

NORTH DAKOTA FISHING GUIDE

2010-2012

(Effective April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2012)



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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
Office of the Governor

Fishing is one of the nation's most popular recreational activities, and in North Dakota, we take pride in legendary fishing opportunities found in our waters. North Dakota is regarded as one of the top walleye fishing destinations in the country, and is home to a variety of species sure to lure recreational and professional anglers alike.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hower". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

With more than 300 bodies of water, ranging from ponds to Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota offers both quality and unique fishing opportunities for every season. From snagging paddlefish on the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers in the spring in northwestern North Dakota, to fly fishing for trout on the Turtle River in June, North Dakota is your destination for great fishing.

Our state has more than 670,000 fishable acres of water, along with more than 3,500 miles of surrounding shoreline. Although walleye fishing is the number one fishing pursuit of many, other quality fishing opportunities abound, including fishing for more than a dozen different species in the big waters of Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe and Devils Lake, catfishing on the Red River, chasing both large and smallmouth bass in numerous lakes and reservoirs, darkhouse spearfishing for northern pike and panfishing in small local ponds.

This guide will provide you with important information regarding regulations developed to help sustain North Dakota's quality fishing. The guide is designed to help anglers find specific regulations for the various waters across our state.

So make North Dakota a part of your next fishing adventure and see for yourself what makes our state a legendary fishing destination.

This guide is provided for informational purposes and is not intended as a complete listing of regulations. For more specific information on regulations and laws, visit the Game and Fish Department website (for proclamations) or for North Dakota state laws go to www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/T201.html.

1. NEW FOR 2010-2012 FISHING SEASONS (Summary of major changes)

- All livewells and baitwells must be drained of water prior to leaving a water body.
- Excluding legal live baitfish, no fish species may be transported in water away from the water body in which they were taken. Ice in a cooler or other container may be used in transporting fish.
- Any container used to transport aquatic bait across land must be five gallons or less.
- Added Harmon Lake and Crown Butte Dam, both in Morton County, to the list of “no live baitfish” lakes.
- State Fair Pond, Ward County, is closed to all fishing from November 1 through March 31.
- Added all waters open to public fishing in Ramsey County; Carlson Lakes, Ward County; Gravel Lake, Rolette County; and West Napoleon Lake, Logan County; to the list of open waters for darkhouse spearfishing. Closed Patterson Reservoir (Dickinson Reservoir, Stark County) to darkhouse spearfishing.
- Lake Metigoshe, Bottineau County, daily and possession limit for bluegill was reduced to 10 and 20 respectively.
- Eliminated the 14-inch minimum walleye size limit on Spiritwood Lake, Stutsman County, and Lake Ashtabula, Barnes County.

Other useful fishing information, including North Dakota's fishing waters and stocking records, is found on the Game and Fish Department's website – <http://gf.nd.gov/> – and in the March-April issue of *North Dakota OUTDOORS* magazine. Readers are encouraged to use these valuable resources for additional information.

NOTE: Beginning in 2010, all water in all watercraft, **including all livewells and baitwells** must be drained prior to leaving a water body. This is a significant addition to previously established regulations designed to reduce the potential for spread of aquatic nuisance species into or within North Dakota.

This new regulation means that fish (including bait) may no longer be transported in a livewell containing water, after leaving a water body. Transportation of fish in or on ice is allowed. Potable (drinking) water and a boat's sewage water are excluded from this regulation.

Water used for in-state transportation of legal live bait is allowed, but only in bait buckets (containers) no larger than five gallons.

Current law also states that no aquatic vegetation, or parts thereof, shall be in or on watercraft, motors, trailers and recreational equipment when out of water. Time out of the water needed to remove aquatic vegetation at the immediate water access area (e.g., boat ramp) is allowed. Watercraft and recreational equipment suspended above the water on lifts are also excluded. All built-in structures to boats, including livewells and bait compartments, and containers (bait buckets) used to transport legal live bait, must also be free of aquatic vegetation.

These laws are in place to reduce the risk of aquatic nuisance species transfer between water bodies (refer to aquatic nuisance species – pages 40-42 for more information). The Game and Fish Department acknowledges these regulations may create minor inconveniences, but without them, the risk for unwanted aquatic nuisance species movement is substantial. The amount of time to drain water from a boat, place fish in coolers, and inspect and remove vegetation that may be clinging to the boat, motor and/or trailer is generally minimal.

2. LICENSES

These regulations are in effect for two years from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2012. A fishing year is defined as April 1 of one calendar year through March 31 of the following calendar year. NOTE: In the event of emergency changes to the 2010-2012 proclamation, Game and Fish will issue a statewide press release and post new information on its website.

Licenses are valid for one year starting April 1 and ending March 31 of the following year. An angler must possess a valid fishing license for the respective season.

Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older need licenses. Residents under age 16 may take and possess a limit of fish without a fishing license. Any nonresident under age 16 may take and possess a limit of fish without a nonresident fishing license if accompanied by an individual possessing a valid fishing license.

North Dakota residents who are on leave from active duty with the United States military can fish without a license. Contact the Department for details.

Nonresident full-time students living in North Dakota, who are attending a state or tribal college, or a private institution of higher education, may qualify for purchasing resident fishing licenses. Contact the Department for details.

Some licenses are in the form of stamps. Stamps must be pasted to a Fishing, Hunting and Furbearer certificate and must also be signed.

The fishing license must be in the possession of the licensee at all times while fishing.

Free Fishing Days – Residents of North Dakota may fish without a resident fishing license on June 5 and June 6, 2010 and on June 4 and June 5, 2011.

License Fees

Resident Fishing, Hunting and Furbearer

Certificate	\$1
Resident Individual	\$10
Resident Husband and Wife	\$14
Resident, 65 years or older	\$3
Resident, Disabled (from Bismarck office only)...	\$3
Resident Combination License (16 years or older – includes fishing, small game, general game and habitat, and furbearer licenses).....	\$32
Nonresident Fishing, Hunting and Furbearer	
Certificate	\$2
Nonresident Individual	\$35
Nonresident Husband and Wife.....	\$45
Nonresident 10 Days	\$25
Nonresident 3 Days	\$15

All paddlefish snaggers must possess a paddlefish tag in addition to a valid fishing license and certificate that may be required. A resident paddlefish tag is \$3, a nonresident paddlefish tag is \$7.50.

3. TRANSPORTATION AND STOCKING

Transportation of any live fish, live fish eggs, live amphibians or other live aquatic organisms is illegal except for:

- Anglers transporting legal live baitfish and bait (see page 18).
- Dealers and buyers of tropical fish species for the pet trade sold at commercial outlets.
- Individuals in possession of the appropriate license or permit from the Game and Fish director.

Stocking of any live fish, live fish eggs, live amphibians or other live aquatic organisms into any waters of the state is illegal except with the appropriate license or permit issued by the Game and Fish director.

4. GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND REGULATIONS

Daily limit is a limit of fish harvested from midnight to midnight.

No person may possess more than North Dakota's daily limit of fish while on the water or on the ice or actively engaged in any manner of fishing.

Possession limit is the maximum number of each legally taken fish species that a person may have in his/her actual possession during any phase of any single fishing trip of more than one day.

Storage limit at one's personal permanent residence is unlimited; however, at no time may a person transport more than a possession limit.

Fish may be given (gifted) to another person but the fish must be counted in the donor's daily limit.

Gifted fish including packages of fish must be accompanied with the following information from the individual gifting the fish: name, fishing license number, phone number, date, and number and species of fish gifted.

The packaging of fish away from one's permanent residence must be done so that the number of fish in each package is easily determined.

Any person who possesses any game fish species must not waste, destroy or abandon the edible flesh (fillets).

Commercial processors, common carriers and commercial storage areas may possess any person's legally taken possession limit of fish. Each package must be labeled with the owner's name and address.

