majority of the hunter conflicts occurred in the Fishhook Subimpoundment. One-half (49.3%) of all LSFWMA hunters, and 62.6% of the Fishhook hunters, supported the idea of expanding the staking/drawing regulations in the Fishhook Subimpoundment. Based on these findings, and taking into consideration other factors, we recommend expanding the staking/drawing regulations in the Fishhook Subimpoundment to the first 2-4 weeks of the regular duck season--i.e., until the duck season opens in the South Zone--beginning with the 1999-00 season.

^aIllinois Natural History Survey

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areas in east-central Illinois.

In recent years, the DNR has received complaints from waterfowl hunters who have experienced conflicts with other waterfowlers on the LSFWMA. The complaints increased in 1997-98, when dense stands of heavy corn/vegetation made it difficult for hunters to see each other, to locate staked sites, and to find open water for setting out decoys. The abundant food was attractive to both waterfowl and hunters. As a result of this situation, the DNR thought it prudent to investigate the extent and seriousness of hunter conflicts on the LSFWMA.

The objective of this study was to collect information about waterfowl hunting activities and hunter conflicts, as reported by a sample of LSFWMA waterfowl hunters following the 1997-98 season. A mail-questionnaire survey was the instrument used to fulfill this objective.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

All hunters who pursue waterfowl on the LSFWMA must obtain a annual Waterfowl Hunter Permit Card before going afield. For the 1997-98 season, 793 potential waterfowl hunters (764 residents and 29 non-residents) applied for and received permit cards. The mailing list for this survey included the names/addresses of all 764 resident card holders.

The questionnaire used to conduct the survey was designed to obtain information about waterfowl hunter activities, conflicts, and attitudes/opinions on the LSFWMA following the 1997-98 season (Fig. 2). Questions relating to hunter conflicts address complaints voiced by hunters in recent years. The questionnaire

and a letter of explanation (Fig. 3) were initially mailed on 6 May 1998. Non-respondents were sent 2nd and 3rd copies of the questionnaire, and accompanying letters (Figs. 4 and 5), on 12 June and 22 July, respectively. The U.S. Postal Service was successful in reaching 723 (94.6%) of the people on the mailing list. As of 24 August 1998, 537 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 74.3%.

Data were transferred from the filled-out questionnaires to a computer file using a data management program (Ashton-Tate dBASE IV). The data were analyzed with a statistical program (SPSS, Inc. SPSS 6.1).

All written comments returned with the questionnaires were screened and sorted by subject matter. The results were summarized in tabular format.

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

In the Central Zone, where the LSFWMA is located, the early teal and Canada goose seasons occurred on the same dates, 6-14 September, in 1997. The bag limits were 4 teal and 2 geese per day. Legal shooting hours were from sunrise to sunset for teal and from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset for Canada geese.

The 1997 duck hunting season began on 18 October and ended on 16 December in the Central Zone. Six ducks (including 4 mallards) were allowed in the daily bag limit. For Canada geese, the season was originally scheduled to occur on 18-19 October and from 15 November to 29 January. However, the DNR closed the season on 19 January because the harvest quota for Canada geese was reached in the Central Zone. The bag limit was 2 Canada

geese per day. Legal shooting hours for both ducks and geese were from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1:00 pm in the LSFWMA. This is in contrast to the main lake, where shooting time extended to sunset each day.

Waterfowl hunting in the 4 subimpoundments was allotted by daily drawings during the first 2 days (i.e., opening day through the first Saturday and Sunday) of the regular duck season. Hunting parties had to register for the drawings between 3:00 and 4:00 am (cst) at check stations (1 for each unit). Each party drawn was allowed to choose a staked site from several in each subimpoundment. The 1st party drawn had the 1st choice of hunting sites, the 2nd party drawn had the 2nd choice, and so on until all parties had selected staked sites or all sites were filled. All parties had to hunt within 10 yards of their chosen stake, and they had to be in place by 1/2 hour before shooting time. All parties were required to report their harvest of waterfowl by 2:00 pm each day.

