

# 2004 - 2006 NORTH DAKOTA FISHING GUIDE

Effective April 1, 2004 through March 31, 2006



North Dakota Game and Fish Department  
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Cover photo by Craig Bihrlle (NDGFD)

## 1. NEW FOR 2004-2006

Summary of major changes.

- Daily and possession limits on white bass have been established at 35 and 175.
- Daily and possession limits on burbot (ling) have been established at 10 and 20.
- The possession limit on trout has been reduced from 6 to 3.
- On the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers – the daily and possession limit will be three for northern pike; and for walleye, sauger, or saugeye.
- Anglers must release any trout taken from April 1 through June 30 of each fishing year at Moon Lake, McDowell Dam, Lightning Lake, and Nygren Dam.
- Lightning Lake and Nygren Dam have been added to the list of lakes which are closed to winter fishing.
- Diamond Lake, Stanley Reservoir, and Tioga Reservoir have been added to the list of waters open to dark house spear fishing.
- Lake Darling (Upper Souris NWR) has been added to the list of waters designated as "closed to bow and spear fishing".
- Baukol-Noonan Dam, Baukol-Noonan East Mine Pond, and Baukol-Noonan Spillway Pond were removed from the list of lakes where no live baitfish are allowed. Dickinson Dike, Camels Hump Dam, and Lightning Lake have been added to this list.
- Paddlefish regulations have changed considerably since the 2002-2004 fishing proclamation.

## State of North Dakota

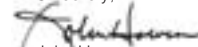
Office of the Governor

Outdoor recreation has long been an important part of North Dakota's heritage. Fishing has become one of the most popular outdoor activities. This guide is published to provide important information to you on regulations that are designed to help sustain the quality fishing you've come to expect. It also provides information on fish identification, state record fish, lake location, and much more.

Fishing opportunities are many across our great state on a year round basis. Fish abound in the Missouri River system waters where Lewis and Clark made their journey to the west 200 years ago. Lake Sakakawea offers quality walleye fishing, along with northern pike and salmon fishing. Devils Lake has great walleye, northern pike, and yellow perch fishing. Hundreds of smaller lakes scattered across the state provide a variety of fish species that offer countless fishing opportunities during the entire year.

The fishing resource is for all of us to appreciate. Take time to enjoy your fishing activities with family and friends in the great North Dakota outdoors.

Sincerely,

  
John Hoeven  
Governor



## 2. IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### • GENERAL INFORMATION

#### North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Bismarck Office, (701) 328-6300  
 Devils Lake Office, (701) 662-3617  
 Dickinson Office, (701) 227-7431  
 Lonetree Office, (701) 324-2211  
 Riverdale Office, (701) 654-7475  
 Jamestown Office, (701) 253-6480  
 Williston Office, (701) 774-4320

#### Department Websites Relating to Fishing

NDGFD fishing homepage - <http://www.state.nd.us/gnf/fishing/>  
 Lake contour maps - <http://www.state.nd.us/gnf/fishing/lakedata.html>  
 Fish stocking lists - <http://www.state.nd.us/gnf/fishing/stockinglist.html>  
 Tagged fish reporting form - <http://www.state.nd.us/gnf/fishing/tagged-fish-report.html>

### • REPORTING GAME AND FISH VIOLATIONS

#### RAP PROGRAM (REPORT ALL POACHING)

Call 1-800-472-2121

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 & Recreation Department, (701) 328-5357  
 N.D. Department of Health, (701) 328-5210  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
     Oahe Project, (701) 255-0015  
     Sakakawea Project, (701) 654-7411  
     Ashtabula Project, (701) 845-2970  
 U.S. Forest Service  
     Dickinson Office, (701) 225-5151  
     Watford City Office, (701) 842-2393  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
     Refuge System, (701) 250-4418  
     Hatchery System, (701) 654-7451  
 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, (701) 250-4242

### LICENSING BY COMPUTER OR BY PHONE

#### QUICK – CONVENIENT – EASY

You can instantly purchase general licenses  
 and also apply for most lottery licenses  
 24 hours a day – 7 days a week.

Visa, Discover and MasterCard accepted.



Via the Internet  
 visit our website at  
[discovernd.com/gnf](http://discovernd.com/gnf)

Regular license fees apply with no  
 service charge added. Applicants  
 must print out their own license  
 and those without a printer will  
 receive a confirmation  
 number to carry.

By Phone  
 simply call toll free  
 1-800-406-6409



In addition to the license fee(s), a service  
 charge will be added. Service charge  
 will vary depending on amount of  
 transaction.

## 3. LICENSES

*These regulations are in effect for the two year period of April 1, 2004 through March 31, 2006. A fishing year is defined as being from April 1 of one calendar year through March 31 of the following calendar year. During each of the two fishing years, an angler must possess a valid fishing license for the respective season.*

Licenses are valid for one year starting April 1 and ending March 31 of the following year.

Residents 16 years of age and older need licenses. Those under this age may take and possess a limit of fish without a fishing license.

Any nonresident under the age of 16 years may take and possess a limit of fish without a nonresident fishing license if accompanied by an adult possessing a valid fishing license.

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 licensee shall carry the fishing license on his/her person 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, 2004 and on June 4 and June 5, 2005.

### License Fees

Resident Fishing, Hunting & Furbearer Certificate .....	\$ 1.00
Resident Single .....	10.00
Resident Husband and Wife .....	14.00
Resident, 65 years or older .....	3.00
Resident, Disabled (from Bismarck office only) .....	3.00
Resident Sportsmen's License (16 years or older - includes fishing, small game, general game and habitat, and furbearer licenses) .....	32.00
Nonresident Fishing, Hunting & Furbearer Certificate .....	2.00
Nonresident Single .....	35.00
Nonresident Husband and Wife .....	45.00
Nonresident Seven Days .....	20.00
Nonresident Three Days .....	15.00
Retail Bait Vendor .....	15.00
Retail Bait Vendor (if white suckers are sold) .....	75.00

All paddlefish snaggers must possess a paddlefish tag in addition to other licenses and certificates that are required. A resident paddlefish tag is \$3.00, a nonresident paddlefish tag is \$7.50 (see Section 18).

Nonresident full-time state or tribal college students living in North Dakota may qualify for purchasing resident fishing licenses. Details and license sales are available only thru our website at [discovernd.com/gnf](http://discovernd.com/gnf).

