

NDF&G October 5th, 2009 Newsletter

Salmon Spawning to Begin

North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries personnel will stock 15,000 salmon in Lake Sakakawea this fall, and at the same time collect salmon for spawning purposes and stocking next year.

Scott Gangl, fisheries management section leader, said fall stocking in the big lake – largely brought on by low water levels – has been standard the past few years. “Historically, we’ve stocked salmon in spring,” Gangl said. “But when the lake’s water level dropped we lost a large portion of our cold water habitat, causing us to hold some fish in the hatchery to stock in fall to try to enhance their survival.”

Also similar to recent years, fisheries personnel will use electrofishing to collect the salmon for the spawning operation. “We stopped using the salmon ladder a few years ago due to the low water levels, and in doing so discovered we can collect salmon just as easily by electrofishing,” Gangl said. “Setting up and using the ladder was pretty labor intensive.”

Plans are to start salmon spawning efforts in early October, with completion scheduled by the end of the month. Numbers aren’t finalized for next year, but Gangl said the department is planning a larger egg take compared to this year. “The high water level brought an increase in forage in the lake,” he said. “We are planning a substantial increase in the number of salmon stocked next year.”

Chinook salmon begin their spawning run in early October. Since salmon cannot naturally reproduce in the lake, Game and Fish Department and Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery personnel collect eggs and transport them to the hatchery.

Once the eggs hatch, young salmon spend several months in the hatchery before they are stocked back into Lake Sakakawea, generally in spring.

Find Your Deer License

Deer gun season is only a month away. Do you know where your deer license is?

Every year the North Dakota Game and Fish Department gets last-minute inquiries from hunters who can’t find their licenses. When it happens on opening day, it’s difficult to get a replacement license quickly.

Deer hunters in need of a replacement license must print out a duplicate (replacement) license application from the Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov, or call (701) 328-6300 to have an application mailed or faxed.

The form must be completely filled out and notarized, and sent back in to the department with a fee. The application will be processed the day it is received at the office, and the license will be mailed out the next business day.

Another reason to find your license now is to check it for accuracy. Double-check the license to make sure the unit, species and deer sex are what you intended.

Order the 2010 OUTDOORS Calendar

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is taking orders for its North Dakota OUTDOORS calendar, the official source for all hunting season and application dates for 2010. 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.