

NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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SPECIAL FISHING ISSUE





MATTERS OF OPINION



Terry Steinwand
Director

Hopefully, by the time *North Dakota OUTDOORS'* annual fishing issue reaches readers, winter will have loosened its grip on the state once and for all. For the most part, this has been an "average" winter in terms of snowfall and temperatures, and we were looking forward to spring and the new life that comes to the prairies.

While it has become an extended winter, the past ice fishing season appears to have been very good from the reports I've received. Until mid-March, access was good to most lakes across the state and fishing was better. I wish I could provide a firsthand ice fishing report, but I just never seemed to find the time to make it on the ice.

Even though much of the state had plenty of snow and, eventually, runoff to contend with, it's shaping up to be another good open water fishing season. There will be exceptions, of course, but overall water levels and access look to add up to another great fishing season.

It's always a combination of factors that provide good fishing opportunities in North Dakota. Mother Nature has to cooperate, and the Game and Fish Department fisheries division has to do its part to manage the fish stock and provide angler access. It's always difficult to predict what Mother Nature will do, but I can predict with accuracy that our fisheries crews will do another tremendous job.

In early April, I know fisheries crews were anxiously waiting for the thaw so they could get out and gather fish eggs and begin other necessary spring work. As the thaw is delayed, however, their time frame becomes

more compressed and days get long. But, as always, they'll get the job done and eggs will be delivered to the hatchery. Then, in about mid-June, young walleye, northern pike and other fish species will be distributed to a growing number of lakes across the state.

Every year at this time I remind everyone that spring is one of the best times of the year to go fishing. And there are more than enough lakes, small and large, across the state to wet a line. It wasn't that long ago the Game and Fish Department managed around 150 lakes. Today, that number has jumped to about 400 waters, all of which provide great opportunities for spring fishing.

And let's not forget about aquatic nuisance species. While we've been fortunate that many of these creatures haven't been introduced into North Dakota waters, some are creeping closer to the state. The introduction and transportation of aquatic nuisance species is not simply a fishing issue, but can also affect municipal water supplies and cause other frustrations. Still, I'm asking all anglers to be aware of the threat and take the necessary action to reduce the risk of exotics getting into North Dakota waters.

To do your part to reduce the spread of aquatic nuisance species, visit the Department's website at gf.nd.gov. As you will learn, prevention measures are simple and won't take much of your time.

Most of all, take friends and family out fishing this spring and enjoy some of the best that North Dakota has to offer. It's relaxing and offers the opportunity to reconnect with the outdoors and those close to you. I know I'm going to do it.

Terry Steinwand

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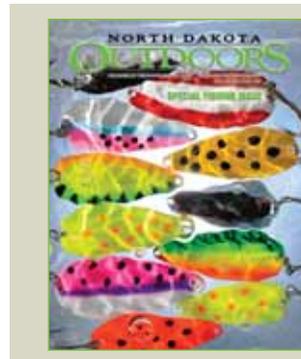
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Front Cover

With pike populations peaking in many lakes and rivers, a spoon, in just about any size or color configuration, is a reliable lure for attracting North Dakota's state fish. *Photo by Craig Bihle, Bismarck.*



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Greg Power, North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries chief, predicts a favorable outlook for North Dakota anglers in 2013.



When Yesterday BECOMES TODAY

By Greg Power

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG POWER

Typically, the view through a crystal ball is not obvious when making long-term predictions. However, in the case of forecasting fishing opportunities in North Dakota for 2013, the view is pretty clear, with a favorable outlook for anglers.

Although a few water bodies may have slower fishing than what many have experienced in recent years, most anglers should have another good to excellent year in 2013.

Why such optimism? Well, we need to first look back to understand what to expect in the future.

For so many events in life, there's usually a lag between actions and consequences. Parents heavily invest their time into their children in hopes that as young adults they make mature decisions. Society participates in educating our youth, anticipating someday they will become civic leaders, entrepreneurs and so on. This cause and effect dynamic is also true for today's fishing opportunities.

Fishing-related events and actions that occurred in the past are often observed today in both opportunity and success. To that end, I'd like to share a short list of management decisions/actions made by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department that are contributing to today's good fishing.

However, before sharing these dozen or so success stories, it is imperative to recognize that Mother Nature has been extremely kind to both fish and angler in the past 20 years. Most notably, the unprecedented wet conditions between 1993 and 2011 that resulted in today's record number of 400 or so managed water bodies. That's more than double the number of managed waters North Dakota had in the late 1980s. Runoff has filled sloughs and meadows, creating phenomenal new fisheries through much of central and eastern North Dakota.

Regardless of all the new water on the landscape, anglers fishing North Dakota's waters also benefit from past management decisions, actions, and in some cases, nonaction. Whether someone caught a 10-pound walleye from Lake Sakakawea in the mid-1980s, a 2-pound yellow perch from Devils Lake in 2012, a rainbow trout anywhere in North Dakota, a chinook salmon from Garrison Dam Tailrace, a walleye from any of the state's nearly 150 walleye lakes, or simply went fishing in their boat on one of 265 lakes with public ramps, a number of past landmark events helped shape these opportunities. Looking through the rearview mirror, these activities, some dating back 40-plus years, are briefly highlighted:

- Despite being the largest water body in the state, forage was sorely lacking in Lake Sakakawea after it filled in the 1960s. The introduction of rainbow smelt in 1972 ultimately provided a strong forage base and is/was responsible for the large predator fish (walleye, northern pike and chinook salmon) in the Missouri River System.
- In 1986, a new coldwater production facility was completed at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery, enabling the Game and Fish Department to annually stock quality-sized chinook salmon into Lake Sakakawea and Garrison Tailrace. Further, the coldwater building annually produces up to 80,000 catchable-sized trout, mainly rainbows, that are stocked annually into approximately 50 waters statewide, including the Tailrace.
- During the early to mid-1980s, the Department evaluated a walleye fingerling stocking approach that proved successful for Lake Sakakawea. This information helped support the need for additional rearing ponds, and eventually walleye stocking strategies were applied successfully for all of the state's water bodies, including Sakakawea and Devils Lake.
- With an obvious need to supplement Lake Sakakawea's walleye population, and an ongoing call to stock more fingerlings into district lakes, the number of rearing ponds at Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery was expanded from 24 to 64 in 1989. Since then, North Dakota has led the nation most years in stocking walleye and northern pike fingerlings. Both pond expansion and the coldwater facility would not have been possible without the unique and strong partnership between the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- In 1986, with an influx of more Sport Fish Restoration funds, the Department cost-shared for the first poured concrete boat ramp in the state and subsequently has been able to adequately fund a development program that meets the state's public boating infrastructure needs. Ramps, docks, toilets, roads and fish cleaning stations are now part of the normal routine.
- An unglamorous, but critically important initiative was tackled beginning in the early 1990s, addressing bait bucket transfer of unwanted fish throughout the state. An

information/education campaign highlighted a pressing need to eliminate possession and transfer of illegal baits, and involved anglers as well as wholesale and retail bait vendors. Paralleling this increase in public awareness of illegal baits, rough fish were eliminated from dozens of North Dakota waters, which were then restocked with game fish. More than 20 years later, most of these water bodies remain clean of rough fish and provide good recreational fishing opportunities.

- Today, Devils Lake and yellow perch fishing are synonymous, but it wasn't always that way. The introduction of adult yellow perch in Devils Lake in the early 1970s has provided countless hours of fishing recreation. In addition, an aggressive statewide adult yellow perch trap and transport program spearheaded by Department fisheries biologists, especially from the late 1990s to now, have produced dozens of ice fishing destinations that were once void of fish. In 2010, for example, Department staff stocked approximately 50 perchless lakes with 400,000 adult perch that spawned and produced young.
- An intense introduction effort, peaking in the 1990s, established smallmouth bass populations in many water bodies throughout the state. After

initial stockings, most of these smallmouth populations are now self-sustaining and provide excellent, alternative fishing prospects.

- Recreational fishing opportunities have increased substantially since the mid-1970s, when some traditional fishing regulations were relaxed. For instance, year-round fishing was first allowed on the Missouri River System in 1975, and then statewide in 1993. Another example is the allowance of up to four lines for ice fishing, which became legal in 1996. And most recently, the northern pike limit was increased from three to five daily. This attentive liberalization increased fishing interest and opportunity, while the needed measures to protect the respective fisheries were not compromised.
- Another regulation matter involves the Game and Fish Department's ability to maintain "biology" as the basic foundation in the formulation of regulations. The Department uses the best available science for establishing fishing regulations, and has not overreacted to public demand for further regulations when/where they would ultimately prove ineffective.
- Lastly, the Department's fisheries division is one of the smallest in the nation, but a new generation of staff biologists and technicians continue

Since the number of rearing ponds at Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery was expanded in the late 1980s, North Dakota has led the nation most years in stocking northern pike and walleye fingerlings.



GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT PHOTO

a longstanding work ethic, strong commitment and unyielding perseverance. The job of a field biologist is often not easy, but collective knowledge grounded on real-life work experiences leads to decision-making that truly best serves North Dakota anglers.

Fisheries biologists, especially on the prairies, need to be humble as Mother Nature plays the largest role – often giving (wet periods) and often taking away (droughts). Also, because our fishing lakes are generally at the bottom of watersheds, managers must also deal with challenging chemical and biological complexities within the water bodies due to nutrient loading and sedimentation.

Yet, despite often having our hands tied, management decisions and practices over the long run have influenced today's great fishing on North Dakota's prairie.

GREG POWER is the Game and Fish Department's fisheries chief.



MIKE ANDERSON

In 1986, with an influx of more Sport Fish Restoration funds, the Game and Fish Department cost-shared for the first poured concrete boat ramp in the state and subsequently has been able to adequately fund a development program that meets the state's public boating infrastructure needs.

Members of the Game and Fish Department's fisheries division, which is one of the smallest in the nation, net an urban creek in Bismarck for chinook salmon in 2011.



RON WILSON

2013 NORTH DAKOTA

FISHING WATERS REPORT

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has for years provided driving directions and infrastructure information on actively managed lakes, while also noting the primary fish species present in each fishery.

In addition, *North Dakota OUTDOORS* has periodically highlighted a number of these lakes in a fishing outlook.

This year, we're combining those efforts into an enhanced fishing waters review, by including fish population comments for most of the respective fisheries, in addition to other lake information.

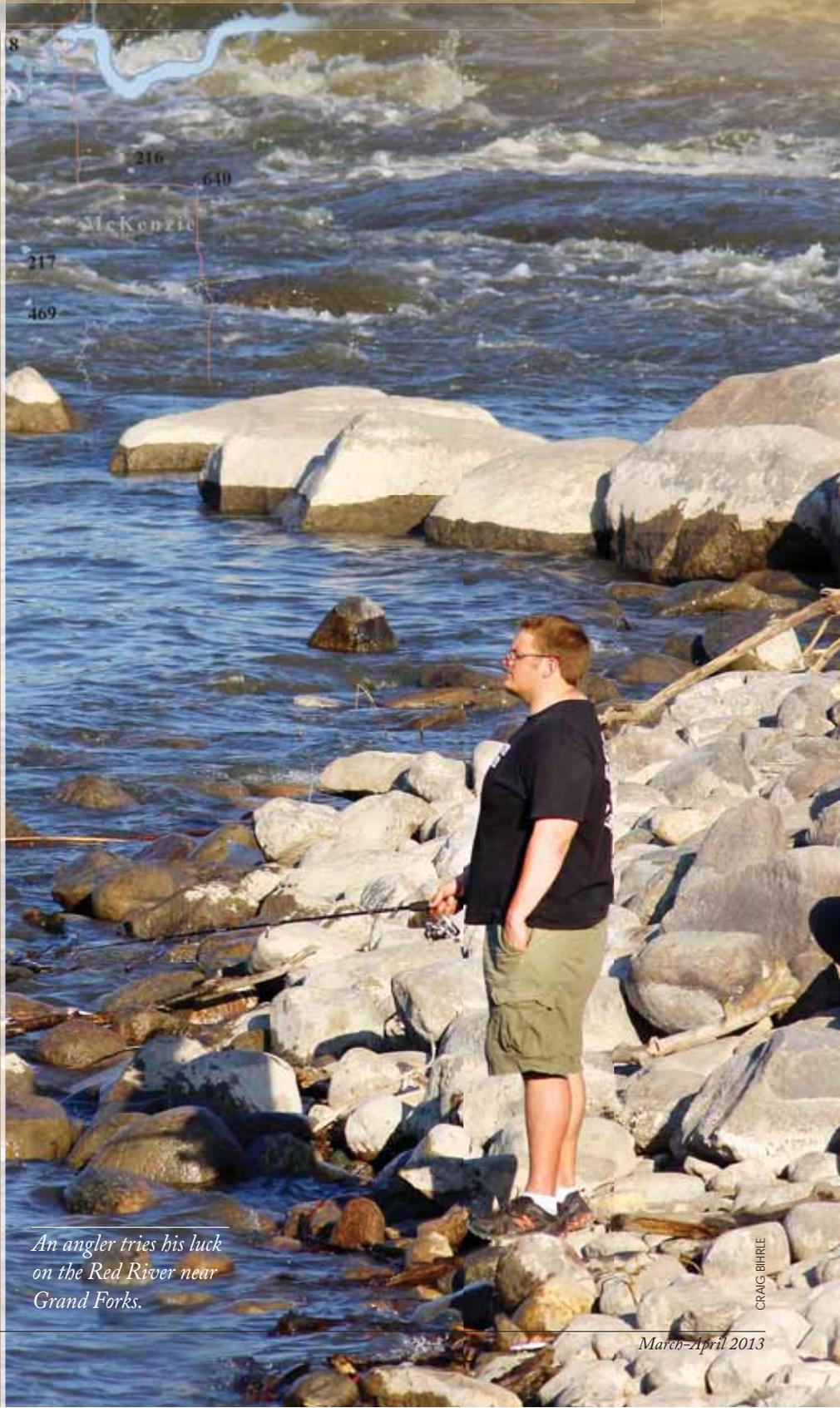
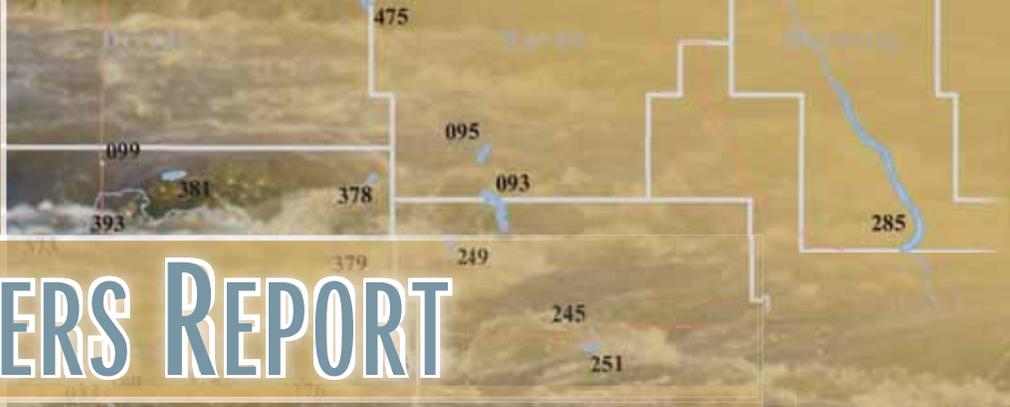
The fishery outlooks, provided by Department district fisheries supervisors, are not necessarily comprehensive fishing reports, but glimpses into the fisheries to help frame angler expectations. To learn where the fish are biting, check with fishing friends or at your local bait and tackle shop.

With 400-plus managed fishing waters in North Dakota today, compared to about 170 two decades ago, there are many unknowns. For instance, with a record number of waters on the landscape, fisheries biologists have yet to conduct thorough population assessments on many lakes.

While the information on North Dakota waters in this publication is static, any changes and updates will appear on the Game and Fish Department's website at gf.nd.gov.

What follows are public fishing waters in North Dakota listed by county in the six districts managed by Department biologists. The number in parenthesis that follows each fishery is simply a code used by biologists to help identify those waters. The codes are also found on the maps to help readers locate the waters in which they are interested.

Most state public fishing waters have boat ramps. Lakes or rivers where no ramp exists are listed as "no ramp." Check signs at each area for further restrictions.



An angler tries his luck on the Red River near Grand Forks.

CRAIG BIRRE

NORTHWEST FISHERIES DISTRICT

*Fred Ryckman, district fisheries supervisor,
Riverdale*

BURKE COUNTY

Northgate Dam (097) – 6 miles north, 1 mile west, 2 miles north, .5 miles west of Bowbells. Contains good populations of walleye, rainbow trout and bluegill.

Also fair numbers of black crappie. Fairly intense recreational use. (Fishing pier).

Powers Lake (093) – Southeast side of Powers Lake. Consists entirely of northern pike, with most ranging from 2-5 pounds. Periodic winterkills greatly impact this fishery, with the most recent occurring in 2010-11. (Fishing pier).

Short Creek Dam (094) – 5.5 miles north of Columbus. Still rebounding from a near-total fish kill in July 2010. Contains fair populations of small pike and walleye, with expanding numbers of adult yellow perch and bluegill. (Fishing pier).

Smishek Lake (095) – 4 miles northwest of Powers Lake. Contains good numbers of yellow perch and bluegill. Also fair numbers of walleye and northern pike, with a few big fish of both species. Fairly intense recreational use. (Fishing pier).

DIVIDE COUNTY

Baukol-Noonan Dam (475) – 2 miles east, .5 miles south of Noonan. Primarily rainbow trout, although fair numbers of largemouth bass present. Also contains fair numbers of small yellow perch and bluegill. (Fishing pier).

Baukol-Noonan East Mine Pond (508) – 2 miles east, .5 miles south of Noonan. Primarily rainbow trout, although contains a few largemouth bass. Also holds fair numbers of small yellow perch and bluegill. Black bullheads abundant.