After the first 2 days, hunters in the McGee, North Dunn, and Jonathan Creek subimpoundments were still required to set up within 10 yards of staked sites, claimed on a first-come/first-served basis. Hunters in the Fishhook Subimpoundment, however, were allowed to hunt anywhere provided they maintained a distance of at least 200 yards between hunting parties.

FINDINGS

Of the 537 participants in the survey, 348 (64.8%) reported hunting waterfowl (ducks, geese, and/or coots) on the LSFWMA during the 1997-98 season (Table 1). Of these hunters, 17.2%

hunted waterfowl on the LSFWMA, and nowhere else, in 1997-98. Most (58.8%) of the hunters who pursued waterfowl on the LSFWMA in 1997-98 were also active on the area during the previous (1996-97) season.

The hunting parties on the LSFWMA in 1997-98 included an average of 2.56 hunters (Table 1). The vast majority (81.0%) of the parties consisted of 2 or 3 hunters.

Waterfowl Hunting Activity

The active hunters who participated in the survey reported visiting the LSFWMA an average of 5.7 days during the 1997-98 season (Table 2). Conversely, an average of 15.0 hunters were present on the area each day of the entire waterfowl hunting season.

About one-fifth (17.7%) of the hunters were active on the LSFWMA during the 9-day (6-14 September) early teal/Canada goose season (Table 2). This compares to 95.0% of the hunters being active during the 60-day regular duck season [plus the 2 following days] (18 October-18 December), and 14.0% who were active during the latter 32 days (19 December-19 January) of the Canada goose season. Similarly, 6.4% of the days afield were expended during the September teal/Canada goose season, 86.0% during the regular duck season, and 7.6% during the latter part of the Canada goose season. The average number of hunters per day was estimated to be 11.0, 21.4, and 3.7, respectively, during these 3 time periods.

The Fishhook Subimpoundment attracted 56.6% of the hunters and accounted for 44.6% of the days afield on the LSFWMA during

the 1997-98 season (Table 3). The McGee Subimpoundment attracted 33.4% of the hunters and accounted for 29.7% of the days afield. Corresponding values were 20.5% and 13.0% for the North Dunn Subimpoundment, and 28.0% and 12.7% for the Jonathan Creek Subimpoundment. Based on the percentages in Table 3, it appears that many hunters pursue waterfowl in at least 2 subimpoundments during the course of an entire hunting season.

Hunter Attitudes/Opinions and Conflicts

Overall Opinion of Waterfowl Program. About three-fourths (74.4%) of all LSFWMA hunters said they liked the waterfowl program on the area (Table 4). A comparatively small percentage (13.4%) indicated they disliked the program and only 12.2% expressed no opinion about the matter. For hunters who hunted exclusively in the Fishhook Subimpoundment, 61.3% liked the waterfowl program, 35.5% disliked it, and 3.2% did not have an opinion.

Incidence of Hunter Conflicts. Responses to question #8 indicate that one-fifth (19.1%) of the LSFWMA waterfowl hunters experienced problems with other hunters moving too close to them during the 1997-98 season (Table 5). The vast majority (83.3%) of this form of hunter conflict occurred in the Fishhook Subimpoundment. Occurrence of the "moving-too-close" syndrome was low in the McGee and Jonathan Creek Subimpoundments and almost nonexistent in North Dunn.

Similarly, responses to question #10 indicate that 15.2% of the LSFWMA waterfowl hunters felt that they were threatened or interfered with by other hunters during the 1997-98 season (Table

5). About two-thirds (65.4%) of these episodes of hunter conflict took place in the Fishhook Subimpoundment. The McGee Subimpoundment accounted for one-third (30.8%) of the reported episodes and Jonathan Creek accounted for 11.5%. Threats and interference were rare in North Dunn.

For hunters who hunted exclusively in the Fishhook Subimpoundment in 1997-98, 28.9% said they had problems with other hunters moving too close (Table 5). A calculated 19.5% of these hunters also felt that they had been either threatened or interfered with by other hunters.

