

## NDG&F July 11<sup>TH</sup> Newsletter

### Record Production, Lakes Stocked

With North Dakota's recent growth in walleye fisheries, a record 150-plus lakes across the state were stocked with nearly 11 million walleye fingerlings earlier this summer.

Jerry Weigel, North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries production and development section leader, said this was made possible by record production of 10.4 million fingerlings at Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. "This is probably the most walleyes ever produced at a single hatchery anywhere in the country," Weigel said. "Only one time in the past 20 years has 10 million fingerlings been reached."

Valley City National Fish Hatchery also had a good year, shipping 1.7 million fingerlings. "Talk about bumper crops," Weigel said. "This was a great year for both hatcheries." While the 30-day old fish averaged 1.25 inches, the cumulative weight tallied nearly 8,500 pounds, which made for an intense couple of weeks delivering fish.

In total, 154 lakes and rivers were stocked in North Dakota, including Devils Lake (1.7 million fingerlings) and Lake Sakakawea (1.3 million). Some other waters to receive fingerlings were Stump Lake (518,000); Lake Darling (461,000); Heart Butte Reservoir (320,000); Lake Ashtabula (305,000); Lake Audubon (234,000); Pipestem Reservoir (203,000); and Alkaline Lake (200,000).

One common observation Weigel noted while traveling across the state was the number of anglers fishing from boats and from shore. "You now see boats and trailers in counties you never did before. We are fortunate to have the production capability at the hatcheries to adequately stock and maintain these fisheries statewide," Weigel said. "Given all the new fishable waters across North Dakota's prairie, there's never been a better time to fish in the state."

For a complete list of all fish stockings, visit the [Game and Fish Department's website](#)..

### Game and Fish at State Fair

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will host thousands of visitors to its free [Conservation and Outdoors Skills Park](#) July 22-30 at the State Fair in Minot.

Visitors will be treated to an array of activities, exhibits and useful information as the park is open from 1-7 p.m. daily. Pathways to Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Archery are major attractions where interested kids and adults can participate in each outdoor activity.

In addition to hands-on outdoor learning opportunities, the area offers a live fish display, furbearer exhibit and native prairie plantings. Two information centers staffed by Game and Fish Department personnel bookend the Conservation and Outdoors Skills Park, which is located on the north end of the fairgrounds near the State Fair Center.

### **Aug. 1 Deadline for NDDOCR Archery Hunt**

An experimental antlerless deer archery season will open this fall on the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation land south of Bismarck.

Interested hunters must apply for an access permit from NDDOCR at [www.nd.gov/docr](http://www.nd.gov/docr) (under the Archery Hunt header) before receiving a license. The deadline for applying is Aug. 1 at 4 p.m. Only 25 access permits will be issued.

A maximum of 75 antlerless deer licenses will be available from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Bismarck office. Each access permit holder can purchase up to three antlerless white-tailed deer licenses.

Other details, including areas open to hunting, is determined by the NDDOCR. For more information, refer to the NDDOCR website.