

The ATLATL

“Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!”

Rich McWhorter

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Hunting for Small Game with an Atlatl Is Now Legal in Missouri

By Ron Mertz

The following statement by Assistant Director John Smith, Chair of the Missouri Department of Conservation's Regulations Committee appeared in the February 2007 issue of MISSOURI CONSERVATIONIST as part of his review of recent changes in the *Wildlife Code* of Missouri. While we are still seeking to have it legalized for deer, having the Atlatl included in the *Wildlife Code* is a landmark step.

Hunting and fishing methods

The atlatl, an historic hunting tool, may be used to take: nongame fish following the same regulations as when gigging fish and to take small game. An atlatl is a rod or narrow board used to launch a 5-to-8-foot dart. The dart is launched by a throwing motion of the arm. The Missouri Atlatl Association presented the regulations committee and Conservation Commission with videos, demonstrations and other data showing how the atlatl works, its accuracy and the skills needed to use this primitive method.

Darts used in hunting may not contain drugs, poison, chemicals or explosives.