

Letters of Recognition- Allen Rost, Rost Fish Company.

Missouri's aquatic resources are threatened by aquatic invasive species. Managing these invasions requires the knowledge, dedication, and collaboration of all Missouri citizens. The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society would like to recognize Allen Rost, and Rost Fish Company, for their significant contributions to the state.

Allen Rost has been a commercial fisherman in central Missouri for 24 years. Throughout that time Allen has worked closely with fisheries professionals, providing them data and specimens, including some of the earliest documentation of invasive black carp in the state.

Allen contributes to invasive carp eradication efforts by removing hundreds of pounds of invasive carp from our rivers each year. He has been working closely with fisheries biologists with the Missouri Department of Conservation to remove grass carp from Phillips Lake, allowing native aquatic vegetation to establish for the benefit of recreational fisheries. Allen has donated his time, labor, and expertise to the project, and helped managers pilot new licensing programs designed to allow commercial fishers to harvest invasive species from non-navigable waterways.

Allen sells his catch to Columbia and Jefferson City grocery stores, Allen also works with a local farmer, who wanted to take this more natural approach to reduce agricultural run-off. Allen provides whole fish and fish parts to the farmer, who then turns it into a liquid used to fertilize his crop field.

Allen has also donated to organizations who promote consumption of carp for eradication purposes. He has donated many pounds of fish to kid's fishing events. On top of the fun of fishing, MDC staff are ALSO able to provide kids an additional learning opportunity by giving them a chance to try locally caught fish. This is great segway to teach them about native and non-native fish, river ecology, and fishing techniques. The kids are usually very surprised at how much they enjoy the taste of fried carp! Allen has also donated his time to Missouri River Relief as a boat driver, shuttling volunteers to trash pick-up locations. He has also helped with several of MDC's Eagle Days by providing fish and placing them on a sandbar, to attract eagles for public viewing opportunities.

Allen has been great to work with, demonstrating dedication to the wise use of Missouri's aquatic resources- donating time, effort, and fish to aquatic conservation efforts. Through his time as a commercial fisherman he has helped with carp eradication efforts as well as educating the public on Missouri River and fisheries issues. It is for these reasons that I am proud to recognize Allen Rost on behalf of the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.