No person shall sell or take for the purpose of sale any fish except as allowed in commercial fishing laws.

Game fish are bluegill, burbot, channel catfish, chinook salmon, crappie (black and white), largemouth bass, muskellunge (pure and hybrid), northern pike, paddlefish, sauger, saugeye, smallmouth bass, sturgeon (pallid, shovelnose, and lake), trout (brown, lake, rainbow, and cutthroat), walleye, white bass, yellow perch and zander.

Nongame fish are all species that inhabit and reproduce in the state's waters that are not listed as game fish.

It is illegal to take, possess or transport any of the following species of fish in North Dakota (they must be immediately released back into the water from which they were caught): pallid sturgeon, shovelnose sturgeon and lake sturgeon.

It is illegal to take paddlefish at any time except as provided on pages 28-30.

Other than landing a fish caught on hook and line equipment, netting or trapping fish is illegal except as provided on page 19.

It is illegal to deposit, or cause to be deposited, any fish or parts thereof, upon the ice, in the water, or upon the shore of any water body in North Dakota.

It is illegal to introduce anything into waters of the state for the purpose of attracting fish that is not attached or applied to a lure as defined on page 14. Decoys used for darkhouse spearfishing are excluded.

It is illegal to fish with any spring, lever, chemically, electrically or mechanically actuated hook at all times. The use of any mechanical device to automatically retrieve fish is also illegal.

The director may make reasonable accommodations to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

5. MANNER OF TAKING

Taking or attempting to take fish from North Dakota waters is limited to those methods listed below. Subsequent pages provide regulation detail.

- A. Hook and Line Fishing
- B. Darkhouse Spearfishing
- C. Archery and Spearfishing
- D. Underwater Spearfishing
- E. Paddlefish Snagging

A. Hook and Line Fishing

Open Areas and Season Dates

AREA	SEASON
ALL WATERS of the state except for those listed below and on page 11.	Open to all fishing April 1 through March 31 of each fishing year.
OWLS Pond State Fair Pond	Closed to fishing at night (sunset to sunrise).
Lightning Lake McDowell Dam State Fair Pond	Open to all fishing April 1 through October 31 of each fishing year. Closed to all fishing November 1 through March 31 of each fishing year.
Portions or all of the following waterfowl rest areas: Laretta, Mount Carmel, North Golden Lake, Sheyenne Lake	Open to all fishing April 1 through September 23 and December 1 through March 31 of each fishing year. Closed to all fishing September 24 through November 30.
All national wildlife refuges and easement national wildlife refuges are closed to fishing except the following (<i>contact refuge headquarters for designated open areas and special restrictions</i>):	
Arrowwood, J. Clark Salyer, Lake Darling (and all waters within the Upper Souris refuge boundary), Lake Ilo, Long Lake and Tewaukon national wildlife refuges.	Open to shore and/or ice fishing April 1 through March 31 of each fishing year in designated areas. Open to boat fishing May 1 through September 23 of each fishing year in designated areas. Closed to all boating April 1 through April 30 and September 24 through March 31 of each fishing year.
Lake Audubon National Wildlife Refuge (southern half of lake)	Open to ice fishing only. Closed to all other fishing.

Dakota Lake, Hobart Lake, and Sibley Lake (Griggs County) easement national wildlife refuges

Open to all fishing April 1 through September 23 and December 1 through March 31 of each fishing year. Closed to all fishing and boating September 24 through November 30.

Lake Ardoch, Lake George, Rose Lake, and Silver Lake (Benson County) easement national wildlife refuges

Open to shore and/or ice fishing from April 1 through March 31 of each fishing year. Closed to all boating year round.

Closed to Fishing

- The Red River below the Drayton Dam for a distance of 150 feet.
- From or within 100 feet of the bridge located between North and South Lake Metigoshe.
- Areas near the Garrison Tailrace so posted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- No person shall fish or boat in areas posted and designated by the Game and Fish Department.



Take a kid fishing!

Statewide Daily and Possession Limits

SPECIES		DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Walleye, Sauger, Saugeye or Combination ^a		5	10
Northern Pike		3	6
Trout		3	3
Salmon		5	10
Yellow Perch		20	80
Bluegill		20	80
Crappie		20	80
White Bass		20	80
Burbot (Ling)		10	20
Channel Catfish	East of ND Hwy. 1 ^b	5	5
	West of ND Hwy. 1	no limit	no limit
Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass or Combination		3	6
Muskellunge (<i>pure or hybrid</i>)		1	1
Paddlefish		See pages 28-30	
Nongame Fish (<i>other than legal live baitfish</i>)		no limit	no limit
Legal Live Baitfish		150	150
Smelt		5 gallons	5 gallons
Frogs		24	24
Salamanders		24	24
Crayfish		48	48
Snapping Turtle (<i>by hook and line only</i>)		Season limit of 2	
<p>^a–Zander are included as part of the walleye, sauger, saugeye combination in Spiritwood Lake.</p> <p>^b–In the Red and Bois de Sioux rivers, the limit is 5 regardless of the number of state or provincial licenses purchased by the angler.</p>			

Exceptions to Statewide Fish Limits

Waters in Benson, Eddy and Ramsey counties and Stump Lake	NORTHERN PIKE – Daily 5, Possession 10
Red and Bois de Sioux rivers up to the first vehicular bridge or crossing on any of their tributaries	NORTHERN PIKE – Daily 3, Possession 3 WALLEYE, SAUGER, SAUGEYE OR COMBINATION – Daily 3, Possession 3
Lightning Lake	TROUT – Catch and release only from April 1 through June 30
OWLS Pond and State Fair Pond	ALL SPECIES – Catch and release only
Kraft Slough	YELLOW PERCH – Daily 10, Possession 20
Lake Metigoshe	BLUEGILL – Daily 10, Possession 20
Odland Dam	YELLOW PERCH – Daily 10, Possession 20 BLUEGILL – Daily 10, Possession 20
Pipestem Dam	CRAPPIE – Daily 10, Possession 20

See page 16 for fish size restrictions



Legal hook and line equipment for each angler is **two poles** statewide except:

- **One pole only is** legal at:
 - Garrison Dam Tailrace – while fishing from the piers and wingwalls.
 - Drayton Dam – while shore fishing between boat ramp and area designated “closed to fishing.”
- **Four poles** are legal while ice fishing.
 - *Note:* When fishing a water body where both open water and ice fishing occur at the same time, an angler is allowed a maximum of four poles of which no more than two poles can be used in open water. (See page 22 for additional ice fishing regulations.)

A lure is defined as any man-made object comprised of metal, plastic, wood and/or other nonedible materials made or used to catch fish. A lure may not contain more than three hooks and the maximum distance between any hooks on a lure may not exceed 10 inches. A single hook may not include more than three points, barbed or otherwise. Spinners and other live bait rigs and harnesses are considered a lure and are legal. Hookless dodgers or attractors used ahead of a lure or bait are legal.

No pole may have more than two lures.

An angler must remain within 150 feet of his/her fishing poles that are in active use for fishing. Fishing poles must be checked at least once per hour while fishing.

It is legal to return fish to the water immediately after catching on hook and line. Fish returned to the water should show no evidence of bleeding, be handled carefully, and not thrown or dropped. No fish may be returned to the water after held on a stringer or confined by or in any type of holding structure except with written permission from the Game and Fish director. **No fish may be released into any waters other than the one from which it was originally caught.**

Grass carp, sturgeon and paddlefish caught must be returned to the water immediately, regardless of condition. All undersize or oversize fish (page 16) caught where there is a size limit must be returned to the water regardless of condition.

A foul hooked or snagged fish is defined as any fish hooked or caught in any area from behind the gill covers to the tail. Any foul hooked or snagged fish must immediately be returned to the water regardless of condition. Possession of foul hooked fish is illegal. Attempting to snag fish is illegal.

