

## **NDG&F March 4th Newsletter**

### **Darkhouse Spearfishing Season Closes March 15**

Anglers are reminded that North Dakota's darkhouse spearfishing season closes March 15.

Individuals who would still like to get out for the first time this year must register with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Registration is available through the department's website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), or through any Game and Fish Department office.

March 15 is also the deadline for anglers to remove permanent fish houses from state waters.

### **Remove Permanent Fish Houses Soon**

State law requires permanent fish houses to be removed from North Dakota waters by midnight March 15.

Nancy Boldt, water safety coordinator for the State Game and Fish Department, said anglers should exercise caution because mild weather conditions can quickly result in unstable ice conditions.

"It is always important to check ice thickness, as warm temperatures with a high sun will rapidly deteriorate ice conditions this time of the year," Boldt said.

In addition, Boldt said anglers should be aware of the amount of snow on the ice. "The pressure from the weight of the snow and ice cause water to seep around shore, as well as through cracks and fishing holes," she added. "The bottom line is that several inches of slush under fresh snow make traveling difficult because vehicles drop through the top layer and end up stuck."

Fish houses may be used after March 15 if they are removed daily

### **Fishing and Hunting Expenditure Report Finalized**

Fishing and hunting in North Dakota contributed an estimated \$1.4 billion in annual input to the state's economy, according to a report by the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at North Dakota State University.

The report, commissioned by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, tracked hunter and angler expenditures for the 2011-12 hunting and fishing seasons, and is similar to other studies conducted periodically since the late 1970s.

The last time we commissioned an economic impact study was about 10 years ago," said Game and Fish Department Director Terry Steinwand. "These studies help alert us to any major shifts in hunter and angler activities or participation.

Overall, anglers and hunters in North Dakota spent \$642.9 million dollars on equipment, vehicles, boats, travel, lodging, food and many other items. In addition, these expenditures generated nearly \$727 million in secondary economic benefits, gross business volume, secondary employment and state-level tax collections, according to the NDSU researchers.

According to the report, resident hunters and anglers accounted for \$555.7 million of total

expenditures, while nonresidents contributed \$78.6 million. Anglers spent \$425 million and hunters \$217 million.

These direct and indirect expenditures from resident hunters and anglers generated approximately \$35 million in state-level tax collection. Nonresidents generated another \$5 million.

“We know that hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation are an important quality of life factor for many North Dakotans,” Steinwand said. “This report reinforces the notion that economic activity associated with our outdoors is significant as well.

Compared to spending in the 2001-02 season, total direct expenditures by resident hunters and anglers increased by \$43.6 million, and by \$4 million for nonresidents.

Complete or executive summaries of the report are available from the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at NDSU, by contacting Edie Nelson at (701) 231-7441 or [edie.nelson@ndsu.edu](mailto:edie.nelson@ndsu.edu). In addition, these publications can be found online at <http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/>.

### **Liudahl Scholarship Available to Fish, Wildlife Majors**

Undergraduate students with a major in wildlife management and/or fisheries biology are eligible to apply for a \$795 scholarship through the Ronald D. Liudahl Endowment.

Students must be a resident of North Dakota, have completed at least 30 semester credits in a fisheries and wildlife management program, indicate career objectives in wildlife resource protection and management in a brief essay or statement, and have a grade point average and extracurricular/volunteer activities commensurate with good academic standing and citizenship. The deadline for applying is April 1.

Liudahl was a lifelong advocate of conservation and stewardship of North Dakota’s wildlife, fisheries and natural resources. An avid hunter and fisherman, he considered himself a passionate spokesperson on water quality, wildlife habitat and sustaining North Dakota’s natural resources.

The annual scholarship was established by the Liudahl family and the Dakota Anglers. More information, including an application, is available online at [www.ndcf.net/Scholarships/RonLiudahlApplication.asp](http://www.ndcf.net/Scholarships/RonLiudahlApplication.asp). Contributions or memorials to the North Dakota Community Foundation for the Ronald D. Liudahl Scholarship are tax deductible. Contributions may be made online at [www.ndcf.net](http://www.ndcf.net) or by mail at North Dakota Community Foundation, Liudahl Scholarship, P.O. Box 387, Bismarck, ND 58502-0387.