Reducing Hunter Conflicts. When the hunters were asked to choose the course of action they preferred for dealing with the problem of hunter conflicts in the Fishhook Subimpoundment, one-half (50.7%) opted for "no changes in current hunting procedures" (Table 6). The other one-half (49.3%) voted to expand the staking/drawing regulations. However, hunters in this latter group differed as to the extent to which the staking/drawing regulations should be expanded: 14.1% chose "until opening of the South Zone waterfowl season", another 14.1% said "throughout the duck season", and 21.1% preferred "throughout the entire waterfowl season". For hunters who hunted exclusively in the Fishhook Subimpoundment, support for expanding the staking/drawing regulations was more decisive: 62.6% were in favor and 37.4% were against.

One-half (50.6%) of all hunters, and 58.0% of the Fishhook hunters, were in favor of additional patrols by Conservation Police Officers to help reduce crowding problems on the LSFWMA (Table 6).

Written Comments. A total of 52 written comments were submitted by 30 (8.6%) of the 348 active waterfowl hunters who participated in this survey (Table 7). Of these comments, 8 were complimentary of the management of the LSFWMA. Seven hunters reported that they had conflicts with other hunters on the area. Six hunters indicated there was too much corn/vegetation in the subimpoundments. Five hunters said more law enforcement was needed, and 5 complained that the area had too many regulations or they otherwise disliked the stakes/drawing procedure. However, 4 hunters emphasized they liked the stakes and drawings, and 3 hunters wanted to expand management/refuges on the area. The other 14 comments addressed 10 miscellaneous subjects/issues.

DISCUSSION

In examining the results of this survey, it is evident that the vast majority of the waterfowl hunting activity on the LSFWMA takes place during the regular duck season (Table 2). It is also evident that Fishhook, which is by far the largest subimpoundment on the area, accounts for about one-half of the hunting pressure and the majority of the hunter conflicts (Tables 3 and 5). Thus, concerns about hunters interfering with each other, and therefore compromising the quality of hunting, should be directed toward the Fishhook Subimpoundment during the regular duck season, at least for the immediate future.

More than one-fourth (28.9%) of the waterfowl hunters who used the Fishhook Subimpoundment exclusively in 1997-98 reported that other hunters moved too close to them, and 19.5% said they felt threatened or interfered with (Table 5). In assessing this

situation, we must ask: are these levels of hunter interference acceptable (i.e., "normal") for public waterfowl hunting areas in Illinois? In other words, where should the line be drawn between acceptable and unacceptable levels of crowding in the Fishhook Subimpoundment?

The objective of managing the LSFWMA is to provide a safe, equitable, and enjoyable hunting experience for as many hunters as possible. In light of this objective, we view the incidences of crowding/threats/interference--as reported by the hunters themselves--to be excessive in the Fishhook Subimpoundment, and therefore constitute a problem. To protect hunters and personal property, and insure an acceptable level of waterfowling quality, hunter conflicts should be reduced in the Fishhook Subimpoundment.

Although there are several courses of action available to the DNR for addressing waterfowl hunting management in the Fishhook Subimpoundment, they fall into 2 general categories: First, do nothing--i.e., make no changes in current hunting procedures. Second, expand the staking and drawing regulations. If the latter is applied to the entire waterfowl hunting season, all hunters conflicts will be eliminated in the subimpoundment. If they are applied to the entire regular duck season, almost all conflicts will be eliminated. If applied to the first 2 to 4 weeks of the regular duck season (i.e., until the regular duck season opens in the South Zone), a majority of the conflicts will be eliminated.

Based on our findings and recognizing logistical constraints, we recommend expanding the staking and drawing

regulations in the Fishhook Subimpoundment during the regular season until the duck season in the South Zone opens. We make this recommendation because (1) the idea of expanding the staking and drawing regulations was supported by a majority (62.6%) of the Fishhook hunters (Table 6), (2) such a program will reduce hunter conflicts in the most crowded subimpoundment, and (3) similar controlled hunting programs have been successfully used on other public waterfowl hunting areas in Illinois for many years.

We are aware that our recommendation will not eliminate all hunter conflicts on the LSFWMA. To the contrary, hunters who normally use Fishhook may crowd into McGee, North Dunn, and/or Jonathan Creek, causing conflicts in these subimpoundments. However, we believe that limited expansion of the staking/drawing regulations in the Fishhook Subimpoundment is a reasonable initiative for the 1999-00 season. A larger undertaking would require a much greater commitment in terms of personnel and facilities, and such an undertaking may not be necessary. The successes and shortcomings of the expanded staking/drawing regulations in the Fishhook Subimpoundment will be evaluated following the 1999-00 season. The outcome will determine whether the program should be revised and/or further expanded in the future.

