

# 2006 Tributary Stream Enforcement Report

## Racine/Kenosha/Milwaukee Counties

Warden Supervisor Joe Jerich

This report documents enforcement efforts this past fall on the tributary streams. It is a synopsis of the excellent reports provided by Field Wardens Roberts, Niemeyer, and Sanidas, in the counties of Racine, Kenosha, and Milwaukee. The annual fall salmon and trout migrations continue to be an overwhelming workload for local wardens and I am proud of their dedication and hard work to address citizen complaints of violations associated with the fish run. Wardens issued 219 Citations/Criminal complaints for violations associated with the fall fish run in Racine, Kenosha, and Milwaukee Counties. An increase of almost 30% from 2005.

### Fishing Conditions

#### Racine County

Unlike recent years in Racine County, the water levels were normal to high from the Horlick Dam down to the mouth of the Root River. Several significant rainfalls during late September and into October helped to push large runs of salmon into the rivers. The fishing pressure was significantly less on the lower stretches of the Root River due to the higher water levels allowing the fish to stay on the move. Most of the fishing pressure and the vast majority of complaints concerning illegal fishing this year came from Quarry Park on up to the Horlick Dam. This is where the fish and the fishermen continued to stack up throughout the fall. The Root River Steelhead Facility was in operation for a record 25 processing dates during the fall 2006 fish migration. Stream flows were very consistent, even ideal all season. This produced conditions that resulted in the capture and processing of over 12,000 fish, mostly due to excessively high numbers of Chinook. Coho were not nearly as plentiful. Data have not been analyzed yet but overall, we have seen robust, healthy fish.

#### The fall 2006 Root River effort is summarized below.

	Captured	Spawned	Eggs taken	Passed Upstream
Chinook	10,318	0	0	9,836
Coho	1,400	736	1.1 million*	1,133
Rainbow	536**	0	0	196
Brown	124	0	0	124
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,378</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>1.1 million</b>	<b>11,289</b>

\*Approximately 800,000 Coho eggs were obtained at the Root facility with the remainder Kewaunee.

\*\* 339 Skamania strain steelhead taken to Kettle Moraine Springs hatchery as brood stock.

#### Milwaukee County

Milwaukee Wardens reported that fish numbers in the Milwaukee area tributaries were much higher than they have seen in several years. Good water levels kept migrating fish in the tributaries well into December. The Milwaukee River had fair numbers of fish in September most of which were found at the Estabrook spillway. Some fish moved up to Kletzsch Park after the dam at Estabrook Park was opened in mid October, but the bulk of the fish remained below the spillway in Estabrook Park and south to the UWM Park and ride. This stretch of river offer easy targets of anyone who was inclined to illegally harvest a salmon. A large amount of the enforcement took place just south of Capital Drive. This area is wooded on both sides and is a long stretch of fast moving river which offered opportunity and a feeling of seclusion to the "Salmon Rustlers".

The Oak Creek in Grant Park experienced fair numbers of fish in the month of September and large numbers of fishermen throughout the fish run. After rain events, water levels in Oak Creek would suddenly rise and many salmon would push into the main pool near the Mill Street Dam. Water levels would eventually recede and leave many fish trapped in the main pool. Salmon in this area were extremely vulnerable to snagging and netting. The Oak Creek received the heaviest amount of fishing pressure when compared to the amount of fishable water, which resulted in a very high amount of complaints and hotlines in this area.

The Menomonee River received low numbers of fish during the month of September and received fair numbers in the months of October and November. This area received less fishing pressure this year in comparison with other years. The Menomonee offered good fishing opportunity well into the month of November.

Bender Park in Oak Creek did hold large numbers of brown trout throughout the fall fish run. Warden's received numerous complaints regarding snagging and foul hooking fish in this area. Fishing pressure at Bender Park was fairly substantial with large numbers of anglers fishing from the breakwall and piers.

The Kinnickinnic River (KK) received few fish in the month of September, but high numbers in the months of October and November. This area has been a constant headache for the past several years during the fish run, and this year was no different. This area gets very little legal fishing pressure, but gets heavy poaching activity. High numbers of King salmon, Brown trout, and Rainbow trout were observed near 5<sup>th</sup> and Rosendale, and good numbers pushed up further west towards Pulaski Park to Cesar Chavez. This area received a high number of complaints due to the high numbers of vulnerable fish.

