

Harvesting the River Lesson: Commercial vs. Sport Hunting of Waterfowl: How did one lead to the other?

Objective: To discover and articulate aspects of cultural change and public policy formation caused by the study of human impact on the environment.

ISM Harvesting the River Online files:

Waterfowl texts on duck hunting.

<http://www.museum.state.il.us/RiverWeb/harvesting/harvest/waterfowl/index.html>

oral interviews

<http://www.museum.state.il.us/RiverWeb/harvesting/archives/audio/index.html?TopicID=hunting>

video clips

<http://www.museum.state.il.us/RiverWeb/harvesting/archives/video/index.html?TopicID=hunting>

images

<http://www.museum.state.il.us/RiverWeb/harvesting/archives/images/index.html?TopicID=hunting>

hunting license (click on magnifying glass icon for larger image)

http://www.museum.state.il.us/RiverWeb/harvesting/harvest/waterfowl/tools_techniques/hunting_license.html



Questions for Exploration:

How did the environmental impact of market hunting lead to new laws and sport hunting? In the nineteenth century, there were millions of ducks migrating through western Illinois on the Mississippi Flyway. By 1910, some depletion in numbers was already being seen. The federal and state governments decided to limit the numbers of birds that could be legally harvested and to limit the methods by which birds could be harvested.

- What were some of the laws and methods?
- Has there been an impact from the changes?
- Have any commercial organizations developed policies of conservation?



Look at the Department of Natural Resources Web site's section on hunting regulations, licenses, and limits. <http://dnr.state.il.us/admin/systems/onlinelicense.htm>

- Do these regulations reflect an ongoing concern with keeping a stable and sustainable population of waterfowl?

- If regulations had not been put into place, what might have happened to the populations of waterfowl along the Illinois?
- What impacts are there on waterfowl populations other than local hunting?
- How do these impacts combine? If there are other impacts, not always foreseen, are hunting regulations still justified?
- Would voluntary abstention from market hunting have been effective in stabilizing the decreasing waterfowl populations during the Depression, during WWII, or in any other era?
- How do scientists today help in the formation of public policy on waterfowl hunting? How else does scientific data impact waterfowl survival?

Assessment:

Students will summarize their facts, opinions and arguments about the need for and formation of public policy on waterfowl hunting, based on the information they researched and the discussions they held. Opinions and arguments must be backed up with facts.

Illinois State Board of Education Goals Addressed:

Social Science: Politics:

Late Elementary: 14.D.2: Explain ways that individuals and groups influence and shape public policy

Middle School: 14.D.3: Describe roles and influences of individuals, groups and media in shaping current Illinois and United States public policy (e.g., general public opinion, special interest groups, formal parties, media).

Early High School: 14.D.4: Analyze roles and influences of individuals, groups and media in shaping current debates on state and national policies.

Late High School: 14.D.5: Interpret a variety of public policies and issues from the perspectives of different individuals and groups.