

NDG&F May 11th Newsletter

Oahe WMA Ban on Open Fires Lifted

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has removed the open fire ban on the Oahe Wildlife Management Area effective immediately. However, the area still falls under any burn restrictions implemented by Morton and Burleigh counties.

Open fires, including campfires, were prohibited this spring on Game and Fish managed property south of Bismarck and Mandan along both sides of the Missouri River.

Oahe WMA covers more than 16,000 acres along Lake Oahe south of Bismarck-Mandan, in portions of Burleigh, Emmons and Morton counties.

Legal Live Baitfish Reminder

Anglers are reminded that fathead minnows, sticklebacks, and creek chubs are the only legal live baitfish species that can be used in most North Dakota waters.

The only exceptions are the Red and Bois de Sioux rivers where white suckers are allowed, and 23 state waters where it is illegal to use any live baitfish.

North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries chief Greg Power said for years the department has worked with the wholesale and retail bait industry to help ensure anglers are buying clean and legal minnows at their local bait shops.

“While today’s bait is much cleaner than what may have been purchased years ago, it remains the angler’s responsibility to possess only legal live baitfish when fishing in North Dakota,” Power said.

For specific regulations regarding bait use and all other fishing regulations, refer to the 2014-16 North Dakota Fishing Guide.

First Fish Certificate

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is reminding parents to capture their little angler’s first catch on a specially designed First Fish certificate.

First Fish has no qualifying weights or measurements. The only requirement is the successful landing of a North Dakota fish. Certificates are available to all who request them, and have ample room for all the important information, such as name, age, lake and a short fish story, plus a blank space for a photograph big enough to contain the smile of the happiest little angler.

Free certificates are available by contacting the Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6300, or send an email to ndgf@nd.gov.

Missouri River Safety Day

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department and Townsquare Media are sponsoring the Missouri River SPLASH – a recreation and boating safety event for everyone who enjoys the Missouri River.

The event is Thursday, May 21 in Mandan from 3-6 p.m. at Moritz Sport and Marine. Displays, hands-on

activities, demonstrations, regulations, registrations and prizes are included.

The event is free, and people of all ages are invited to attend.

State law requires youngsters ages 12-15 who want to operate a boat or personal watercraft with at least a 10 horsepower motor to first pass the state's [Boat North Dakota safety course](#). In addition, some major insurance companies give adult boat owners who pass the course a premium discount on boat insurance.

The Boat North Dakota safety course is free and available at the Game and Fish Department.