

NDG&F May 23th Newsletter

Five Boat Ramps Ready on Devils Lake

Five boating access sites are now usable on Devils Lake, and three more are expected to be ready by early summer.

North Dakota Game and Fish Department personnel completed installing a slide-in metal ramp at Pelican Lake on the north side of Highway 19, about one mile east of the junction of old Highway 281.

Crews extended both Six Mile Bay (Schwab) ramps to elevation 1,458 feet above mean sea level, and installed a high-water ramp immediately north of the existing Creel Bay (Lakewood) ramp site.

Spirit Lake Casino ramp remains open.

Grahams Island State Park ramp is currently usable, but recreationists should call ahead (701-766-4015) to check for updates.

In addition, work is progressing on raising the East Bay parking area and boat ramps to elevation 1,461 msl, six feet higher than its 2010 elevation.

A new boating access site on Round Lake should be completed in early June, which will provide access to the western part of the lake and replace the Minnewaukan area ramps that were inundated earlier this spring. Benson County officials are working with the Federal Highway Administration for approval to breach the old Highway 281 roadbed, helping facilitate access to the main lake.

Construction of the new access area along ND Highway 20 on the south end of Black Tiger Bay is scheduled to begin in June, with completion scheduled around July 4. The site will include a gravel access road and turnaround area, a 32-foot-wide poured cement ramp, courtesy docks and large parking area.

Anglers and boaters can access the Game and Fish Department's website, gf.nd.gov, throughout the summer to find [the current status of Devils Lake boat ramps](#).

Anglers Reminded of ANS Regulations

North Dakota anglers are reminded of regulations intended to reduce the risk of aquatic nuisance species transfer between water bodies.

Current law states all water must be drained from watercraft prior to leaving a water body, including livewells. This means fish, including bait, cannot be transported in a livewell containing water. However, bait buckets and/or any container of five gallons or less in volume can be used to transport legal live baitfish and other bait in water. All other fish species, including game fish, may not be held in water

and/or transported in bait buckets/containers when away from a water body. Transportation of fish in or on ice is allowed.

In addition, no aquatic vegetation, or parts thereof, shall be in or on watercraft, motors, trailers and recreational equipment when out of water. Time out of the water needed to remove aquatic vegetation at the immediate water access area (boat ramp) is allowed.

All built-in structures to boats, including livewells and bait compartments, and containers (bait buckets) used to transport legal live bait, must also be free of aquatic vegetation.

[More information on ANS](http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/ans.html) is available on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website at gf.nd.gov/fishing/ans.html. A listing of [frequently asked questions and answers](http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/ans-faqs.html) is available at gf.nd.gov/fishing/ans-faqs.html.

Fishing for Free June 4-5

North Dakota anglers are reminded they can fish for free June 4-5.

That is the weekend North Dakota residents may fish without a license. All other fishing regulations apply.

Refer to the 2010-12 North Dakota Fishing Guide for season information.