Skjermo Lake (126) – 3 miles west, 4 miles northwest of Fortuna. Consists entirely of a strong population of northern pike. Apparently all yellow perch were lost to summerkill in 2012, but plans are to restock with adult perch in spring 2013. (Fishing pier).

MCKENZIE COUNTY

Arnegard Dam (216) – .5 miles west, 3 miles north, 1.5 miles southwest of Arnegard. Primarily northern pike, with some

larger pike present. Also holds some adult yellow perch, and an abundance of black bullheads. (Fishing pier).

Leland Dam (469) – 11 miles south, 8 miles west, 8 miles south, 2 miles southeast, 1.5 miles east, 1 mile north of Alexander. Contains good populations of bluegill and largemouth bass. Lack of public use facilities and poor access at times limit use.

Sather Dam (217) – 11 miles south, 8 miles west of Alexander. Apparently experienced a near-total fish kill during winter 2010-11. Contains good numbers of small bluegill, but largemouth bass population not yet reestablished. (Fishing pier).

Watford City Park Pond (640) – Southeast side of Watford City. Fishing opportunities reliant on annual stocking due to annual winterkills. Plans to stock with rainbow trout and adult channel catfish in spring 2013. (No ramp, fishing pier).

MOUNTRAIL COUNTY

Stanley Pond (245) – Northeast side of Stanley. Fishing opportunities limited by frequent winterkills. Plans to stock with rainbow trout and adult channel catfish in spring 2013. (Fishing pier).

Stanley Reservoir (251) – 1 mile south of Stanley. Fishing opportunities limited

by frequent winterkills, the most recent during winter 2010-11. Contains good numbers of small northern pike.

White Earth Dam (249) – 6 miles north of White Earth. Consists primarily of northern pike, but also contains fair numbers of walleye and yellow perch. A few black crappie present, and also an expanding bluegill population. (Fishing pier).

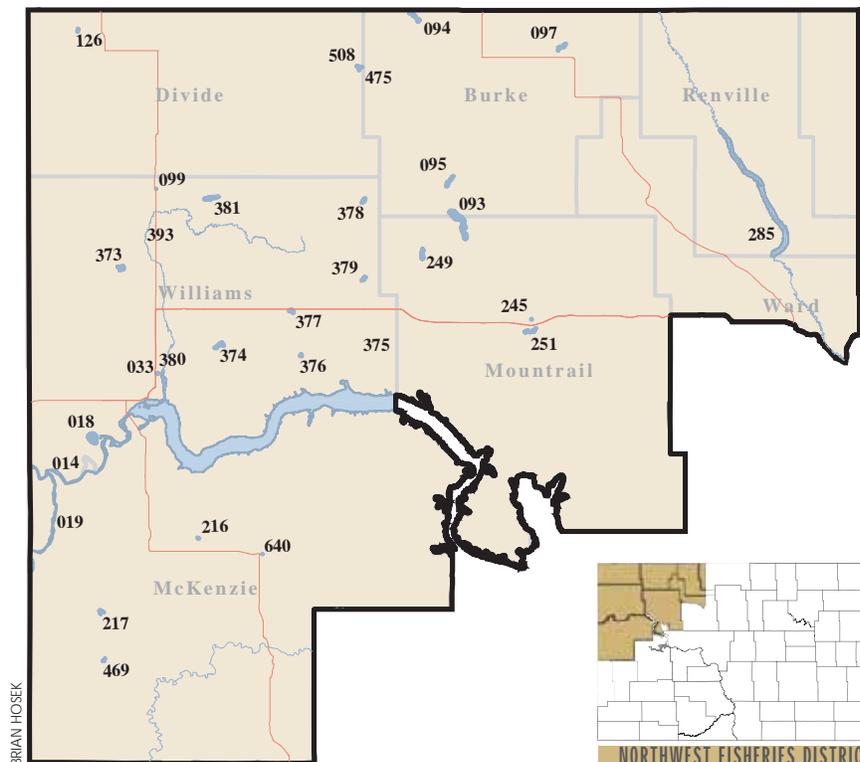
RENNVILLE COUNTY

Lake Darling (285) – 16 miles north, 13 miles west of Minot. Contains strong populations of northern pike, walleye and yellow perch. (Fishing pier).

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Blacktail Dam (373) – 5 miles north, 5 miles west, 1 mile north of the junction of U.S. highways 2 and 85. Contains a strong northern pike population. Also holds fair numbers of walleye, yellow perch and bluegill. Fairly intense recreational use. (Fishing pier).

Cottonwood Lake (381) – 1 mile east, .5 miles north of Alamo. Consists entirely of good numbers of small northern pike. Although yellow perch were heavily stocked in 2012, apparently few survived. (Fishing pier).



East Spring Lake Pond (380) – North side of Williston. Fishing opportunities almost totally reliant on annual stocking due to frequent winterkills. Plans to stock with northern pike and adult channel catfish in spring 2013. (No ramp, fishing pier).

Epping-Springbrook Dam (374) – 1.5 miles east of Springbrook. Contains fair populations of northern pike, walleye and yellow perch. Also holds an overabundance of black bullheads. (Fishing pier).

Kettle Lake (099) – 3 miles east, 2.5 miles north of Zahl. Consists primarily of rainbow trout, brown trout and largemouth bass. Yellow perch also present, but the population is overabundant and stunted. (Fishing pier).

Kota-Ray Dam (376) – 5 miles south, .5 miles east, 2 miles south of Ray. Contains a wide variety of fish species, including walleye, rainbow trout and yellow perch, with strongest populations of largemouth bass and bluegill. Fairly intense recreational use. (Fishing pier).

Little Muddy River (393) – East edge of Williston. Highly dependent on high water levels and fish movement from upper Missouri River. Contains fair populations of northern pike and channel catfish, with many other species present. (Fishing pier).

McGregor Dam (378) – 1 mile south of McGregor. Contains good numbers of walleye, yellow perch and rainbow trout. (Fishing pier).

McLeod (Ray) Reservoir (377) – Southwest side of Ray. Contains a strong population of young walleye. Also a few adult bluegill, yellow perch and northern pike. (Fishing pier).

Tioga Dam (379) – North side of Tioga. Consists mainly of young pike, although a few older and larger pike present. Apparently limited survival of recent stockings of adult yellow perch. A few adult bluegill present. (Fishing pier).

Trenton Lake (018) – South side of Trenton. Contains a strong population of northern pike, with most ranging from 2-5

pounds. Also a good crappie population. Many other species also present. (Fishing pier).

West Spring Lake Pond (033) – North edge of Williston. Fishing opportunities limited by frequent winterkills. Fishery consists of rainbow trout stocked annually. (No ramp).

RIVERS AND LAKES

Upper Missouri River (014) – Missouri River from Williston to Montana state line. Primarily a spring and fall fishery for sauger and walleye, but increasing angling effort targeting abundant channel catfish and northern pike populations. Many other species also present.

Yellowstone River (019) – Near towns of Buford, Cartwright and Fairview. Primarily a spring and fall fishery for sauger and walleye, but increasing angling effort targeting abundant channel catfish and northern pike populations. Many other species also present. (Fishing pier).

SOUTHWEST FISHERIES DISTRICT

Jeff Hendrickson, district fisheries supervisor, Dickinson

ADAMS COUNTY

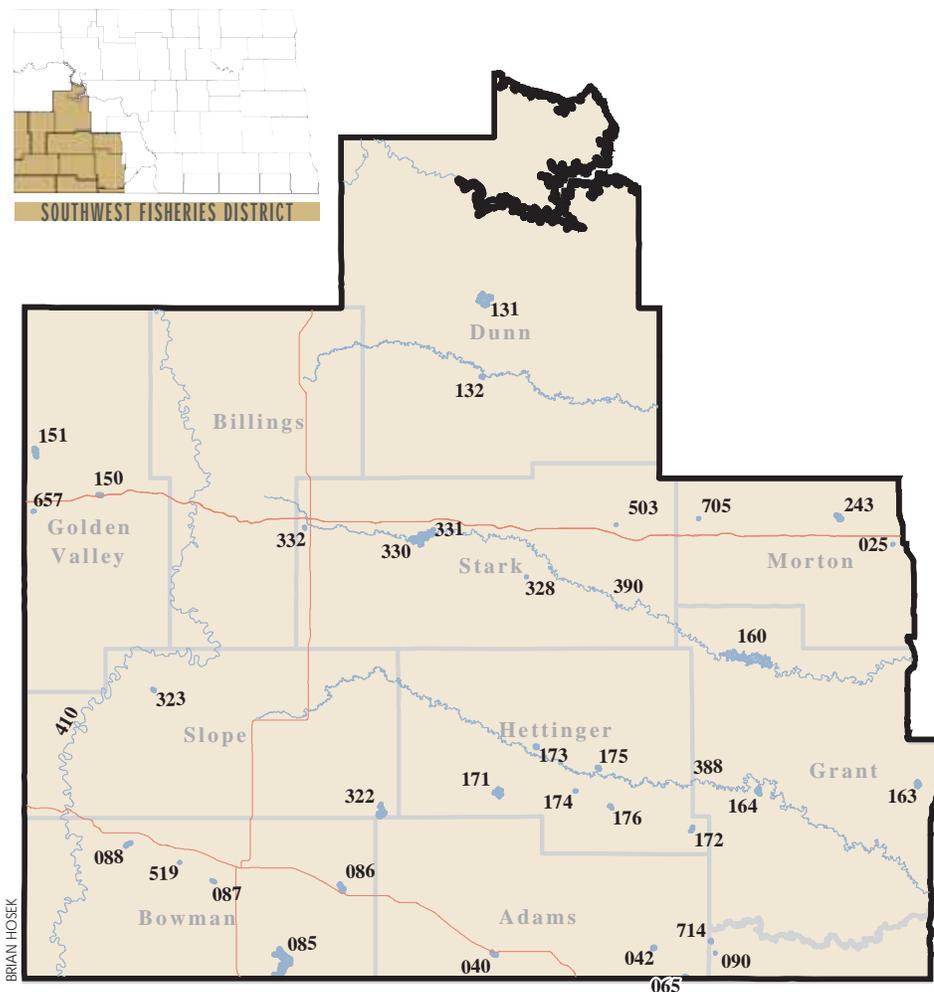
Bolke Dam (065) – 5 miles east, .5 miles north, .5 miles west, .5 miles north of Lemmon, South Dakota. Rainbow trout stocked annually. (No ramp).

Mirror Lake (040) – South side of Hettinger. Northern pike up to 5 pounds, and an abundance of small bullheads. Catfish up to 5 pounds stocked most years. (Fishing pier).

North Lemmon (042) – 5 miles north of Lemmon, South Dakota. Rainbow trout stocked annually. Brown trout up to 5 pounds present. Bluegill and yellow perch are abundant and small. Largemouth bass up to 2 pounds are common. Walleye up to 10 pounds present. (Fishing pier).

BOWMAN COUNTY

Bowman-Haley Dam (085) – 11 miles south, 8 miles east, 2 miles south of Bowman. Dominated by walleye, some up to 6 pounds, northern pike up to 10 pounds and smallmouth bass up to 3 pounds. Some yellow perch up to 2 pounds and small white bass. Many large carp present, good for bowfishing. (Fishing pier).



Gascoyne Lake (086) – 1.5 miles north-west of Gascoyne. Northern pike stocked annually and pike up to 5 pounds present. Small carp, bullhead and green sunfish abundant at times.

Kalina Dam (087) – 2 miles west, 1 mile south, 1 mile west, 1 mile south of Bowman. Abundant northern pike up to 10 pounds, yellow perch and bluegill are mostly small, but some large fish caught on occasion. Make sure to access lake from south shore. (No ramp).

Lutz Dam (519) – 2.5 miles south, 2 miles west of Griffin. Rainbow trout stocked annually. Winterkilled recently. Abundant bluegill up to a half pound, and small crappie. Small adult largemouth bass stocked in 2012. (No ramp).

Spring Lake (088) – 1 mile south, 4 miles west of Rhame. Recent winterkills have drastically reduced pike population. Yellow perch up to 1 pound are abundant.

DUNN COUNTY

Dvorak Dam (132) – 3.5 miles south, 5 miles east, .5 miles north of Manning. Yellow perch stocked in 2009. (No ramp).

Lake Ilo (131) – 1 mile west, 1 mile south of Dunn Center. Abundant northern pike up to 10 pounds, some perch up to a half pound. (Fishing pier).

GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY

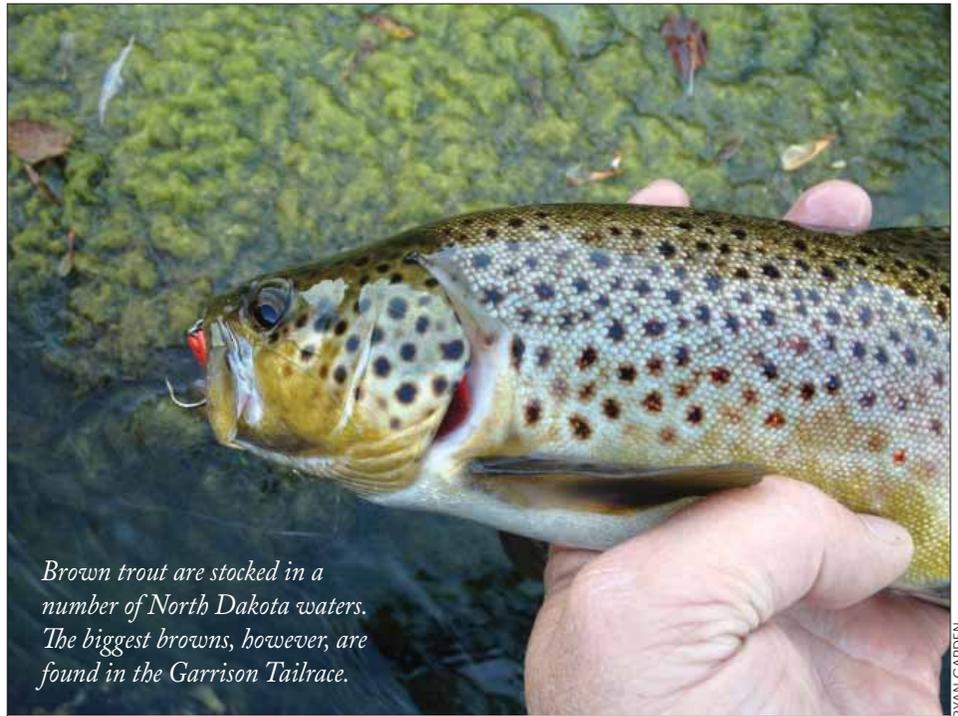
Beach City Pond (657) – Southwest side of Beach. Rainbow trout stocked annually. (No ramp, fishing pier).

Camels Hump Dam (150) – Northeast of Sentinel Butte I-94 Exit 18. Rainbow trout stocked annually, with some up to 2 pounds. Abundant largemouth bass are mostly small, some up to 2 pounds. Some bluegill up to 1 pound. Some brown trout and smallmouth bass present.

Odland Dam (151) – 7 miles north of Beach. Winterkills often. Perch and bluegill restocked recently. (Fishing pier).

GRANT COUNTY

Heart Butte Reservoir (Lake Tschida) (160) – 15 miles south of Glen Ullin. Dominated by small walleye, with some up to 10 pounds, 2- to 5-pound northern pike, white bass up to 2 pounds, catfish up to 10 pounds and smallmouth bass up to 2 pounds. Some perch up to 1 pound, crappie up to 2 pounds and small bluegill.



Brown trout are stocked in a number of North Dakota waters. The biggest browns, however, are found in the Garrison Tailrace.

RYAN GARDEN

Many large buffalo present. (Fishing pier).

Raleigh Reservoir (163) – 3.5 miles west, .25 miles south of Raleigh. Rainbow trout stocked annually. Abundant small northern pike, with some up to 15 pounds and bluegill up to 1 pound. Some largemouth bass up to 5 pounds, perch up to a half pound and small crappie. (Fishing pier).

Sheep Creek Dam (164) – 4 miles south, .5 miles west of Elgin. Rainbow trout stocked annually, with some up to 3 pounds. Abundant largemouth bass, with some up to 5 pounds, bluegill up to 1 pound and crappie up to a half pound. Some walleye up to 1 pound, brown trout up to 2 pounds and smallmouth bass up to 1 pound. (Fishing pier).

HETTINGER COUNTY

Blickensderfer Dam (176) – 4 miles south, 1 mile east, .5 miles south of Mott. Abundant small bluegill, with some up to 1 pound. Some walleye up to 2 pounds, northern pike up to 8 pounds and small perch. (No ramp).

Castle Rock Dam (174) – 2 miles west, 1.5 miles south, 1.5 miles west of Mott. Rainbow trout stocked annually. Bluegill stocked in 2009.

Indian Creek Dam (171) – 1.5 miles west, 2 miles south, 2 miles west, 3 miles south of Regent. Abundant walleye up to 10 pounds, small yellow perch, with some up to a half pound and mostly small bluegill,

with some up to 1 pound. Some smallmouth bass up to a half pound. (Fishing pier).

Kilzer Dam (172) – 4.5 miles south, 1 mile east of Bentley. Bluegill stocked in 2011 and largemouth bass stocked in 2012. (No ramp).

Larson Lake (173) – .5 miles north and 2 miles east of Regent. Abundant northern pike up to 2 pounds. Some perch up to a half pound.

Mott Watershed Dam (175) – North side of Mott. Rainbow trout stocked annually, with some up to 3 pounds. Abundant small largemouth bass, with some up to 2 pounds. Some bluegill up to about 1 pound. (Fishing pier).

