

## NDG&F October 5th Newsletter

### Zebra Mussels Found in Grand Forks, Check Structures

Three adult zebra mussels found last week on Sorlie Bridge in Grand Forks serve as a reminder for local entities and water recreationists to thoroughly check for new aquatic nuisance species infestations when pulling and storing fishing piers, boat docks and lifts prior to ice up.

North Dakota Game and Fish Department ANS coordinator Fred Ryckman said the adult mussels were found on Red River sampling equipment by staff from the U.S. Geological Survey.

“This does not come as a surprise to us since earlier this summer one zebra mussel adult was found in Fargo, and many veligers were found along the entire length of the Red River,” Ryckman said. “This definitely serves as a reminder to look for zebra mussels now during winter prep work.”

Zebra mussels will attach to hard surfaces, such as fishing piers, boat docks and lifts, especially the undersides or other areas not exposed to direct sunlight. Ryckman said the three adults on Sorlie Bridge were attached to an aluminum pipe approximately three feet below the surface of the water.

If mussels are found, citizens are requested to leave the suspicious mussel attached, take a digital picture, and report findings immediately to a local Game and Fish Department district office. Pictures of zebra mussels are available on the [100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative](http://100thmeridian.org/) website at 100thmeridian.org/.

Game and Fish implemented two new emergency rules because of this year’s findings along the Red River, each designed to prevent the spread of zebra mussels outside the river.

The emergency rules are as follows:

- Anglers may no longer transport live bait in water away from the Red River. That means all water must be drained from bait buckets as anglers leave the shore, or remove their boat from the water. Anglers must properly dispose of unused bait away from the river, as dumping bait in the water or on shore is illegal. In the rest of the state, anglers can transport live bait in water in containers of 5 gallons or less in volume.
- All boats and other watercraft must have their plugs pulled when exiting the river, and plugs must remain pulled when the watercraft leaves the access area. In addition, all boats entering North Dakota must have their plugs pulled. This rule would also apply on any other waters where Class I ANS, including zebra mussels, are discovered in the future.

These new regulations and are in addition to other statewide aquatic nuisance species rules that are already in place. These include:

- water must be drained from watercraft, including from livewells and bilges, prior to leaving a water body;
- bait buckets and/or any container of 5 gallons or less in volume can be used to transport legal live baitfish or other bait in water;

- fish species other than minnows in containers of 5 gallons volume or less may not be held in water and/or transported in bait buckets/containers when away from a water body;
- no aquatic vegetation, or parts thereof, shall be in or on watercraft, motors, trailers and recreational equipment when out of water;
- all water must be drained from all watercraft and recreational, commercial, and construction equipment bilges and confined spaces, livewells and baitwells, when out of water or upon entering the state.

### **Motorists Warned to Watch for Deer**

Motorists are reminded to watch for deer along roadways, especially this time of year, because juvenile animals are dispersing from their home ranges.

October through early December is the peak period for deer-vehicle accidents. Motorists are advised to slow down and exercise caution after dark to reduce the likelihood of encounters with deer along roadways. Most deer-vehicle accidents occur primarily at dawn and dusk when deer are most often moving around.

Motorists should be aware of warning signs signaling deer are in the area. When you see one deer cross the road, look for a second or third deer to follow. Also, pay attention on roadways posted with *Deer Crossing Area* caution signs.

Deer-vehicle accidents are at times unavoidable. If an accident does happen, motorists are reminded that a law passed by the 2013 state legislature eliminates the need for the driver involved in an accident to notify law enforcement authorities, if only the vehicle is damaged. Deer-vehicle accidents that involve personal injury or other property damage still must be reported.

In addition, a permit is still required to take parts or the whole carcass of a road-killed deer. Permits are free and available from game wardens and local law enforcement offices.

A few precautions can minimize chances of injury or property damage in a deer-vehicle crash.

- Always wear your seat belt.
- Don't swerve or take the ditch to avoid hitting a deer. Try to brake as much as possible and stay on the roadway. Don't lose control of your vehicle or slam into something else to miss the deer. You risk less injury by hitting the deer.
- If you spot deer ahead, slow down immediately and honk your horn.

### **Order 2016 OUTDOORS Calendars**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is taking orders for its *North Dakota OUTDOORS* calendar, the source for all hunting season and application dates for 2016. Along with outstanding color photographs of North Dakota wildlife and scenery, it also includes sunrise-sunset times and moon phases.

To order, send \$3 for each, plus \$1 postage, to: Calendar, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095. Be sure to include a three-line return address with your order, or the post office may not deliver our return mailing.

The calendar is the [North Dakota OUTDOORS](#) magazine's December issue, so current subscribers will automatically receive it in the mail.