### **Kenosha County**

Water levels in the Pike River were low for most of the fish run. The fish began staging around the first week of September. The fish were in the Kenosha Harbor much earlier this year than in 2005 but in lower numbers. The problem is that there was no rain to push the fish into the River. For a majority of September the mouth of the Pike River was closed off by sand and the fish could not get begin running up the river. The fish would come up the river very sporadically. One week there would be hundreds of fish up the River. The next week Warden Niemeyer was hard pressed to find one fish. Most fish had a very tough run this year due to the very low water levels.

Fishing pressure was constant but below normal for the Kenosha fish run. Fishermen seemed once again be more spread out due to the second year of the removal of the dam. Early September through October the fishermen were in the hundreds at the mouth of the Pike River. Most fishermen concentrated this area this year because the fish were not coming into the Kenosha Harbor as heavy as they used to. The fish were also stuck outside of the mouth of the River because it was closed off. Niemeyer had many complaints of the fish rolling onto the beach with the waves and fisherman taking them by hand.

This was the first fall that the September 1<sup>st</sup> night fishing restriction was implemented. Niemeyer feels that this has eliminated many opportunities for night fisherman to net fish. Niemeyer believes that many of the night netting crews caught began their evenings fishing with hook and line. Under the cover of darkness the fisherman felt very comfortable grabbing a net and netting a few fish. Having the September restriction has eliminated the fisherman from being down on the river. Niemeyer feels this alone has played a significant role in the reduction of individuals netting fish. This fish are also very well spread out and not in an area with high concentrations of numbers.

## **RIVER PATROL**

Warden Supervisor Jerich notes that the membership of the patrol now exceeds 400. All the Warden Staff in the 3 counties are appreciative of the efforts and thankful for the help.

Racine

Warden Roberts continues to see a strong level of participation with the River Patrol program along the Root River. Wardens received several good complaints of illegal fishing activities by those identifying themselves as River Patrol members to the DNR dispatcher. Roberts feels that more can be done by the fishermen and the DNR to promote the River Patrol program to gain a stronger presence on the River during the peak of the fish run. Roberts also stresses the importance and responsibility of the sporting public to contact the DNR when illegal activity is occurring by calling 1-800-TIP-WDNR. The support of the public is an absolute necessity when in Wisconsin there is approximately 1 warden for every 12,000 licensed sportsmen.

**Kenosha** River Patrol activity saw many of the volunteers who have signed up to work at night volunteering again. Warden Niemeyer told them to call if they spotted anyone fishing on the River. There were a few calls for fishing after dark but no major violations.

It is hard to measure the amount of prevention provided by this program. Many of the volunteers from the Kenosha Sport Fishing and Conservation Association help out because they believe in the program but there has been a decline in the amount of volunteers. The majority of the fisherman along the Pike and Root Rivers are from Out of State. As a result, there are not many new fishermen looking to sign up for the program. The amount of 'local' interest is in decline. Also, with the former warden vacancy in Kenosha there was not always an immediate response to complaints. This would frustrate the caller and they would no longer call. With the new warden in town, we are hopeful to see an immediate improvement in that circumstance.

The River Patrol activity was light this year in **Milwaukee** County. A few fishermen inquired about becoming river patrol member and were later signed up. Very few, if any river patrol hats were observed or complaints received by the Milwaukee County Wardens this year.

Steps have been taken to receive assistance from a group of UW-Stevens Point students who are member of the Student Law Enforcement Association for next year. This group is currently working with Wardens in the North East Region assisting with fish run, and are looking to possibly assist here in Southeastern Wisconsin as well.

## Deployments

Deployments were at a reduced level this year due to a number of unfortunate factors. The new and unrecognizable faces are essential in working undercover operations along the **Root River** during daylight enforcement efforts. The fewer deployed wardens that did arrive assisted in several excellent cases that included overbagging, snagging, foul-hooking and littering. The deployment's help bring a new energy to the enforcement effort and can help to revitalize the local warden's fish enforcement effort.

During one of the weekends, Warden Niemeyer set up a group check in Kenosha and Racine. Niemeyer invited the Milwaukee and Waukesha Wardens as well who participated. During this time there were 12 Wardens working, including the Deputy Chief Warden, on the Pike and Root Rivers. Several arrests were made.