MORTON COUNTY

Danzig Dam (243) – 2 miles north, 1.4 miles west, .2 miles north of I-94 Exit 120. Drawn down for dredging and chemical renovation to remove undesirable fish in 2013. Likely not fishable.

Gaeb Pond (025) – 1.5 miles west of New Salem. Rainbow trout stocked annually. Adult catfish up to 5 pounds stocked most years. Some small perch and bluegill. (No ramp, fishing pier).

Krieg's Pond (705) – .5 miles east of Hebron. Rainbow trout stocked annually. Adult yellow perch stocked in 2011. (No ramp).

SIoux COUNTY

Labow Lake (714) – 4 miles north, 3 miles west, 1 mile north, 1 mile east of Thunderhawk, South Dakota. Bluegill stocked in 2011 and largemouth bass stocked in 2012. (No ramp).

Larson Lake (090) – 4 miles north, 1 mile west of Thunderhawk, South Dakota. History of winterkill. Largemouth bass and bluegill stocked in 2009. (No ramp).

SLOPE COUNTY

Cedar Lake (322) – 13 miles north, 2 miles west of Reeder. Winterkills often. Abundant northern pike, with some up to 10 pounds. Some perch up to a half pound. Small carp and bullhead abundant. Catfish up to 5 pounds stocked some years.

Davis Dam (323) – 16 miles west, 4 miles north of Amidon. Rainbow trout stocked annually. Abundant small largemouth bass, with some up to 2 pounds and bluegill up to 1 pound.

STARK COUNTY

Belfield Pond (332) – Southwest side of Belfield. Rainbow trout stocked annually. Catfish up to 5 pounds stocked most years. Some perch up to a third pound and bluegill up to a quarter pound. Abundant green sunfish up to a quarter pound. (Fishing pier).

Dassinger Pond (328) – 8 miles south, 1 mile east, .8 miles north of I-94 Exit 72. Walk through the gate 500 yards northwest. Adult largemouth bass and bluegill stocked in 2010. (No ramp).

Dickinson Dike (331) – Southwest side of Dickinson. Rainbow trout stocked annually. Adult catfish up to 5 pounds stocked most years. Abundant bass up to 2 pounds and small bluegill up to a quarter pound. (Fishing pier).

Dickinson Reservoir (Patterson Lake) (330) – 2 miles west of Dickinson. Chemical renovation in 2009. Consists of walleye mostly less than 1 pound, northern pike up to 15 pounds, yellow perch up to 1 pound, small bluegill and small crappie. Many small bullheads present. Adult catfish have been stocked recently. (Fishing pier).

Slater Pond (503) – From I-94 Exit 84, .75 miles north, 1 mile east, .5 miles north, .5 miles east. Rainbow trout

stocked annually. Adult perch stocked in 2009 and have become abundant. (No ramp).

RIVERS AND LAKES

Cannonball River (388) – In Slope, Hettinger, Grant and Sioux counties. Abundant carp most of the time. Some walleye, northern pike and catfish during spring spawning periods. (No ramp).

Heart River (390) – In Stark, Grant, and Morton counties. Abundant carp and buffalo most of the time. Some walleye, northern pike and catfish during spring spawning periods. (No ramp).

Little Missouri River (410) – Southwestern part of state. Abundant catfish up to 10 pounds. Some sauger and walleye during spring spawning periods. (No ramp).

NORTH CENTRAL FISHERIES DISTRICT

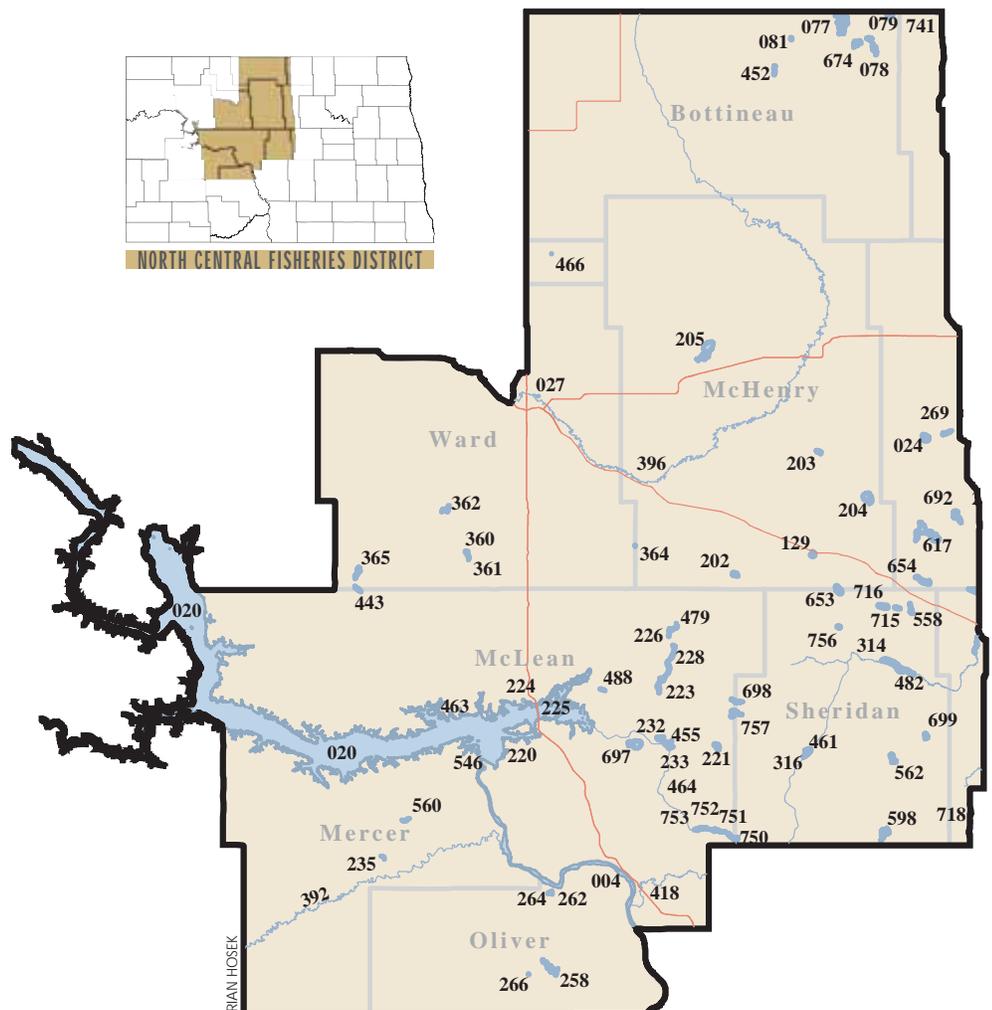
Jason Lee, district fisheries supervisor, Riverdale

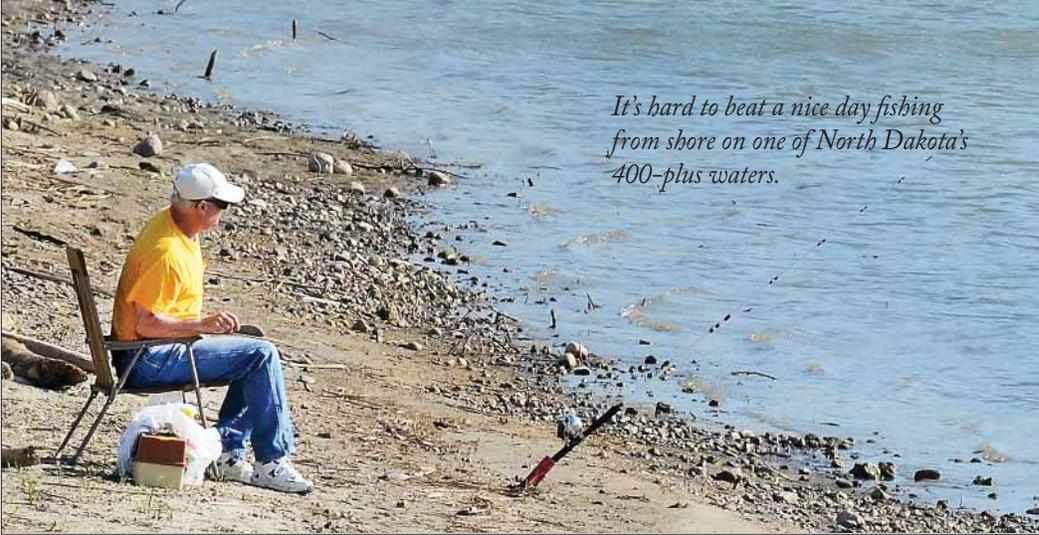
BOTTINEAU COUNTY

Boundary Lake (083) – 9 miles north, 11 miles east, 2.5 miles north of Bottineau. Prior to 2012, the lake hadn't been stocked with yellow perch since 1989. Perch fishery is just starting. (No ramp).

Carbury Dam (452) – 1 mile south, 1 mile west of Carbury. Good numbers of smaller pike. (Fishing pier).

Lake Metigoshe (077) – 9 miles north, 4 miles east, 1 mile north of Bottineau. Holds several sizes of bluegill, including some large fish, along with some nice crappie. Good numbers of walleye, with a wide range of sizes. Good northern pike fishing, with some large fish. (Fishing pier).





It's hard to beat a nice day fishing from shore on one of North Dakota's 400-plus waters.

CRAIG BIRRE

Long Lake (078) – 8 miles north, 7 miles east, 1 mile south, 1 mile east, .5 miles south, .3 miles east of Bottineau. Decent pike population, with a wide range of sizes. Lots of small perch.

Loon Lake (674) – 9 miles north, 4 miles east, 2 miles south, 2 miles east, .5 miles north of Bottineau. Fairly new perch fishery, with high numbers and some larger fish. (No ramp).

Pelican Lake (079) – 9 miles north, 8 miles east, .5 miles southwest of Bottineau. Decent numbers of northern pike.

Strawberry Lake (081) – 4 miles north, 2.5 miles east, .5 miles south of Carbury. Stocked annually with rainbow trout. (Fishing pier).

BURLEIGH COUNTY

New Johns Lake (750) – 11.8 miles south, 3 miles east of Mercer. Decent walleye numbers, with some larger fish. Lots of small- to medium-sized yellow perch. Bluegill numbers have increased in recent years. (Fishing pier).

MCHENRY COUNTY

Bentley Lake (129) – 3 miles west of Drake. Fair numbers of small pike and some perch. (No ramp).

Buffalo Lodge Lake (205) – 1 mile east, 3 miles north, 2 miles east of Granville. Excellent pike numbers. Increased lake levels in recent years produced a good environment for pike. Walleye population somewhat reduced, with increase in pike numbers. Mostly small perch. (Fishing pier).

Cottonwood Lake (202) – 2.5 miles north of Butte. Pike and perch rebounding nicely after significant winterkill in 2009. (Fishing pier).

George Lake (203) – 13 miles north, 1 mile east, 1.3 miles north, .5 miles east of the junction of U.S. Highway 52 and ND Highway 14. Good numbers of pike, with some large fish. (Fishing pier).

Round Lake (204) – 6 miles north, 4.5 miles east of Drake. Good numbers of 14- to 16-inch walleye. Decent numbers of pike. (No ramp).

MCCLEAN COUNTY

Brush Lake (221) – 3 miles north of Mercer. Lots of 6- to 8-inch perch. Fair numbers of walleye. Good pike population, with some larger fish. (Fishing pier).

Camp Lake (479) – 17.5 miles north, 2 miles east of Turtle Lake. Decent numbers of pike and lots of small perch. (No ramp).

Camp Loop Pond (546) – 3 miles southwest of Riverdale on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' downstream campground. Pond renovation planned in 2013. (No ramp).

Crooked Lake (223) – 10 miles north, .2 miles east, .1 mile south of Turtle Lake. Decent numbers of smaller pike, perch and walleye. Winterkill in 2009 resulted in major fish loss, so mostly young fish in the lake. (Fishing pier).

Custer Mine (224) – 4 miles east, 2 miles south of Garrison. A good put-and-take rainbow trout fishery in a small, easy-to-fish pond. Abundant small bluegill.

East Park Lake (752) – 9 miles south of Mercer. Decent walleye numbers, with some larger fish. Fair numbers of small- to medium-sized yellow perch. Bluegill numbers have increased in recent years. (Fishing pier).

Lake Audubon (225) – North of Coleharbor. Good numbers of walleye and an excellent smallmouth bass fishery. Anglers should see good numbers of 14- to

16-inch walleye in the next few seasons. Some large pike. (Fishing pier).

Lake Brekken (232) – 1.5 miles north of Turtle Lake. Good numbers of small- and quality-sized walleye. Decent numbers of perch, some larger fish. (Fishing pier).

Lake Holmes (455) – 1 mile northeast of Turtle Lake. Connected to Lake Brekken by a large culvert. Decent numbers of small- to medium-sized walleye. Good numbers of quality-sized perch.

Lightning Lake (233) – .5 miles east of Turtle Lake. A quality trout fishery, with some large trout. Bluegill numbers have increased in recent years, with some nice-sized fish. (Fishing pier).

Long Lake (228) – 13 miles north, 4 miles east, 2 miles north, 1.5 miles west of Turtle Lake. Pike population bouncing back nicely after winterkill. Holds mostly smaller pike.

Painted Woods Creek (418) – 5 miles southeast of Washburn. Fair numbers of northern pike. (No ramp).

Pelican Lake (757) – 7 miles north, 3 miles east, .4 miles north of Mercer. Abundant perch and some smaller pike. (No ramp).

Riverdale City Pond (220) – North side of Riverdale. Popular pond for kids and family outings. Lots of small bluegill. Stocked annually with rainbow trout. (No ramp, fishing pier).

Strawberry Lake (226) – 17.5 miles north, 2 miles east of Turtle Lake. Good pike population. Lots of small perch and bluegill. (Fishing pier).

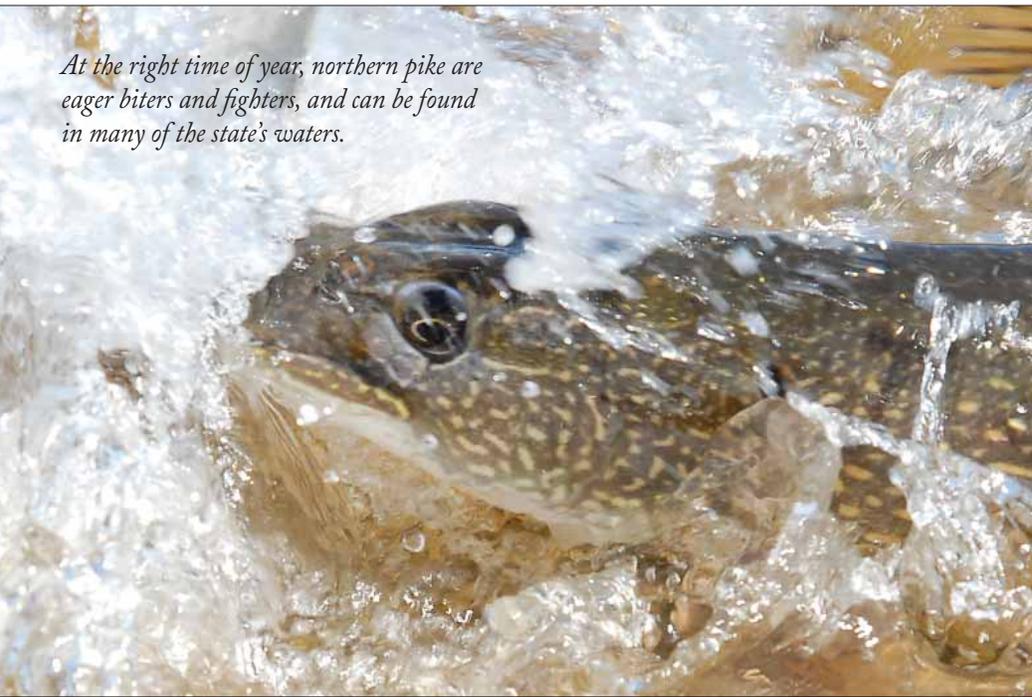
Triangle Y Pond (463) – 4 miles west, 1.5 miles south, 1 mile west, 1 mile south, 1 mile west, .5 miles south of Garrison. Small pond stocked with perch, used mostly by Triangle Y kids. (No ramp, fishing pier).

Turtle Lake (697) – 4.5 miles west, 1 mile north of Turtle Lake. Decent numbers of northern pike, some larger fish. (No ramp).

Weishaar WPA (488) – 8 miles north, 8 miles west, 1 mile north of Turtle Lake. Winter perch fishery. (No ramp).

West Park Lake (753) – 9 miles south, 2 miles west of Mercer. Fair numbers of walleye and perch. Most perch are small. Good numbers of pike, with some larger fish available. (No ramp).

At the right time of year, northern pike are eager biters and fighters, and can be found in many of the state's waters.



CRAIG BIRBLE

MERCER COUNTY

Beulah Mine Pond (235) – 2 miles north, 2.5 miles east, .5 miles north of Beulah. Contains some pike. (No ramp).

Harmony Lake (560) – 6 miles north, 1 mile west of Hazen. Good numbers of bluegill, with some quality-sized fish. Stocked annually with rainbow trout. (Fishing pier).

OLIVER COUNTY

East Arroda Dam (262) – 1 mile east of Fort Clark – ND Highway 200A. Good crappie numbers, with some quality fish. Pike numbers have increased in recent years, with mostly smaller pike. Earthen fishing piers constructed to improve shore-fishing access.

Nelson Lake (258) – 5 miles east, 3 miles south of Center. The best largemouth bass lake in the state. Open water year-round allows fish to grow better than in other lakes. State record largemouth – 8 pounds, 7 ½ ounces – caught here in 1983. Abundant quality-sized bluegill and crappie. (Fishing pier).

Oliver County Sportsmen's Pond (266) – 4 miles south, .5 miles west of Center. Stocked annually with about 200 rainbow trout. (No ramp).