#### Indian Reservations.

- Contact tribal offices for more information.
- Fort Berthold. Game and Fish Department, HC3-Box 2, 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.

## 4. GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND REGULATIONS

**Daily limit** is a limit of fish taken from midnight to midnight.

No person may possess more than one day's limit of fish while on the water or actively engaged in fishing.

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

- No person shall sell or take for the purpose of sale any fish except as allowed in commercial fishing laws.
- Fish may be given to another person, but the fish must be counted in the donor's limit.
- Any dressed fish transported, if frozen, must be packaged individually. Two fillets will be counted as one fish. Commercial processors, common carriers, and commercial storage facilities may possess any persons legally taken possession limit of fish. Each package must be labeled with the owner's name and address.

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

**Nongame fish** are all species not named as game fish.

**It shall be illegal to take, possess or transport** any of the following species of fish in North Dakota. All of the following must be immediately released back into the water from which they were caught.

- Pallid Sturgeon
- Shovelnose Sturgeon
- Lake Sturgeon
- Grass Carp (white amur)

**It is illegal to gaff any sturgeon.**

It is illegal to take paddlefish at any time except as provided in Section 18. Snagging fish is illegal except for paddlefish as provided in Section 18. Netting and trapping game fish is illegal except as provided in Section 19.

It is illegal to fish with any spring, lever, chemically, electrically, or mechanically actuated fish hook or gaff hook.

**It is illegal to deposit or cause to be deposited litter of any type including any fish** or fish parts thereof taken by angling, spearing, or bow fishing on the ice or shore of, or in, any lake, reservoir, marsh, or stream in North Dakota.

## 5. CLOSED TO FISHING

**The following areas are closed to all fishing:**

- That portion of 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 Corps of Engineers.
- No person shall fish or boat in areas posted and designated by the Game and Fish Department.

## 6. HOOK AND LINE FISHING

**Open Areas, Season Dates, Limits** (Summary of Regulations)

AREA	SEASON	LIMIT																																											
<b>All Waters of the State</b> except for those listed below or as closed in Section 5. (See Section 12 for additional information on the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers)	Open to all fishing April 1 through March 31 of each fishing year.	<b>Daily and Possession Limits</b>																																											
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<b>Arrowwood,</b> <b>J.Clark Salyer,</b> <b>Lake Ilo,</b> <b>Long Lake,</b> <b>Tewaukon and Upper Souris (Lake Darling)</b> <b>National Wildlife Refuges.</b> Contact refuge headquarters for open areas and special restrictions.	Open to shore or ice fishing April 1 through April 30 of each fishing year as safety allows. Open to all fishing May 1 through September 30 of each fishing year. Closed to boat fishing but remain open to shore or ice fishing October 1 through March 31 of each fishing year.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Daily Limit</th> <th>Possession Limit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Channel Catfish</td> <td>no limit</td> <td>no limit</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><i>(exception: The daily and possession limit on catfish from the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers, and all of their tributary streams shall be 5. See Section 8 and Section 12).</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muskellunge (pure or hybrid)</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paddlefish</td> <td colspan="2">See Section 18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nongame Fish</td> <td>no limit</td> <td>no limit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smelt</td> <td>5 gallons</td> <td>5 gallons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Live Baitfish</td> <td>12 dozen</td> <td>12 dozen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Snapping Turtle</td> <td colspan="2">Season limit of 2 (by hook and line)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Channel Catfish	no limit	no limit	<i>(exception: The daily and possession limit on catfish from the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers, and all of their tributary streams shall be 5. See Section 8 and Section 12).</i>			Muskellunge (pure or hybrid)	1	1	Paddlefish	See Section 18		Nongame Fish	no limit	no limit	Smelt	5 gallons	5 gallons	Legal Live Baitfish	12 dozen	12 dozen	Snapping Turtle	Season limit of 2 (by hook and line)																	
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<b>Southern Lake Audubon</b> (federal portion)	Open to ice fishing only from ice-up (generally around December 1) through March 31 of each fishing year.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Daily Limit</th> <th>Possession Limit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Channel Catfish</td> <td>no limit</td> <td>no limit</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><i>(exception: The daily and possession limit on catfish from the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers, and all of their tributary streams shall be 5. See Section 8 and Section 12).</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muskellunge (pure or hybrid)</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paddlefish</td> <td colspan="2">See Section 18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nongame Fish</td> <td>no limit</td> <td>no limit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smelt</td> <td>5 gallons</td> <td>5 gallons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Live Baitfish</td> <td>12 dozen</td> <td>12 dozen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Snapping Turtle</td> <td colspan="2">Season limit of 2 (by hook and line)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Channel Catfish	no limit	no limit	<i>(exception: The daily and possession limit on catfish from the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers, and all of their tributary streams shall be 5. See Section 8 and Section 12).</i>			Muskellunge (pure or hybrid)	1	1	Paddlefish	See Section 18		Nongame Fish	no limit	no limit	Smelt	5 gallons	5 gallons	Legal Live Baitfish	12 dozen	12 dozen	Snapping Turtle	Season limit of 2 (by hook and line)																	
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Portions or all of the following <b>Waterfowl Rest Areas and Easement</b> <b>National Wildlife Refuges:</b> Mount Carmel, Stump Lake, Laretta, Sheyenne Lake, North Golden Lake, Rice Lake (Emmons Co.), Silver Lake (Benson Co.), Hobart Lake, Sibley Lake, Dakota Lake, Lake George.	Open to all fishing April 1 through September 24 and December 1 through March 31 of each fishing year. Closed to all fishing September 25 through November 30.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Daily Limit</th> <th>Possession Limit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Channel Catfish</td> <td>no limit</td> <td>no limit</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><i>(exception: The daily and possession limit on catfish from the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers, and all of their tributary streams shall be 5. See Section 8 and Section 12).</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muskellunge (pure or hybrid)</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paddlefish</td> <td colspan="2">See Section 18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nongame Fish</td> <td>no limit</td> <td>no limit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smelt</td> <td>5 gallons</td> <td>5 gallons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Live Baitfish</td> <td>12 dozen</td> <td>12 dozen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Snapping Turtle</td> <td colspan="2">Season limit of 2 (by hook and line)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Channel Catfish	no limit	no limit	<i>(exception: The daily and possession limit on catfish from the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers, and all of their tributary streams shall be 5. See Section 8 and Section 12).</i>			Muskellunge (pure or hybrid)	1	1	Paddlefish	See Section 18		Nongame Fish	no limit	no limit	Smelt	5 gallons	5 gallons	Legal Live Baitfish	12 dozen	12 dozen	Snapping Turtle	Season limit of 2 (by hook and line)																	
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SEE SECTION 8 FOR FISH SIZE RESTRICTIONS

## 7. HOOK AND LINE FISHING

### Specific Regulations/Definitions

Legal hook and line equipment for each angler is two poles or lines with not more than two hooks or lures per pole or line, except:

- At the following locations where only one pole is legal:
  - Garrison Dam Tailrace - while fishing from the piers and wingwalls
  - Drayton Dam - while shore fishing between boat ramp and area designated "closed to fishing".
- While fishing through the ice only in all waters of the state, a maximum of four poles is legal.

