

NDG&F August 26th Newsletter

No Paddlefish Tag Lottery in 2014

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has decided to wait at least a year before developing a lottery to issue tags for the paddlefish snagging season.

While legislation passed in 2013 allows the Department to use a lottery system to issue paddlefish tags if and when needed, Game and Fish Department fisheries chief Greg Power said that after full review of the 2013 paddlefish season, and considering ongoing research on the paddlefish population, biologists have determined that a lottery is not necessary in 2014.

“However, this ongoing paddlefish population assessment may still result in a number of changes to the 2014 paddlefish season,” Power said. “If there are pending regulation changes, we will solicit public input later this fall, including at Game and Fish advisory board meetings.”

Since the first snagging season was authorized in 1976, Power said Game and Fish has managed paddlefish snagging on the upper Missouri and Yellowstone rivers by allowing an unlimited number of participants. Because of growing interest and participation by snaggers, coupled with a declining paddlefish population, Game and Fish established an annual harvest cap to limit the harvest.

The first cap, set in 1996 with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, was 1,500 fish per year in each state. The two agencies reduced the cap to 1,000 fish per year in each state in 2003.

Landowner Sportsman Council Signs Available

“Ask Before You Enter” and “Walking Hunters Welcome” signs are available to North Dakota landowners who encourage hunting on their land during upcoming fall hunting seasons. Landowners can order quantities of four, eight or 12.

The signs are free and sponsored by the North Dakota Landowner-Sportsman Council. To order, contact the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at (701) 328-6300, or email ndgf@nd.gov. Signs can also be [ordered online](#), or [printed](#), at the Department’s website, gf.nd.gov.

Dove Season Opens Sept. 1, HIP Required

North Dakota’s dove season opens statewide Sept. 1, and hunters are reminded to register with the Harvest Information Program prior to hunting.

The daily limit is 15 and possession limit is 45. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. The season is open through Oct. 30.

All dove hunters must possess a fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate and a general game and habitat license, regardless of age. In addition, hunters ages 16 and older need a small game license. Hunters who purchase a hunting license through the State Game and Fish Department’s electronic licensing system (gf.nd.gov) or instant licensing telephone number at (800) 406-6409 can easily get HIP certified.

Otherwise, hunters can access the Department’s website, or call (888) 634-4798 and record the HIP number on their fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate.

Those who registered to hunt the spring light goose season in North Dakota do not have to register with

HIP again, as it is required only once per year. However, hunters must HIP register in each state for which they are licensed before hunting migratory game birds.