West Arroda Dam (264) – 1 mile east of Fort Clark – ND Highway 200A. Good

crappie numbers, with some quality fish. Pike numbers have increased in recent years, with mostly smaller pike. Earthen fishing piers constructed to improve shore-fishing access.

PIERCE COUNTY

Antelope Lake (617) – 9 miles east, 3 miles north, 1 mile west, 2 miles north of Anamoose. Abundant nice-sized perch. Many 12- to 16-inch walleye, with some larger fish available. (No ramp).

Balta Dam (269) – .5 miles south of Balta. Good numbers of smaller pike.

Clear Lake (654) – 6 miles east, .7 miles south of Anamoose. Newly stocked lake, with good numbers of walleye and quality-sized perch. (No ramp).

Davis Lake (024) – 2 miles west, 1.5 miles south of Balta. Lots of pike, with some larger fish.

Lesmeister Lake (692) – 3.5 miles west, 2 miles south of the intersection of ND highways 3 and 19. Good numbers of smaller walleye. (No ramp).

RENVILLE COUNTY

Glenburn Pond (466) – North side of Glenburn. Small pond stocked annually with trout. Yellow perch and bluegill stocked periodically. (No ramp).

ROLETTE COUNTY

Lake Udall (741) – Through the International Peace Garden, 13 miles north of Dunseith. Small pond stocked with rainbow trout and bluegill for the first time in 2012. (No ramp).

SHERIDAN COUNTY

Bender Lake (715) – .5 miles south, 4 miles west, .5 miles south of Martin. Stocked with perch for the first time in 2011. (No ramp).

Cherry Lake (698) – 7 miles north, 3 miles east, 2 miles north, 1 mile west of Mercer. Some quality-sized perch. (No ramp).

Coal Mine Lake (482) – 14 miles south, 5 miles east of Anamoose. Abundant northern pike, mostly smaller. Winterkilled in 2009. (Fishing pier).

Davis WPA (598) – 8 miles south, 1 mile east of Denhoff. Abundant perch, with some quality-sized fish. Walleye population expanding in recent years, with some nice fish. (No ramp).

Heckers Lake (751) – 9 miles south, 2.4 miles east of Mercer. Fair numbers of perch, with some quality-sized fish. Decent numbers of pike and smallmouth bass. (No ramp).

Kaibel Lake (756) – 10.2 miles south of Drake. Lots of perch, many smaller-sized. (No ramp).

Lake Richard (653) – 4.5 miles south of Drake. Abundant yellow perch, with some quality-sized fish. (No ramp).

Mud Lake (716) – 4.5 miles south of Anamoose. Stocked with perch for the first time in 2011. (No ramp).

North (Hoffer) McClusky (461) – 2 miles north, 1 mile west of McClusky. Abundant smaller pike. (No ramp).

Sheyenne Lake (314) – 10 miles south, 1 mile east, 1 mile south of Anamoose. Stocked biannually with northern pike. (No ramp).

South (Hoffer) McClusky (316) – 2 miles north, 1 mile west of McClusky. Decent numbers of perch, walleye and northern pike. Some bluegill and crappie. (Fishing pier).

Stober Lake (562) – 4 miles west, 1 mile north of Goodrich. Good numbers of perch, many smaller, but some larger fish. (No ramp).

Vollrath Lake (699) – 5.5 miles north, 1 mile east, 1 mile south of Goodrich. Some quality-sized perch. (No ramp).

Wolf Lake (558) – .5 miles south, 1.5 miles west of Martin. Winterkilled in 2009, so mostly small pike and perch. (No ramp).

WARD COUNTY

Hiddenwood Lake (443) – 8 miles south of Makoti. Fair numbers of yellow perch and northern pike. (Fishing pier).

Makoti Lake (365) – 6 miles south of Makoti. Winterkilled in 2010. Pike and perch fishery recovering. Currently has mostly smaller fish.

North Carlson Lake (360) – 10 miles east of Ryder. Good numbers of smaller pike, making it a good place to take a kid fishing.

Rice Lake (362) – 4 miles north, 7 miles east, 2 miles north of Ryder. Winterkilled in 2011, but pike and perch fisheries coming back nicely.

South Carlson Lake (361) – 10 miles east of Ryder. Good fishing in recent years for

mostly smaller pike. (Fishing pier).

State Fair Pond (027) – North end of state fair grounds. Small pond stocked annually with trout and panfish. (No ramp, fishing pier).

Velva Sportsmen's Pond (364) – 7 miles south, 1.5 miles west, 1 mile south, .5 miles west of Velva. Consistently a quality fishery for nice-sized browns and rainbows.

WELLS COUNTY

Hurd Lake (718) – 2 miles west, 3 miles south of Hurdfield. Holds smaller perch. (No ramp).

RIVERS AND LAKES

Knife River (392) – In Dunn and Mercer counties. Connected to Missouri River, so a variety of fish species can be caught. (No ramp).

Lake Sakakawea (020) – Near the cities of Williston, New Town, Garrison and Riverdale. See separate Missouri River System report. (Fishing pier).

McClusky Canal (464) – Central part of state in McLean, Burleigh and Sheridan counties. Excellent smallmouth bass fishery, with abundant fish up to 18 inches. (No ramp).

Missouri River (004) – Missouri River from near Riverdale to south of Bismarck. (Fishing pier). See separate Missouri River System report.

Souris River (Mouse River) (396) – North central part of state. Good numbers of northern pike and walleye, especially after Lake Darling flooded in 2011. (Fishing pier).

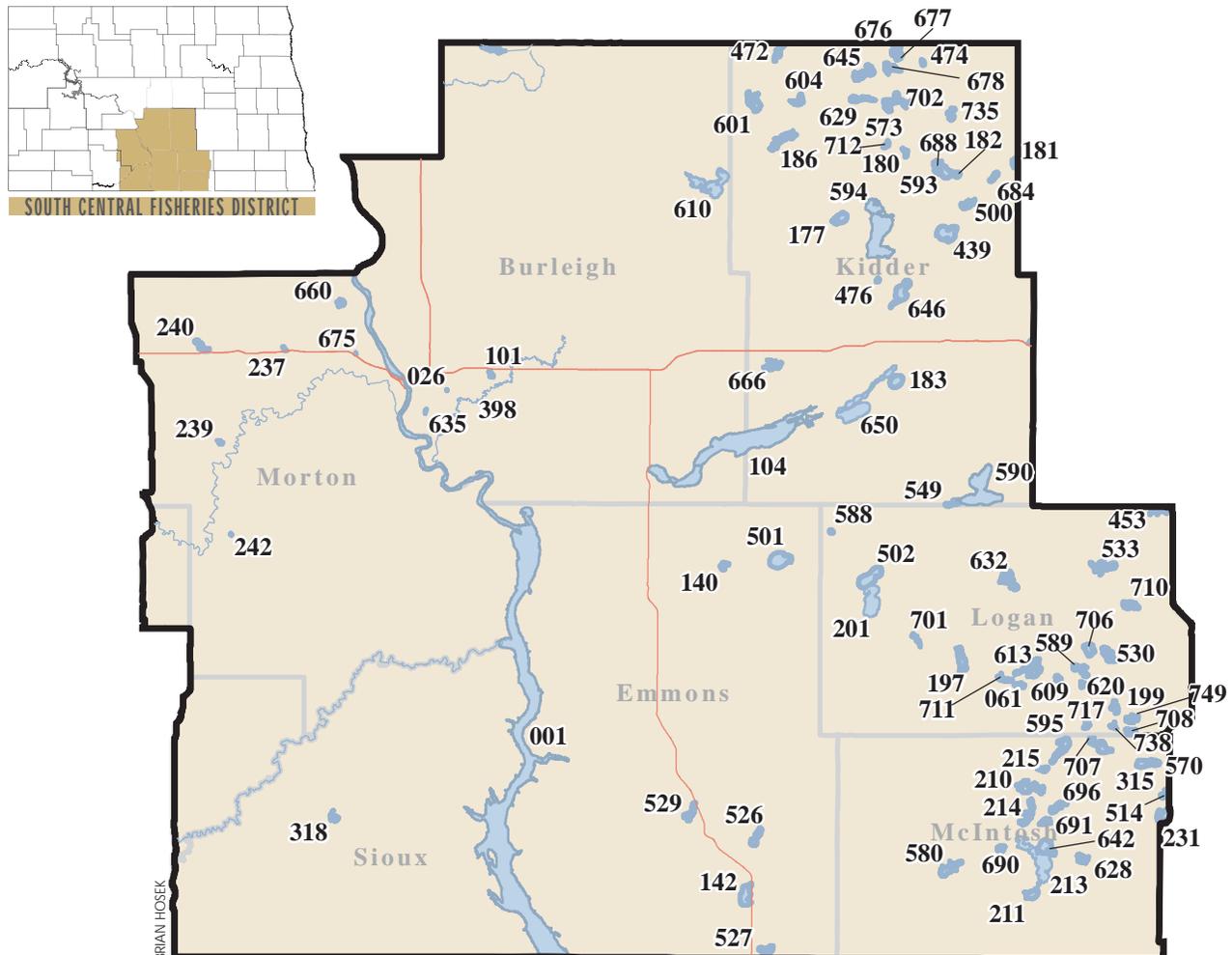
SOUTH CENTRAL FISHERIES DISTRICT

Paul Bailey, district fisheries supervisor, Bismarck

BURLEIGH COUNTY

Apple Creek (398) – South central part of state in Burleigh County. Good for northern pike, walleye, crappie and catfish. (No ramp).

Cottonwood Park Pond (635) – On west side of Cottonwood soccer complex in





Fly-fishing for northern pike on Horsehead Lake in Kidder County.

CRAIG BIRRE

south Bismarck. Trout (and other species) may be stocked in spring. (Fishing pier, no ramp).

Lake Harriet (Arena Lake) (610) – 8 miles west, 1 mile south of Tuttle. Northern pike abundant and perch present. (No ramp).

Long Lake (104) – 1 mile south, 2.5 miles east of Moffit. Northern pike abundant. Contact refuge headquarters for specific angling regulations. (Fishing pier, no ramp).

McDowell Dam (101) – 4 miles east, 1 mile north of Bismarck on ND Highway 10. Bluegill and largemouth bass

abundant. Trout stocked in spring. (Fishing pier).

OWLS Pond (026) – Just west of Bismarck Game and Fish office. Trout stocked in spring and fall. Other species (bluegill, perch, catfish and white bass) may be stocked. (Fishing pier, no ramp).

EMMONS COUNTY

Baumgartner Lake (529) – 6 miles south of Linton. Northern pike abundant. (No ramp).

Braddock Dam (140) – 2 miles southwest of Braddock. Fair numbers of northern pike, walleye and yellow perch. Bluegill present.

Goose Lake (501) – 3 miles east of Braddock. Northern pike and perch abundant. (No ramp).

Jake's Lake (527) – 13 miles south, 1 mile east of Strasburg. Northern pike abundant. (No ramp).

Rice Lake (142) – 8 miles south of Strasburg. An outstanding walleye, northern pike and perch fishery.

Senger Lake (526) – 1 mile north, 6 miles east of Strasburg. Multiple year-classes of perch present. (No ramp).

KIDDER COUNTY

Alkaline Lake (590) – 15 miles south, 7 miles east, 1 mile south of Dawson. Walleye first stocked in 2003 and remain abundant. Excellent numbers of pike also present, with fish occasionally surpassing 10 pounds. (Fishing pier).

Bond Lake (500) – 2 miles west, 2 miles south, 1 mile west of Pettibone. Adult perch stocked in 2010 and multiple year-classes present. (No ramp).

Cherry Lake (177) – 15 miles north, 3 miles east of Steele. Northern pike from 2-5 pounds abundant.

Des Moines Lake (593) – 5.5 miles east of Robinson. Good numbers of northern pike. (No ramp).

Etta-Alkaline Complex (650) – 1 mile south, 2.5 miles west, 3 miles south of Dawson. Northern pike abundant. (No ramp).

Fresh Lake (549) – 6 miles north, 7 miles east, 2 miles north, 1 mile east, 2 miles north of Napoleon. Primarily a northern pike fishery, but fair numbers of walleye present. (No ramp).

Frettim Lake (180) – 2 miles east, 1 mile north of Robinson. Contains good numbers of walleye, northern pike, perch and bluegill.

Helen Lake (601) – 2.5 miles west, 6 miles north of Tuttle. An excellent northern pike fishery, with fish occasionally topping 8 pounds. Perch also present. (No ramp).

Horsehead Lake (594) – 2 miles west, 6 miles south of Robinson. Pike population recovering and this lake once again offers good angling opportunities. (No ramp).

Jasper Lake (573) – 7 miles north, .5 miles east of Robinson. Walleye are abundant. Good numbers of perch.

Koenig North (676) – 12.25 miles north, 1.5 miles east of Robinson. Multiple year-classes of perch present (winter access only). (No ramp).

Koenig South (677) – 12.25 miles north, 1.5 miles east of Robinson. Multiple year-classes of perch present (winter access only). (No ramp).

Kunkel Lake (439) – 5 miles east, 7 miles south, 1 mile east of Robinson. Strong year-class of smaller perch present. (No ramp).

Lake Geneva (666) – 2 miles south, .5 miles east of I-94 Exit 195. Small perch abundant. (No ramp).

Lake Isabel (183) – 2 miles south, .5 miles east, .75 miles south of Dawson. Fair numbers of 2- to 5-pound northern pike. (Fishing pier).

Lake Josephine (186) – 2 miles north of Tuttle. Small walleye abundant, but larger fish present. Northern pike, perch and crappie present in lower numbers. (Fishing pier).

Lake No. 5 (476) – .5 miles west, 2 miles north, 3 miles west, 4 miles north of Dawson. Pike currently abundant, but the lake experiences frequent winterkills. (No ramp).

Lake Williams (182) – Just south of the town of Lake Williams. Fair walleye and northern pike numbers.

Leno Lake (604) – 1 mile east, 7 miles north of Tuttle. Pike abundant. (No ramp).

Long Alkaline Lake (629) – 3 miles west, 7 miles north of Robinson. Pike common. Perch also present. (No ramp).

Neustel Lake (712) – 2 miles north of Robinson. Strong year-class of younger perch present. (No ramp).

North Des Moines Lake (688) – 5.5 miles east of Robinson. Fair numbers of northern pike. (No ramp).

Pelican Lake (474) – 3 miles east, 11 miles north, 1 mile east of Robinson. Perch common. (No ramp).

Plowe Lake (735) – 6 miles east, 5 miles north, 1 mile east of Robinson. Fair numbers of perch. (No ramp).

Ranch Lake (684) – 1 mile west of Pettibone. Good numbers of northern pike and perch. (No ramp).

Round Lake (181) – 1 mile north, 1.5 miles east of Pettibone. Excellent walleye fishery, and fair numbers of perch and northern pike. (No ramp).

Schumacher Lake (702) – 7 miles north, 1 mile east, .25 miles south of Robinson. Yellow perch abundant and walleye present. (No ramp).

Sibley Lake (646) – 7 miles north, 2 miles east, 1 mile south of Dawson. Walleye abundant. (No ramp).

Swan Lake (678) – 10.5 miles north of Robinson. Abundant perch. (No ramp).

Willow Lake (645) – 9 miles north, 3 miles west of Robinson. Abundant smaller perch. (No ramp).

Woodhouse Lake (472) – 12 miles north, 12 miles east of Wing. Good numbers of walleye and perch. (No ramp).

LOGAN COUNTY

Beaver Lake (197) – 8 miles south, 8 miles east of Napoleon. Northern pike abundant, with fish occasionally surpassing 10 pounds.

Braun Lake (588) – 18 miles south, 1 mile east of Steele. Primarily a perch fishery, but tiger muskies also present. (No ramp).

Buchholz WPA (738) – 4 miles east, .75 miles north of Lehr. Abundant young perch. (No ramp).

Dewald Lake (530) – 8 miles north, 2 miles east, 1 mile north, 1 mile east of Lehr. Perch common. (No ramp).

Doyles Lake (711) – 2.5 miles north, 2 miles east, 4 miles north, 1 mile east, .5 miles north of Wishek. Abundant younger perch. (No ramp).

Hauff Lake (589) – 7 miles north of Lehr. Perch common. (No ramp).

Kautz Lake (061) – 5 miles north, 6 miles west of Lehr. Perch common. (No ramp).

Kleingartner Lake (710) – 10 miles south,

5 miles west of Gackle. Fair numbers of northern pike and yellow perch, with some pike topping 8 pounds. (No ramp).

Lepp Lake (717) – 1 mile east, 1 mile north of Lehr. Strong young perch numbers. (No ramp).

Logan (Mueller) WMA (613) – 8 miles north, 5 miles west, 1 mile south of Lehr. Young walleye abundant. Low numbers of perch. (No ramp).

Logan Lake (453) – 1 mile west of Gackle. Good perch numbers. (No ramp).

Marvin Miller Lake (533) – 6.5 miles south, 8 miles west, .5 miles north of Gackle. Excellent walleye fishery. Low numbers of perch and northern pike.

Mundt Lake (199) – 3 miles east, 4 miles north, 1 mile east, .5 miles south of Lehr. Walleye remain abundant. Quality perch population. (Fishing pier).

North Napoleon Lake (502) – 4.5 miles west, 1 mile north, 1 mile east of Napoleon. Northern pike and perch abundant. (No ramp).

Ost Lake (749) – 7 miles east, 1 mile north, 1 mile west, .5 miles north of Lehr. Perch abundant. (No ramp).

Railroad Lake (708) – 5.5 miles east of Lehr. Good perch numbers. (No ramp).

Roesler Lake (706) – 8 miles north, 1 mile east of Lehr. Perch common to abundant. (No ramp).

Ruff Lake (609) – 5 miles north, 3 miles west, 1 mile north, .5 miles east of Lehr. Strong young perch population. (No ramp).