Landing a fish caught on hook and line equipment with aid of a gaff is legal except for sturgeon, paddlefish, muskellunge and species in waters in which there are size limits. No gaffed fish may be returned to the water.

It is illegal to tag or mark any fish prior to release except with written permission from the Game and Fish director.

Lake specific rules may exist. If so, information is posted at access areas and bridges.

Two snapping turtles may be taken annually by hook and line.

Fish Size Restrictions

On waters that are subject to a fish size restriction, it is illegal to remove more than the gills, entrails and scales from fish while on the water or actively engaged in fishing.

It is illegal to remove more than the gills and entrails from channel catfish east of ND Highway 1 while on the water, actively engaged in fishing, transporting or until the fish is at the license holder's personal, permanent residence. Head, fillets and tail must be attached.

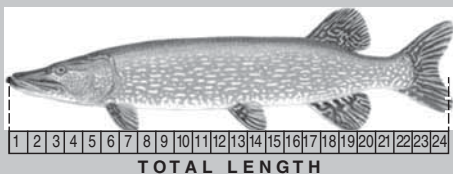
All undersize or oversize fish caught where there is a size limit must be returned to the water regardless of condition, and must be handled carefully to avoid injury.

Fish Size Restrictions

WATER AREAS		IT IS ILLEGAL TO TAKE OR POSSESS:
Anywhere in the state		Muskellunge Less than 40 inches in total length
Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs	Stutsman Co.	Walleye/Sauger Less than 14 inches in total length
North and South Golden Lakes	Steele Co.	
Red Willow Lake	Griggs Co.	Northern Pike Less than 24 inches in total length
North and South Golden Lakes	Steele Co.	
North and South Golden Lakes	Steele Co.	Largemouth Bass Less than 14 inches in total length
Red Willow Lake	Griggs Co.	
All waters east of ND Highway 1 including the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers		More than 1 Channel Catfish Greater than 24 inches in total length

How to Measure the Length of a Fish

To determine the "total length" of a fish, lay it flat on its side and measure from the nose to the tip of the tail.



Fish Length-Weight Table

The following table is intended to assist an angler with a weight estimate based on the fish's length. The table shows the average weights of select fish statewide. The true weight of an individual fish may vary due to the sex of the fish, time of the year (e.g., spawning) when it is caught, the health of the fish and the water body from which it is caught.

	BLUEGILL	YELLOW PERCH	WHITE BASS	SMALL-MOUTH BASS	LARGE-MOUTH BASS	WALLEYE	CHANNEL CATFISH	NORTHERN PIKE
INCHES	ESTIMATED POUNDS							
6	.2	.1	.1	.1	.1			
7	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2			
8	.5	.3	.3	.3	.3	.2		
9	.7	.4	.4	.4	.4	.3		
10	1.0	.5	.5	.5	.6	.3	.3	
11	1.3	.7	.7	.7	.8	.4	.4	
12	1.7	1.0	.9	.9	1.0	.6	.5	.4
13		1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	.7	.6	.5
14		1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	.9	.8	.6
15		2.0	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.1	.9	.7
16			2.3	2.2	2.4	1.4	1.2	.9
17			2.7	2.6	2.9	1.7	1.4	1.1
18			3.3	3.2	3.4	2.0	1.7	1.3
19			3.8	3.7	4.1	2.4	2.3	1.5
20			4.3	4.4	4.7	2.9	2.9	1.8
21				5.1	5.5	3.3	3.0	2.1
22				5.9	6.4	3.9	3.4	2.4
23				6.8	7.3	4.5	4.0	2.7
24				7.7	8.3	5.1	4.8	3.2
25						5.8	5.8	3.7
26						6.6	6.5	4.1
27						7.4	8.7	4.6
28						8.3	9.7	5.1
29						9.3	10.1	5.7
30						10.4	11.2	6.3
31						12.7	11.9	7.0
32							13.5	7.7
34							17.0	9.2
36							21.0	11.0
38							26.0	13.0
40								15.2
42								17.6
44								20.3
46								23.2
48								26.5
50								30.0

Definitions

- **Legal live baitfish** – Subject to use restrictions listed on pages 19 and 20, fathead minnows, creek chubs, sticklebacks and white sucker (Red and Bois de Sioux rivers only) are the only legal live baitfish allowed.
- **Preserved baitfish** – Nongame fish, yellow perch eyes, and trout and salmon eggs which have been preserved by freezing, salting or otherwise treated to inactivate reproductive products are legal bait. Other game fish or parts thereof are illegal.
- **Cut fish** – The use of nongame fish as cut fish is legal. Cut fish is defined as a nongame fish that has been reduced to sections, pieces or parts thereof. Heads and entrails of nongame fish are considered cut fish.
- **Manufactured and biodegradable bait** – Products manufactured as edible fishing bait and other inert biodegradable substances are legal bait.
- **Other legal live bait** – Other legal live bait includes all amphibians, insects and/or other invertebrates or parts thereof.

Restrictions

- **Any container (e.g. bait bucket) used to hold bait must be free of aquatic vegetation.**
- **All legal live aquatic organisms used by anglers, including legal baitfish (e.g. fathead minnows), amphibians (e.g. salamanders and frogs), invertebrates (e.g. crayfish and leeches) and insects must have been purchased or trapped in North Dakota. No live aquatic organisms may be imported into the state by anglers.**

- It is illegal to use **live** rainbow smelt for bait anywhere except for: live smelt captured with a dip net or by hand in the Garrison Dam Tailrace and used only in the Tailrace from the Garrison Dam downstream to the southern boundary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Downstream Recreation Area.
- Each licensed angler may use no more than one minnow trap and/or one dip net for taking smelt or legal live bait. The trap may not exceed 12 inches in diameter and 30 inches in length with a throat opening not to exceed 1 1/4 inches. Dip nets may not exceed 24 inches in diameter or 36 inches in depth.
- Legal live bait and legal live baitfish may be taken in all public waters of the state and at all times except for the following:
 - Those water bodies listed on page 20 as “no live baitfish” lakes.
 - Water bodies designated as infested with prohibited or regulated aquatic nuisance species (see North Dakota Game and Fish Department website at <http://gf.nd.gov> for current list of lakes).
 - Exception – rainbow smelt may be taken on the Missouri River System; however, all smelt taken must be dead when transported.

Live Baitfish Use Restrictions

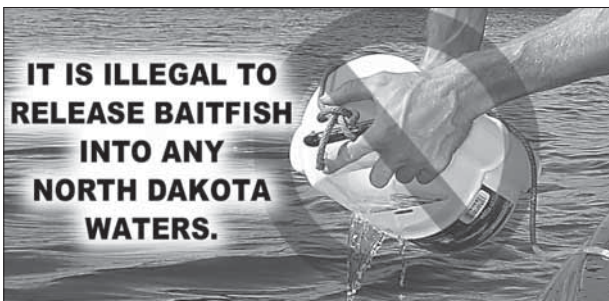
Statewide – except as listed below and on page 20, fathead minnows, creek chubs and sticklebacks are the only legal live baitfish allowed in North Dakota waters.

- **Red River and Bois de Sioux rivers** up to the first vehicular crossing on any of their tributaries – fathead minnows, creek chubs, sticklebacks and white suckers are the only legal live baitfish.

- Absolutely **no live baitfish** may be used or possessed while on the following waters:

WATER AREA	COUNTY
Belfield Pond	Stark
Blumhardt Dam	McIntosh
Bylin Dam/Dougherty Dam	Walsh
Camels Hump Dam	Golden Valley
Crown Butte	Morton
Custer Mine Pond	McLean
Davis Dam	Slope
Dickinson Dike	Stark
Fish Creek	Morton
Harmon Lake	Morton
Indian Creek	Hettinger
Kettle Lake	Williams
Leland Dam	McKenzie
Lightning Lake	McLean
McDowell Dam	Burleigh
North Lemmon Dam	Adams
Nygren Dam	Morton
Raleigh Reservoir	Grant
Sather Dam	McKenzie
Sheep Creek Dam	Grant
Velva Sportsmen's Pond	Ward

It is illegal to possess, or possess with intent to sell, or to use as live baitfish any species of fish not allowed in this section. The penalty for fishing with or possession of an illegal live baitfish is \$250. All individuals selling live bait must possess a bait vendor's license.