The few recruit wardens did an excellent job during deployments and several cases were made. The local wardens are immersed in fish run complaints, investigations, paperwork and follow up for several months in the fall

## Arrest Summaries

**RACINE** - Warden Roberts worked approximately 200 hours of Fish Run enforcement during September through mid November. This accounts for nearly 50% of the wardens time as a warden during that period. This would leave the remaining 50% of his time for waterfowl, deer, trapping and environmental enforcement. In addition to the field work listed, the wardens is also responsible for any paperwork, court proceedings, training sessions, hunter safety classes, boating/ATV safety classes in his area. The Racine and Kenosha County wardens were also struggling to deal with 2 vacant warden stations in Kenosha and Western Racine County.

Despite the demanding workload, the wardens of the Southeast region were able to nearly double the arrest records from the previous fall run. Wardens made 102 arrests (55 in 2005) while working along the Root River. The vast majority of arrests were made north of Quarry Lake Park and up to the Horlick Dam. The most significant increase is that of overbagging of salmon. Overbagging increased by nearly 600% this season and we feel it was due, in part, to large concentrations of fish being corralled below the Horlick Dam. This target rich environment proved a popular location for the unscrupulous fishermen.

With the increased enforcement effort addressing overbagging came a level of sacrifice. Enforcement of overbagging is a difficult and time consuming process. People often give fish away to friends and transport them up to their vehicles to hide their bag limit. The days of catching someone walking up to their vehicle with too many fish are all but gone. The violators have become more sophisticated and sneaky with their illegal activities. Enforcement of over bagging often requires hours of surveillance and can sacrifice a warden's presence on other stretches of the river. Warden Roberts, on several occasions, was watching fishermen attempting to over bag in one location, only to then receive a hotline complaint concerning illegal activity along another stretch of the river. If a neighboring warden was not available, Roberts would have to make a decision as to what complaints need priority and could potentially miss a violation somewhere else on the river.

**KENOSHA** - The total numbers of citations were up from 2005. Enforcement this year was especially difficult due to several circumstances. This is the second fall with the dam removed at the Kenosha Country Club. With this dam removed it adds miles of River for the Wardens to cover. With the removal of the dam it spread fisherman out and fish as well. Another contributor to the enforcement effort this year in Kenosha was the vacancy east again for the second year in a row. Warden Niemeyer and Roberts coordinated to keep enforcement covered as best as they could in the area. Niemeyer spent 145 hours and 50 night hours this fall doing fish run enforcement on the Pike and Root Rivers.

Another contributing factor to the lack of citations is once again shining and shooting complaints in Racine and Kenosha Counties. Wardens normally sitting on rivers in the evenings were once again sitting on shining fields. With the vacancy in Kenosha there was no night coverage on the river during this time period. Niemeyer also had many complaints of individuals baiting deer in her administrative area which consumed a large portion of fish run time.

**Milwaukee** County also continues to maintain a warden vacancy as well leaving enforcement efforts on the 4 streams at a higher level for the remaining 3 wardens in the County.

## 2006 Racine County Arrest Summary

<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>ARRESTS</b>	<b>FINE AMOUNT</b>
Fishing without a license -Resident	20	\$3,844.00
Fishing without a license – Non-Resident	0	\$0
Fishing without a GL stamp	10	\$1754.50
Snagging fish	4	\$1316.00
Failure to release foul hooked fish	41	\$8544.40
Possession of fish in excess of daily bag	6	\$1341.00
Snag Hook Possession	2	\$648.00
Littering	3	\$556.50
Take fish by means other than hook and line	4	\$1637.60
Fish tributary streams at night	6	\$1250.40
Fish in a Refuge	5	\$1242.00
Expanded Authority Felony Drug Arrest	1	\$186.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>\$22,134.40</b>

## 2006 Kenosha County Arrest Summary

<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>ARRESTS</b>	<b>FINE AMOUNT</b>
Fishing without a license -Resident	21	\$3,930.20
Fishing without a license – Non-Resident	0	\$0
Fishing without a GL stamp	9	\$1603.80
Failure to exhibit approval to a warden	1	\$168.20
Snagging fish	4	\$1316.00
Failure to release foul hooked fish	11	\$1883.45
Possession of fish in excess of daily bag	0	\$0
Littering	0	\$0
Take fish by means other than hook and line	1	\$409.40
Fish tributary streams at night	0	\$0
Provide incorrect information	1	\$324.00
Operate boat w/o registration	1	\$186.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>\$10,807.65</b>