Acknowledgements. Acknowledgement is made to S.E. Duzan for assisting with the questionnaire design; to R.M. Cottingham, S.E. Duzan, and D.J. Holm for critically reading a preliminary draft of this report; and to L.K. Campbell and K.D. Caldwell for processing data. This study was funded in part by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-112-R, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Natural History Survey, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating.

LITERATURE CITED

- Duzan, S.E., and P.A. Brewer 1998. Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area: Annual Report. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ill. Dept. Nat. Res. report dated 5 February 1998. 15pp.
- Illinois Department of Conservation. 1991. Lake Shelbyville strategic waterfowl plan. Revised 29 November 1991. 36pp+appendices.

Table 1. Percentage of respondents to the 1997-98 Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area Survey who hunted waterfowl on this area and the number of hunters per party (Illinois 1997-98). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Activity or Parameter	Percentage or Mean
Hunted waterfowl on Lake Shelbyville FWMA in 1997-98	(537) 64.8%
Hunted waterfowl on Lake Shelbyville FWMA, and nowhere else, in 1997-98	(348)* 17.2%
Hunted waterfowl on Lake Shelbyville FWMA during previous season (1996-97)	(340)* 58.8%
Number of hunters per party in 1997-98 Mean	(326) 2.56
Range: 1 hunter (s)	6.4%
2 "	49.1
3 "	31.9
4 "	12.6

*Those who hunted waterfowl on the Lake Shelbyville FWMA in 1997-98.

Table 2. Temporal distribution of waterfowl hunting activity on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area (Illinois 1997-98). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Dates	Percentage		Days Afield Per Hunter	Mean Hunters Per Day
	Hunters	Days Afield		
	(344)	(1,976)		
Sept. 6-14 (early Canada goose and teal season)	17.7	6.4	2.1	11.0
Oct. 18-Dec. 18 (duck and first part of Canada goose season)	95.0	86.0	5.2	21.4
Dec. 19-Jan. 19 (Canada goose season only)	14.0	7.6	3.1	3.7
Entire season (1,545) ^a	100	100	5.7 ^b	15.0

^aTotal days afield (hunter-days) during the entire 1997-98 season as determined by Waterfowl Hunter Permit Report Cards (P.A. Brewer, unpubl. data).

^b21.7% hunted 1 day, 46.6% hunted 2-5 days, 17.9% hunted 6-10 days, 9.4% hunted 11-20 days, and 4.4% hunted \geq 21 days.

Table 3. Spatial distribution of waterfowl hunting activity on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area (Illinois 1997-98). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Subimpoundment	Percentage	
	Hunters	Days Afield
	(332)	(1,763)
McGee	33.4	29.7
North Dunn	20.5	13.0
Jonathan Creek	28.0	12.7
Fishhook	56.6	44.6

Table 4. Attitudes of hunters toward the waterfowl hunting program on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area (Illinois 1997-98). The sample size is in parentheses.

Responses to the following question:

“In the Fishhook Waterfowl Subimpoundment, during the first 2 days of the season each party of hunters selects a staked location in the subimpoundment at a drawing held each morning, and must hunt within 10 yards of that stake. First drawn party has the first choice of all hunting sites, second party had second choice, and so on until all locations were filled. After the first 2 days, hunters are allowed to hunt anywhere in the subimpoundment, but they must stay 200 yards away from other hunters using the area. At all other subimpoundments, hunters are required to hunt within 10 yards of the staked location throughout the waterfowl season on first-come, first-served basis.”

“Overall, did you like or dislike the waterfowl hunting program at Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area during the 1997-98 season?”

	<u>All Hunters</u> (344)	<u>Fishhook Hunters^a</u> (31)
Yes	74.4%	61.3%
No	13.4	35.5
No opinion	12.2	3.2

^aThose who hunted exclusively in the Fishhook Subimpoundment.