It is legal to return fish to the water after being caught on hook and line. Paddlefish caught other than by legal snagging (as described in Section 18) must be returned to the water regardless of condition.

No fish may be released into waters other than those from which they were originally taken. If a fish is returned to the water it must be done immediately after catching, not after being held on a stringer or confined by or in any type of container, live box, structure, or device except with written permission from the game and fish director. Fish returned to the water should show no evidence of bleeding, be handled carefully, and be returned to the water by hand or basket and not thrown or dropped. It is illegal to tag or mark any fish prior to release except with written permission from the game and fish director.

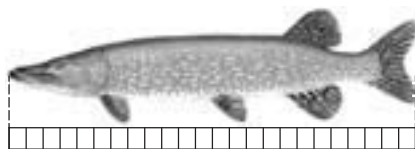
An artificial lure is any man-made lure comprised of metal, plastic, wood and other non-edible materials or plastic products made to resemble worms, eggs, fish or other aquatic organisms. Cheese balls, corn, or marshmallows are not considered to be an artificial lure. Lures with trailer hooks and live bait harnesses are legal. Hookless dodgers and attractors ahead of a lure or bait are legal.

An angler must remain within 150 feet of his/her fishing equipment and must check it at least once per hour while open water and/or ice fishing.

Snapping turtles may be taken by hook and line procedure as described in this section.

### 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.



8

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
TOTAL LENGTH

## 8. HOOK AND LINE FISHING

### Size Restrictions

Water Areas	It is illegal to take or possess:
Anywhere in the state	<b>Muskellunge</b> Less than 40 inches in Total Length
<b>Jamestown Reservoir</b> (All in Stutsman County) <b>Pipestem Reservoir</b> <b>Spiritwood Lake</b>	<b>Walleye</b> Less than 14 inches in Total Length
<b>Lake Ashtabula</b> (Barnes/Griggs Co.)	
<b>Brewer Lake</b> (Cass Co.)	
<b>Dead Colt Creek Dam</b> (Ransom Co.)	
<b>Lake Elsie</b> (Richland Co.)	
<b>North Golden Lake</b> (Both in Steele Co.) <b>South Golden Lake</b>	
<b>Sprague Lake</b> (Both in Sargent Co.) <b>Lake Tewaukon</b>	<b>Northern Pike</b> Less than 24 inches in Total Length
<b>Red Willow Lake</b> (Griggs Co.)	
<b>North Golden Lake</b> (Both in Steele Co.) <b>South Golden Lake</b>	
<b>Sprague Lake</b> (Both in Sargent Co.) <b>Lake Tewaukon</b>	<b>Largemouth Bass</b> Less than 14 inches in Total Length
<b>Red Willow Lake</b> (Griggs Co.)	
<b>North Golden Lake</b> (Both in Steele Co.) <b>South Golden Lake</b>	
<b>Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers</b> and all their tributary streams.	<b>More than 1 Channel Catfish</b> Greater than 24 inches in Total Length

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

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

## 9. FEDERAL REFUGES

See *Hook and Line Fishing – Summary of Regulations (Section 6)* for refuges that are open to fishing, season dates, and limits. Check with refuge headquarters for designated open areas and special restrictions.

## 10. BAIT REGULATIONS

• **Absolutely no live baitfish may be used or in possession while on the following waters:**

Water Area	County
Belfield Dam	Stark
Blumhardt Dam	McIntosh
Brewer Lake	Cass
Buffalo Gap	Golden Valley
Bylin Dam/Dougherty Dam	Walsh
Camels Hump Dam	Golden Valley
Clausen Springs	Barnes
Custer Mine Pond	McLean
Davis Dam	Slope
Dickinson Dike	Stark
Fish Creek	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 Sportsmens Pond	Ward

• **In the following waters, these respective species are the only legal live baitfish allowed:**

Water Area	Legal Live Baitfish
Red River up to the first vehicular crossing on any of its tributaries	Fathead Minnows, Creek Chubs, Spottail Shiners, Sticklebacks and White Suckers
In all remaining waters of the state (those not listed above)	Fathead Minnows, Creek Chubs, Spottail Shiners and Sticklebacks *

\* It is illegal to use live smelt for bait except for the following circumstance: live smelt captured with a dip net or by hand in the Garrison Dam tailrace can be used in the tailrace from the Garrison Dam downstream to the southern boundary of the Corps of Engineers Downstream Recreation Area.

It is illegal to possess, or possess with intent to sell or to use as live baitfish any species of fish not allowable as mentioned in this section. The use of or possession of a restricted baitfish while fishing in waters prohibiting use of that baitfish is illegal. The penalty for fishing with or possession of an illegal live baitfish is \$250.00.

See Section 33 (back cover) for pictures of baitfish

**It is illegal to release baitfish into any North Dakota waters.**

**Baitfish** - Fish which have been preserved by freezing, salting or otherwise treated to inactivate sexual products are considered legal bait. Game fish or parts thereof shall be illegal except for perch eyes, and trout and salmon eggs, which are legal bait.

**Cut or prepared bait** - Cut bait using nongame fish shall be legal. Cut bait is defined as fish having the head removed and being eviscerated. Heads and entrails of nongame fish are considered cut or prepared bait.

**Other live bait** - Other live bait include all amphibians, insects or other invertebrates or parts thereof, which are legal bait.

All public lakes which have been stocked with game fish by state or federal agencies are closed to the taking of minnows for sale.

Each licensed angler may use no more than one minnow trap and/or one dip net for taking smelt or legal baitfish. The trap must 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. Each licensed angler may possess up to 12 dozen live baitfish. For numbers exceeding this, a person must hold a Retail Bait Vendor's License.