## 2006 Milwaukee County Arrest Summary

<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>ARRESTS</b>	<b>FINE AMOUNT</b>
Fishing without a license -Resident	19	\$3,642.30
Fishing without a license – Non-Resident	3	\$557.10
Fishing without a GL stamp	5	\$908.50
Possession of undersized fish	2	\$357.90
Snagging fish	7	\$2,327.50
Failure to release foul hooked fish	16	\$3,390.40
Possession of fish in excess of daily bag	2	\$866.00
Littering	1	\$189.50
Take fish by means other than hook and line	10	\$4,129.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>\$16,368.20</b>

## **Highlighted cases:**

### **Some people never learn**

From a place of concealment Warden Jennifer Niemeyer watched an individual foul hook a fish and throw it on shore near the Racine weir. The individual then continued to fish. Niemeyer contacted him and he admitted to foul hooking the fish and keeping it. His "fly rod" was baited with a fly and a large treble hook with two sinkers attached to the treble hook. Niemeyer issued a citation for failing to release a foul hooked fish and seized the man's fishing pole. While the Wardens were leaving they observed the individual pick up another fishing pole and went down to the river to fish again. Wardens Niemeyer and Mike Hirschboeck went back to their location to watch other individuals. The same individual came back down to the river and proceeded to snag and foul hook 3 more fish. He was using a hook with a one inch gap. He helped his friend land a foul hooked fish as well. When contacted the second time he was very upset and again admitted to his wrong doing. Three more citations were issued to him and all equipment was taken. He stated he was mad because he received a citation and was "kind of getting even" and began snagging again. He tore his Wisconsin fishing license in half and stated he was no longer going to fish in Wisconsin.

### **Hot Potato**

While on patrol Wardens Niemeyer and Hirschboeck observed two men fishing together in Island Park in Racine. After seeing the wardens one of the men threw his pole in the weeds and tried to act as though he was not fishing. Usually when someone plays "hot potato" with their fishing pole, it is a good indication they may not have a fishing license. After contact, the suspect eventually admitted to Hirschboeck that he was fishing and did not have a license. He also admitted to foul hooking and keeping a salmon. Niemeyer had contact with his companion. Niemeyer asked him how the fishing was and he stated he was looking forward to instructing his next hunter safety class. Niemeyer thought this was an odd thing to say as she was asking how the fishing was. He stated he was a hunter safety instructor. Niemeyer asked him where his fish were at and he stated in the truck. Niemeyer went to the truck and eventually the individual admitted to foul hooking the fish in the pectoral fin and did not release it. He stated he knew better and was sorry. He told Niemeyer that he wanted her to know he was a hunter education instructor in hopes for some leniency.

### **Rock "Live Well"**

While working down from the Horlick Dam, Warden Jason Roberts watched as a man used a floating Rapala to hook a Chinook salmon in the dorsal fin and reel it onto shore. Roberts watched as the man unhooked the fish and placed it on the shore. Roberts then watched as the man began to construct a live well in a small eddy along the river with various stones from the shore. The fisherman then placed his foul-hooked fish into the "live well" and continued to fish. The man caught two more fish by foul-hooking and placed them in his stone fish coral as well. After watching the fishermen for over an hour, Roberts decided to contact the fishermen. The man admitted to foul-hooking the fish but tried to tell Roberts that he was releasing his fish back into the water. Roberts was not buying it and issued citations for failing to release a foul-hooked fish. The man argued, but Roberts told him to save his story for the judge.

### **The Sharp-Toothed Poacher**

Wardens Jason Roberts and Ted Dremel were working late after 10:00pm, when they found two fishermen below the Horlick Dam bridge. One man was in the water with waders using a large snag hook. The man began snagging fish, while the other man netted the fish and put them on the shore. After several fish were caught, Roberts and Dremel had seen enough and decided to put a stop to it. Roberts and Dremel contacted the man on shore and then flashed the light on the man in the water. As the man saw who we were, he immediately began to gnaw his fishing line like a beaver through a sapling. Roberts and Dremel yelled for him not to bite his line, but it was too late and Roberts could see the end of line float down the river.