Thurn Lake (620) – 5 miles north of Lehr, .5 miles east. Good walleye and perch numbers. (No ramp).

Weigel Lake (701) – 5 miles south, 3 miles east of Napoleon. Small pike abundant. (No ramp).

Wentz WPA (632) – 12 miles east of Napoleon. Young walleye abundant. Low numbers of perch. (No ramp).

West Lake Napoleon (201) – 1 mile west of Napoleon. Northern pike reintroduced in 2009 and fish up to 7 pounds abundant.

MCINTOSH COUNTY

Becker-Schlepp Lake (628) – 3 miles north, 1 mile east, 1 mile north, .5 miles east of Ashley. Perch abundant. (No ramp).

Clear Lake (215) – 6 miles east, 2 miles south of Wishek. Northern pike up to 6 pounds abundant. (No ramp).

Dollinger-Schnabel Lake (580) – 2 miles north, 5 miles west, 3 miles north of Ventura. Perch abundant. (No ramp).

Dorfman Lake (642) – 5 miles north, 2 miles west of Ashley. Perch abundant and fair numbers of walleye and northern pike. (No ramp).

Dry Lake (213) – 5 miles west, 4 miles north, 2 miles east, .5 miles south of Ashley. An excellent walleye and northern pike fishery. Large perch present in low numbers.

Green Lake (210) – 2 miles east, 4 miles south, 1 mile east of Wishek. Quality walleye and perch fishery. Low numbers of northern pike. (Fishing pier).

Harr Lake (514) – 10 miles east, 12 miles north of Ashley. Perch common. (No ramp).

Homestead Lake (696) – 8 miles south, 8 miles east, 2 miles north of Wishek. Northern pike abundant. Perch also present. (No ramp).

Lake Hoskins (211) – 3 miles west of Ashley. Impacted by a partial fish kill in 2012, but holds fair numbers of walleye, northern pike and perch. (Fishing pier).

Lehr WMA (570) – 2 miles east, 1 mile south of Lehr. Excellent walleye fishery.

McIntosh WMA (231) – 10 miles east, 9 miles north of Ashley. Perch common. (No ramp).

Miller Lake (315) – 7.5 miles east, 2.5 miles south of Lehr. Northern pike abundant, with fish occasionally surpassing 8 pounds. Fair numbers of perch. (No ramp).

Mudd Lake (595) – 1 mile west of Lehr. Fair numbers of northern pike, with low numbers of perch. (No ramp).

Nagel Lake (Koepplin WPA) (707) – 1 mile east, 1 mile south, 1 mile east of Lehr. Fair numbers of walleye made their way into Nagel Lake from Lehr WMA. Perch present in good numbers. (No ramp).

Pfeifle Lake (690) – 10 miles south, 2 miles east of Wishek. Northern pike abundant, with fish occasionally topping 10 pounds. (No ramp).

Pudwill Lake (214) – 9 miles south, 4 miles west, 1 mile north, .5 miles west of Lehr. Low numbers of northern pike. (No ramp).

Rueb-Eszlinger (691) – 7.5 miles north, 2 miles west of Ashley. Perch abundant. (No ramp).

MORTON COUNTY

Crown Butte Dam (237) – 4 miles west on access road on north side of I-94 Exit 147. Largemouth bass up to 9 inches abundant. Crappie, bluegill and trout also present. (Fishing pier).

Fish Creek Dam (239) – 8 miles south, 2 miles east, 1 mile south of I-94 Exit 134. Largemouth bass abundant, with the occasional fish topping 5 pounds. Trout abundant, with fish reaching 20 inches. Smallmouth bass and crappie present in fair numbers. (Fishing pier).

Harmon Lake (660) – 8 miles north of Mandan on ND Highway 1806. Trout, northern pike, largemouth bass, crappie and bluegill abundant. Lake filled for the first time in 2009 and fish size should continue to improve. (Fishing pier).

Nygren Dam (242) – 6 miles north, 1 mile east, 3 miles north, .5 miles east of Flasher. Trout, largemouth bass and bluegill present in good numbers. (Fishing pier).

Porsborg Dam (675) – Northwest Mandan. Trout (and other species) may be stocked in spring. (No ramp).

Sweet Briar Dam (240) – 18 miles west of Mandan – I-94 Exit 134. Fair numbers of walleye, northern pike, perch, bluegill, crappie and largemouth bass. (Fishing pier).

SIoux COUNTY

Froelich Dam (318) – 9 miles north, 2 miles west of Selfridge. Walleye and northern pike abundant. Perch, crappie, bluegill and largemouth bass present.

RIVERS AND LAKES

Lake Oahe (001) – Near the cities of Bismarck, Fort Yates, Hazelton, Linton and Strasburg. See separate Missouri River System report. (Fishing pier).

NORTHEAST FISHERIES DISTRICT

Randy Hiltner, district fisheries supervisor, Devils Lake

BENSON COUNTY

Fort Totten Dam (663) – .5 miles east of Fort Totten. No recent information. (No ramp).

Gravel Pit Lake (661) – 4.5 miles west of Fort Totten. No recent information. (No ramp).

Mission Lake (662) – 5 miles south, 1.5 miles east, 2 miles south of Devils Lake. No recent information. (No ramp).

Silver Lake (058) – 1 mile west, 6 miles south, 1 mile west, 1 mile north of Churchs Ferry. Connected to Devils Lake. (No ramp).

Wood Lake (054) – 2 miles west, 1 mile south of Tokio. Perch and bluegill numerous, but small. Good numbers of bigger walleye and some large pike.

CAVALIER COUNTY

Langdon City Pond (115) – South side of Langdon. Put-and-take trout lake, with most fish caught in May. (Fishing pier).

Mount Carmel Dam (114) – 9 miles north, 2 miles east, 2 miles north of Langdon. Fair numbers of perch, with some larger fish. Walleye numbers fair, with most fish under 2 pounds. Lots of nice pike in 21- to 28-inch range. (Fishing pier).

EDDY COUNTY

Adams Lake (603) – 10 miles south of Warwick. Lots of smaller perch and a few walleye. (No ramp).

Battle Lake (136) – .5 miles south, 1.5 miles west, 1.5 miles south of Hamar. High density pike lake, with catchable, thin fish. (No ramp).

Lake Coe (652) – 10 miles south of Warwick on east side of Eddy County Road 8. Good numbers of nice walleye and lots of perch, some longer than 10 inches. (No ramp).

New Rockford Reservoir (137) – North side of New Rockford. Bluegill available, but primarily a pike fishery. (Fishing pier, no ramp).

Warsing Dam (135) – 1 mile northeast of Sheyenne. Some nice walleye, with fair numbers of pike and smaller perch. Some bluegill up to 9 inches. (Fishing pier).

FOSTER COUNTY

Dry Lake (548) – 4 miles east, 5 miles south of Carrington. Walleye numbers lower than several years ago, but still fair numbers of nice fish. Fewer perch observed. Strong young bullhead population. (No ramp).

Juanita Lake (147) – 2 miles east of Grace City. Pike and perch doing well in 2012, but a recent winterkill sharply reduced the fishery. (Fishing pier).

GRAND FORKS COUNTY

Fordville Dam (153) – 5 miles west, 1 mile north, .5 miles west, .5 miles north of Inkster. Fair numbers of larger walleye and pike, with good numbers of perch under 10 inches. Bullheads remain a management issue. (Fishing pier).

Kolding Dam (155) – 5 miles southeast, 1 mile south of Niagara on U.S. Highway 2. Managed for pike only.

Larimore Dam (154) – 2 miles northeast of Larimore. Walleye, pike, largemouth bass, perch, crappie and bluegill all provide some angling opportunities. Walleye average 18 inches. (Fishing pier).

Niagara Dam (156) – North of Niagara. Reservoir winterkills often. When a series of nice winters occur, nice sized-pike available.

Ryan Park Pond (659) – South side of Grand Forks. This small urban fishery is a good place to take a kid fishing and is stocked annually with trout. Bluegill also introduced. (Fishing pier, no ramp).

GRIGGS COUNTY

Carlson-Tande Dam (169) – 1 mile south, 5 miles west of Aneta. Offers some pike, perch and panfish fishing.

Lake Addie (596) – 4 miles east, 1 mile south, 1 mile west of Binford. Managed as a walleye and perch fishery. Walleye are nice-sized, with an average length of 18 inches. Perch numbers high, with some fish up to 12 inches.

Lake Jessie (597) – 4 miles east, 1 mile south, 1 mile west of Binford. Primarily an ice fishing lake for pike averaging about 30 inches. (No ramp).

Red Willow Lake (168) – 6 miles north, 2 miles west of Binford. Walleye, pike, perch and bluegill common. Some nice walleye available, but more pike. Bluegill common, with some up to 10 inches. Perch typically small. (Fishing pier).

Sibley Lake (435) – 11 miles west, 3 miles south of Binford. Some perch. (No ramp).

NELSON COUNTY

Lake Laretta (506) – 2 miles west and 3 miles north of Michigan. Excellent pike fishery, with high numbers of medium-sized fish, but some pushing 15 pounds. Perch that survive pike predation are large, but uncommon. (No ramp).

McVille Dam (252) – 1 mile east of McVille. Some larger walleye, largemouth

bass and pike available. Perch typically small. (Fishing pier).

Silver Creek Dam (268) – 4 miles west, .5 miles south of McVille. Small reservoir with a winter pike fishery. (No ramp).

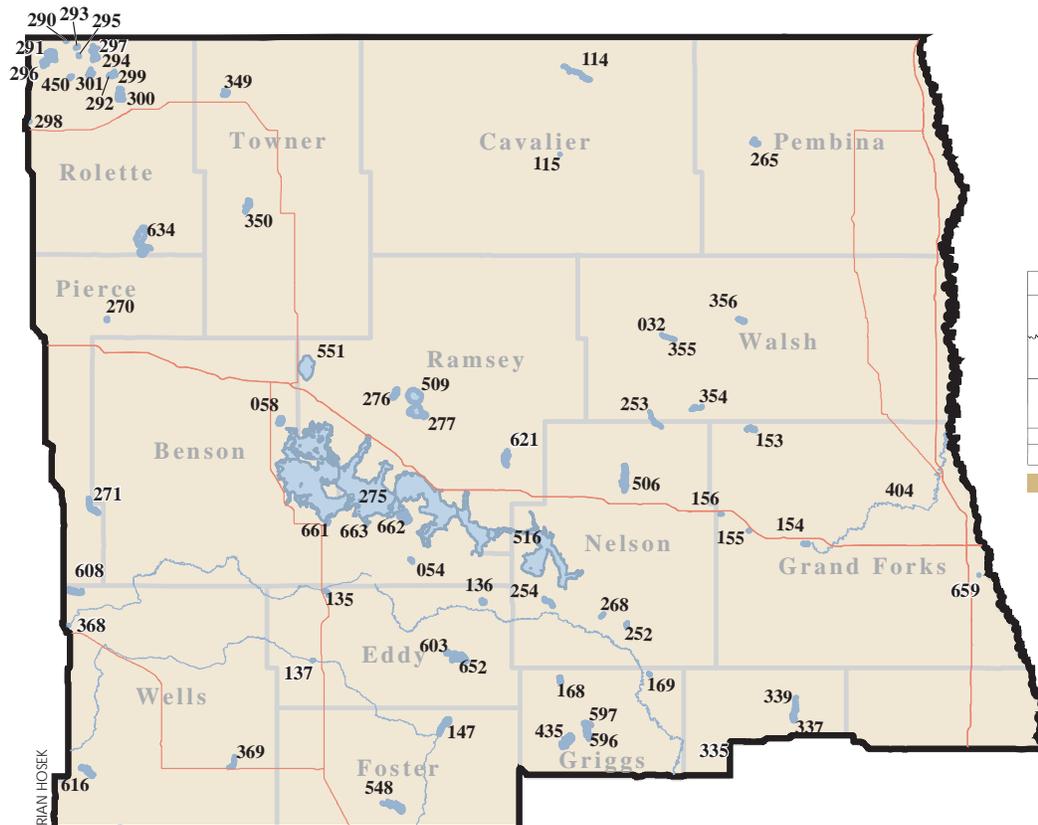
Stump Lake (516) – 12 miles south, 1 mile west of Lakota. See separate Devils Lake Basin report. (Fishing pier).

Tolna Dam (254) – 1 mile south, 2 miles east of Tolna. Some larger walleye and good densities of pike. Perch numbers fairly low.

Whitman Dam (253) – 1.5 miles north, 3 miles east of Whitman. Perch grow to keeper-size, with some pushing 12 inches. Fair fishing for pike and walleye. Low density crappie population, with some large fish. (Fishing pier).

PEMBINA COUNTY

Renwick Dam (265) – 6 miles west, 1 mile north of Cavalier. Holds mostly pike and perch, with some crappie. Perch are numerous, but typically smaller. White sucker and bullhead abundant. (Fishing pier).



PIERCE COUNTY

Buffalo Lake (271) – 4 miles west, 1 mile south of Esmond. Winterkills often and pike fishing opportunities occur when winters are mild. (Fishing pier).

Sand Lake (270) – 4 miles north of Pleasant Lake. Good pike and perch fishery. Average size for perch has increased. Pike are common up to 5 pounds. (Fishing pier).

RAMSEY COUNTY

Cavanaugh Lake (276) – 9 miles north, 1 mile west, .5 miles north of Devils Lake. Winterkill has been a problem. Oxygen levels were very low again this winter. (No ramp).

Devils Lake (275) – Near the city of Devils Lake. See separate Devils Lake Basin report. (Fishing pier).

Fenster Lake (621) – 3 miles north, 4 miles east of Crary. Good pike population, with most fish under 5 pounds. (No ramp).

Lake Irvine (551) – 1 mile north of Churchs Ferry. See separate Devils Lake Basin report.

Morrison Lake (509) – 3 miles east, 2 miles south of Webster. Typically has good winter pike fishing until oxygen levels drop too low. Most fish are less than 5 pounds. (No ramp).

Sweetwater Lake (277) – 7 miles north, .25 miles east of Devils Lake. Low winter oxygen levels may have caused a fish kill in part of lake. (No ramp).

ROLETTE COUNTY

Belcourt Lake (300) – 2 miles north of Belcourt. No recent information.

Cain Lake (450) – 2 miles south, 9 miles west, .5 miles north of St. John. No recent information. (No ramp).

Carpenter Lake (291) – 12 miles west of St. John. Supports a good pike population, even during tough winters. Most fish less than 5 pounds.

Dion Lake (293) – 10 miles west, 2 miles north, 1 mile east of St. John. Managed for walleye. High densities of fish up to 20 inches. Perch numbers expanding from illegal stocking, most are small. (Fishing pier).

Gordon Lake (299) – 4.5 miles north, 1 mile west, .25 miles northwest of Belcourt. No recent information.

Gravel Lake (294) – 6 miles west, .5 miles north of St. John. Pike and perch fishery.

Pike average about 25 inches and most perch are under 10 inches. (Fishing pier).

Hooker Lake (295) – 8 miles west of St. John. One of few rainbow trout lakes in the district. Trout are stocked annually and attain maximum size in the fall. (Fishing pier).

Island Lake (634) – 3 miles west, 2 miles south of Mylo. Supports high numbers of pike, with most fish less than 5 pounds.

Jarvis Lake (301) – .75 miles southwest, 6 miles west of St. John. No recent information. (No ramp).

Jensen Lake (290) – 9 miles west, 3 miles north of St. John. Overpopulation of stunted perch.

School Section Lake (296) – 9 miles north, 2.5 miles east of Dunseith. History of winterkill. Pike and perch available.

Pike are young and most fish are less than 5 pounds. Perch mostly less than 9 inches.

Shutte Lake (298) – .5 miles east of Dunseith. Pike and perch fishery. Pike are numerous, with most fish less than 5 pounds. Perch are too abundant and mostly too small to keep. (No ramp).

Upsilon Lake (297) – 6 miles west, 1 mile north of St. John. Perch fishing good in recent years, although larger fish less common. Pike common, with some large fish. Walleye in low numbers. (Fishing pier).

Wheaton Lake (292) – 4.5 miles north, 2 miles west of Belcourt. No recent information.

STEELE COUNTY

Finley Dam (Lynch Lake) (335) – 1 mile south of Finley. Stocked regularly with pike. (No ramp).

North Golden Lake (339) – 10 miles east, 4 miles north, .5 miles west of Finley. High numbers of perch, with most less than 10 inches. Fair to good numbers of keeper pike and walleye available.

South Golden Lake (337) – 10 miles east, 3 miles north, .5 miles west of Finley. Primarily a walleye and perch fishery, with some pike and bluegill. Walleye do get large, with fish up to 8 pounds, however, the average length is about 16 inches. Some 10-inch perch. (Fishing pier).

TOWNER COUNTY

Armourdale Dam (349) – 9 miles east, 1.5 miles north of Rolla. Pike and walleye fishery comprised of mostly smaller fish.

Perch numbers low. (Fishing pier).

Bisbee Dam-Big Coulee (350) – 1 mile east of Bisbee. Pike, walleye, perch, bluegill and crappie present. Some walleye and pike up to about 6 pounds. A few more perch are showing up, as well as the occasional large bluegill and crappie. (Fishing pier).

WALSH COUNTY

Bylin Dam (355) – 3 miles east, 3 miles south of Adams. Nice population of smaller pike to keep youngsters entertained. (Fishing pier).

Dougherty Dam (032) – 1 mile west of Bylin Dam. Holds some pike. (No ramp).

Homme Dam (356) – 2 miles west of Park River. Lots of smaller perch and crappie, with some nice pike and walleye. White suckers and bullheads are abundant and problematic. (Fishing pier).

Matejcek Dam (354) – 6 miles south of Lankin. Smaller walleye in decent numbers. Perch numbers appear lower, as do pike. Crappie numbers seem to have rebounded. White suckers abundant.

