

NDG&F December 19th Newsletter

Free Ice Fishing Weekend

North Dakota's free ice fishing weekend is Dec. 31, 2016 and Jan. 1, 2017.

Resident anglers may fish that weekend without a license. All other ice fishing regulations apply.

Those interested in [darkhouse spearfishing](#) that weekend must register with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department prior to participating. Registration is available by visiting the Department's website, gf.nd.gov, or through any Game and Fish office. Legal fish are northern pike and nongame species.

Boats Need 2017-19 Registration

North Dakota boat owners are reminded that 2017 is the first year of a new three-year registration period.

[Boat registrations](#) can be renewed online by clicking on "buy and apply" at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website, gf.nd.gov. In addition, boat owners should receive their registration mailing in early January.

The price to register motorboats under 16 feet in length, and all canoes, is \$18, motorboats from 16 feet to less than 20 feet in length is \$36, and motorboats at least 20 feet in length is \$45.

The new boat registration cycle begins Jan. 1 and runs through Dec. 31, 2019.

Also, anyone buying a new or used watercraft can generate a 10-day temporary permit online that is valid until the registration is processed.

Boat owners purchasing watercraft from private individuals this winter are reminded to register it in their name. [Registering a used watercraft](#) purchased from an individual must include proof of transfer of ownership, such as a photocopy of the previous owner's registration card, a canceled check or a signed note from the previous owner stating transfer of ownership.

Regulations require the boat number to be in contrasting color to the hull in plain vertical block letters at least 3 inches in height, excluding any border, trim, outlining or shading, and must be maintained in a legible condition so the number is clearly visible in daylight hours. The number must read from left to right, and groups of numbers and letters must be separated by a space or hyphen equivalent in width to the letter "M."

In addition, a validation sticker issued by the Game and Fish Department must be displayed on the boat within 6 inches of the number toward the rear of the boat. No other numbers should be displayed in this area.

Boat owners who do not receive a renewal notice by the end of January should contact the Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6335, or email ndgf@nd.gov. Many renewals are likely to be returned because some owners who moved within the last three years did not notify the Department with their new address.