Roberts went out to meet the man in the water because the fisherman began digging into the front of his waders. The man was contacted before he was able to dump his other snag hooks in his waders. Dremel also searched the man's tackle box and found several other snag hooks. Roberts and Dremel issued several citations including a littering violation for the snag hook he cut into the water. More than \$1000 in fines were issued, including seizure of the man's waders, tackle box, nets and fishing poles.



**Seized Snag hooks**

### **The Weir Bandits**

Wardens Roberts and Niemeyer were working late one evening along the Root River when they decided to check the Root River Steelhead Facility. The wardens saw two suspicious individuals walking around the weir and standing near the fish refuge. Roberts and Niemeyer were able to advance on the two people utilizing the cover of darkness. Using the night vision goggles and the new magnification unit donated for the wardens by Salmon Unlimited the wardens were able to watch as the two men tried to unsuccessfully grab fish in front of the fish ladder. When the grizzly bear method failed, the two resorted to a little breaking and entering. One of the men climbed over the barbed wire fence and illegally entered the DNR Facility. The man on the inside used the DNR's own landing net to grab fish from inside the facility and fling them over the fence. The men only took two fish before they decided to get out of there. Roberts and Niemeyer decided that they would contact the man while he was in the facility to prevent a dangerous foot chase. Roberts and Niemeyer ran from their place of concealment and verbally identified themselves to the two men. Niemeyer contacted the man as he was straddling the barb wire. Roberts ran on foot and was able to arrest the other man as he ran toward his vehicle. Wardens Joe Jerich and Gervis Myles were waiting just down the road and came flying to our aid blocking any possible escape by the men. Both men were handcuffed and taken to Racine County Jail for numerous DNR violations, as well as criminal trespass onto DNR property. Over \$2000 in citations were issued. The two fish they tried to poach ended up costing them approximately \$180 a pound.

### **Horlick Overbag**

Warden Paul Hanneman worked near the Horlick Dam one afternoon addressing complaints of over bagging of salmon. Hanneman was able to watch from a place of concealment as one individual continued to catch foul-hooked fish and failed to release them as required. Hanneman watched as the man caught and kept a 6<sup>th</sup> fish. Hanneman later contacted the man and found that the suspect had actually kept 7 fish and that a few of these fish were foul-hooked. Hanneman issued a citation for over bagging and seized the fish.

## **Hanneman with Overbagged Salmon**



### **Gross Overbagging**

Warden Roberts checked the Horlick dam one morning and saw a man carrying a cooler from the river up to the motel parking lot. The cooler was overflowing with fish. Roberts watched as the men took the cooler up to their vehicle and came back down to continue fishing. Roberts watched as a group of six individuals began foul-hooking fish and placing them on a stringer. Roberts spent nearly 2 hours documenting the numerous people in the group as they continued to snag and keep the foul-hooked fish. Roberts was also accounting for each of the fisherman's bag limit. Roberts realized that with the number of violations occurring that Roberts would need assistance. Roberts called Warden Supervisor Jerich to ask if he was in the area and available to help. Jerich responded to the area and sat with Roberts to continue to document violations. The number of violations began to mount and Roberts and Jerich became concerned that with the number of suspects, violations and evidence it would be difficult for only two wardens to handle. The suspects also had appeared to be becoming intoxicated and experience told Roberts and Jerich that this can create an unpredictable situation. Jerich contacted wardens Dale Hochhausen, Steve Sanidas and Kevin Mickelberg to assist with the take down. After contact was initiated the wardens seized 30 salmon, four fishing rods and issued 13 citations. Thousands in citations were issued for Over-bagging, Foul-hooking, no fishing license, no Great Lakes stamp and Snagging. Approximately 12 warnings were issued for foul-hooking of fish and snagging.



