



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2020

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## New plan developed to stop ongoing fish kill in Dubuque

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Joe Sanfilippo at 563-920-2696  
or [Joe.Sanfilippo@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Joe.Sanfilippo@dnr.iowa.gov).

DUBUQUE—Wednesday afternoon, DNR fisheries staff found freshly killed fish at the site of a fertilizer spill in Dubuque, indicating there is ongoing pollution going into Bee Branch pond.

Working with an environmental contractor, Gavilon Grain has developed a three-pronged plan to end ammonia contamination at the site.

First, they plan to pump air into the southeast corner of the pond, to help volatilize remaining ammonia. Second, they plan to recirculate water in the affected area, which should help dilute the ammonia concentration. Finally, they've asked permission from DNR to flush the storm drain to mobilize any ammonia left in the system.

The original spill occurred after a pump was left running while transferring fertilizer from a barge on June 18. An estimated 432,000 gallons of liquid fertilizer overflowed from above ground storage tanks near 1200 Kerper Boulevard.

During a follow up inspection on June 22, DNR found elevated ammonia levels and dead fish in the southeast corner of Bee Branch Pond. DNR fisheries staff conducted a fish count and found mostly game fish including dead bluegill, walleye, largemouth bass, northern pike and channel catfish. Other dead species noted were various minnows, common carp and several giant floater mussels.

Yesterday, June 24, fisheries staff found additional dead fish and evidence of a larger mussel die-off.

The DNR will conduct another fish count, continue to monitor cleanup and consider appropriate enforcement action, including fish restitution.

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## Iowa DNR partnering on solutions for lower Missouri River flood risk management

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Tim Hall, DNR, 515-725-8298 or [Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov)

DES MOINES -- The Iowa DNR is working with stakeholders and agencies from across the Missouri River basin to identify problem areas and potential solutions for flood impacts along the lower Missouri River.

The study will use existing data and hydraulic models, along with stakeholder input, to define existing conditions and develop conceptual-level solutions for identified problem areas, and to develop a flood risk management plan.

In 2019, runoff from the Missouri river basin was at near-historic levels all year. This unprecedented amount of runoff resulted in the lower Missouri River staying above flood stage at multiple locations for nearly nine months, causing billions of dollars of damage to homes, businesses, agricultural production, levees and natural resources across five states, including Iowa.

The historic nature of the 2019 flood, in addition to severe flooding over the past decade, served as a catalyst for the governors of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri to come together to discuss solutions for improving the resiliency of the lower Missouri River basin.

Once problem areas have been identified by state partners and stakeholders, a set of criteria will be developed to rank and prioritize them. That prioritized list, along with any other relevant background information and ideas for potential solutions, will be provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for further analysis.

The information gathered and analysis completed will be documented in a flood risk management plan for the entire lower Missouri River, which can be used at the state and local level to help inform flood risk management decisions moving forward.

To kick off the first phase of the study, the Iowa DNR is releasing a [short introductory video](#) to introduce the study in further detail and outline the schedule for seeking stakeholder input on additional problem areas. A series of virtual meetings is anticipated for late July.

For more information, contact Tim Hall, Iowa DNR's Hydrology Resources Coordinator, at [tim.hall@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:tim.hall@dnr.iowa.gov).

The project is a partnership between the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Kansas Water Office, and the Kansas City and Omaha districts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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## DNR enforcement actions

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242 or [Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES -- DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the DNR issues enforcement actions. The following list summarizes recent enforcement actions.

For copies of the orders below, contact Kelli Book at [Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov). Older actions can be found at [www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions](http://www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions).

### **Consent Orders**

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

### **Osceola County**

Larry Krogman

Amendment to administrative consent order, pay a \$1,500 administrative penalty, and other provisions remain in effect.

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## **A note on Iowa DNR and COVID-19**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is working with state and local officials to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and has transitioned employees to work remotely. DNR offices are closed to the public during this time and only available by appointment.

In another effort to further reduce the spread of COVID-19, the DNR is encouraging the use of the online services for submitting applications, payments and other daily tasks and interaction with DNR staff.

- [Full list of DNR's online services](#)
- [Up-to-date information on DNR services, facilities and events impacted by COVID-19](#)
- [Technical information for regulated businesses in regards to COVID-19](#)

We thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time. If you need to contact DNR staff you can reach them by email or phone or by calling 515-725-8200.