

## **NDG&F April 14th Newsletter**

### **Paddlefish Snagging Season Opens May 1**

North Dakota's paddlefish snagging season opens May 1 and is scheduled to continue through the end of the month. However, depending on the overall harvest, an early in-season closure may occur with a 24-hour notice issued by the state Game and Fish Department.

Potential snaggers are reminded that opening day, May 1, falls on a Thursday. Snag-and-release of all paddlefish is required on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays, so opening day is snag-and-release only. Mandatory harvest of all snagged paddlefish is required on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. On these days, all paddlefish caught must be tagged immediately.

All paddlefish snagged and tagged must be removed from the river by 9 p.m. of each snagging day. The use or possession of a gaff hook within one-half mile in either direction of the Highway 200 bridge on the Yellowstone River is illegal at any time during the snagging season.

Those planning to participate during snag-and-release-only days need to have in their possession a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag. Use or possession of gaffs is prohibited on snag-and-release-only days, and, if it occurs, during the snag-and-release extension period.

Legal snagging hours are from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. One tag per snagger will be issued. Snagging is legal in all areas of the Yellowstone River in North Dakota, and in the area of 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 1,577) downstream to the upper end of the Lewis and Clark Wildlife Management Area (river mile 1,565).

If the season closes early because the harvest quota is reached, an extended snag-and-release-only period will be allowed for up to four days immediately following the early closure, but not to extend beyond May 31. Only snaggers with a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag are eligible to participate. Only a limited area at the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers is open to this extended season snagging opportunity.

All paddlefish snaggers must possess a paddlefish tag in addition to a valid fishing license and certificate that may be required. Cost of a paddlefish tag is \$10 for residents and \$25.50 for nonresidents.

Paddlefish tags are sold only at the following locations:

#### **Bismarck Game and Fish Office**

100 N. Bismarck Expressway  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-328-6300

#### **Williams County**

Williams County Auditor  
PO Box 2047  
Williston, ND 58802  
701-577-4500

**Williston Scenic Sports**

1201 East Broadway  
Williston, ND 58801  
701-572-8696

**Williston Wal-Mart, Inc.**

4001 2nd Avenue West  
Williston, ND 58801  
701-572-8550

**McKenzie County**

McKenzie County Auditor  
Temporary Location  
McKenzie County Fairgrounds  
Highway 23 East  
Watford City, ND 58854  
701-444-3616

**Stark County**

Stark County Auditor  
51 3rd Street E  
Dickinson, ND 58601  
701-456-7630

**Dickinson Runnings Farm and Fleet**

1700 I-94 Bus Loop E  
Dickinson, ND 58601  
701-483-1226

**Anglers, Boat Owners Need Current Licenses**

Anglers and boat owners are reminded to review their licenses for the 2014 fishing and boating season. Anglers must have a 2014-15 fishing license. [Fishing licenses](#) can be purchased online at the Game and Fish Department website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov). A new state law requires residents age 18 or older to prove residency on the application by submitting a valid North Dakota driver's license number or a North Dakota nondriver photo identification number.

The 2013 state legislature established new fees for several licenses, including resident individual fishing (\$16), resident husband and wife (\$22) and combination (\$50). The combination license includes fishing, general game and habitat, small game and furbearer.

Boat owners are reminded that 2014 is the first year of a new three-year registration period. The new boat registration cycle runs through Dec. 31, 2016.

The price to register motorboats under 16 feet in length, and all canoes, is \$18, motorboats from 16 feet to less than 20 feet in length \$36, and motorboats at least 20 feet in length \$45.

Renewal notices were mailed to boat owners last December. Those who did not receive a renewal notice should contact the Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6335, or email [ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov). Many renewals were returned because some owners who moved within the last three years did not notify the department with their new address.

[Boat registrations](#) can be renewed online at the department's website, by clicking the online services link, and "watercraft registration and renewals" under the watercraft heading.

Also, anyone buying a new or used watercraft can register online and generate a 10-day temporary permit that is valid until the registration is processed.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is self-funded and only receives revenue from license sales and federal funds.

### **Peterson Named Game and Fish Deputy Director**

State Game and Fish Director Terry Steinwand has appointed longtime employee Scott Peterson as the agency's new deputy director.

Peterson, a native of Montpelier in southern Stutsman County, will begin his new position May 1. He has been the Department's wildlife resource management section leader at the Lonetree district office, located southwest of Harvey, for 22 years.

"Scott has proven his leadership abilities over the years," Steinwand said. "I look forward to working closely with him on the issues."

Peterson said he is humbled and honored to accept the position. "I have a deep appreciation for what the staff at the Game and Fish Department has been able to accomplish over the years, and know how hard they work to protect and maintain the resource," he said.

Game and Fish had been without a deputy director for more than a month since Duane DeKrey, who had served in the position since January 2013, left the agency to work for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District.