

NDG&F December 7th Newsletter

Winter Fishing Regulations

North Dakota anglers are encouraged to refer to the [2014-16 North Dakota Fishing Guide](#) or the State Game and Fish Department's website for winter fishing regulations.

In addition, anglers can visit the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov, for an extensive list of [fishing questions and answers](#).

Some winter fishing regulations include:

A maximum of four poles is legal for ice fishing. However, when fishing a water body where both open water and ice occur at the same time, an angler is allowed a maximum of four poles, of which no more than two poles can be used in open water.

Tip-ups are legal, and each tip-up is considered a single pole.

There is no restriction on the size of the hole in the ice while fishing. When a hole larger than 10 inches in diameter is left in the ice, the area in the immediate vicinity must be marked with a natural object. See regulations for more information.

It is only legal to release fish back into the water immediately after they are caught. Once a fish is held in a bucket or on a stringer, they can no longer be legally released in any water.

It is illegal to catch fish and transport them in water.

It is illegal to leave fish, including bait, behind on the ice.

Depositing or leaving any litter or other waste material on the ice or shore is illegal.

Any dressed fish to be transported, if frozen, must be packaged individually. Anglers are not allowed to freeze fillets together in one large block. Two fillets count as one fish.

The daily limit is a limit of fish taken from midnight to midnight. No person may possess more than one day's limit of fish while on the ice or actively engaged in fishing. If a situation occurs when an angler engages in fishing overnight, the first daily limit must be removed from the ice by midnight prior to continuing to fish.

The possession limit is the maximum number of fish that an angler may have in his or her possession during a fishing trip of more than one day.

Tentative 2016 Season Opening Dates

To help North Dakota hunters prepare for hunting seasons in 2016, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department annually provides its best estimate for opening dates for the coming year.

Dates become official when approved by governor's proclamation. Tentative opening dates for 2016 include:

Spring Turkey	April 9
Dove	September 1
Deer and Pronghorn Bow, Mountain Lion	September 2
Sharptail, Hun, Ruffed Grouse, Squirrel	September 10
Youth Deer	September 16
Youth Waterfowl	September 17
Early Resident Waterfowl	September 24
Regular Waterfowl, Youth Pheasant	October 1
Pronghorn Gun	October 7
Pheasant, Fall Turkey	October 8
Mink, Muskrat, Weasel Trapping	October 22
Deer Gun	November 4
Deer Muzzleloader	November 25