## 11. TRANSPORTATION AND STOCKING

**Possession or transportation** of any live fish, live fish eggs, live amphibians, or other live aquatic organisms, shall be illegal except for:

- Licensed anglers transporting legal bait and/or legally caught game fish.
- Dealers of tropical fish species for the pet trade sold by commercial outlet.
- Individuals in possession of the appropriate license or permit from the game and fish director.

**It shall be illegal to import any live bait or baitfish without a legal and valid North Dakota bait vendors license.**

**Stocking** of any live fish, live fish eggs, live amphibians, or other live aquatic organisms into any waters of the state shall be illegal except with the appropriate license or permit issued by the game and fish director.

## 12. 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 nonresident North Dakota or Minnesota fishing licenses may fish in either of the boundary waters described above and may transport such fish with them by the most convenient route to the state in which they are licensed. If the laws of the states differ, anglers must comply with the laws and rules of the state in which they are licensed. (NOTE: This includes children who are not required to have a license.)

**From the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers and all of their tributary streams** the daily and possession limit on catfish shall be 5 regardless of the number of state or provincial licenses purchased by the angler. Only one catfish may exceed 24 inches in total length.

**From the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers up to the first vehicular bridge or crossing** the daily creel and possession limit for walleye, sauger, or saugeye shall be three.

**From the Red and Bois de Sioux Rivers up to the first vehicular bridge or crossing** the daily creel and possession limit for northern pike shall be three.



*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 might consider the following as the minimum thickness for safe loads on ice:*

**3 inches of ice – one man on foot**

**4 inches of ice – group, in single file**

**5 inches of ice – snowmobile or ATV**

**8-12 inches of ice – small automobile**

**12-15 inches of ice – truck**

## 13. WINTER FISHING REGULATIONS

Winter fishing areas are all waters of the state, except those closed as indicated in this guide.

Fishing holes outside a fish house may be placed no closer than 10 feet from the house except by permission of the owner or occupant. No fish hole made in the ice shall be more than 12 inches in diameter or square at the surface except as allowed for dark house spear fishing.

Depositing or leaving any litter, refuse, rubbish, bottles, cans, or other waste material on the ice or shore is illegal.

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

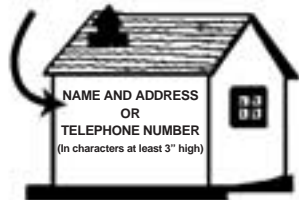
### FISH HOUSES

**Fish houses no longer need to be licensed in North Dakota.**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department does, however, continue to regulate winter fish houses (including those used for dark house spear fishing). 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 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.

**ANY UNOCCUPIED STRUCTURE  
MUST HAVE**



**Occupied structures do not require identification.**

- If using a car as a warming house while fishing, the car shall not be considered as a fish house. The use of old car bodies as fish houses is illegal.
- Shelters or structures used as fish houses shall not cover an area of more than 144 square feet.
- Fish houses shall be constructed of floatable materials. They may be constructed with or without windows. They shall be constructed in such a manner as to be easily removed from the ice at any time.
- 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 to each other.
- Fish houses shall be removed from all waters by midnight March 15 of each year. Portable fish houses can continue to be used if they are removed daily.
- It is illegal to leave fish houses on any federal refuge land after March 15 or on any state-owned or managed land after April 1 of each year.

## 14. BOW AND SPEAR FISHING

Bow and spear fishing is legal only from May 1 through November 30 of each fishing year.

**Legal bow equipment** is any bow, except crossbow, to which is attached by a line, an arrow equipped with a harpoon style point or a point equipped with wire barbs.

**Game fish may not be taken with bow or spears.**

**Bow and spear fishing shall be open in all public waters open to fishing 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 Corps of Engineers Downstream Recreation Area.
- The Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge (Lake Darling).

## 15. UNDERWATER SPEAR FISHING

**Underwater spear fishing is legal only from May 1 through November 30 of each fishing year.** Only individuals SCUBA certified may underwater spear fish.

**Legal underwater spear equipment** is a rubberband powered, or pneumatic powered spear gun with the spear attached to the gun with a lanyard not to exceed 20 feet.

**The following fish may not be taken with underwater spear fishing gear: largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, paddlefish, and sturgeon.** Daily and possession limits for legal fish are the same as listed in hook and line fishing (Section 6).

**Only the following areas are open to underwater spear fishing:**

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

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

The International Divers Flag must be displayed on a float or buoy during any underwater spear fishing. It is recommended that divers stay within 100 feet of the flag. It is illegal to display the divers flag when diving or spear fishing is not in progress.

Any person spear fishing between sunset and sunrise shall display a lighted International Divers Flag and carry a hand-held-light which is visible for a distance of 150 feet. The hand-held-light must be displayed when the diver is at the surface.

**Scuba divers** should not knowingly enter the water within 300 feet of any person engaged in fishing with hook and line. It is recommended that scuba divers display the International Divers Flag while in the water and remain within 100 feet of the flag.

Operators of boats shall exercise caution and should not approach within 100 feet of a divers flag.

## 16. DARK HOUSE SPEAR FISHING

**Dark house spear fishing is legal only from December 1 through February 28 of each fishing year.**

Dark house spear fishing is legal for all residents having a valid fishing license and for residents who are under the age of 16. Nonresidents may dark house spear fish in North Dakota if the nonresidents state provides the same privilege for residents of North Dakota.

**All individuals who participate in dark house spear fishing must first register with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.** Registration is available through the Department's website at [discovernd.com/gnf](http://discovernd.com/gnf) or by contacting any Department office.

**Northern pike and nongame fish** will be the only legal species for dark house spear fishing. Daily and possession limits are the same as listed in hook and line fishing (Section 6).

A spear is counted as a pole (line) while dark house spear fishing. Pneumatic or rubberband powered spear guns may **not** be used. There is no limit on the size of the ice hole while actively engaged in dark house spear fishing. When a dark house is moved or a hole larger than 12 inches in diameter is left in the ice, the hole must be adequately marked with a natural object visible from a minimum of 150 feet.

Hook and line fishing is legal only in holes no larger than 12 inches in diameter. Fathead minnows, creek chubs, spottail shiners, and sticklebacks are the only legal live baitfish allowed as decoys. Artificial decoys are also allowed.

