
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — AUGUST 2019

Information Provided. The Natural Resource Commission met on August 8, 2019, in Des Moines. Dale Garner, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), provided information to the Commissioners related to inquiries from previous meetings. Topics discussed included:

- The National Elm Restoration Project. Several states, including Iowa, have started a project to restore elm trees. The states are working with the federal National Forestry Service to plant disease-resistant elm trees in forested areas to develop an elm orchard. The trees will naturally hybridize with native elm trees and produce Dutch elm disease-resistant seedlings. This is a slow process but is being implemented along the Mississippi River.
- The 2018 Iowa Licensed Angler Survey. Approximately 1,600 licensed anglers participated in the annual angler survey. Of the responses, 68.0% rated Iowa as having excellent or good fishing conditions. Other information included:
 - Favorite fish to catch included bluegill, crappie, walleye, largemouth bass, and channel catfish.
 - Favorite fishing spots included the Mississippi River, private ponds, Clear Lake, the Des Moines River, and West and East Okoboji Lakes.
 - Licensed anglers fished a total of 10.5 million days in 2018.
 - Of the fish caught, 80.0% are used for family meals, and it was estimated that fishing provided 4.6 million meals in 2018.
- Chronic Wasting Disease. There will be over 6,500 chronic wasting disease samples collected in 2019 through 2020. The federal Fish and Wildlife Service has provided a grant that will pay for 2,500 of the samples. Below is a map that details where the samples will be taken.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on September 12, 2019, in Clear Lake.

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