R.A.P.

REPORT ALL POACHERS

1-800-472-2121

*This program encourages people to report fish and wildlife violations, remain anonymous if they prefer, and receive monetary rewards for convictions based on their information. Anonymous callers will be given a special code number and are not required to give their name. Rewards range from \$100 to \$1,000 depending on the nature and seriousness of the crime. **Call 800-472-2121.** Call this number only to report game and fish violations. Note: If calling from outside North Dakota, the number is (701) 328-9921. The reward fund is supported by private donations. If you wish to donate to the RAP program, tax deductible contributions can be sent to RAP, Box 188, Valley City, ND 58072-0188.*

Poachers Steal Your Wildlife – Make the Call!

Ice Fishing Regulations

Ice fishing is defined as hook and line fishing that occurs while on the ice. See *pages 10-11 for waters open to hook and line fishing.*

A maximum of four poles is legal for ice fishing. However, when fishing a water body where both open water and ice occur at the same time, an angler is allowed a maximum of four poles, of which no more than two poles can be used in open water.

Tip-ups are legal for ice fishing. Each tip-up is considered a single pole.

There is no restriction on the size of the hole in the ice while ice fishing. When a hole greater than 10 inches in diameter is left in the ice, the area in the immediate vicinity of the hole must be adequately marked with a natural object or a brightly painted or colored wooden lath. Markers must be visible from a minimum of 150 feet.

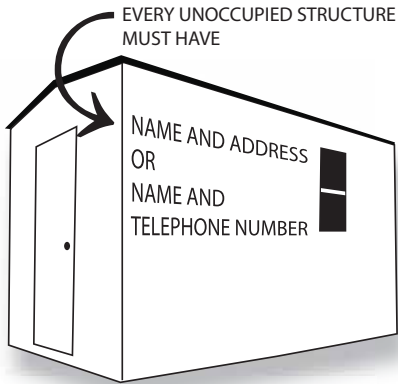
Depositing or leaving any litter (including refuse, bottles, cans, etc.) or other waste material on the ice or shore is illegal.

Fishing holes outside a fish house may be placed no closer than 10 feet from the house without consent of the fish house occupant.

Fish Houses

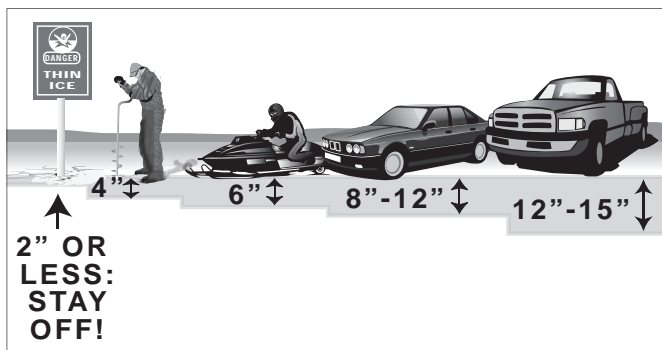
Licensing of fish houses is not required in North Dakota. However, the following regulations apply:

- Any unoccupied fish house must have displayed on its outside in readily distinguishable characters at least three inches high, the owner's name and address or the owner's name and telephone number. Any unoccupied fish house left on the ice without having this proper identification may be removed or destroyed by the Department, and its owner is guilty of a class 2 noncriminal offense.



- Occupied structures do not require identification.
- Fish houses may be of any size; however, any structure used as a fish house shall be constructed of material that will allow it to float, and to be readily removed from the ice at any time. Fish houses may be constructed with or without windows.
- If using a vehicle while fishing, the vehicle is not considered as a fish house.
- When in use, fish houses must be open for inspection at all times and hooks on doors are illegal.
- Fish houses may be placed no closer than 50 feet in any direction from another fish house, without consent of the other fish house occupant.
- Fish houses must be removed from all waters by midnight March 15 of each year. Fish houses may be used after March 15 if they are removed daily.
- It is illegal to leave fish houses on any federal refuge land or on any state-owned or managed land after March 15 of each year.

Ice thickness is not always an accurate measure of its strength. New ice is stronger than old ice; ice formed by direct freezing of lake waters is stronger than ice formed from melted snow. As a guideline, anglers should consider the following as the minimum thickness for safe loads on ice:



B. Darkhouse Spearfishing

Northern pike and nongame fish are the only legal species for darkhouse spearfishing. Daily and possession limits are the same as listed on pages 12 and 13. It is illegal to return fish to the water after they are speared.

Darkhouse spearfishing is legal from December 1 through March 15 of each fishing year. (Exception: Spiritwood Lake – open January 1 through March 15 of each fishing year.)

Darkhouse spearfishing is open only in the waters listed on page 25. Note – some of these listed water bodies are prone to low lake levels and fish kills, thus they may not contain a fishable population of pike. Refer to the list of fishing waters on the Department's website (<http://gf.nd.gov>) for currently managed fisheries.

Fishing Waters (Counties)
Open to Darkhouse Spearfishing

Alkaline Lake – <i>Kidder</i>	Helen Lake – <i>Kidder</i>
Beaver Lake – <i>Logan</i>	Horsehead Lake – <i>Kidder</i>
Blickensderfer – <i>Hettinger</i>	Island Lake – <i>Rolette</i>
Buffalo Lake – <i>Sargent</i>	Juanita Lake – <i>Foster</i>
Buffalo Lodge Lake – <i>McHenry</i>	Kalina Dam – <i>Bowman</i>
Carlson Lakes (North and South) – <i>Ward</i>	Lake Darling^a – <i>Renville</i>
Carpenter Lake – <i>Rolette</i>	Lake Josephine – <i>Kidder</i>
Cherry Lake – <i>Kidder</i>	Lake Laretta – <i>Nelson</i>
Clear Lake – <i>McIntosh</i>	Lake Williams – <i>Kidder</i>
Coal Mine Lake – <i>Sheridan</i>	Long Lake – <i>McLean</i>
Coldwater Lake – <i>McIntosh</i>	Mallard Marsh – <i>Stutsman</i>
Cottonwood Lake – <i>Williams</i>	North Tobiason Lake – <i>Steele</i>
Crooked Lake – <i>McLean</i>	Powers Lake – <i>Burke</i>
Devils Lake – <i>Benson/ Ramsey</i>	Rice Lake – <i>Emmons</i>
Diamond Lake – <i>LaMoure</i>	Round Lake – <i>Kidder</i>
Dry/Goose Lake – <i>McIntosh</i>	School Section – <i>Rolette</i>
Eckelson Lake Complex – <i>Barnes</i>	Sibley Lake – <i>Griggs</i>
Etta/Alkaline Complex – <i>Kidder</i>	Silver Lake – <i>Benson</i>
Flood Lake – <i>LaMoure</i>	Spiritwood Lake – <i>Stutsman</i>
Fresh Lake – <i>Kidder</i>	Spring Lake – <i>Bowman</i>
Gascoyne Lake – <i>Bowman</i>	Stanley Reservoir – <i>Mountrail</i>
Grass Lake – <i>Richland</i>	Stump Lake – <i>Nelson</i>
Gravel Lake – <i>Rolette</i>	Sunday Lake – <i>Stutsman</i>
Heart Butte (Tschida) – <i>Grant</i>	Tioga Reservoir – <i>Williams</i>
	West Napoleon Lake – <i>Logan</i>

All waters open to public fishing in Ramsey County including Devils Lake.