**Dark house spear fishing is legal only in the following waters:**

<b>Beaver Lake</b> Logan Co.	<b>Juanita Lake</b> Foster Co.
<b>Buffalo Lake</b> Sargent Co.	<b>Lake Laretta</b> Nelson Co.
<b>Buffalo Lodge Lake</b> McHenry Co.	<b>Mallard Marsh</b> Stutsman Co.
<b>Carpenter Lake</b> Rolette Co.	<b>Morrison Lake</b> Ramsey Co.
<b>Cavanaugh Lake</b> Ramsey Co.	<b>Powers Lake</b> Burke Co.
<b>Coal Mine Lake</b> Sheridan Co.	<b>Rice Lake</b> Emmons Co.
<b>Coldwater Lake</b> McIntosh Co.	<b>Round Lake</b> Kidder Co.
<b>Cottonwood Lake</b> Williams Co.	<b>School Section</b> Rolette Co.
<b>Devils Lake</b> Benson/Ramsey Co.	<b>Silver Lake</b> Benson Co.
<b>Diamond Lake</b> LaMoure Co.	<b>Spiritwood Lake</b> Stutsman Co.
<b>Dry/Goose Lake</b> McIntosh Co.	<b>Stanley Reservoir</b> Mountrail Co.
<b>Etta/Alkaline Complex</b> Kidder Co.	<b>Sweetwater Lake</b> Ramsey Co.
<b>Flood Lake</b> LaMoure Co.	<b>Tioga Reservoir</b> Williams Co.
<b>Grass Lake</b> Richland Co.	<b>West Napoleon Complex</b> Logan Co.
<b>Horsehead Lake</b> Kidder Co.	

**Lake Sakakawea** from Garrison Dam to Highway 85 bridge at Williston  
**Lake Oahe** from South Dakota border to Maclean Bottoms boat ramp

## 17. SMELT NETTING AND TRAPPING

It is legal to net or trap smelt from April 1 through May 10 of each fishing year, in the Missouri River, Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe, and their tributaries. Licensed anglers may use a dip net or minnow trap as described in Section 10. Daily catch and possession limit shall not exceed 5 gallons of smelt. Those with a Retail Bait Vendor License may use a minnow seine net to exceed 25 feet in length by 6 feet in depth and may take up to 30 gallons of smelt in daily and possession limit. It is illegal to possess or transport live smelt at any time, except while fishing in the Garrison Dam tailrace. Smelt may be taken by hook and line at all times.

## 18. PADDLEFISH SNAGGING

The snagging of paddlefish shall be legal May 1 through May 31, in that area of the Yellowstone River in North Dakota and the Missouri River lying west of the U.S. Highway 85 bridge to the Montana border, excluding that portion from the pipeline crossing (River Mile 1577) downstream to the upper end of the Lewis & Clark WMA (River Mile 1565). Paddlefish snagging shall be legal only from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm (Central Time) during each day of the paddlefish snagging season.

All paddlefish snaggers must obtain and have in their possession a paddlefish tag in addition to other licenses and certificates that are required. A maximum of **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 their unused paddlefish tag. Each paddlefish snagger must cast for and hook their own fish. The use of more than one snag hook per line is illegal. Snagging from a boat is illegal.

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

Depending upon the overall harvest, an 'in-season' closure may still occur with a 60 hour notice issued by the director of the ND Game and Fish Department. If this occurs, it would include closure of all snagging including days set aside for 'snag and release'; there will be no refunds for unused tags.

**SNAG AND RELEASE DAYS (Mondays and Tuesdays only)** If a snagger has in possession the unused and current year's paddlefish tag issued to him/her, he/she can snag but must release (immediately) any and all paddlefish snagged on each Monday and Tuesday throughout the month of May. No harvest of any paddlefish will be allowed during these days, the snagging hours and area as defined above will apply, and there shall be no limit on the number of fish which may be snagged during the day. The use or possession of any gaff on snag and release days (Mondays and Tuesdays) shall be illegal.

**HARVEST DAYS (Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only)** The release of paddlefish after snagging is illegal. Seasonal creel limit shall be **one** paddlefish. All paddlefish caught must be tagged immediately with one's own tag. 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. If a snagger harvests a paddlefish, he/she can no longer snag for paddlefish (including Snag and Release Days). 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 shall be illegal.



## 19. COMMERCIAL FISHING

Non-contract type commercial fishing with use of seines, hoop nets and set lines may be done in certain state waters.

For licensing information and regulations, contact the Department.

## 20. NONCRIMINAL VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

The following are noncriminal violations and have the listed penalties:

- Fishing with or possession of an illegal live baitfish - penalty: \$250.
- Fishing with an illegal bait other than live baitfish - penalty: \$25.
- Fishing in a closed area - penalty: \$100.
- Fishing with an excessive number of lines up to and including four lines in excess of the legal number of lines - penalty: \$50 per line.
- Failure to attend fishing equipment - penalty: \$25.
- Failure to sign and affix stamps to the licensees fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate - penalty: \$10.
- Possession of undersized or oversized fish - penalty: \$25 per fish.
- Exceeding the daily creel limit of fish
  - one fish in excess of the daily limit – penalty: \$100.
  - more than one fish in excess of the daily limit or second violation within one year shall be a Class B misdemeanor.

The aforementioned noncriminal penalty does not apply to over limit of paddlefish or muskellunge.

## 21. CLAM SEASON TO REMAIN CLOSED

The season on clams will remain closed in North Dakota because of continued concern over the impacts commercial harvesting may have on clam populations.

## 22. 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) at (701) 328-5210, or visit their website at:

[http://www.health.state.nd.us/wq/sw/Z7\\_Publications/B\\_2003FishAdvisory.pdf](http://www.health.state.nd.us/wq/sw/Z7_Publications/B_2003FishAdvisory.pdf)

### ANGLERS CODE OF ETHICS

*A list of things you can do to help maintain quality sport fishing in North Dakota.*

- Bury your unused bait.
- Recycle small game fish.
- Catch and release whoppers.
- RAP (Report All Poachers - Law Violators).
- Get active in local lake management.
- Learn bait identification.
- Be a sport, enjoy an angling experience.
- Take a friend (kid) fishing.
- Pack it in - pack it out (respect the environment).
- Understand the reasons for sport fishing regulations and respect them.

## 23. BOAT MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

Please check for signs at entry 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, Lightning Lake, McDowell Dam, Mooreton Pond, Rudolph Lake, Sather Dam, Strawberry Lake (Turtle Mountains), Spring Lake Park Ponds.