WELLS COUNTY

Goose Lake (608) – 3 miles north, 3 miles east, 1 mile north of Harvey. Pike have increased significantly. Walleye size is good, but numbers decreasing. Perch common. (No ramp).

Harvey Dam (368) – Southeast side of Harvey. Good pike fishery, with the occasional walleye and perch. Bullheads abundant and continue to be a problem. (Fishing pier).

Hurdsfield-Tuffy Lake (616) – 3.5 miles east of Hurdsfield. Relatively new fishery that has produced some good walleye and perch fishing. Most walleye are eater-size, with the occasional big fish. Perch present, but in low numbers, fish to 12 inches. (No ramp).

Sykeston Dam (369) – Northwest side of Sykeston. Winterkill and summerkill in recent years has decimated the fishery. Bullheads also a major problem. Pike and perch reintroduced and provide some opportunity. (Fishing pier).

RIVERS AND LAKES

Turtle River (404) – In Grand Forks County. Rainbow trout stocked twice in spring and once in fall to provide a unique

riverine trout fishery. Mostly a put-and-take fishery. (No ramp).

SOUTHEAST FISHERIES DISTRICT

Gene Van Eeckhout, district fisheries supervisor, Jamestown

BARNES COUNTY

Blumers Pond (023) – 1 mile south of Valley City. Good shore-fishing for early season trout. (No ramp).

Clausen Springs (051) – 3 miles north, 1 mile east, .5 miles north of the junction of ND highways 46 and 1. Largemouth bass up to 3.5 pounds. Excellent destination for fishing and family outing. (Fishing pier).

Clauson Lake (704) – .5 miles south, 3.5 miles west of Nome. Perch between 9-12 inches. (No ramp).

Eckelson Lake North (605) – 2 miles east of Eckelson. Abundant perch at times. (No ramp).

Eckelson Lake South (671) – 4 miles south, 1.5 miles east of Eckelson. Strong population of 3- to 6-pound pike. (No ramp).

Fox Lake (586) – 1 mile west of Eckelson. Walleye up to 23 inches and abundant 5- to 10-inch perch. (No ramp).

Hatchery Kids Pond (064) – 2 miles northwest of Valley City. Good shore-fishing for early season trout. (No

ramp).

Hobart Lake North (636) – 6 miles west of Valley City. Perch common. (No ramp).

Hobart Lake South (532) – 6 miles west of Valley City. Abundant 6- to 11-inch perch. (No ramp).

Island Lake (672) – 3 miles south, .5 miles east of Urbana. Walleye up to 15 inches, small perch. (No ramp).

Kee Lake (606) – 7 miles south, 2 miles east of Eckelson. Perch common, with a few up to 14 inches. Walleye up to 15 inches. (No ramp).

Lake Ashtabula (046) – 10 miles north of Valley City. Size, location and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facility development makes Ashtabula a heavily used recreation area. Some years are better than others, but Ashtabula is a consistent producer of pike, walleye, perch or white bass. Smallmouth bass population increasing. (Fishing pier).

Lake Ashtabula Tailrace (047) – 10 miles north of Valley City. All fish species in Sheyenne River potentially available. A great place to shore-fish on a windy day or start a short canoe trip downriver. (No ramp).

Meadow Lake (565) – 6 miles west, 6 miles north of Litchville. Good population of perch, with some up to 12 inches. (No ramp).

Middle Eckelson (670) – 2 miles east of

Eckelson. Pike present. (No ramp).

Moon Lake (049) – 2 miles west, 5.5 miles south, 4 miles west, 2 miles north of Valley City. Anglers can expect trout of more than 3 pounds, and 1- to 6-pound walleye. Perch average 8 inches. A bonus might include an occasional trophy catfish. (Fishing pier).

Olson WPA (633) – 1.5 miles east, .5 miles south of Sanborn. Variable perch fishery from winter to winter. (No ramp).

Sanborn Lake (557) – 2 miles east of Sanborn. Quality pike up to 30 inches and perch up to 12 inches. (No ramp).

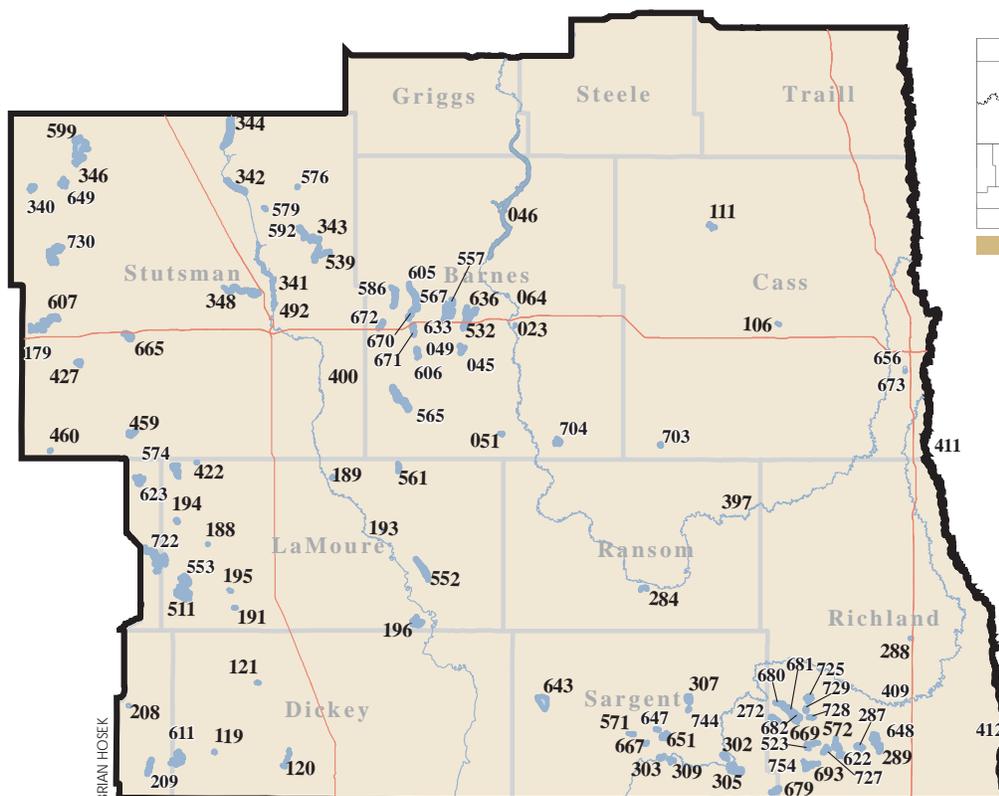
Sanborn WPA (567) – .5 miles east of Sanborn. Perch and pike present. (No ramp).

St. Mary's Lake (045) – 2 miles west, 5.5 miles south, 4 miles west, 1 mile north of Valley City. Small perch abundant. Walleye recently introduced. (No ramp).

CASS COUNTY

Brewer Lake (111) – 1 mile south, 1 mile west of Erie. Excellent largemouth bass population. Bass up to 20 inches; 3- to 9-inch bluegill the most abundant of three panfish species. Some perch up to 12 inches. (Fishing pier).

Casselton Reservoir (106) – Just west of Casselton. Put-and-take urban fishery. (Fishing pier).



Lindemann Lake (703) – 2 miles east, 2 miles north, .5 miles west of Enderlin. Some perch up to 12 inches and small walleye. (No ramp).

North Woodhaven Pond (656) – 2.25 miles south, .25 miles east of I-94 Exit 348. Annual introductions of trout enhance this fishery. Bluegill present. (Fishing pier, no ramp).

South Woodhaven Pond (673) – 3.5 miles south, .25 miles east of I-94 Exit 348. Self-sustaining perch fishery. Despite small size of fish, an excellent spot to take a kid fishing. (Fishing pier, no ramp).

DICKEY COUNTY

Heinrich Lake (611) – 18.5 miles east, 1 mile south of Ashley. No recent information. (No ramp).

Moore Lake (119) – 18.5 miles west, 1 mile north of Ellendale. No recent information. (No ramp).

Pheasant Lake (120) – 6 miles west of Ellendale. Recovering from recent winter-kill. (Fishing pier).

Wilson Dam (121) – 7 miles west of Monango. Pike up to 10 pounds, walleye up to 3 pounds. Neither are abundant. (Fishing pier).

LAMOURE COUNTY

Alfred Lake (574) – 7 miles east, 1.5 miles south of Gackle. Pike from 18-32 inches and perch up to 11 inches. (No ramp).

Boom Lake (Marion Lake) (561) – .5 miles west of Marion. Strong population of 2- to 5-pound pike, walleye up to 21 inches and 6- to 10-inch perch.

Diamond Lake (553) – 5 miles north of Kulm. Most consistent walleye and perch producer the last several seasons. Perch average 8 inches, walleye average 16 inches and 2- to 5-pound pike common.

Flood Lake (511) – 3.5 miles north of Kulm. Pike over 34 inches and perch average 9 inches.

Heinrich-Martin Dam (189) – 1 mile southeast of Adrian. Excellent largemouth bass population including fish up to 18 inches. Bluegill and crappie present.

Kalmbach Lake (194) – 1 mile south, 4.5 miles west, .5 miles south of Jud. Small pike up to 3 pounds.

Kulm-Edgeley Dam (191) – 4 miles west, 2 miles south of Edgeley. No recent information.

Lake LaMoure (196) – 1 mile south, 1 mile east, 2.5 miles south, 1 mile west, .5 miles south of LaMoure. Excellent destination with full-service recreation options other than fishing. Pike more than 8 pounds, and walleye averaging 1 pound common. Bluegill and crappie present. (Fishing pier).

LaMoure Dam (190) – West end of LaMoure. Excellent shore-fishing opportunities when fish congregate below lowhead dam. (No ramp).

Limesand-Seefeldt Dam (193) – 8 miles south, 3 miles west of Marion. Small population of pike. 8-inch crappie fairly abundant.

Schlecht-Thom Dam (195) – 5 miles west, .5 miles north of Edgeley. No recent information.

Schlecht-Weixel Dam (188) – 4 miles south of Jud. No recent information.

Schlenker Dam (Lehr Dam) (422) – 11 miles west, .5 miles south of the junction of US Highway 281 and ND Highway 46. Pike average 4 pounds, 7-inch bluegill common.

Twin Lakes (552) – 4 miles north of LaMoure. Strong populations of walleye averaging 1.5 pounds, 10-inch perch and 2- to 5-pound pike. Some trophy pike present.

LOGAN COUNTY

Arnies Lake (623) – 1.5 miles south of Gackle, 2 miles east, 1 mile south. Good

population of 2- to 5-pound pike, perch up to 8 inches. Difficult access. (No ramp).

Erickson Lake (722) – 8.5 miles north, 3 miles west, 1 mile north, 1.5 miles west of Kulm. Perch up to 9 inches. (No ramp).

MCINTOSH COUNTY

Blumhardt Dam (208) – 10 miles east, 7 miles north, 1.5 miles east of Ashley. Brown and rainbow trout. Carryover has produced trout over 4.5 pounds. Good destination for early season fishing.

Coldwater Lake (209) – 16 miles east, 1 mile south, 1 mile west of Ashley. Good populations of perch averaging a quarter pound, pike averaging 4.5 pounds and walleye averaging 3 pounds. (Fishing pier).

RANSOM COUNTY

Dead Colt Creek (284) – 5 miles south, 1 mile east, .5 miles north, .5 miles east of Lisbon. Good year-round choice for crappie and bluegill. Excellent largemouth bass population, with fish up to 21 inches. (Fishing pier).

RICHLAND COUNTY

Bisek Slough (682) – 2 miles north, .5 miles west of Lidgerwood. Small pike when Wild Rice River overflows and allows fish access.

Elm Lake (693) – .5 miles east, 3.5 miles south of Ligerwood. Good population of pike averaging 5 pounds. (No ramp).

Grass Lake (272) – 2 miles west, 1 mile



The Missouri River, be it in early spring, summer or fall, is a quality fishery that attracts anglers from across the state and beyond.

CRAIG BHIRLE

north, 1 mile west, 1 mile north, 1.5 miles west of Lidgerwood. Game fish densities low, but some quality walleye and crappie present. (Fishing pier).

Gullys Slough (572) – 4 miles east, 1 mile south of Lidgerwood. Pike average more than 6 pounds. (No ramp).

Heley Lake (725) – 5 miles north, 1 mile east, .5 miles south of Lidgerwood. Mixture of small perch and walleye. (No ramp).

Horseshoe Lake (287) – 4 miles west, 1 mile south of Hankinson. Abundant small perch, with a young crappie population. (No ramp).

Kreiser Slough (680) – 4 miles north, 3 miles west of Lidgerwood. Small pike when Wild Rice River overflows. (No ramp).

Lake Elsie (289) – 1 mile south, 1.5 miles west of Hankinson. Improved walleye population averaging 2.5 pounds, along with crappie up to a half pound. Small-mouth bass are a bonus. (Fishing pier).

Lueck Lake (622) – 4 miles east, 2 miles south, 1 mile east, .5 miles south of Lidgerwood. Mixed size structure of perch up to 10 inches. Walleye up to 22 inches. (No ramp).

Mooreton Pond (288) – 2 miles east of Mooreton. 6-inch bluegill common. Trout stocked annually. Trout harvest is encouraged prior to midsummer. (Fishing pier).

Reiland Lake (729) – 3 miles north, .5 miles east of Lidgerwood. No recent information. (No ramp).

Shriner Lake (754) – 4.5 miles south, .25 miles east of Lidgerwood. No recent information. (No ramp).

Silver Lake (681) – 2 miles north, 2 miles west of Lidgerwood. Small pike when Wild Rice River overflows. (No ramp).

Strege Lake (727) – 3.5 miles east, 1.5 miles south, .5 miles west of Lidgerwood. No recent information. (No ramp).

Vislisl Lake (728) – 1 mile north, 2 miles east, 1 mile north, .5 miles west of Lidgerwood. 9-inch perch and small walleye. (No ramp).

Wahl Lake (523) – 2 miles south of Lidgerwood. Produces bluegill, perch and the occasional pike. (No ramp).

West Moran Lake (669) – 2 miles east and .5 miles south of Lidgerwood. Young walleye population, along with crappie up to 10 inches and perch up to 12 inches. (No ramp).

Willard Lake (648) – 1 mile south, 2 miles west of Hankinson. Excellent pike population. (No ramp).

SARGENT COUNTY

Alkali Lake (302) – 3 miles south of Cayuga. Walleye stressed from forage deficiency. Developing crappie population.

Bergh Slough (647) – 1.5 miles south, 2.5 miles east of Forman. No recent information. (No ramp).

Buffalo Lake (307) – 6 miles north, 1 mile east of Rutland. Good walleye and crappie populations.

Consolidated Lake (651) – 2.5 miles south, 3 miles east of Forman. Mixed population of larger pike and walleye. A few trophy crappie up to 17 inches. (No ramp).

Fiala Lake (571) – 1 mile west, 2 miles south of Forman. No recent information. (No ramp).

Kraft Slough (643) – 1 mile south, 9 miles east, 1 mile north, .5 miles west of Oakes. Young walleye population, although some fish up to 4 pounds. Abundant 6- to 11-inch perch. (No ramp).

Lake Tewaukon (305) – 5 miles south of Cayuga. Good walleye and northern pike populations, with a few Whopper crappie. (Fishing pier).

Lake Walstead (667) – 2.5 miles south, 1 mile east, .5 miles south of Forman. No recent information. (No ramp).

Ole Breum Lake (744) – 5 miles north, 2 miles east of Rutland. Abundant small- to medium-sized perch. (No ramp).

Silver Lake (303) – 3 miles west, 2 miles south of Rutland. No recent information. (Fishing pier).

Sprague Lake (309) – 6 miles west, 4 miles south, 1.5 miles west of Cayuga. Abundant northern pike and some fair-sized walleye.

Tosse Slough (679) – 7.5 miles south, 1 mile east, 2 miles south, 1 mile east of Geneseo. Developing walleye fishery. Small walleye in poor condition. Walleye up to 22 inches, perch less than 1 pound. Developing crappie population.

STUTSMAN COUNTY

Alkali Lake (539) – 11 miles north, 5 miles east, 1 mile south of Jamestown. Fair populations of 5-pound pike, perch and a few walleye. (No ramp).

Arrowwood Lake (344) – 3 miles south, 5

miles west of Kensal. No recent information. (No ramp).

Bader Lake (427) – 4 miles south, 1 mile east of I-94 Exit 228. Small walleye.

Barnes Lake (346) – 1 mile east, 6 miles north of Woodworth. Pike and walleye fishery recovering from recent winterkill. 24-inch pike and 15-inch walleye present.

Big Mallard Marsh (599) – 9 miles north, 1 mile east of Woodworth. Excellent populations of walleye and pike, both up to 28 inches.

Clark Lake (340) – 5 miles west, 2 miles north of Woodworth. 28-inch pike, 17-inch walleye and 10-inch perch present.

Cleveland Slough (665) – .5 miles south of Cleveland along County Road 67. Perch up to 12 inches, occasional 30-inch pike. (No ramp).

Crystal Springs (179) – 1 mile east of Crystal Springs. 6- to 9-inch perch and a few 25-inch pike.

Hehn-Schaffer Lake (459) – 4 miles north of Gackle. Half-pound perch, 1.5-pound walleye and 4-pound pike. (Fishing pier).

Hoggarth Dam (576) – 3 miles west, 3 miles south of Courtenay. Population of 6- to 10-inch perch. (No ramp).

Jamestown Reservoir (341) – 2 miles north of Jamestown. Walleye average 1 pound, pike average 5 pounds, crappie average a half pound. Small walleye and pike in poor condition. (Fishing pier).

Jim Lake (342) – 6 miles east of Pingree. No recent information. (No ramp).