Lake Oahe (South Dakota border to MacLean Bottoms boat ramp including this area's respective tributaries upstream to the first vehicular crossing).

Lake Sakakawea (Garrison Dam to Highway 85 Bridge at Williston including this area's respective tributaries upstream to the first vehicular crossing).

^aIncludes all waters within the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge boundary (Renville and Ward counties).

Darkhouse spearfishing is legal for all residents having a valid fishing license and for residents who are under age 16. Nonresidents (see page 6 for licensing requirements) may darkhouse spearfish in North Dakota if the nonresident's state provides the same privilege for residents of North Dakota. All individuals who participate in darkhouse spearfishing **must first register** on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website (<http://gf.nd.gov>), or through any Game and Fish Department office, prior to participating.

Possession of a spear is counted as a hook-and-line fishing pole while darkhouse spearfishing. Legal darkhouse spear equipment shall be any manually powered shaft with barbed points. The spear head shall not exceed 12 inches in width. Pneumatic or rubber band powered spear guns may not be used. Artificial and all legal bait with the exception of live white sucker and rainbow smelt may be used as decoys. Any line used for a decoy will be considered a hook-and-line fishing pole if a hook is attached to the line.

There is no restriction on the size of the ice hole while actively engaged in darkhouse spearfishing. When a hole greater than 10 inches in diameter is left in the ice when a darkhouse is moved, the area in the immediate vicinity of the hole must be adequately marked with a natural object or a brightly painted or colored wooden lath. Markers must be visible from a minimum of 150 feet.

C. Archery and Spearfishing

Game fish may not be taken with bow/arrows or spears.

It is illegal to return fish to the water after they are shot or speared. All fish must be used and/or disposed of properly and not left in the water or on land.

Archery and spearfishing is legal from May 1 through September 30 of each fishing year.

Archery and spearfishing is open in all waters as specified on pages 10-11, except for the following areas which are closed:

- That portion of the Missouri River from the Garrison Dam downstream to the southern boundary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Downstream Recreation Area.

Legal archery equipment is any bow to which an arrow is attached by a line and equipped with a harpoon style point or wire-barbed point. The use of night vision equipment, electronically enhanced light-gathering optics, flashlights and lanterns used for locating carp and suckers is legal. Crossbows are prohibited except with a special director's permit that may be issued if an individual is permanently disabled.

Legal spear equipment is any manually powered shaft with barbed points. The spear head shall not exceed 12 inches in width.

D. Underwater Spearfishing

The following fish may not be taken with underwater spearfishing gear: muskellunge, paddlefish, smallmouth bass and sturgeon. All other species are legal. Daily and possession limits for legal fish are the same as listed on pages 12-13.

Underwater spearfishing is legal from May 1 through September 30 of each fishing year.

Underwater spearfishing is open only in the following waters:

- The Missouri River except that portion from the Garrison Dam downstream to the southern boundary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Downstream Recreation Area.
- Lake Oahe, Lake Sakakawea and the open fishing areas of Lake Audubon.
- Devils Lake and Stump Lake.
- Spiritwood Lake.

Legal underwater spear equipment is a rubber band powered or pneumatic powered spear gun with the spear attached to the gun with a lanyard not to exceed 20 feet. Underwater spears may be discharged only when the operator and equipment are entirely under the surface of the water.

Underwater spearfishing is illegal within 150 feet of any individuals engaged in fishing, designated swimming or water ski areas, boat docks or spillways.

The Diver's Down Flag must be displayed on a float or buoy during any underwater spearfishing. Underwater spearers must stay within 100 feet of the vertical position of their Diver's Down Flag. Individuals who underwater spearfish between sunset and sunrise must display a lighted Diver's Down Flag and must carry a hand-held light that is visible from a distance of 150 feet. The hand-held light must be displayed when the diver is at the surface.



E. Paddlefish Snagging

Snagging of paddlefish is legal May 1 through May 31 for those with a valid paddlefish tag. The open area includes the Yellowstone River in North Dakota, and the Missouri River west of the U.S. Highway 85 bridge to the Montana border, excluding that portion from the pipeline crossing (river mile 1,577) downstream to the upper end of the Lewis and Clark WMA (river mile 1,565). Paddlefish snagging is legal only from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Central Time) during each day of the paddlefish snagging season. Select days are set aside for harvest, and release only.

All paddlefish snaggers must obtain and have in their possession a valid paddlefish tag, in addition to a license and certificate that may be required. Only one tag per snagger will be issued and the tag is not transferable to another person. Any paddlefish tag that is locked shut prior to attachment, altered or modified shall be voided and will not be replaced.

It is illegal for a person to use fish snagging equipment in the paddlefish area if that person does not possess his/her own unused paddlefish tag. Each paddlefish snagger must cast for, hook and reel in (retrieve) his/her own fish. The use of more than one snag hook per line is illegal. Snagging from a boat is illegal. It is illegal to gaff any species other than paddlefish.

The sale, barter, trade or purchase of paddlefish eggs is legal only for one qualified and properly permitted paddlefish caviar operation.

Depending on the overall harvest, an "in-season" closure may occur, with a 36-hour notice issued by the Game and Fish director. If this occurs, there will be no refunds for unused tags. If there is an early closure, snag-and-release-only will still be allowed for a seven-day period immediately following the harvest closure, but not to extend beyond May 31. Notice of an early closure and subsequent days set aside for snag-and-release-only will be issued by a special news release from the Department. Once a snagger harvests a paddlefish, they can no longer snag for paddlefish at any subsequent time during the current season (including snag-and-release-only and extended snag-and-release-only days).

HARVEST ONLY DAYS are Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

On these days, all paddlefish caught must be tagged immediately with one's own tag. Season creel limit is one paddlefish. The release of paddlefish after snagging is illegal. If a fish is cut up, the tag must accompany the dressed fish either by attachment to the bag containing the dressed fish or by placement within the bag. The snagger must keep that portion of the back and dorsal fin (back fin) necessary to maintain the tag sealed to the fish. The use or possession of any gaff hook for a distance of one-half mile in either direction of the Highway 200 bridge on the Yellowstone River is illegal.

SNAG-AND-RELEASE-ONLY DAYS are Mondays and Tuesdays

If snaggers have in possession their own unused and current year's paddlefish tag, they can snag but must release immediately any and all paddlefish snagged on each Monday and Tuesday throughout the open season. No harvest of any paddlefish will be allowed during these days. There is no limit on the number of fish that can be snagged during the day. The use or possession of any gaff on snag-and-release days is illegal.

EXTENDED SNAG-AND-RELEASE-ONLY DAYS

If the harvest season closes early, snag-and-release will be allowed for up to seven days immediately following the harvest closure, but not to extend beyond May 31.

If snaggers have in possession their own unused and current year's paddlefish tag, they can snag but must release immediately any and all paddlefish snagged during the extended season. Snag-and-release will be open only in that area of the Missouri River starting on the north shore from the Confluence boat ramp then east (downstream) one-half mile, and that area of the Missouri River starting on the south shore from the Confluence with the Yellowstone River then east (downstream) one-half mile. No harvest of any paddlefish will be allowed during these days and all snagged fish must be released immediately. There is no limit on the number of fish that can be snagged during the day. The use or possession of any gaff on snag-and-release days is illegal.

6. FISHING CONTESTS

No person or entity may conduct a fishing contest on any public waters without first obtaining a permit issued by the Game and Fish director.

7. RED AND BOIS DE SIOUX RIVERS

Residents of North Dakota and Minnesota holding a valid resident fishing license from their respective state, and persons of other states who either have a nonresident North Dakota or Minnesota fishing license, may fish in the Red and Bois de Sioux rivers.

Those anglers possessing a valid license may launch and fish from either shore and may transport legally harvested fish with them by the most convenient route to the state in which they are licensed.

All anglers and boaters are required to comply with aquatic nuisance species, and fish and bait regulations of the state in which they occupy, except while on the water or ice, anglers must comply with the regulations of the state for which they are licensed. (Note: this includes those who are not required to have a license.)