**Idle Speed Only:** Arroda Lakes, Lake Audubon (north), Baukol-Noonan Dam, Baukol-Noonan East Mine Pond, Brewer Lake, Camels Hump Dam, Carbury Dam, Clausen Springs Lake, Crown Butte, Dion Lake, Epping-Springbrook Dam, Fish Creek Dam, Fordville Dam, Gravel Lake, Hooker Lake, Lake Ilo, Indian Creek Dam, Jensen Lake, Kota-Ray Dam, McGregor Dam, Mirror Lake, North Golden Lake, Pelican Lake, Raleigh Reservoir, Riverdale Spillway Pond, Sheep Creek Dam, Coal Mine Lake, Sweetbriar Dam, Heart Butte (Lake Tschida) (designated areas only), along the Missouri River at the mouths of the Heart River, Square Butte Creek and at Marina Bay.

**25 Horsepower Maximum:** The following federal refuges: Arrowwood, Jim Lake, Long Lake.



### RAP PROGRAM (REPORT ALL POACHING)

This program provides people the opportunity to report wildlife violations, remain anonymous if they prefer and to 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 \$1000 depending upon the nature and seriousness of the crime.

**Call 1-800-472-2121**

**Call this number only to report game and fish violations**

Note: If calling from outside of ND the number is (701) 328-9921. The reward fund is supported by private donations. If you wish to donate to the RAP program, tax deductible contributions can be sent to R.A.P., Box 188, Valley City, ND 58072-0188.

## 24. BOATING RESTRICTIONS AND 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 shall be closed to boat fishing from April 1 through May 24 of each fishing year.

See *Hook and Line Fishing – Summary of Regulations (Section 6)* for Federal Refuge boating closures.

### Regulations:

- Owners of any watercraft propelled by a motor must register their vessel with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, or from the state which they reside.
- 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 their 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 twelve years of age may operate a motorboat (includes personal watercraft, jetskis, etc.) propelled by over a ten horsepower motor unless the operator is accompanied by a person eighteen years of age or older.
- No person twelve through fifteen years of age may operate a motorboat or personal watercraft unless the operator is accompanied by a person eighteen 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, (if under 11 years of age - must be worn) and those boats over 16 feet must also have an approved throwable life preserver.
- No person may operate or permit operation of a personal watercraft (jetskis, etc.) without each person on board wearing an approved life preserver.
- No person may operate a motorboat (includes personal watercraft) within 100 feet of a person fishing from a shoreline, swimmer, swimming/diving raft, or an occupied, anchored or non-motorized 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 vessel in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life or property of another.
- 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, or an injury which requires medical treatment beyond first aid, or property damage in excess of \$500 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 5 days.

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

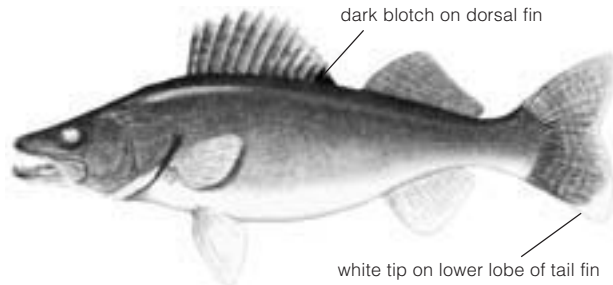
## 25. FISH IDENTIFICATION

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.

<b>Perch Family</b>	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 four inches in length, also belong to the perch family.
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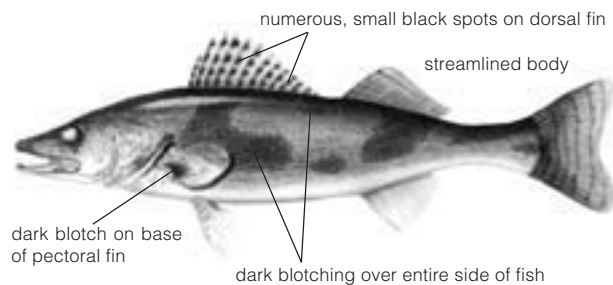
### Walleye

Walleye are a dark-olive color with an over-all 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. They are also called wall-eyed pike.



### Sauger

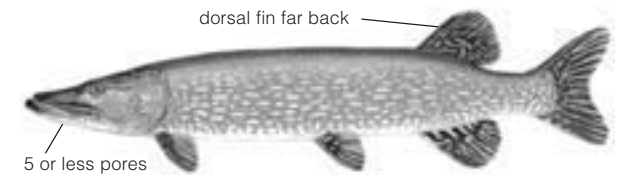
The sauger resembles the walleye but is usually not as large or as stockily built. It has a blotched body color and rows of dark spots on the dorsal fin instead of the one black blotch of the walleye. Sauger typically inhabit fairly fast moving water of rivers and streams. It is also known as sand pike. The **saugeye** is a cross between a walleye and sauger but cannot be positively identified by external physical characteristics.



<b>Pike Family</b>	There are two members of the pike family in North Dakota, the northern pike and the muskellunge. Both have long bodies and long snouts with large teeth. The dorsal fin is located far back on the body.
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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 was named our State Fish by the 1969 Legislative Assembly. Other names are northern, pike, jack, snake, pickerel, and hammerhandle.



### Muskellunge

Muskellunge have vertical dark bars on their sides and from 6 to 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 hybrid cross between a muskellunge female and a northern pike male.



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

#### Location of submandibular pores on underside of lower jaw:

**NORTHERN PIKE**  
5 or fewer pores  
on each side



**MUSKELLUNGE**  
6 to 8 pores  
on each side

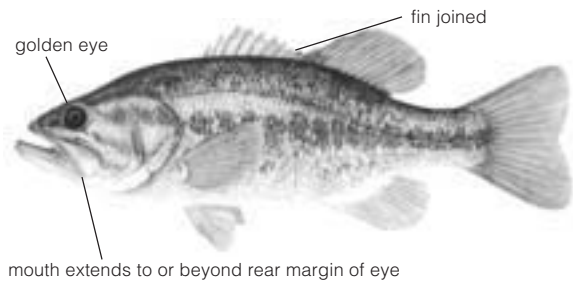


**FISH IDENTIFICATION (continued) ...**

<p><b>Sunfish Family</b></p>	<p>Sunfish family members are deep and stockily built, attractive in coloration, and popular as panfish. 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 the large and smallmouth bass.</p>
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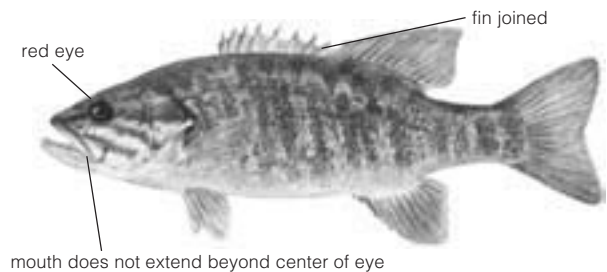
**Largemouth Bass**

The back and upper sides of the largemouth is a dark green color and its sides have dark irregular patches. As its name implies, the mouth is large with the end of the upper jaw extending to or beyond the rear margin of the eye. It prefers small lake (stock dam) habitat. Its eyes are golden in color. Also called largemouth black bass.