**Overbagged Salmon**

Warden Niemeyer had contact with a group of 5 fisherman fishing at night in Lake Michigan in Kenosha for trout that did not have stamps. While issuing a citation to one individual Niemeyer asked him his current address and he could not tell Niemeyer his house location in Wisconsin. Niemeyer began asking him more detailed questions about his Wisconsin address on the license. The individual later admitted he was a resident of Illinois and used his brothers address in Wisconsin. The individual admitted to buying a Wisconsin fishing license while being a resident of Illinois. He stated he bought a house in Illinois and lives there but uses his brothers address for his Wisconsin drivers license. He does this because he is not legally in the United States and cannot get a drivers license in Illinois without a social security number. He was issued a citation for fraud in obtaining a license.

Warden Niemeyer received a complaint of three individuals snagging fish along the Pike River in Kenosha County. Niemeyer found the individuals and began watching them. At one point all three jumped into the river and tried to catch fish with their hands. The two adults directed their two small children to get in the river and try to catch the fish with their hands. The children (around ages 10-12) were using a hand line with a homemade snag hook. One of the adults was using the fishing line like a lasso to lasso the salmon. All three were cited for snagging fish and all equipment was seized.

Wardens Jennifer Niemeyer and John Bronikowski had contact with an individual that was snagging fish on the Pike River. When Bronikowski contacted the individual he coincidentally got a snag on his line and snapped his line. After interviewing the individual the individual confessed to Niemeyer that he was not using any bait and was using homemade snag hooks. The individual took sinkers and wired them to a treble hook and used it as a snag hook. The individual was cited and plead not guilty in court. At the pretrial hearing the individual was irate as he felt he was being singled out. The DA asked if he was fishing with a snag hook and he stated yes. The DA then told him there was nothing else to argue about and dismissed him from the pretrial conference.

Warden Niemeyer received a complaint from UW Parkside Police. Two officers had caught 4 individuals netting fish and using snag hooks. The Officers received a complaint of some students lighting a fire down by the river so they were there following up. The Officers saw these 4 individuals down by the river netting and snagging fish. When Niemeyer arrived on scene the fisherman had netted one fish and admitted to using all of the snag hooks. They admitted they had illegally taken fish. \$1500 in citations were issued and equipment seized.

Wardens Niemeyer and Hirschboek had contact with two individuals who were hiding fish in the woods on the Pike River. The wardens had earlier watched the individuals snagging fish with a large spoon. One individual was in the River snagging fish and the other individual was the "lookout". As soon as a person would walk down the foot path the fisherman in the water would stop snagging. Upon contact individuals stated they had no fish. Through an interpreter it was found the individuals admitted to snagging and keeping two salmon and hiding them in the bushes. They stated they were sorry as it was their first time on the River. Upon looking in their vehicle there was a large plastic bin that had salmon eggs and fish slime in it. This was not their first time fishing but their first time they got caught.

Warden Niemeyer and Deputy Chief Warden Karl Brooks had contact with a fisherman along the shore of Lake Michigan that was fishing. The individual stated he was not fishing just getting a knot out of fishing line by casting it into the water. Niemeyer told the individual it would be easier to get the knot out if there was not bait on the hook. The individual eventually admitted to fishing without a license. He stated he did not get a license because he was a in the U.S visiting on a Visa and did not think he need one as a visitor. He told Niemeyer he was not going to "visit" Kenosha again.

While working fish run enforcement on the Oak Creek In Milwaukee County, Warden Chris Spaight observed a bright light underneath a bridge. While investigating, Spaight was able to locate 2 people trying the catch salmon using a spot light and a net. Citations were issued for fishing by means other than hook and line and equipment was seized.

While checking fishing activity in Estabrook Park, Warden Spaight observed 2 people actively fishing salmon. As Warden Spaight was watching, one of the fishermen grew impatient and traded his fishing pole for a landing net. Spaight watched as the 2 fishermen worked together to try and net salmon. Contact was made and a citation was issued.

Warden Spaight received information from Warden Myles that there was a subject on the Kinnickinnic River actively netting salmon. Warden Spaight and Deputy Warden Amy Martin responded to the area and observed a person running up the bank of the river with a salmon in each hand. When Spaight made contact with the man, Spaight noticed that the man's clothes were soaking wet. Upon investigation, the wardens learned that the man grabbed the 2 salmon by hand. A citation was issued.

Warden Spaight was working fish run enforcement with Wardens Dave Oginski Jr. and Amanda Schramm. The Wardens were on the Milwaukee River monitoring fishing activity. The Wardens observed 2 fishermen who had caught and kept 7 salmon all of which were foul hooked. Contact was made and multiple citations were issued.