Little Britches Pond (492) – Next to Jamestown Reservoir marina. Annual trout introductions provide good action for youth. (No ramp).

Mud and Pearl Lakes (730) – 8 miles north, 3 miles west, 2 miles north, .3 miles east of Medina. 6- to 15-inch perch potentially available. (No ramp).

Pipestem Reservoir (348) – 5 miles northwest, .8 miles west, 1 mile south of Jamestown. Pike and walleye numbers improving, but condition of small walleye is poor. Crappie fishery (11-inch average) likely the best in North Dakota. (Fishing pier).

R and M Lake (579) – 4 miles east, 5 miles north of Buchanan. Walleye fishery, with fish up to 15 inches. (No ramp).

Reule Lake (607) – 5 miles west, .5 miles

north of Medina. Good numbers of 6- to 10-inch perch, fewer walleye, but fish up to 21 inches. (No ramp).

Schock Lake (592) – 11.5 miles north, 3.5 miles east, 1 mile north, .5 miles west of Jamestown. Perch fishery, with average size a half pound or better. (No ramp).

Spiritwood Lake (343) – 10 miles north, 4 miles east of Jamestown. Walleye average 1.2 pounds and pike average almost 3 pounds. Perch numbers are depressed. Good destination for trophy smallmouth bass. Catch-and-release recommended. (Fishing pier).

Streeter Lake (460) – South side of Streeter. No recent information.

Sunday Lake (649) – 1.5 miles west and 3 miles north of Woodworth. No recent information. (No ramp).

RIVERS AND LAKES

Bois de Sioux River (412) – Southeast corner of state in Richland County. Good catfish and walleye populations. (No ramp).

James River (400) – Southeastern part of the state. Excellent shore-fishing opportunities where lowhead dams and bridge crossings congregate pike and walleye.

Red River (411) – Eastern edge of state. Excellent catfish, along with walleye and pike. Bigger catfish tend to be farther north. (Fishing pier).

Sheyenne River (397) – Southeastern part of state. Excellent fishing all along river where access permits. (Fishing pier).

Wild Rice River (409) – Southeastern part of state. Excellent fishing for walleye at crossings downstream from Lake Tewaukon. (No ramp).

MISSOURI RIVER SYSTEM

Dave Fryda, Missouri River System supervisor, Riverdale

Looking back, winter of 2008-09 set the stage for one of the more dramatic recoveries of Missouri River System fisheries since Garrison Dam closed more than a half-century ago.

Three consecutive harsh winters, and an extremely wet spring in 2011, culminated in record runoff in the Missouri River basin. Reservoirs filled to capacity and releases from Garrison Dam were more than twice the previous record for much of the summer. Flooding caused



The Red River and its big channel catfish are often overlooked by North Dakota's walleye-crazed anglers.

considerable damage to access sites throughout the Garrison Reach and access to the river was largely nonexistent during most of the summer.

Yet, once access was restored, fishing was excellent in late summer and fall. Great fishing continued into 2012, but the effects of the flood on forage and sport fish began to become evident over the last year. The Garrison Reach and Lake Oahe saw a dramatic decline in forage abundance and a corresponding drop in sport fish quality while Lake Sakakawea continued to prosper.

Overall, anglers will again find excellent opportunities to pursue a variety of species throughout the Missouri River System in 2013.

NORTHERN PIKE

Lake Sakakawea/Lake Oahe – Sakakawea and Oahe's pike populations expanded in the 1990s as a result of excellent spawning success, and then declined throughout the drought. This classic boom/bust cycle has again come full circle as the number of young pike produced in 2009 was the highest in more than 30 years. Pike abundance today is higher than ever in both reservoirs.

The population, however, is dominated by young fish and anglers looking for trophy pike will need to be patient for a few more years. In 2013, anglers will find large numbers of pike in the 6- to 8-pound range, with a few large fish in the mix.

WALLEYE

Lake Sakakawea – Lake Sakakawea's walleye fishery was very good in 2012 and could be even better in 2013. Improved forage conditions and a more balanced predator/prey ratio have allowed Sakakawea walleye to improve dramatically in body condition and growth rates.

During the mid-2000s, poor forage led to slow growth and the population was dominated by small fish. Fortunately, conditions improved greatly and those small fish are now growing to sizes desired by anglers.

Today, the population contains the third highest percentage of fish exceeding 20 inches. Additionally, the 2010 year-class was exceptional and has grown well. In 2013, anglers will begin catching this abundant group of fish in the 14- to 16-inch range.

Missouri River/Lake Oahe – The fishery downstream of Garrison Dam to the South Dakota border has been exceptional the last several years, but anglers will find a different fishery in 2013 than they have the last several years.

Fishing will likely be good in the coming year due to depressed forage conditions. However, anglers should expect to encounter far fewer large walleye and the catch will likely be dominated by small fish.

CATFISH

Upper Lake Sakakawea, Missouri River (above the reservoir) and Yellowstone

River – A strong catfish population, with some fish exceeding 10 pounds. This is where anglers will find the best chance to catch a big cat in the Missouri River System. Anglers who target the area from Williston to the Missouri River and Yellowstone River confluence are generally quite successful during the open water season, and fair numbers of catfish are caught through the ice.

Lake Sakakawea – Good population of cats throughout the reservoir, but the best numbers and fishing success are in the upper end. Catfish abundance in Lake Sakakawea generally increased during the last drought and likewise began to increase again in 2012 due to declining lake elevations.

Garrison Dam Tailrace – Provides some good fishing for smaller catfish, especially in summer. Cats from this area are great table fare thanks to relatively cold water throughout summer.

Missouri River, south of Garrison

Dam – Catfish are abundant in this reach, and good fishing often occurs around the mouths of tributaries and well upstream during good flow conditions.

SALMON

Missouri River System – The Missouri River salmon fishery was greatly affected by high water in 2011, but recovered dramatically in 2012. Salmon fishing on Lake Sakakawea was exceptional last year, with an abundance of quality-sized fish harvested by anglers.

While habitat conditions and forage abundance remain good, the quality of the Lake Sakakawea salmon fishery in 2013 is unknown. Salmon stocked during the 2011 flood will be the dominant portion of salmon available to anglers in 2013. However, it is unknown to what extent those young salmon were flushed through Garrison Dam. High entrainment of adult salmon was experienced in 2011, but fishing still proved good in 2012. Hopefully, that trend continues this year.

WHITE BASS

Missouri River System – Lake Oahe typically has a much better white bass fishery than Lake Sakakawea. White bass, however, experienced a severe die-off in Oahe a few years ago and have not fully

recovered. Natural reproduction was exceptional in 2009, but a large die-off of young bass was also reported. Overall, white bass abundance remains well below past levels.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Lake Sakakawea – Similar to northern pike, smallmouth bass abundance declined due to low water and poor spawning habitat. However, reproduction was exceptional beginning in 2008, and anglers have been encountering good numbers of fish in the last couple of years.

In 2012, anglers caught a high number of Whopper-sized smallmouth bass from Lake Sakakawea. Abundance and size of smallmouth should remain exceptional in 2013.

TROUT

Garrison Dam Tailrace continues to produce trophy brown, rainbow and cutthroat trout. Rainbow trout have done especially well, with good numbers of 5- to 10-pound fish caught by anglers.

The Tailrace brown trout fishery has slowed in recent years, but still contains world-class-sized fish. A 20-pound brown is always a possibility.

Cutthroat trout have not done quite so well in recent years. Following their initial boom in the early 2000s, the population has declined in numbers and quality despite continued stocking.

DEVILS LAKE BASIN

Randy Hiltner, district fisheries supervisor, and Todd Caspers, fisheries biologist, both Devils Lake

WALLEYE

Devils Lake – Continues to support a large walleye population. Most of the fish are less than 16 inches. The past several years of excellent reproduction have produced many fish that are now 8-16 inches. Larger fish are available, but at lower densities than several years ago, partially because of low walleye reproduction from 2003-05.

Devils Lake's walleye population continues to thrive, with significant natural reproduction and periodic small stockings. Fishing opportunities will extend into the future as good densities of young fish are

being recruited into the fishery.

Stump Lake – A good population of wall-eye, most are less than 18 inches.

Lake Irvine – Good numbers of walleye, with most under 20 inches.

NORTHERN PIKE

Devils Lake – As water levels rise, the upper regions of the lake have expanded and provided excellent spawning habitat. As a result, pike natural reproduction has been high the past several years.

There will be great pike fishing opportunities in 2013. Pike can save a slow day of fishing as they are willing biters, especially in spring. Fish can be found lake-wide and most are between 20-30 inches, but there are some larger pike as well.

Stump Lake – Pike are common. Good numbers of medium- to larger-sized fish as well.

Lake Irvine – High numbers of medium-sized pike. While most fish are under 5 pounds, there are some larger pike as well.

YELLOW PERCH

Devils Lake – Perch densities have slowly increased as a result of two strong hatches in 2006-07 and 2011. Population size structure is somewhat top heavy with bigger fish because of limited hatching success in recent years.

However, the 2011 hatch looked strong and these fish did show up in the 2012 survey as 5-6 inchers, so future recruits are present. Perch fishing should be good this coming winter, but not as good as the last boom of the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Stump Lake – Perch population is increasing, with good numbers of medium-sized fish, with some big fish, too.

Lake Irvine – Yellow perch numbers are low, but the few perch in the lake are good-sized.

WHITE BASS

Devils Lake – White bass densities have decreased from a recent high in 2008. However, bass are still common and many are 14 inches or longer.

Stump Lake – White bass are currently at low densities.

Lake Irvine – Numbers are low, but like perch, the few white bass in the lake are good-sized.

MISSOURI RIVER SYSTEM

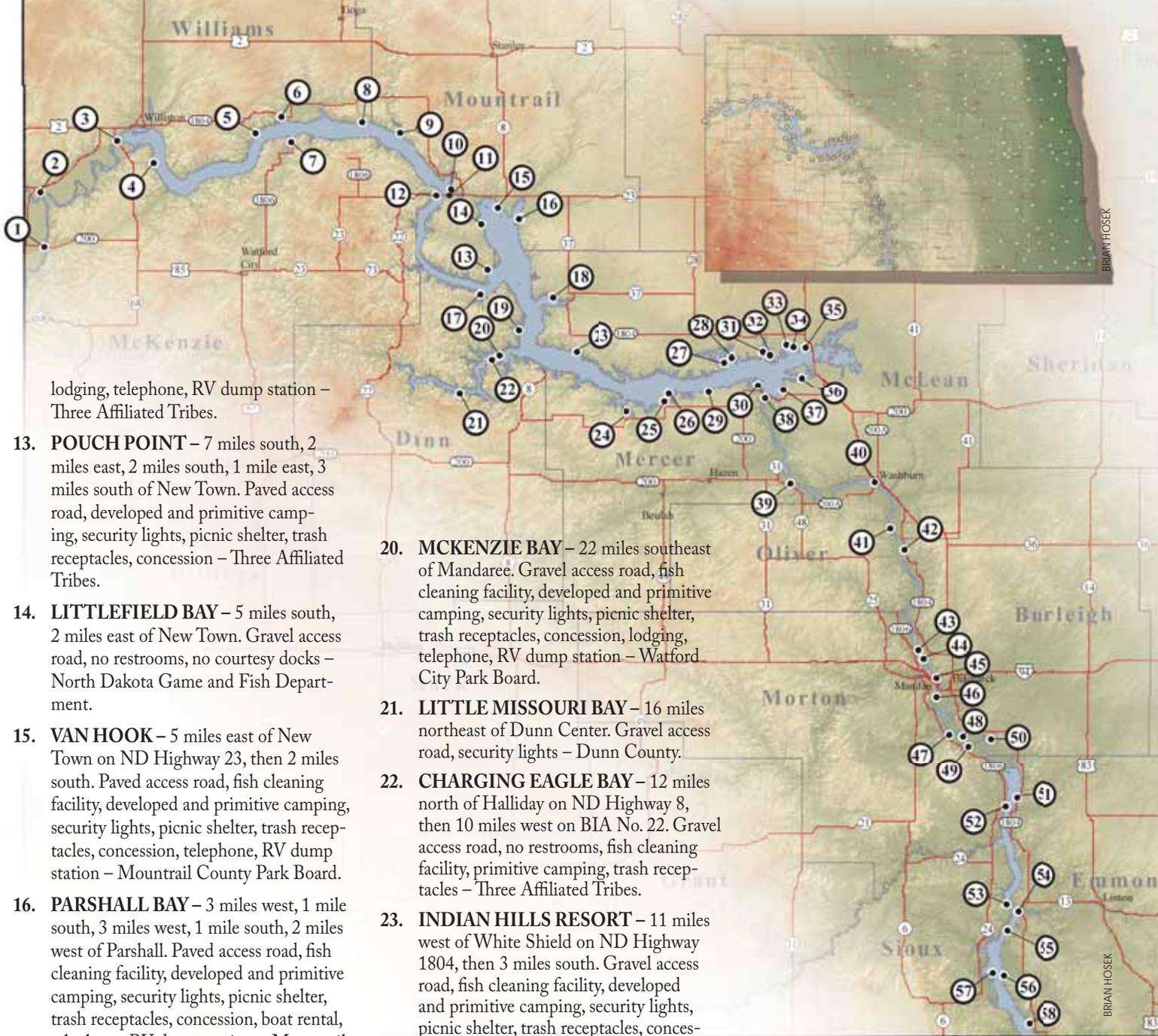
BOATING ACCESS



CRAIG BIRNLE

Following is a list of boating access sites on the Missouri River System in North Dakota. All sites have a boat ramp, courtesy dock and restrooms unless otherwise noted. Due to damage from flooding in 2011, access at some of these sites may not be available. For updated access information, check the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website (gf.nd.gov) or contact the appropriate managing authority noted at the end of each listing.

- 1. SUNDHEIM PARK** – 2 miles west of Cartwright on ND Highway 200, on west side of Yellowstone River and south side of ND Highway 200. Paved access road, no courtesy docks, primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Williams County Park Board.
- 2. CONFLUENCE AREA** – 1.5 miles south of Buford on ND Highway 1804. Paved access road, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Williams County WRD.
- 3. LEWIS AND CLARK BRIDGE** – 4 miles west of Williston on U.S. Highway 2, 3 miles south on U.S. Highway 85, on south side of Missouri River, and east side of U.S. Highway 85. Paved access road, no courtesy docks, security lights, picnic shelter – North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
- 4. AMERICAN LEGION PARK (RAUMS)** – 4 miles west of Williston on U.S. Highway 2, 6 miles south on U.S. Highway 85, then 4 miles east. Ramp is only usable when elevation is 1,848 feet above mean sea level or higher. Not usable in 2013. Gravel access road, no courtesy docks, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – American Legion Post 37.
- 5. LEWIS AND CLARK STATE PARK** – 16 miles east of Williston on ND Highway 1804, then 3 miles south. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, access fee, telephone, RV dump station – North Dakota Parks and Recreation.
- 6. WHITETAIL BAY (LUND'S LANDING)** – 22 miles east of Williston on ND Highway 1804. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, boat rental – Williams County Park Board.
- 7. TOBACCO GARDEN CREEK BAY** – 2 miles east of Watford City on ND Highway 23, then 25 miles north and east on ND Highway 1806. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, RV dump station – McKenzie County Park Board.
- 8. LITTLE BEAVER BAY** – 32 miles northwest of New Town on ND Highway 1804, then 3 miles south. Gravel access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Williams County Park Board.
- 9. WHITE EARTH BAY** – 28 miles northwest of New Town on ND Highway 1804, then 2 miles south, 1 mile east, 3 miles south, 3 miles east. Gravel access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, telephone, RV dump station – Mountrail County Park Board.
- 10. SANISH BAY (AFTEM)** – 1 mile north, 2 miles west of New Town. Gravel access road, no restrooms – New Town Park Board/Aftem Development.
- 11. NEW TOWN MARINA** – 2 miles west of New Town on ND Highway 23. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, telephone, RV dump station – New Town Marina Association.
- 12. FOUR BEARS** – 4 miles west of New Town on ND Highway 23. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession,



lodging, telephone, RV dump station – Three Affiliated Tribes.

13. **POUCH POINT** – 7 miles south, 2 miles east, 2 miles south, 1 mile east, 3 miles south of New Town. Paved access road, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession – Three Affiliated Tribes.
14. **LITTLEFIELD BAY** – 5 miles south, 2 miles east of New Town. Gravel access road, no restrooms, no courtesy docks – North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
15. **VAN HOOK** – 5 miles east of New Town on ND Highway 23, then 2 miles south. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, telephone, RV dump station – Mountrail County Park Board.
16. **PARSHALL BAY** – 3 miles west, 1 mile south, 3 miles west, 1 mile south, 2 miles west of Parshall. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, boat rental, telephone, RV dump station – Mountrail County Park Board.
17. **SKUNK BAY** – 14 miles northeast of Mandaree. Gravel access road, developed and primitive camping, concession, lodging – Three Affiliated Tribes/Roads Maker, Inc.
18. **DEEP WATER CREEK BAY** – 14 miles south of Parshall on ND Highway 37, then either 1 mile south to corps ramp or 2.5 miles west and .5 miles south to county ramp. Gravel access road, primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/McLean County Park Board.
19. **HALE MARINA** – 18 miles southeast of Mandaree. Gravel access road, no restrooms, no courtesy docks – Three Affiliated Tribes.
20. **MCKENZIE BAY** – 22 miles southeast of Mandaree. Gravel access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, telephone, RV dump station – Watford City Park Board.
21. **LITTLE MISSOURI BAY** – 16 miles northeast of Dunn Center. Gravel access road, security lights – Dunn County.
22. **CHARGING EAGLE BAY** – 12 miles north of Halliday on ND Highway 8, then 10 miles west on BIA No. 22. Gravel access road, no restrooms, fish cleaning facility, primitive camping, trash receptacles – Three Affiliated Tribes.
23. **INDIAN HILLS RESORT** – 11 miles west of White Shield on ND Highway 1804, then 3 miles south. Gravel access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, boat rental, telephone, RV dump station – North Dakota Parks and Recreation/Three Affiliated Tribes.
24. **BEAVER CREEK BAY** – 12 miles north of Zap. Paved access road, primitive camping, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Zap City Park Board.
25. **DAKOTA WATERS RESORT** – 15 miles north of Beulah. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, boat rental, telephone, RV dump station – Dakota Waters Resort.
26. **BEULAH BAY** – 17 miles north of Beulah. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, lodging, telephone, RV dump station – Beulah City Park Board.
27. **DOUGLAS CREEK BAY** – 5 miles south, 4 miles east of Emmet to corps ramp or 2 miles south, 1 mile east, 1 mile south of Emmet to county ramp. Gravel access road, primitive camping, trash receptacles – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/McLean County Park Board.
28. **CAMP OF THE CROSS** – 4 miles west, 1.5 miles south, 1 mile west, 1 mile south, 1 mile west, .5 miles south of Garrison. Gravel access road, no restrooms – Camp of the Cross.
29. **HAZEN BAY** – 14 miles north of Hazen. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, telephone, RV dump station – Hazen City Park Board.

