

NDG&F October 3rd Newsletter

Salmon Spawning Begins

North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries personnel will use electrofishing in Lake Sakakawea and the Garrison Tailrace to collect salmon for spawning purposes.

Improved habitat and forage conditions allowed Game and Fish to increase stocking levels in 2010. Dave Fryda, Missouri River System supervisor, said those efforts will continue in 2011.

“The Sakakawea salmon fishery was greatly compromised during the drought, but with the return of water and forage the fishery will continue to improve in the next few years,” Fryda said.

Salmon spawning efforts will continue through most of October.

Chinook salmon begin their spawning run in early October. Since salmon cannot naturally reproduce in the Missouri River System, 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 and the Garrison Tailrace, generally in spring.

Find Your Deer License

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department urges deer hunters to find your license and check it for accuracy.

Every year the Game and Fish Department’s licensing section receives last-minute inquiries, including the morning of opening day, from hunters who can’t find their license. If it happens at that point, it’s difficult to try to get a replacement license in time for the season opener.

Another reason to find your license now is to check it for accuracy. Double-check the license to make sure the unit and species is what you thought it should be.

Deer hunters in need of a replacement license can print out a duplicate (replacement) license application from the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov, or can 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 day.

Order 2011 OUTDOORS Calendar

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is taking orders for its North Dakota OUTDOORS calendar, the source for all hunting season and application dates for 2011. 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.

Stanton Boat Ramp Closed Oct. 11-15

The Stanton (UPA) boat ramp along the Missouri River in Mercer County is scheduled to be closed for work beginning Monday, Oct. 11 and continuing through Friday, Oct. 15.

Bob Frohlich, fisheries development supervisor for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, said contractors are expected to widen the lower turnaround area by 25-30 feet.

“The existing turnaround area is narrow and larger boats have a difficult time making the swing,” Frohlich said. “Approaching the ramp and turning to back in will be much easier.”

The ramp is scheduled to open by the weekend, Oct. 16-17.

Producers Busy, Hunters Use Caution

North Dakota hunters are reminded to be cautious of farmers and ranchers who are currently busy with fall farm duties, including harvesting crops, moving cattle and hauling bales.

Jeb Williams, wildlife resource management supervisor for the state Game and Fish Department, said many producers in the southwest are currently trying to wrap up harvest, causing road traffic to be heavy in some areas. “It’s safe to assume that farmers and ranchers in other parts of the state are equally busy,” Williams said. “Harvest is in full swing, and hunters should be aware of farm equipment and other vehicles moving down the road.”

To maintain positive landowner/hunter relations, hunters are asked to move to the side of the road and allow wide farm vehicles to pass, park their vehicles in a place that will not block a roadway, field approach or gate, pick up trash and empty shells, and not clean game in the road ditch or approach.