

NDG&F May 23rd Newsletter

Fishing for Free June 7-8

North Dakota anglers are reminded they can fish for free June 7-8.

That is the weekend North Dakota residents may fish without a license. All other fishing regulations apply.

Refer to the [2014-16 North Dakota Fishing Guide](#) for season information.

Deer Gun Application Deadline is June 4

North Dakota deer hunters are reminded the deadline for submitting applications for the 2014 gun season is June 4. Hunters are encouraged to apply online at the State Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov.

The deadline applies to muzzleloader, regular gun, gratis and nonresident landowner, and youth antlered mule deer applications (specifically for antlered mule deer in units 3B1, 3B2, and 4A-4F).

Gratis applications received on or before the regular deer gun lottery application deadline (June 4) will be issued an any-legal-deer license. As per state law, applications received after the deadline will be issued based on licenses remaining after the lottery – generally only antlerless licenses remain.

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.

Applications will not be processed without this information.

The deadline for regular statewide youth deer licenses is Sept. 1.

Anglers Reminded of Nongame Fish Regulations

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department reminds anglers and others taking carp and other nongame fish that a license is required, and hook-and-line, archery equipment and spears are the only legal methods of take. Snagging nongame fish is illegal.

In addition, enforcement chief Robert Timian said anglers must properly dispose of the fish. "Leaving dead fish on the shoreline or in the water is considered a littering violation," Timian said.

Game wardens and other law enforcement officers have the authority to cite persons for this violation, Timian said, with the minimum penalty a \$100 littering violation and the maximum a Class B misdemeanor which can bring up to a \$1,000 fine and possible loss of fishing and hunting privileges.

Other regulations include:

Legal archery equipment is any bow to which an arrow is attached by a line and equipped with a harpoon style point or wire-barbed point.

Legal spear equipment is any manually powered shaft with barbed points. The spear head shall not exceed 12 inches in width.

Use of night vision equipment or electronically enhanced light-gathering optics, including all lights used for locating and shooting at fish, is legal.

For more information, including open areas, refer to the [2014-16 North Dakota Fishing Guide](#).

Some North Dakota Lakes Suffer Winterkill

North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries biologists said despite colder-than-average winter temperatures, not many lakes experienced a fish kill.

Fisheries management section leader Scott Gangl said biologists investigated winterkills at 11 lakes so far this spring, with only a few considered significant enough to affect the quality of fishing this spring. Lakes that appear to have suffered a significant kill include Leland Dam (McKenzie County), Island Lake (Rolette County) and the State Fair Pond (Ward County).

Fisheries personnel already restocked these lakes with hatchery raised fish, or fish transported from another lake. Gangl said while the State Fair Pond will have catchable fish this summer, fish stocked in Leland Dam and Island Lake will take 2-3 years to be of a catchable size.

Some of the lakes that experienced a minor kill were too insignificant to affect fishing.

Anglers can contact the local Game and Fish Department fisheries district offices to get more information on the status of these lakes, or to report fish kills that may not be on the list.