


Fishing Clubs and Lake Management



Partnering With Fishing Clubs
to Improve Fisheries and
Habitat

- 
- Over 40 million Americans call themselves fisherman.
 - Spending over \$45 billion dollars per year on retail sales alone.
 - If fishing were ranked as a corporation, it would be #55 on the 2011 fortune 500 list, ahead of companies such as:
 - Intel
 - Amazon
 - Coca-cola.



- There are thousands of fishing clubs in the United States
- Mostly affiliated with national organizations
- B.A.S.S
- Walleyes Unlimited
- Muskies Inc.



All of these organizations have mission statements that include goals such as:

- “To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds” (Trout Unlimited)
- “...conserve, protect and restore North America's...Fisheries. Areas of concern include habitat preservation, water quality, water management policies, and the development/ maintaining of self-sustaining fish populations”
- “seek out, Elevate ,And Fund Research for local projects and activities that involve improving ... fisheries ” (Muskie's Inc.)

This Is a Muskie





Chicagoland Muskie Hunters

- Emmett Brown, who was a teenager at the time, formed the Muskie Hunters in 1968.
- Currently, Emmett is the head of The Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward Wisconsin.



This is the wrong Emmett Brown



Early Goals

- Reintroduction of muskellunge to Illinois waters was the primary goal of this chapter.
- Project Illini.
- This was originally strongly opposed by the then “Department of Conservation.”
- Our club organized large fundraisers
 - in 1975 the first Muskies were stocked in Illinois in Spring Lake
 - subsequently Cedar and Diamond lake were stocked.

The Muskie Hunters joined Muskie, Inc. in January of 1975

- Since 1975 the chapter has stocked thousands of Muskies into Illinois waters.
- In conjunction with the Illinois Muskie alliance, the chapter currently sponsors stocking program efforts





Muskies Inc.

- Muskies, Inc. has expanded to over 6,000 Members and 50 independent Local Chapters throughout the country.
- We have become a national voice of the protection of the Muskie species.
- Muskies, Inc. is widely recognized as the first organized group of sports anglers to espouse the "Catch And Release" practice now embraced by many conservation minded groups throughout North America.
- Today Muskies, Inc. focuses on three critical areas:



Focused on 3 Critical Areas

- Fisheries-
 - Donate to Illinois Muskie Alliance
- Research
 - Donate to project “Green Gene”
- Youth
 - This is our current weakness.



Our Purpose

- To promote a high quality muskellunge sport fishery;
- To support selected conservation practices based on scientific merit and carried out by authorized federal and state agencies;
- To promote muskellunge research;
- To establish hatcheries and rearing ponds and introduce the species into suitable waters;
- To support the abatement of water pollution;
- To maintain records of habits, growth, and range of species;
- To disseminate muskellunge information;
- To promote good fellowship and sportsmanship among men, women and children;

States Status

- Departments of Natural Resources have now realized the value of stocking Muskies.
- There are thirty-seven of the lower forty-eight states with active Muskie stocking programs.



Working with Clubs

- Every club has a different personality
- Most clubs want to contribute time or money to relevant projects
- Depending on their organizational status, they will need to meet their charter requirements to maintain 501c3 status





Recruit Club Supporters

- Search out some local clubs in your area
- Go to a meeting, get a feel for the group
- Ask for some time at a board meeting.
- State your case



Questions?

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