- Anglers with a valid North Dakota license (see first paragraph above) – can fish both rivers in their entirety but only to the mouth of any tributaries on the Minnesota side (fishing in any of the tributaries requires a valid Minnesota fishing license).
- Anglers with a valid Minnesota license (see first paragraph above) – can fish both rivers in their entirety and any North Dakota tributary up to the first vehicular bridge or crossing (fishing upstream of these bridges/crossing on the tributaries requires a valid North Dakota fishing license).

From the Red and Bois de Sioux rivers (as well as all waters east of ND Highway 1) – the daily and possession limit on catfish is five (including only one catfish that may exceed 24 inches) regardless of the number of state or provincial licenses purchased by the angler.

From the Red and Bois de Sioux rivers up to the first vehicular bridge or crossing on any of their tributaries – the daily and possession limit for walleye, sauger, saugeye or combination is three. The daily and possession limit for northern pike is three.

8. COMMERCIAL FISHING

Noncontract type commercial fishing with use of seines, hoop nets and set lines may be allowed by special license in certain waters at certain times.

Contact the Department for licensing information and regulations.

9. CLAM SEASON CLOSED

The season on clams remains closed in North Dakota due to continued concern over the impacts commercial harvest may have on clam populations.

10. FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

The North Dakota Department of Health has issued advisories for the consumption of fish from certain North Dakota lakes and rivers. These fish contain levels of mercury which may be harmful to certain segments of the population if they are eaten too often.

Information listing current consumption advice is available from the North Dakota Department of Health (Division of Water Quality) website at: <http://www.ndhealth.gov/wq/>, or by calling (701) 328-5210.

11. BOAT MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

Please check for signs at access points or call the Game and Fish Department. "Idle speed only" is defined as operating a boat at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage (i.e., trolling – with no wake).

Electric Motors Only: Casselton Reservoir, Davis Dam, Dickinson Dike, Heinrich-Martin Dam, J. Clark Salyer, Kettle Lake, Larimore Dam, Leland Dam, McDowell Dam, Mooreton Pond, Rudolph Lake, Sather Dam, Spring Lake Park Ponds.

Idle Speed Only: Arroda Lakes, Lake Audubon (north arm), Baukol-Noonan Dam, Baukol-Noonan East Mine Pond, Belfield Pond, Brewer Lake, Camels Hump Dam, Carbury Dam, Clausen Springs Lake, Coal Mine Lake, Crown Butte, Dion Lake, Epping-Springbrook Dam, Fish

Creek Dam, Fordville Dam, Gravel Lake, Harmon Lake, Harmony Lake, Heart Butte (Lake Tschida) (designated areas only), Hooker Lake, Lake Ilo, Indian Creek Dam, Jensen Lake, Kota-Ray Dam, Kraft Slough, Lightning Lake, McClusky Canal Proper, McGregor Dam, Mirror Lake, North Golden Lake, Pelican Lake, Raleigh Reservoir, Riverdale Spillway Pond, Sheep Creek Dam, South Carlson Lake, Strawberry Lake (Turtle Mountains), Sweet Briar Dam, and along the Missouri River at the mouths of the Heart River, Lakewood, Marina Bay, Misty Waters and Square Butte Creek.

25 Horsepower Maximum: Arrowwood, Jim Lake and Long Lake national wildlife refuges.



12. BOATING REGULATIONS

Closed to fishing from boats: On the Bald Hill Creek, an area from the Wesley Acres Bridge downstream a distance of 1/2 mile. This area is closed to boat fishing from April 1 through May 24 of each fishing year.

Where signed at Devils Lake, boats used for fishing may not obstruct normal boat traffic underneath bridges.

See pages 10-11 for federal refuge boating closures.

- An owner of any watercraft propelled by a motor must register that vessel with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, or the state in which he/she resides.
- If your address changes, boat ownership changes, boat is destroyed, abandoned, stolen or recovered – you are required to notify the Department within 15 days.

- The Certificate of Number is not transferable. Anyone purchasing a boat must register the boat in his/her name.
- The Department can issue a new Certificate of Number to replace one that is lost. The cost is the same as for a new one.
- No person under 12 years of age may operate a motorboat (includes personal watercraft, jetskis, etc.) propelled by a motor of more than 10 horsepower unless the operator is accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older.
- No person 12 through 15 years of age may operate a motorboat or personal watercraft propelled by a motor of more than 10 horsepower unless the operator is accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older, or the operator has taken and passed a Department approved boating course.
- All boats must have a Coast Guard approved life preserver for each occupant, and those boats over 16 feet in length must also have an approved throwable life preserver. Boat occupants age 10 and under must wear their life preserver.
- No person may operate any vessel in a reckless or negligent manner such as:
 - Endangering the life or property of another.
 - Use of excessive speed during periods of reduced visibility while in close proximity of other vessels.
 - Operating in overloaded condition.
 - Operating within swimming areas designated by markers or by the presence of swimmers.
 - Operating near dams and other hazardous waters.
 - Operating in such a manner as to cause a dangerous or damaging wake.
 - Operation in such a manner as to molest or annoy a person lawfully engaged in fishing.

- No person may operate a motorboat (includes personal watercraft) within 100 feet of a person fishing from a shoreline, a swimmer, swimming/diving raft, or an occupied, anchored or nonmotorized vessel, or within 250 feet of a reduced speed or slow or no-wake sign at greater than slow or no-wake speed.
- No person may operate any motorboat or vessel while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic drug, barbiturate or marijuana.
- No person may operate or permit operation of a personal watercraft (jetskis, etc.) without each person on board wearing an approved life preserver.
- All boats operating between sunset and sunrise must display legal lights.
- The owner/operator of a vessel is required to file a report in writing whenever an accident results in loss of life or disappearance from a vessel, an injury which requires medical treatment beyond first aid, or property damage is in excess of \$2,000 or complete loss of the vessel.
- Reports in death and injury cases must be submitted within 48 hours.
- Reports in other cases must be submitted within five days.



For more information on boating regulations and safety, contact the Game and Fish Department.

13. WHOPPER/CATCH AND RELEASE CLUB REQUIREMENTS

Whopper Club

Only species listed and meeting minimum weight requirements will qualify for a patch and certificate. Only one application may be made for each species in a lifetime. Anglers receive a patch for the first whopper of a species, an Expert patch for a whopper of another species, and a Master patch for a whopper of a third species. After that only certificates will be awarded for whoppers of additional species.

An application card must be filled out, giving weight and length of fish, date and where caught, signature of applicant, and signature of person weighing the fish.

All fish entered must have been harvested by legal methods as described in the North Dakota fishing guide and come from North Dakota waters open to public fishing. Entries must be weighed on a scale used in trade.

Catch and Release Club

Nineteen species of fish qualify for the Catch and Release Club. Entries must meet minimum length requirements and be released unharmed back to the water. Another angler must witness and verify the measurement and release.

Anglers will receive an official membership certificate and a choice of jacket patch or boat decal. A maximum of five entries per year per species will be recognized.



Whopper and Catch and Release Minimums

Species	Minimum Whopper Club	Minimum Catch and Release Club
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GAME FISH

Northern Pike	20 lbs.	32 inches
Walleye*	8 lbs	25 inches
Saugeye	8 lbs.	25 inches
Sauger	4 lbs.	20 inches
Yellow Perch	1 ³ / ₄ lbs.	13 inches
Bluegill	1 ¹ / ₂ lbs.	11 inches
Crappie	1 ¹ / ₂ lbs.	13 inches
White Bass	3 lbs.	16 inches
Largemouth Bass	5 lbs.	18 inches
Smallmouth Bass	3 lbs.	16 inches
Tiger Muskie	20 lbs.	40 inches
Muskellunge	20 lbs.	40 inches
Channel Catfish	12 lbs.	30 inches
Ling	8 lbs.	28 inches
Rainbow Trout	5 lbs.	21 inches
Brown Trout	5 lbs.	21 inches
Cutthroat Trout	5 lbs.	21 inches
Lake Trout	5 lbs.	24 inches
Chinook Salmon	12 lbs.	
Paddlefish	70 lbs.	