**Smallmouth Bass**

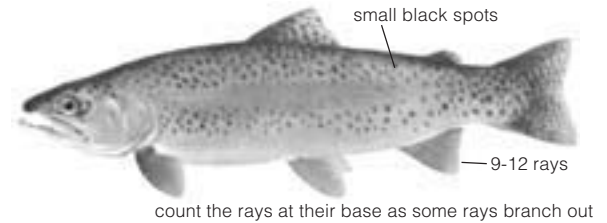
The smallmouth is similar in color to the largemouth except for barred markings on its sides and red colored eyes. The mouth is smaller and the rear of the upper jaw does not extend beyond the center of the eye. It prefers habitat similar to the walleye and is also known as smallmouth black bass.



<p><b>Trout Family</b></p>	<p>In North Dakota, the trout family are all introduced. They are beautiful fish and sporty to catch. They are fine scaled and are native to oceans and cold waters of rivers and lakes. North Dakota conditions offer little chance for most trout family members to spawn and reproduce successfully without the aid of a fish hatchery.</p>
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**Rainbow Trout**

The rainbow has been 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 are found in a variety of coloration due to where they originate, where they are stocked, and the time of the year. Popular rainbow strains presently stocked into North Dakota waters include Shasta, Eagle Lake and Arlees.



**Brown Trout**

The brown or German trout is native to Europe and should be able to survive 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.



## 26. WHOPPER CLUB REQUIREMENTS

Only species listed below and meeting minimum weight requirements listed below will qualify for a patch and certificate. Entries must be weighed on a scale used in trade. It is not necessary to have fish weighed at an official Whopper Club Weigh Station.

An application card must be filled out, giving weight and length of fish, date and where harvested, tackle and bait used (if applicable), signature of applicant, and signature of person weighing the fish. **Only one application may be made for each species in a lifetime.** Weights are required to be rounded up to the nearest ounce.

## 27. NORTH DAKOTA RECORD FISH

### STATE RECORD REQUIREMENTS

1. All new state record fish must be weighed on a scale used commercially and subject to certification by the Weights and Measures Division, North Dakota Public Service Commission.
2. The catch must be verified by an employee of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
3. A recognizable photo must be furnished to the Department.

SPECIES	WEIGHT		WHERE	WHEN
<b>Game Fish</b>				
Northern Pike	37 lbs.	8 oz.	Sakakawea	1968
Walleye	15 lbs.	12 oz.	Wood Lake	1959
Saugeye	11 lbs.	12 oz.	Sakakawea	1984
Sauger	8 lbs.	12 oz.	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.	7 1/2 oz.	Nelson Lake	1983
Smallmouth Bass	5 lbs.	15 oz.	Spiritwood Lake	2003
Tiger Muskie	40 lbs.		Gravel Lake	1975
Muskellunge	46 lbs.		New Johns Lake	2003
Rainbow Trout	21 lbs.	4 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1998
Brown Trout	25 lbs.	4 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1987
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
Channel Catfish	33 lbs.	4 oz.	Red River	1991
Ling	18 lbs.	4 oz.	Knife River	1984
<b>Nongame Fish</b>				
Whitefish	8 lbs.	11 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1984
Cisco	2 lb.	8 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	2000
Bullhead	4 lbs.	1 oz.	Devils Lake	1988
Drum	26 lbs.	2 oz.	Sakakawea	1988
Buffalo	40 lbs.		Lake Tschida	2002
Carp	31 lbs.		Sheyenne River	2003
Goldeye	3 lbs.	13 oz.	New John's Lake	1998

## CATCH AND RELEASE CLUB REQUIREMENTS

Only the 12 species of fish listed below qualify for the Catch and Release Club. Entries must meet minimum length requirements and be released unharmed back to the water. Another fisherman must witness and verify the measurement and release.

The angler will receive an official membership certificate and a choice of jacket patch or boat decal. A "FIVE" patch or decal will be awarded for each additional five entries. Lengths are to be rounded to the nearest tenth of an inch.

**All recognized fish must be harvested by legal methods and come from North Dakota waters.**

ANGLER	Minimum Whopper Club	Minimum Catch & Release Club
M. Slind, Roseglen	20 lbs.	32 inches
B. Chapman, Minnewaukan	8 lbs.	25 inches
David Groth, Williston	8 lbs.	25 inches
M. Fischer, Chaseley	4 lbs.	20 inches
Kyle Smith, Carrington	1 3/4 lbs.	
B. Hystad, Velva	1 1/2 lbs.	
Don Newcomb, Mandan	1 1/2 lbs.	
Jordon Neve, Albert Lea, MN	3 lbs.	
Leon Rixen, Minot	5 lbs.	18 inches
Roger Haugen, Jamestown	3 lbs.	16 inches
Marvin Lee, Rolette	20 lbs.	40 inches
Bill Wald, Washburn	20 lbs.	40 inches
Wade Weltz, Anamoose	5 lbs.	21 inches
Dean Malenius, Eveleth, MN	5 lbs.	21 inches
Chris Vernon, Bismarck	5 lbs.	21 inches
Allen Leier, Bismarck	5 lbs.	
Tom Schwartz, Beulah	12 lbs.	
Brian W. Johnson, Williston	70 lbs.	
Bruce Pannkuk, Mpls., MN	12 lbs.	
O. Kruckenber, Hazen	8 lbs.	28 inches
Bill Mitzel, Bismarck	4 lbs.	
Scott Borup, Jr. and Tyler Borup, Pick City	1 3/4 lbs.	
Riley Zavada, Wolford	2 lbs.	
Larry Harris, Sidney, MT	6 lbs.	
Trey Opp, Mandan	15 lbs.	
Austin Loberg, Thompson	15 lbs.	
Craig Unser, Mandan	2 lbs.	