Table 5. Hunter conflicts reported by waterfowl hunters on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area (Illinois 1997-98). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the following questions:

“Did you have any problems with other waterfowl hunters moving in too close to you after you had already claimed your spot and set out decoys on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area?” (Question #8)

	All Hunters (346)	Fishhook Hunters ^a (114)
Yes	19.1%	28.9%
No	80.9	71.1

“If ‘Yes’, at which subimpoundment(s) was this a problem?”

	(66)
McGee	10.6%
North Dunn	3.0
Jonathan Creek	15.2
Fishhook	83.3

“While hunting waterfowl on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area during the 1997-98 hunting season, did you feel as though you were being either threatened or interfered with by other hunters?” (Question #10)

	All Hunters (341)	Fishhook Hunters ^a (113)
Yes	15.2%	19.5%
No	84.8	80.5

“If ‘Yes’, at which subimpoundment(s) was this a problem?”

	(52)
McGee	30.8%
North Dunn	1.9
Jonathan Creek	11.5
Fishhook	65.4

^aThose who hunted exclusively in the Fishhook Subimpoundment.

Table 6. Courses of action favored by waterfowl hunters for reducing hunter conflicts on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area (Illinois 1997-98). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the following questions:

“If you answered ‘Yes’ to question 8 and/or 10 above, would you favor:”

	<u>All Hunters</u> (71) ^b	<u>Fishhook Hunters^a</u> (32)
No changes in current hunting procedures	50.7%	37.4%
Hunting by stake in Fishhook until the opening of Southern Zone waterfowl season	14.1	25.0
Hunting by stake in Fishhook throughout the entire duck season	14.1	18.8
Hunting by stake in Fishhook throughout the entire waterfowl season (duck and goose)	21.1	18.8

“If you answered yes to question 8 and/or 10 above, would you favor additional patrols by Conservation Police Officers (game wardens) to help reduce hunter crowding problems at the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area?”

	<u>All Hunters</u> (79) ^b	<u>Fishhook Hunters^a</u> (31)
Yes	50.6%	58.0%
No	34.2	35.5
No opinion	15.2	6.5

^aThose who hunted exclusively in the Fishhook Subimpoundment.

^bThose who reported conflicts with other hunters (See Table 5).

Table 7. Summary of written comments that waterfowl hunters returned with the questionnaires for the 1997-98 Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area Survey (Illinois 1997-98). A total of 52 comments were received from 30 individual hunters.

Type of Comment	Number of Hunters Commenting
Complimentary of management	8
Have had conflicts with other hunters	7
Too much corn/vegetation in subimpoundments ^a	6
Need more law enforcement	5
Too many regulations/dislike stakes & drawings	5
Likes stakes & drawings	4
Expand management/refuges	3
Provide more information/better maps	2
Upland game hunters interfere	2
Management has ignored main lake	2
Need to fine tune water level management	2
Fishhook should be "No Wake" but allow any motor size	1
Prohibit overnight camping without lights	1
Implement drawing at McGee	1
Need to limit entry time	1
Should build permanent blinds	1
Hunters should organize	1
Total	52

^aThe hunters complained that the dense corn/vegetation made it difficult to locate stakes, to find open water for setting out decoys, to see other hunters, and to retrieve downed birds. In addition, the abundance of corn created potential baiting problems.

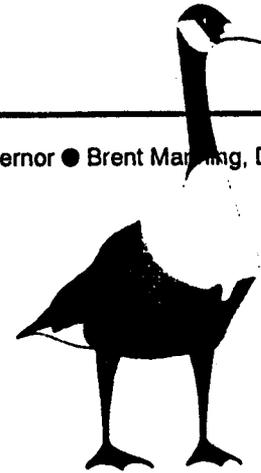
1997-98 Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area
Public Waterfowl Hunting Area Survey



ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

Jim Edgar, Governor ● Brent Manning, Director



INSTRUCTIONS

The Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area is located along the Kaskaskia and West Okaw Rivers in the upper reaches of Lake Shelbyville. The area is managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and includes four waterfowl management units open to public hunting - the Fishhook and Jonathan Creek Units on the Kaskaskia River and the McGee and North Dunn Units on the West Okaw River. Other hunting opportunities exist on rivers and sloughs on the area.