**This includes zander in Spiritwood Lake.*

NONGAME FISH

Whitefish	4 lbs.	
Cisco	1 ³ / ₄ lbs.	
Bullhead	2 lbs.	
Drum	6 lbs.	
Buffalo	15 lbs.	
Carp	15 lbs.	
Goldeye	2 lbs.	

14. NORTH DAKOTA STATE RECORD FISH REQUIREMENTS

1. All recognized fish must be harvested by legal methods for recreational fishing and come from North Dakota waters that are open for public fishing.
2. All new state record fish must be weighed on a scale used commercially and subject to certification by the North Dakota Public Service Commission.
All weights must be rounded to the nearest ounce.
3. The fish must be visually verified by an employee of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
4. Angler must thoroughly complete and submit to the Department a Whopper card application or a hand-written or typed note with all similar information.
5. A recognizable photo of the fish must be furnished to the Department.
6. A fin sample may be required and collected for some species for genetic analysis.



First Fish Award

A FIRST FISH certificate is a great way to preserve a memory for a young angler. These colorful awards have space for photos and details of the memorable day. FIRST FISH certificates are available free by calling the Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6300; e-mail at ndgf@nd.gov; or writing 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501.

North Dakota Record Fish

Species	Weight	Where	When
GAME FISH			
Northern Pike	37 lbs. 8 oz.	Lake Sakakawea	1968
Walleye	15 lbs. 12 oz.	Wood Lake	1959
Saugeye	11 lbs. 12 oz.	Lake Sakakawea	1984
Sauger	8 lbs. 12 oz.	Lake Sakakawea	1971
Yellow Perch	2 lbs. 15 oz.	Devils Lake	1982
Bluegill	2 lbs. 12 oz.	Strawberry Lake	1963
Crappie	3 lbs. 4 oz.	Lake Oahe	1998
White Bass	4 lbs. 8 oz.	Devils Lake	2000
Largemouth Bass	8 lbs. 8 oz.	Nelson Lake	1983
Smallmouth Bass	6 lbs. 13 oz.	Lake Darling	2007
Tiger Muskie	40 lbs.	Gravel Lake	1975
Muskellunge	46 lbs. 8 oz.	New Johns Lake	2007
Channel Catfish	42 lbs. 1 oz.	Moon Lake	2009
Ling	18 lbs. 4 oz.	Knife River	1984
Rainbow Trout	21 lbs. 4 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1998
Brown Trout	31 lbs. 11 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	2005
Cutthroat Trout	10 lbs. 1 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	2003
Lake Trout	14 lbs. 4 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1982
Chinook Salmon	31 lbs. 2 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1986
Paddlefish*	120 lbs.	Missouri River	1993
NONGAME FISH			
Whitefish	8 lbs. 11 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1984
Cisco	2 lbs. 8 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	2000
Bullhead	4 lbs. 1 oz.	Devils Lake	1988
Drum	26 lbs. 2 oz.	Lake Sakakawea	1988
Buffalo**	51 lbs. 4 oz.	Missouri River	2009
Buffalo	40 lbs. 6 oz.	Heart Butte	2002
Carp	31 lbs.	Sheyenne River	2003
Goldeye	3 lbs. 13 oz.	New Johns Lake	1998

Method of take is by **hook and line fishing** unless – marked with * which indicates paddlefish snagging, marked with ** which indicates bow (archery).

15. AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

Aquatic Nuisance Species are animals, plants and even diseases that are not native to North Dakota and have the likelihood to become well established if introduced. They can displace native plants and animals, and cause serious economic and ecological damage. North Dakota has adopted a number of rules designed to minimize the threat of ANS. They include:

1. All aquatic vegetation must be removed from boats, personal watercraft, trailers and associated equipment such as fishing poles/lures before leaving a body of water. That means “vegetation free” when transporting watercraft and equipment away from a boat ramp, landing area or shoreline.
2. All aquatic vegetation must be removed from bait buckets when leaving the water.
3. All water must be drained from boats and other watercraft, including bilges, livewells and motors before leaving a water body, and
4. Live aquatic bait or aquatic vegetation may not be transported into North Dakota. Also, all water must be drained from watercraft prior to entering the state.



All aquatic vegetation must be removed from boats, motors, trailers and equipment before leaving a lake or river.

It is in North Dakota's best interest that anglers, boaters and hunters understand and comply with these important regulations. The following pages include some questions and answers intended to provide additional insight into this vital matter.

Why are ANS such a big deal?

ANS can greatly degrade or ruin habitats and compete with native and/or desirable species for food and space. Not only can recreational fisheries suffer but so can industries and communities that rely on lakes or rivers for their water supply. Once established, the cost of controlling the ANS would far exceed the minimal costs required to keep from spreading it into or within North Dakota.

Can ANS spread be stopped?

If precautions are taken and everyone follows them, the spread can be controlled. But it requires everyone's participation.

How do I make sure I'm doing the right thing?

To comply with the regulations, you simply need to remove all aquatic vegetation from your boat, trailer, bait bucket, etc., when you leave the water body. You need to drain all water from your boat at the ramp site before you leave the water body. Also, remember you cannot dump bait into a water body.

Do I have to run my motor dry also before I leave a lake?

No. The amount of water in the motor's cooling system is so minimal that it holds a small risk of containing ANS. As you exit a lake, lower the motor to let gravity drain the lower unit, then raise to transport. The intake screen should also be inspected and free of aquatic vegetation.

Can I drain water from my boat anywhere?

No, you must drain the water (pull all plugs, etc) back into the water from which it originated. This must be done at the access site before you leave.



Drain water from the boat, bilges, livewells and baitwells.

Do I need to dispose of the weeds in a trash container or can they be left on the ground/parking lot?

Dispose of weeds back into the water from which they originated, to keep parking lots and access areas clean.

As a resident who lives on the North Dakota border, and the nearest bait vendor is across the border in another state, can I cross the state line to purchase bait and import it back into North Dakota?

No. Aquatic bait, including fathead minnows and leeches, may not be imported into North Dakota.

What else can I do to help prevent the spread of ANS?

You can disinfect your boat by adding hot water (110° F or warmer) to the livewell along with enough household chlorine bleach to reach a solution of 1 part bleach to 20 parts water. Run the recirculation pumps and use a brush (a toilet brush works well) to scrub under the lid and in the corners. Drain the solution in an appropriate location, not into the lake. Air drying can also be effective in preventing ANS transfer. The livewell, bilge and equipment must be allowed to completely dry, which may take a few days for the bilge. However, some ANS produce hardy seeds and eggs which can withstand extended periods out of the water; in these cases, air drying is not the answer. Power-washing can remove lake scum and unseen hitchhikers, such as small plant fragments or egg masses, from hard-to-reach places such as trailer frames and livewells. Use a commercial car wash that runs water through a sewage treatment system. If done at home, be careful that the wash water does not run down the street and into the storm sewer that empties into the local river or lake.

What if I observe boats, trailers, jet skis, etc., that have weeds hanging from them away from a lake?

The best thing you can do is spread the word on the risk of ANS. If the boat owner/operator is present and willing, ask that they clean the boat and trailer. If the owner/operator is not cooperative call the RAP line.

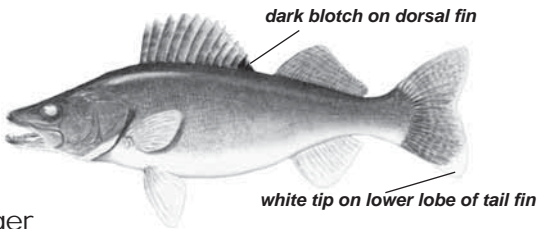
16. FISH IDENTIFICATION

Knowing what fish species you are catching is not only fun, but in many cases it is required by law. The following fish are commonly misidentified by some anglers.