## 28. 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 yellow perch, white bass, largemouth bass, walleye, channel catfish and northern pike based on statewide data. The true weight of the measured 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.

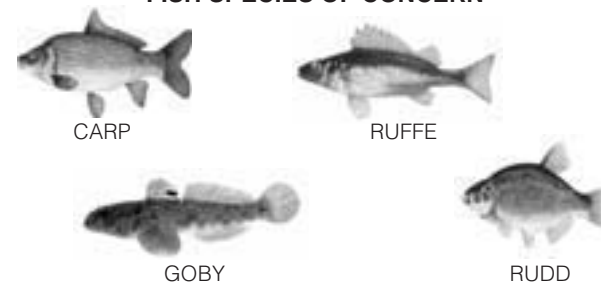
	YELLOW PERCH	WHITE BASS	LARGE-MOUTH BASS	WALLEYE	CHANNEL CATFISH	NORTHERN PIKE
<b>INCHES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED POUNDS</b>					
6	.1	.1	.1			
7	.2	.2	.2			
8	.3	.3	.3	.2		
9	.4	.4	.4	.3		
10	.5	.5	.6	.3	.3	
11	.7	.7	.8	.4	.4	
12	1.0	.9	1.0	.6	.5	.4
13	1.3	1.2	1.3	.7	.6	.5
14	1.6	1.5	1.6	.9	.8	.6
15	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.1	.9	.7
16		2.3	2.4	1.4	1.2	.9
17		2.7	2.9	1.7	1.4	1.1
18		3.3	3.4	2.0	1.7	1.3
19		3.8	4.1	2.4	2.3	1.5
20		4.3	4.7	2.9	2.9	1.8
21			5.5	3.3	3.0	2.1
22			6.4	3.9	3.4	2.4
23			7.3	4.5	4.0	2.7
24			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

## 29. AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

**Exotic plants and animals are threatening fishing and other recreation in North Dakota!**

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) are difficult to control once they become established. ANS are moved to new areas as unwanted hitchhikers on boats and trailers, on personal watercraft or on sporting equipment. Each year new infestations are reported because recreators unknowingly transported ANS.

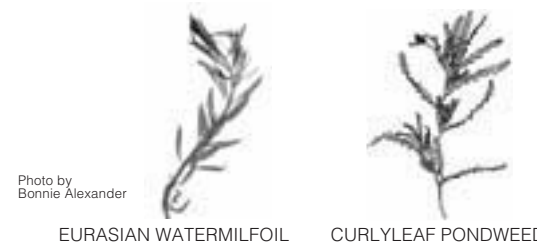
### FISH SPECIES OF CONCERN



These exotic fish species outcompete native fish and desirable fish populations, by eating plants or food items needed by game fish. A waterbody's recreational fishery quickly deteriorates once exotics are introduced. Waterbodies infested with ANS provide little enjoyment.

To prevent infestations, use only "clean" bait, do not dump your bait bucket, and do not stock fish into any waterbody. Anglers often illegally stock fish in hopes of bettering a lake's fishery, but this causes more problems than improvements.

### AQUATIC PLANTS OF CONCERN



Both of these plant species grow under the water's surface and form thick mats. The dense vegetation is too much cover, which leads to stunted fish. When the plants die off in the fall, decomposition causes lower dissolved oxygen levels in the water.

Plants can be spread by individual seeds or seed pods hidden in the mud, as fragments entangled on trailers, boat propellers or other equipment. A single plant fragment can create a new population in a new location.

## TERRESTRIAL PLANTS OF CONCERN



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE



SALTCEDAR

Photos by Dean Cline. ND Department of Agriculture

These aggressive plants grow along the shorelines or in shallow water. The plants form thick stands and native plants are crowded out. The habitat modification creates problems for fisheries and wildlife populations.

The plants produce thousands of small seeds that drift on the water and lay on the lake shore. Seeds can be moved in the mud, on equipment, or from being picked up by people or pets. Vegetative material lodged on a boat or trailer can be moved to a new area and start a new infestation.

## INVERTEBRATES OF CONCERN



Photo by MN Sea Grant

ZEBRA MUSSEL



SPINY  
WATER FLEA



NEW ZEALAND  
MUDSNAIL

These invertebrates outcompete desirable zooplankton for food and living space. They eat food items used by desirable fish. This can reduce game fish populations. They reproduce in large numbers and can quickly take over a waterbody.

These invertebrates hitchhike on equipment, on boats and trailers, on motors, in livewells or in bilge water. If kept damp, they can live for a long time. When released into a waterbody, they can produce new infestations.

**All outdoor recreators should take time to clean their equipment. The guidelines for cleaning are simple:**

- \*\* Remove plant fragments from your boat or other watercraft, the trailer, and fishing, hunting or scuba gear when leaving the waterbody.
- \*\* Drain water from the boat motor, livewell, bilge, and behind the transom before leaving the waterbody.
- \*\* Power wash your boat and trailer.
- \*\* Clean and disinfect all fishing tackle, hunting or scuba gear or other equipment after an outing.
- \*\* Disinfect the boat, livewell, and bilge by:
  - Power washing using water that is 110° F or hotter; or rinse with a bleach solution (one part chlorine bleach to 20 parts warm water).
- \*\* Disinfect fishing or scuba gear with:
  - Water that is 110° F or hotter; or rinse with a bleach solution (one part chlorine bleach to 20 parts warm water).
- \*\* Do not release bait or bait water into a lake, or move fish from one lake to another.
  - Place excess bait in a fish grinder, appropriate garbage receptacle, or bury it at home.
  - Only release fish into the waterbody from which they came.
  - Do not transplant fish to other waterbodies.

**YOUR ACTIONS ARE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF YOUR LAKE'S FISHING. PLEASE ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ANS.**



**30-31. Missouri River Boating Access Map - Note the map and list are omitted here because of their size. Find them at:**

**<http://www.state.nd.us/gnf/images/maps/mo-r-boat-ramps.pdf> (223Kb pdf).**

**32. North Dakota Public Fishing Waters - Note the map and list are omitted here because of their size. Find them at:**

**<http://www.state.nd.us/gnf/fishing/docs/fish-waters.pdf> (391Kb pdf)**