

NDG&F April 21st Newsletter

Anglers Asked to Report Winterkill

North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries biologists are asking anglers for help in documenting lakes that may have experienced winter fish mortality.

Fisheries management section leader Scott Gangl said some winterkill is expected every year, with the severity depending on winter weather conditions.

“We had a colder than average winter, but we had normal to below-normal snow cover,” Gangl said. “Therefore, we don’t anticipate major widespread winterkill, which is good news given the record number of fishing waters in the state. However, some of the smaller lakes where we periodically see winterkill will likely experience some die-offs.”

Gangl said this is the one of the busiest times of the year for fisheries crews, therefore Game and Fish staff might not get to every lake right at ice out. “That’s why it’s important for anglers to report fish die-offs so our crews can follow up on it,” he added.

Biologists will begin sampling suspected winterkill lakes later this spring once fish spawning operations are completed to document the severity of any die-offs.

Anglers can report fish mortality to a local Game and Fish Department district office.

Camping Restrictions on Some WMAs

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will continue to implement camping restrictions on some wildlife management areas in western North Dakota and along Lake Sakakawea.

Overnight camping is prohibited on the following WMAs: Antelope Creek, Lewis and Clark, Big Oxbow, Ochs Point, Neu’s Point (except campers accessing by boat, and only at the point area), Overlook, Sullivan and Tobacco Garden in McKenzie County; Van Hook in Mountrail County; and Hofflund and Trenton in Williams County.

Lewis and Clark WMA is closed from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise unless users are legally engaged in fishing, hunting or trapping. However, camping is allowed for paddlefish snaggers at the pumphouse area and at Neu’s at the point by boat access. Glass bottles are prohibited.

In addition, the following WMAs are closed to camping on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but open to camping Thursday-Monday: North Lemmon Lake in Adams County; Bull Creek in Billings County; Alkali Creek and Spring Creek in Bowman County; Smishek Lake and Short Creek Dam in Burke County; Harris M. Baukol in Divide County; Killdeer Mountains in Dunn County; Camels Hump Lake in Golden Valley County; Indian Creek in Hettinger County; Audubon, Custer Mine, Deepwater Creek, deTrobriand, Douglas Creek and Wolf Creek in McLean County; Beaver Creek and Hille in Mercer County; Storm Creek in Morton County; Cedar Lake and Speck Davis Pond in Slope County; and McGregor Dam in Williams County.

On those WMAs where camping is allowed Thursday through Monday, all equipment must be removed on Tuesday and Wednesdays when camping is not allowed.

The rules ensure these areas are available for hunters and anglers. Camping restrictions at all WMAs are

posted at entry points.

NASP State Tournament Results

More than 500 archers registered to compete in the North Dakota National Archery in the Schools Program state tournament April 11-12 in Bismarck.

Jeff Long, NASP coordinator for the State Game and Fish Department, said: "This program continues to grow every year, and all three winning teams committed to go to the national tournament, along with at least three of the top individuals," Long said, while noting 517 registered this year, up more than 20 percent from last year.

The national tournament is May 9-10 in Louisville, Ky. The Game and Fish Department and North Dakota Bowhunters Association contribute a total of \$3,000 in travel assistance to the first place team in each division, and \$1,000 to the overall male and female individual winner.

The high school (grades 9-12) state championship team was from Hankinson, the middle school (grades 7-8) champs were from Wahpeton and taking top honors in the elementary school (grades 4-6) division was Wilton.

Overall male and female winners were Kyle Andres of Medina and Lisa Buckhaus of Hankinson. Top elementary winners were Austin Bladow of Hankinson and Grace Neameyer of Mt. Pleasant.

The top five place winners in each division were:

High school boys – 1) Andres; 2) Spencer Brockman, North Sargent; 3) James Nadeau, Dunseith; 4) Isaac Poitra, Dunseith; 5) Dominic Bendickson, Griggs County Central.

High school girls – 1) Buckhaus, Hankinson; 2) Hunter Schroeder, Dunseith; 3) Deena Monson, Griggs County Central; 4) Ashlynn Stirling, Hankinson; 5) Danielle Schuler, Wilton; 5) Theresia Thompson, Hankinson.

Middle school boys – 1) Dawson McKeever, North Sargent; 2) Race Kath, Hankinson; 3) Michael McKenna, North Sargent; 4) Eric Salvesen, Griggs County Central; 5) Dylan Pearson, Wahpeton.

Middle school girls – 1) Alicia Biewer, Hankinson; 2) Kate Loewen, Hankinson; 3) Olivia Waswick, North Sargent; 4) Kailee Klein, Wahpeton; 5) Mary Goroski, Wahpeton.

Elementary boys – 1) Bladow; 2) Ryan Kath, Hankinson; 3) Gage Schuh, Wilton; 4) Tavon Stadler, Griggs County Central; 5) Malachi Appel, Twin Buttes; 5) Brayden Wehseler, North Sargent.

Elementary girls – 1) Neameyer; 2) Kinley Hetletved, Wilton; 3) Taryn Schurhamer, Wilton; 4) Melonie Lee, Barnes County North; 5) Lauryn Hibl, Wahpeton.