

LOFTP reports low duck count and hunters and bad year for fishing and boating this year at Lake Odessa

Wapello, IA - This fall was the 17th best duck harvest on record at Lake Odessa on the controlled area called the Odessa Wildlife Area, which is the South portion of Lake Odessa, based on printed reports obtained from the refuge management at Lake Odessa. It is the 26th best year for Duck counts on Lake Odessa at 38000. It was the 27th best year for number of hunters at 3500 hunters.

With 3500 hunters in 2007 compared to 6068 in 1972 the ducks per hunter (rate) tends to go up, other factors remaining constant. In a recent press release in area papers the Iowa DNR reported that this was the 4th best year for hunter success rates. The key word is rate, which is ducks per hunter. LOFTP (Lake Odessa for the People) is happy with the ducks per hunter but not pleased with duck count and number of hunters. In 1972 for example the duck count was 199940 vs 38000 in 2007 and the number of hunters was 6068 in 1972 vs 3500 in 2007. The season was only 50 days long in 1972 vs. 60 days in 2007. According to the recent DNR press release, the season ended early this year. No data was readily available whether the season ended early in 1972.

This summer was one of the worst summers for fishing and boating as reported by area residents. This information was gleaned from sworn affidavits that LOFTP has received. The lake was drawn down to 2.3 ft on the gauge at Schafer's access this summer. That approximately corresponds to a depth of 2.3 ft. in the middle of the Lake at Schafer's access. Near the docks the water is 6 inches deep when the gauge reads 2.3 ft.

LOFTP reports that a negative \$1.5 million dollars a year in economic impact is felt in the area because of the draw down of water at Lake Odessa. LOFTP suggests dredging the Lake to mitigate the effects of the draw down of water in Lake Odessa or change the management style to allow for less draw down. For more information contact: Ken Purdy 319-728-2274 kenpurdy@lisco.com Read more about LOFTP at <http://www.kenpurdy.com>.

The above press release is a response to the press release at the right.

DNR reports successful duck season this year at Lake Odessa

WAPELLO, Iowa - This fall was the fourth best duck hunting season on record for the controlled area on the Odessa Wildlife Area near Wapello in Louisa County, Iowa. It joins 2005 and 2006 with three of the top four hunter success rates in the 34 years that records have been kept.

Hunters came from 94 different towns, and although most were Iowa towns, hunters also came from Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, North Carolina and New Jersey. They are required to sign in for a daily drawing to determine the order of picking *their hunting locations, and to check their harvested birds before leaving.*

A total of 3,387 ducks and 68 geese were taken during a season shortened by about 10 days because of thick ice. Eighteen different species of ducks were included. The controlled area makes up less than a third of the entire Odessa Wildlife Area, and hunters are not required to check out from the rest of the area, so figures for the entire area would be much higher. The controlled regulations do not apply to the five-day September duck season or the early goose seasons so that harvest is also not included.

The Odessa Wildlife Area is managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through a partnership and agreements with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The adjacent Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the FWS, makes up the other half of the wetland complex and serves as the migratory bird sanctuary during the fall hunting season. DNR and FWS personnel manage the complex cooperatively with improving migratory bird habitat being the primary objective.

For more information, please contact Bill Ohde at 319-523-8319 or by e-mail at: Bill.Ohde@dnr.iowa.gov <<mailto:Bill.Ohde@dnr.iowa.gov>>.