

NDG&F May 24th, 2010 Newsletter

Enforcement Officers Visible on Missouri River

Law enforcement officers patrolling the Missouri River will continue to have an enhanced presence in the Bismarck-Mandan area this summer.

Robert Timian, North Dakota Game and Fish Department chief of enforcement, said last summer's initial effort of having district game wardens and paid volunteers from county and city law enforcement agencies in the area was successful.

"Our main focus is to ensure safety by providing a larger enforcement presence," Timian said.

Safety on the Missouri River in the Bismarck-Mandan area has been a major enforcement issue for the Game and Fish Department, as the number of anglers, boaters, jet skiers and other recreationists has continued to grow during the past decade.

"It is perhaps the most popular water recreation area in the state, and with all those users limited between the two banks of the river problems are bound to arise," Timian said. "Our plan is to continue to have an enhanced presence in the area as long as funding exists and local officers are willing to participate."

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 that 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.

In addition, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department has submitted a proposal that will require water in all livewells and baitwells to be drained prior to leaving a water body. This means that fish, including bait, may no longer be transported in a livewell containing water. Transportation of fish in or on ice will be allowed. If approved, this rule would likely become effective Oct. 1. However, the Game and Fish Department encourages anglers to implement this practice immediately.

Fishing for Free June 5-6

North Dakota anglers are reminded they can fish for free June 5-6.

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

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