Warden Supervisor Rick Reed was working the Kinnickinnic River in Milwaukee when he observed 4 individuals run down the concrete ramp directly into the water. Warden Reed watched as all 4 individuals waded up and down the river in blue jeans and tennis shoes trying to catch salmon by hand. On two occasions the individuals were observed diving under the water in their attempts. The cold water did not seem to be a factor and the individuals caught several fish. After each successful capture, the fish were held up for photo opportunities and then released. Warden Reed contacted the individuals as they were leaving (empty-handed) and the cold had finally started to set in through their soaked clothing. The individuals were warned about fishing by means other than hook and line.

In October, Warden Steve Sanidas was working fish run enforcement at McKinley Marina in Milwaukee. Warden Sanidas was working in plain cloths and observed an individual fishing from Government Pier. The individual had two fishing poles and one was baited with a large weighted treble hook. The individual would use the hook to snag salmon in the body. As soon as anybody would approach the area he would switch to a second pole which was baited with a spoon. Warden Sanidas observed the individual snag two king salmon in the body and keep the fish. Warden Sanidas contacted the individual and issued him a citation for snagging. Warden Sanidas seized the snag hook as evidence.

**Familiar Faces:**

Warden Sanidas was working fish run enforcement along the Kinnickinnic River near 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Warden Sanidas observed an individual snagging salmon with a large treble hook. Warden Sanidas watched as the individual snagged a salmon in the body and gave the fish to a group of people that were also at the location. Warden Sanidas contacted the salmon snagger and immediately recognized him from previous contacts in past years. Warden Sanidas asked to see the individuals' fishing license and salmon stamp. The individual advised that he did not have a fishing license because he thought his fishing privileges were revoked for previous snagging violations in 2001 and 2002. The individual advised that he had not fished since Warden Sanidas had cited him for snagging in 2002. The suspect stated he had watched the John Gillespie, Waters and Woods television show earlier in that morning and it gave him an urge to go fishing. Warden Sanidas issued the individual his third citation for snagging. The individual stated that he would have tried to run from Warden Sanidas, but stated that he is out of shape and a smoker.

While working fish run enforcement along the Kinnickinnic River near 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Warden Sanidas observed an individual wading in the river without any fishing equipment except for a pair of hip waders. Warden Sanidas observed the individual attempting to catch salmon with his hands. Eventually, the individual was successful in catching and keeping 2 king salmon. Warden Sanidas contacted the individual as he was leaving the location and explained to him that catching salmon by hand is not legal. The individual stated that his friend had told him there are so many fish in the river that you could just grab them with your hands. He took his friend's advice literally and ended up paying the price. Warden Sanidas issued the individual a citation for fishing by illegal means.

While patrolling the Milwaukee River for salmon fishing activity Warden Myles observed a male subject running along the river bank in his underwear, holding a landing net. The subject was wearing a Hoodie and light jacket, but no pants. Warden Myles watched as the individual waded in the river trying to net salmon. Warden Myles contacted the subject and found him to be in possession of 3 salmon; 2 of which were netted. The subject stated he removed his pants and shoes because of the cold water. A citation was issued for fishing by means other than hook and line.

Wardens Spaight and Oginski worked fish run enforcement on the local tributaries. While checking for fishing activity on the Kinnickinnic River Spaight observed a group of people near the water. Spaight observed one of the people from that group snagging salmon, while different people from the group walked in the water and used a net to catch the salmon. Upon contact it was found that the group was in possession of 13 salmon, 11 of which were netted and 2 were snagged. Several citations were issued.

Warden Supervisor Joe Jerich and Warden Jim Jung, who was deployed down from Rhinelander to help with vacancies, worked in Racine County one weekend in October. In addition to CWD season responsibilities, they responded to several complaints associated with the Fall Fish Run in Racine. The wardens arrested several subjects for violation including Netting Fish from A Fish Refuge, Fishing Tributaries Illegally at Night, Fishing without Licenses, and Snagging Fish. In addition, the wardens were called to a complaint of goose hunting after hours and a call of shots fired in a State Park. This is just one example of how several duties compete for warden's time in the fall.