Perch Family	Members of the perch family have two dorsal fins that are completely separated. The first fin is spiny while the second fin has soft rays. Walleye, sauger and yellow perch are popular members of this family. Darters, which seldom exceed 4 inches in length, also belong to the perch family.
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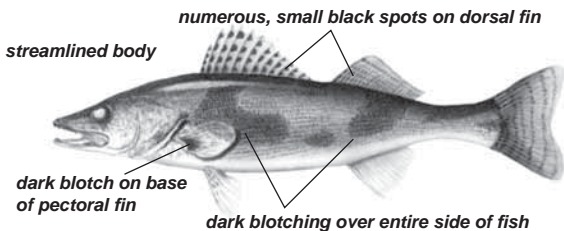
Walleye

Walleye are a dark-olive color with an overall golden brown mottling and a white belly. A black blotch on the lower rear portion of the front dorsal fin helps identify the walleye. They prefer sand and gravel bottom areas, habitat commonly found in our large reservoirs.



Sauger

Sauger resemble walleye, but are usually not as large or as stockily built. They have a blotched body color and rows of dark spots on the dorsal fin, compared to the one black blotch of the walleye. Sauger typically inhabit fairly fast moving water of rivers and streams. They are also known as sand pike. Saugeye are a cross between a walleye and sauger, but cannot be positively identified by external physical characteristics.



<p>Pike Family</p>	<p>North Dakota has two members of the pike family, the northern pike and muskellunge. Both have long bodies and long snouts with large teeth. The dorsal fin is located far back on the body.</p>
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Northern Pike

Pike are marked with horizontal body spots and never have more than five pores on each side of the lower jaw. Pike have scales covering their entire cheek. The northern pike is the state fish. Other names are northern, pike, jack, snake, pickerel and hammerhandle.



Muskellunge

Muskellunge have vertical dark bars on their sides and from 6-8 pores on each side of the lower jaw. They have scales only on the upper half of the cheek. The tiger muskie is a cross between a muskellunge female and a northern pike male.



NOTE: Background colors of fish can vary slightly depending on geographic location and environmental characteristics of the water body.

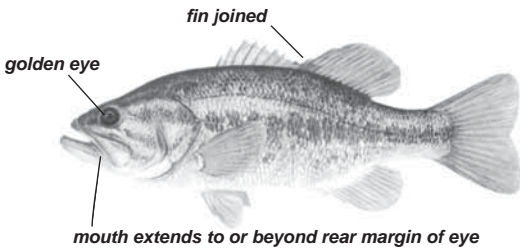
Location of submandibular pores on underside of lower jaw:



Sunfish Family	Sunfish family members are deep and stockily built and attractive in coloration. Their dorsal fin has a spiny front portion and a soft rayed rear portion that are joined together. The dorsal fin is almost separated into two parts in large and smallmouth bass.
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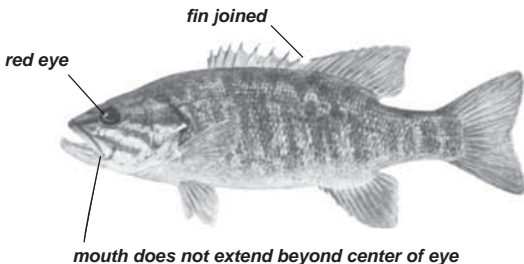
Largemouth Bass

The back and upper sides of the largemouth is dark green and the sides have dark irregular patches. As the name implies, the mouth is large, with the end of the upper jaw extending to or beyond the rear margin of the eye. Its eyes are golden.



Smallmouth Bass

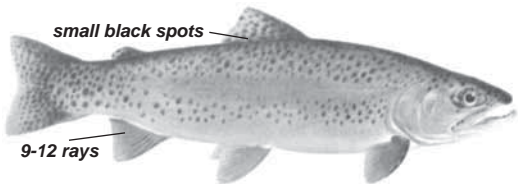
The smallmouth is similar in color to the largemouth except for barred markings on its sides and red eyes. The mouth is smaller and the rear of the upper jaw does not extend beyond the center of the eye. It prefers habitat similar to the walleye.



Trout Family	In North Dakota, all members of the trout family are introduced. They are fine scaled and are native to cold rivers and lakes. North Dakota conditions offer little chance for reproduction. Trout and salmon fisheries are maintained by stocking of hatchery reared fish.
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Rainbow Trout

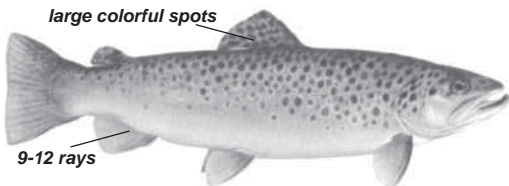
The rainbow is widely stocked in North Dakota. It varies in coloring, but usually has pinkish streaks on its sides and small black spots on its sides, fins and tail. The rainbow has 9-12 rays in its anal fin. Rainbows vary in color depending on where they originated, where they are stocked and time of the year. Popular rainbow strains presently stocked into North Dakota waters include Shasta, Firehole and Hotcreek.



count the rays at their base as some branch out

Brown Trout

The brown typically survives under warmer water conditions than the rainbow. It is found in the Missouri River System and a few lakes where it is regularly stocked. Like the rainbow, it has 9-12 rays in the anal fin. It has spots that are much larger and more colorful than those of the rainbow. The spots on the brown trout may be black, brown, orange or red and are surrounded with a light-colored halo. On large browns, the spots may be irregular shaped or even X-shaped. The brown usually does not have spots on its tail.



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17. IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

• FISHERIES INFORMATION

North Dakota Game and Fish Department:

GENERAL INFORMATION – Bismarck Office, (701) 328-6300

NORTHWEST DISTRICT LAKES – Williston Office, (701) 774-4320

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT LAKES – Dickinson Office, (701) 227-7431

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT LAKES – Riverdale Office, (701) 654-7475

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT LAKES – Bismarck Office, (701) 328-6688

NORTHEAST DISTRICT LAKES – Devils Lake Office, (701) 662-3617

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT LAKES – Jamestown Office, (701) 253-6480

NDGFD fishing homepage - <http://gf.nd.gov/fishing>

• REPORTING GAME AND FISH VIOLATIONS

RAP PROGRAM (REPORT ALL POACHERS) Call 800-472-2121

Call this number only to report game and fish violations.

Note: If calling from outside of ND the number is (701) 328-9921.

• OTHER AGENCIES

N.D. Parks and Recreation Department, (701) 328-5357

N.D. Department of Health, (701) 328-5210

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, (701) 250-4242

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Oahe Project, (701) 255-0015

Sakakawea Project, (701) 654-7411

Ashtabula Project, (701) 845-2970

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Garrison Dam Fish Hatchery, (701) 654-7451

Valley City Fish Hatchery, (701) 845-3464

Refuge System, (701) 250-4418

Audubon National Wildlife Refuge, (701) 442-5474

Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge, (701) 724-3598

Upper Souris and J. Clark Salyer refuges, (701) 768-2548

Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge, (701) 387-4397

• INDIAN RESERVATIONS. Contact tribal offices for more information.

Fort Berthold. Game and Fish Department, 404 Frontage Road, New Town, ND 58763, (701) 627-4760.

Standing Rock. Game and Fish Department, Box D, Fort Yates, ND, 58538, (701) 854-7236.

Turtle Mountain. Department of Natural Resources, Box 570, Belcourt, ND 58316, (701) 477-2600.

Spirit Lake. Fish and Wildlife Department, Box 359, Fort Totten, ND 58335, (701) 766-4221.

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