To help properly manage waterfowl resources at the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area, the Department of Natural Resources needs information about waterfowl hunters, their hunting activities, and their opinions on selected issues. Please answer the questions below regarding your waterfowl hunting at the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area during the 1997-98 season.

The questionnaire is divided into three parts: General Information, Waterfowl Hunting Activities, and Your Experiences and Opinions.

Report only information regarding your own hunting experiences during 1997-98. **DO NOT** include information regarding others who you may have hunted with or information that you may have been told by others who hunted on the area.

Your responses are strictly confidential and will never be associated with your name. Your participation and your opinions are very important and appreciated.

When completed, insert the questionnaire in the pre-addressed envelope and mail. **POSTAGE IS PRE-PAID.**

Other comments are welcome, but please submit them on a separate sheet of paper to receive proper attention.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Did you hunt waterfowl (ducks, geese, and/or coots) on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area during the 1997-98 season? (Circle number for appropriate answer)

Yes1 No.....2

2. Was the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area the only place you hunted waterfowl during the 1997-98 season? (Circle number for appropriate answer)

Yes1 No.....2

Figure 2. The questionnaire used to survey waterfowl hunters on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area following the 1997-98 season.

Figure 2 - continued.

3. Did you hunt waterfowl at the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area the previous waterfowl season --that is, during the 1996-1997 season? (Circle number for appropriate answer)

Yes1 No.....2

WATERFOWL HUNTING ACTIVITIES

4. How many different days did you hunt waterfowl on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area during the 1997-98 season?

- a. Days between Sept. 6 and Sept. 14 (early Canada goose & teal season)....._____
- b. Days between Oct. 18 and Dec. 18 (duck & first part of Canada goose season)....._____
- c. Days between Dec. 19 and Jan. 29 (Canada goose season only)....._____
- d. Total days....._____

5. Please list the total number of days you hunted in each of the following subimpoundments:

- a. McGee Waterfowl Unit....._____
- b. North Dunn Waterfowl Unit....._____
- c. Jonathan Creek Waterfowl Unit....._____
- d. Fishhook Waterfowl Unit....._____

6. Including yourself, what was the "average" or usual number of hunters in your waterfowl hunting party during the 1997-98 waterfowl season at the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area? (Write in answer)....._____

YOUR EXPERIENCE AND OPINIONS

In the Fishhook Waterfowl Subimpoundment, during the first 2 days of the season each party of hunters selects a staked location in the subimpoundment at a drawing held each morning, and must hunt within 10 yards of that stake. First drawn party has the first choice of all hunting sites, second party had second choice, and so on until all locations were filled. After the first 2 days, hunters are allowed to hunt anywhere in the subimpoundment, but they must stay 200 yards away from other hunters using the area. At all other subimpoundments, hunters are required to hunt within 10 yards of the staked location throughout the waterfowl season on first-come, first-served basis..

7. Overall, did you like or dislike the waterfowl hunting program at Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area during the 1997-98 season? (Circle number for appropriate answer)

Liked1 Disliked.....2 No Opinion.....3

8. Did you have any problems with other waterfowl hunters moving in too close to you after you had already claimed your spot and set out decoys on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area ? (Circle number for appropriate answer)

Yes1 No.....2

9. If "Yes", at which subimpoundment(s) was this a problem? (Check all that apply)

- McGee Unit
- North Dunn Unit
- Fishhook Unit
- Jonathan Creek Unit

10. While hunting waterfowl on the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area during the 1997-98 hunting season, did you feel as though you were being either threatened or interfered with by other hunters? (Circle number for appropriate answer)

Yes1 No.....2

11. If "Yes", at which subimpoundment(s) was this a problem? (Check all that apply)

- McGee Unit
- North Dunn Unit
- Fishhook Unit
- Jonathan Creek Unit

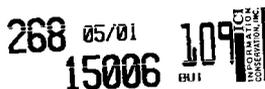
12. If you answered "Yes" to question 8 and/or 10 above, would you favor: (check appropriate answer)

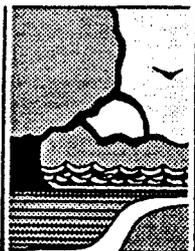
- no changes in current hunting procedures.
- hunting by stake in Fishhook Unit until the opening of Southern zone waterfowl season.
- hunting by stake in Fishhook Unit throughout the entire duck season.
- hunting by stake in Fishhook throughout the entire waterfowl season (duck and goose).

