

NDG&F November 10th Newsletter

Fishing Prospects are Encouraging

North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries personnel have wrapped up surveys and sampling efforts for the open water season, and results point toward good conditions on the state's big waters. "Fishing in North Dakota continues to be record-setting on most all levels," said Greg Power, fisheries chief. "A record number of fishing lakes has contributed considerably to the record number of fishing licenses sold in recent years."

North Dakota's three big fisheries – Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe/Missouri River and Devils Lake – continue to account for approximately half of the annual statewide fishing effort.

Good habitat and forage conditions in Lake Sakakawea have resulted in an abundance of rainbow smelt and other alternative forage, which in turn has contributed to excellent condition and growth of game fish. Walleye numbers are high, and recruitment of several strong year classes in recent years bodes well for the future. In addition, a good population of northern pike should produce some of trophy quality. Overall health of the Devils Lake fishery remains good. Walleye abundance is strong and anglers fishing for walleye this winter should expect similar numbers and size fish as compared to recent years.

Northern pike are still plentiful with a nice average weight of about four pounds. The number of catchable-sized perch available is down from 2013 but still should be considered good. Anglers will notice fewer of the large 12-14 inch perch this winter.

The Missouri River between Garrison Dam and Lake Oahe is still under the influence of habitat changes caused by the flood in 2011. Walleye numbers remain low, and walleye reproduction and forage fish production have been poor in recent years. However, the outlook has greatly improved in Lake Oahe, especially near the South Dakota border where recovering forage populations have led to improvements in walleye condition and growth. In addition, northern pike are in good shape, with many of trophy size.

Cable Device Users Must Register

[Trappers using cable devices must register](#) with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department prior to trapping this year.

Registration is available through the Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov, or through any Game and Fish office. Upon completion, a registration number will be provided. The number must be written on the back of the furbearer or combination license.

Information collected during registration will be used to conduct voluntary education efforts, in addition to create a mailing list for post-season surveys.

Advisory Board Meetings Announced

Outdoor enthusiasts are invited to attend a North Dakota Game and Fish Department advisory board meeting in their area.

These public meetings, held each spring and fall, provide citizens with an opportunity to discuss fish and wildlife issues and ask questions of their district advisors and agency personnel.

The governor appoints eight Game and Fish Department advisors, each representing a multi-county section of the state, to serve as a liaison between the department and public.

Any person who requires an auxiliary aid or service must notify the contact person at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting date.

District 1 – Counties: Divide, McKenzie and Williams

Date: Nov. 24 – 7 p.m.

Location: Civic Center, Watford City

Host: McKenzie County Pheasants Forever

Contact: Rick Pokrzywinski, 770-2736

Advisory board member: Jason Leiseth, Arnegard, 586-3714

District 5 – Counties: Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele and Traill

Date: Nov. 24 – 7 p.m.

Location: Community Center, Cogswell

Host: Southeast Sportsmen's Club

Contact: Kevin Dockter, 680-8008

Advisory board member: Duane Hanson, West Fargo, 367-4249

District 4 – Counties: Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina and Walsh

Date: Nov. 25 – 7 p.m.

Location: American Legion Club, Fordville

Host: Dakota Prairie Wildlife Club

Contact: Lynn Baier, 229-3665

Advisory board member: Ronald Houdek, Tolna, 262-4724

District 6 – Counties: Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, Logan, LaMoure, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells

Date: Nov. 25 – 7 p.m.

Location: Gladstone Inn, Jamestown

Host: James Valley Pheasants Forever

Contact: Curt Francis, 799-0120

Advisory board member: Joel Christoferson, Litchville, 973-4981

District 2 – Counties: Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville and Ward

Date: Dec. 1 – 7 p.m.

Location: City Hall, Bowbells

Host: Stony Run Sportsmen Club

Contact: Tami Chrest, 339-2117

Advisory board member: Robert Gjellstad, Voltaire, 338-2281

District 3 – Counties: Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette and Towner

Date: Dec. 1 – 7 p.m.

Location: Research Center, Langdon

Host: Cavalier County Gun Club

Contact: Rodney Howatt, 370-9988

Advisory board member: Tom Rost, Devils Lake, 662-8620

District 7 – Counties: Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux

Date: Dec. 2 – 7 p.m.

Location: Game and Fish Department, Bismarck

Host: Dakota Chapter Pheasants Forever

Contact: Rob Stenehjem, 400-8106

Advisory board member: Dave Nehring, Bismarck, 214-3184

District 8 – Counties: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope and Stark

Date: Dec. 2 – 7 p.m.

Location: American Legion, Killdeer

Host: North Dakota Fur Takers

Contact: Gary Jepson, 863-6535

Advisory board member: Dwight Hecker, Fairfield, 575-4952