13. If you answered yes to question 8 and/or 10 above, would you favor additional patrols by Conservation Police Officers (game wardens) to help reduce hunter crowding problems at the Lake Shelbyville Fish & Wildlife Management Area? (Circle number for appropriate answer)

Yes.....1 No.....2 No opinion.....3

Thank you for your time and cooperation! **RETURN POSTAGE IS PREPAID!**





ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

Jim Edgar, Governor ● Brent Manning, Director

April 1998

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

You are one of a select group of sportsmen being asked to furnish information about your waterfowl hunting activities and experience on the Lake Shelbyville Fish and Wildlife Management Area.

The information supplied by you and other selected hunters is important to our management plans at Lake Shelbyville: (1) to safeguard waterfowl populations, (2) to provide maximum, equitable, and safe waterfowl hunting opportunity to license holders, and (3) to maintain an attractive level of hunter success.

The information you provide will be used to improve the management of our waterfowl resources and waterfowl hunting. These statistics include distribution of hunting effort on the area as well as hunter opinions.

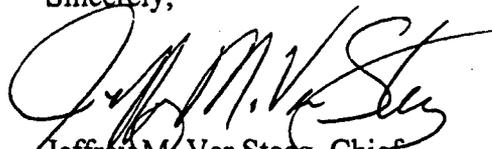
YOUR REPLY IS VERY IMPORTANT, EVEN IF YOUR HUNTING EFFORT WAS LIMITED OR UNSUCCESSFUL. YOUR RESPONSE IS URGENTLY NEEDED.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the parts of the questionnaire that apply to you. If you do not remember exact figures, please give your best estimate.

Drop the completed questionnaire in the mail. Postage is prepaid.

Yours for better waterfowling!

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:PAB:pb
Enclosure
LS1



ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

Jim Edgar, Governor - Brent Manning, Director

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

Recently we mailed you a questionnaire regarding your waterfowl hunting activities at the Lake Shelbyville Fish and Wildlife Management Area. At present, we still haven't received your completed form. Perhaps you have misplaced the questionnaire or haven't found time to complete it.

We sincerely value the information that only you and other waterfowl hunters who use the area can provide. Your responses on the questionnaire will help the Department of Natural Resources better direct waterfowl hunting activities on the management area. Even if you hunted only a few days or did not hunt at all, please provide us with whatever information that you can.

We have enclosed another questionnaire in case the first one was lost or discarded. If you have already returned a questionnaire and this correspondence "crossed in the mail" - please discard this one and accept our thanks for your help!

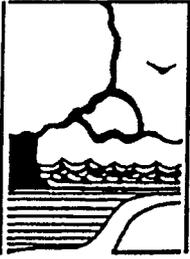
Please drop the completed questionnaire in the mail. Postage is prepaid. Your prompt attention and assistance will be sincerely appreciated!

Thank You!

Sincerely,

Paul A. Brewer
District Wildlife Biologist

Enclosure



ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

Jim Edgar, Governor - Brent Manning, Director

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

This letter is to remind you that we still would like to receive a report from you regarding your waterfowl hunting experiences at the Lake Shelbyville Fish and Wildlife Management Area last season. We don't like to keep bothering you, but your thoughts and opinions are very important to us, and only you can provide the information we need.

Another copy of the questionnaire is enclosed. We hope you will take a few minutes to complete it and return it as soon as possible. If you have already returned a questionnaire about your waterfowl hunting at the Lake Shelbyville Fish and Wildlife Management Area, please accept our sincere thanks for doing so, and discard this one. Again, your response is important even if you did not hunt on the area or did not have a successful season.

Return postage is prepaid. We would appreciate your help by completing the questionnaire as soon as you can and dropping it in the mail. Your thoughts and opinions are important in helping to manage the waterfowl resources at the Lake Shelbyville Fish and Wildlife Management Area.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

Paul A. Brewer
District Wildlife Biologist

Enclosure