30. **LAKE SAKAKAWEA STATE PARK** – Just east and north of Pick City. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, boat rental, access fee, telephone, RV dump station – North Dakota Parks and Recreation.
31. **GARRISON CREEK** – 2 miles west of Garrison on ND Highway 37, 3 miles south, 1 mile east. Gravel access road, no restrooms – Garrison Cabin Association.
32. **FORT STEVENSON STATE PARK** – 3 miles south of Garrison. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, boat rental, access fee, telephone, RV dump station – North Dakota Parks and Recreation.
33. **STEINKE BAY** – 3 miles west of the junction of ND Highway 37 and U.S. Highway 83, then 2 miles south. Gravel access road, primitive camping – North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
34. **SPORTSMENS CENTENNIAL PARK** – 1 mile west of the junction of ND Highway 37 and U.S. Highway 83, then 2 miles south, 1 mile west. Gravel access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, telephone – McLean County Park Board.
35. **WEST TOTTEN TRAIL** – 7 miles north of Coleharbor on U.S. Highway 83, then .5 miles west, or 2 miles south of the junction of U.S. Highway 83 and ND Highway 37, then .5 miles west. Gravel access road – McLean County Park Board.
36. **WOLF CREEK** – 1 mile east of Riverdale on ND Highway 200, then 2 miles north, 1 mile east, 1 mile north, .5 miles east. Gravel access road, fish cleaning facility, primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, RV dump station – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
37. **GOVERNMENT BAY** – Just north of Riverdale. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, trash receptacles – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
38. **GARRISON DAM TAILRACE** – Directly below Garrison Dam with the campground located south of the fish hatchery. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed camping, security lights, trash receptacles – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
39. **UPA SITE (STANTON)** – Just west of UPA Power Plant on ND Highway 200A near Stanton. Paved access road, security lights, trash receptacles – City of Stanton.
40. **WASHBURN** – On east side of the Missouri River near Washburn, north of ND Highway 200A bridge. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, primitive camping, security lights, trash receptacles, RV dump station – Washburn City Park Board.
41. **SANGER (CROSS RANCH)** – Just east of Sanger townsite on west side of Missouri River. Gravel access road, primitive camping, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – North Dakota Parks and Recreation.
42. **STECKEL BOAT LANDING (WILTON)** – 22 miles north of Bismarck on ND Highway 1804, or 5.5 miles west, 1 mile south, and 1.5 miles west of junction of U.S. Highway 83 and ND Highway 36. Paved access road, primitive camping, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Burleigh County Park Board.
43. **HOGELANDING** – On east side of Missouri River near Bismarck, 6.4 miles north of I-94 bridge on River Road, then .7 miles west and 1.5 miles south/southwest. Gravel access road, no courtesy docks, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Bismarck Parks and Recreation.
44. **KNIEFEL LANDING** – On east side of the Missouri River near Bismarck, 3 miles north of I-94 bridge on River Road, then 1 mile west. Paved access road, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession – Burleigh County Park Board.
45. **GRANT MARSH BRIDGE** – On east side of Missouri River near Bismarck, south side of the I-94 bridge on River Road. Paved access road, security lights, trash receptacles – Bismarck Parks and Recreation.
46. **FOX ISLAND PARK** – From Washington Street, .75 miles west on Riverwood Drive (1 block south of Expressway), 1.5 miles south and .5 miles west. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, security lights, trash receptacles – Bismarck Parks and Recreation.
47. **LITTLE HEART BOTTOMS (SCHMIDT)** – 11 miles south of Mandan on ND Highway 1806, then 1 mile north. Paved access road, trash receptacles – Morton County Park Board.
48. **KIMBALL BOTTOMS (DESSERT)** – 8 miles south of Bismarck on ND Highway 1804, then 2 miles south. Paved access road, primitive camping, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Burleigh County Park Board.
49. **GRANER BOTTOMS (SUGAR LOAF)** – 19 miles south of Mandan on ND Highway 1806, then 1 mile east, or about 3 miles north of Huff. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, RV dump station – Morton County Park Board.
50. **MACLEAN BOTTOMS (GUN RANGE)** – 14 miles south of Bismarck on ND Highway 1804, then 2 miles south. Paved access road, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Burleigh County Park Board.
51. **HAZELTON** – 31 miles southeast of Bismarck on ND Highway 1804 or 13 miles west and 2 miles north of Hazelton. Campground located just south of boat ramp. Paved access road, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
52. **FORT RICE** – 28 miles south of Mandan on ND Highway 1806, then .5 miles east. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Morton County Park Board.
53. **PRAIRIE KNIGHTS MARINA** – 10 miles south of the Cannonball River on ND Highway 1806, then 3.5 miles east. Gravel access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, lodging, telephone, RV dump station – Prairie Knights Casino.
54. **BEAVER BAY** – 13 miles west of Linton on ND Highway 13, then 2 miles south on ND Highway 1804. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, telephone, RV dump station – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
55. **JENNERVILLE (RIVERY)** – 13 miles west of Linton on ND Highway 13, then 6.5 miles south on ND Highway 1804, and 3.5 miles west at Rivery turnoff. Gravel access road, no restrooms, no courtesy docks – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
56. **CATTAIL BAY (WINONA)** – 10 miles west of Strasburg, 1 mile south, 7 miles west, then 1 mile north on ND Highway 1804, 2 miles west, 2 miles south, 1 mile west. Gravel access road, primitive camping, trash receptacles, concession – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
57. **FORT YATES** – North edge of Fort Yates. Paved access road, primitive camping, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.
58. **LANGELIERS BAY** – 10 miles west of Strasburg, 1 mile south, 7 miles west, then 11 miles south on ND Highway 1804, and .75 miles west. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, primitive camping, security lights, trash receptacles – Emmons County Park Board.

DEVILS LAKE BASIN

BOATING ACCESS

Following is a list of boating access sites in the Devils Lake Basin (Lake Irvine, Devils Lake and Stump Lake) in North Dakota. All sites have a boat ramp, courtesy dock and restrooms unless otherwise noted. For updated access information, check the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website (gf.nd.gov) or contact the appropriate managing authority noted at the end of each listing.

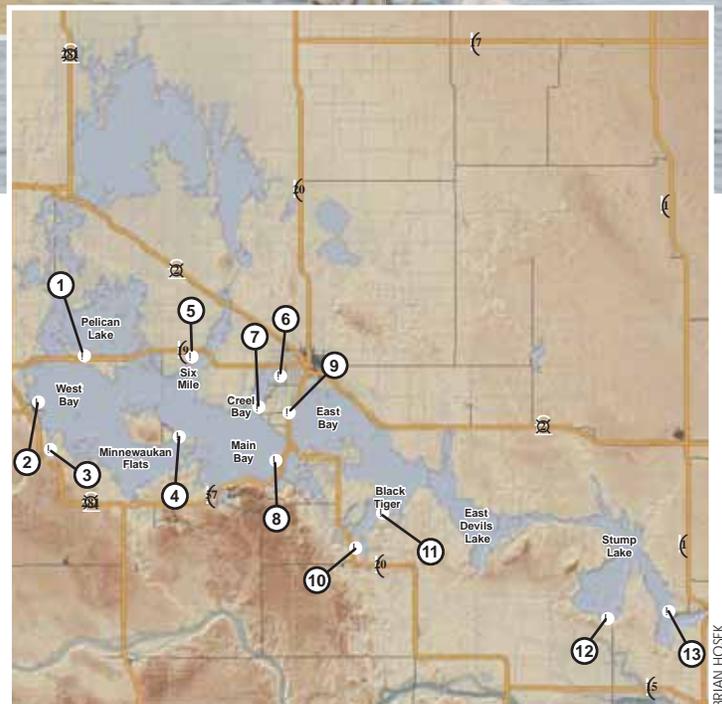
- 1. PELICAN LAKE BAY** – 15 miles west of Devils Lake on ND Highway 19. Paved access road, trash receptacles – North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
- 2. MINNEWAUKAN CITY** – East side of the city of Minnewaukan. Gravel access road, no restrooms, no courtesy docks, fish cleaning facility – Minnewaukan Community Club.
- 3. ROUND LAKE BAY** – 3 miles south of Minnewaukan on U.S. Highway 281. Paved access road, trash receptacles – Minnewaukan Community Club.
- 4. GRAHAMS ISLAND STATE PARK** – 10 miles west of Devils Lake on ND Highway 19, then 6 miles south. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, access fee, telephone, RV dump station – North Dakota Parks and Recreation.
- 5. SCHWAB LANDING** – 7 miles west of Devils Lake on ND Highway 19. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles,

concession, telephone, RV dump station – North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

- 6. HENEGAR LANDING** – 1 mile west of Devils Lake on ND Highway 19, then .75 miles south. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, security lights, trash receptacles – Ramsey County Park Board.
- 7. CREEL BAY** – 3 miles south of Devils Lake on ND Highway 20, then 2 miles west and .25 miles north. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Ramsey County Park Board.
- 8. SPIRIT LAKE CASINO** – 6 miles south of Devils Lake on ND Highway 20/57. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, boat rental, telephone, RV dump station – Spirit Lake Casino.
- 9. EAST BAY** – 3 miles south of Devils Lake on ND Highway 20. Paved access road, security lights, trash receptacles – North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
- 10. ESTENSON LANDING** – 15 miles south of Devils Lake on ND Highway

20. Paved access road, no restrooms, trash receptacles – North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

- 11. BLACK TIGER BAY** – 7.5 miles east of Devils Lake on U.S. Highway 2, then 6 miles south, 3 miles west. Gravel access road, no restrooms, no courtesy docks, concession – North Dakota Parks and Recreation.
- 12. TOLNA LANDING (STUMP LAKE)** – 3 miles north of Tolna. Gravel access road, fish cleaning facility, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles – Tolna Community Club.
- 13. STUMP LAKE PARK** – 11 miles south, 1 mile west of Lakota. Paved access road, fish cleaning facility, developed and primitive camping, security lights, picnic shelter, trash receptacles, concession, lodging, RV dump station – Nelson County Park Board.



RON WILSON

BRIAN HOSEK

FISH STOCKING REPORT

2012

All numbers more than 1,000 are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Stocked fish are fingerlings unless otherwise noted.

BLACK CRAPPIE

George Lake, McHenry County (adult).....	28
Crown Butte Dam, Morton County	10,000
Harmon Lake, Morton County.....	19,000
Horseshoe Lake, Richland County (adult)	280
Tosse Slough, Sargent County (adult)	289
Wolf Lake, Sheridan County (adult)	28
Makoti Lake, Ward County (adult).....	28

BLUEGILL

Sather Dam, McKenzie County (adult)	261
Lake Holmes, McLean County (adult)	221
Mirror Pool, Ransom County (adult)	44
State Fair Pond, Ward County (adult).....	2,000

BROWN TROUT

Moon Lake, Barnes County	700
Baukol-Noonan East Mine Pond, Divide County.....	350
Camels Hump Dam, Golden Valley County.....	350
Raleigh Reservoir, Grant County	200
Sheep Creek Dam, Grant County	200
Blumhardt Dam, McIntosh County.....	350
Lightning Lake, McLean County	700
Crown Butte Dam, Morton County	760
Fish Creek Dam, Morton County.....	500
Harmon Lake, Morton County.....	500
Nygren Dam, Morton County	700
Missouri River	19,000
Velva Sportsmen's Pond, Ward County	350
Kettle Lake, Williams County.....	200

BROOK STICKLEBACK

Cottonwood Park Pond, Burleigh County (adult)	40
OWLS Pond, Burleigh County (adult)	14
Twin Lakes, Burleigh County (adult).....	19
Miller Lake, Emmons County (adult).....	33
Deer Lake, Kidder County (adult)	15
North Jasper, Kidder County (adult)	15
Martin Slough, Kidder County (adult).....	15
South Lake, Kidder County (adult).....	15
Ruff Lake, Logan County (adult).....	18
Lehr WMA, McIntosh County (adult).....	33
Porsborg Dam, Morton County (adult).....	14

CHANNEL CATFISH

Watford City Park Pond, McKenzie County (adult)	102
Gaebe Pond, Morton County (adult)	84
Stanley Pond, Mountrail County (adult).....	210
Belfield Pond, Stark County (adult)	87
Dickinson Dike, Stark County (adult).....	82

CUTTHROAT TROUT

Missouri River	18,000
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CHINOOK SALMON

Lake Sakakawea (smolt)	224,000
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FATHEAD MINNOW

Cottonwood Park Pond, Burleigh County (adult)	400
OWLS Pond, Burleigh County (adult)	140
Twin Lakes, Burleigh County (adult).....	186
Miller Lake, Emmons County (adult).....	330
Deer Lake, Kidder County (adult)	150
North Jasper, Kidder County (adult)	150
Martin Slough, Kidder County (adult).....	150
South Lake, Kidder County (adult).....	150
Ruff Lake, Logan County (adult).....	180
Lehr WMA, McIntosh County (adult).....	330
Porsborg Dam, Morton County (adult).....	140
Mooreton Pond, Richland County (adult)....	60,000

GIZZARD SHAD

Lake Oahe (adult)	225
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GREEN SUNFISH

Heart River (adult)	2,000
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LARGEMOUTH BASS

Lutz Dam, Bowman County (adult)	100
North Woodhaven Pond, Cass County (adult)....	25
Kilzer Dam, Hettinger County (adult).....	100
Schlecht-Thom Dam, LaMoure County	833
Schlecht-Weixel Dam, LaMoure County.....	833
Schlenker Dam (Lehr Dam), LaMoure County.....	834
Sather Dam, McKenzie County (adult)	96
State Fair Pond, Ward County (adult).....	600

TIGER MUSKELLUNGE

Lake Audubon, McLean County	6,000
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NORTHERN PIKE

Mirror Lake, Adams County.....	7,000
Lake Ashtabula, Barnes County.....	520,000
Carbury Dam, Bottineau County	11,000
Pelican Lake, Bottineau County.....	11,000
Powers Lake, Burke County	111,000
Cottonwood Park Pond, Burleigh County (adult)	92
Lake Harriet (Arena Lake), Burleigh County.....	52,000
Mitchell Lake, Burleigh County	22,000
Lake Ilo, Dunn County (adult)	432
Lake Ilo, Dunn County.....	52,000
New Rockford Reservoir, Eddy County	1,000
Baumgartner Lake, Emmons County.....	25,000
Braddock Dam, Emmons County.....	10,000
Jake's Lake, Emmons County.....	30,000
Juanita Lake, Foster County	20,000
Kolding Dam, Grand Forks County.....	1,000

Larimore Dam, Grand Forks County.....	10,000
Niagara Dam, Grand Forks County	1,000
Carlson-Tande Dam, Griggs County	1,000
Lake Jessie, Griggs County	22,000
Larson Lake, Hettinger County	10,000
Cherry Lake, Kidder County.....	26,000
Des Moines Lake, Kidder County.....	53,000
Frettim Lake, Kidder County	10,000
Helen Lake, Kidder County	50,000
Horsehead Lake, Kidder County.....	303,000
Horsehead Lake, Kidder County (fry).....	1,200,000
Lake Isabel, Kidder County.....	26,000
Lake No. 5, Kidder County (adult).....	120
Lake No. 5, Kidder County	5,000
Leno Lake, Kidder County	30,000
Long Alkaline Lake, Kidder County.....	40,000
Ranch Lake, Kidder County.....	20,000
Alfred Lake, LaMoure County.....	25,000
Flood Lake, LaMoure County	30,000
Kalmbach Lake, LaMoure County.....	8,000
Beaver Lake, Logan County.....	51,000
West Lake Napoleon, Logan County	48,000
Clear Lake, McIntosh County	20,000
Homestead Lake, McIntosh County	29,000
Venturia Lake, McIntosh County.....	50,000
Arnegard Dam, McKenzie County	4,000
Long Lake, McLean County.....	31,000
Painted Woods Creek, McLean County	11,000
Danzig Dam, Morton County.....	13,000
Clearwater Lake, Mountrail County	10,000
Stanley Reservoir, Mountrail County	27,000
White Earth Dam, Mountrail County	17,000
Silver Creek Dam, Nelson County	2,000
Renwick Dam, Pembina County	10,000
Balta Dam, Pierce County.....	9,000
Buffalo Lake, Pierce County.....	7,000
Davis Lake, Pierce County	18,000
Carpenter Lake, Rolette County	20,000
School Section Lake, Rolette County.....	10,000
Wheaton Lake, Rolette County	5,000
Buffalo Lake, Sargent County	19,000
Coal Mine Lake, Sheridan County	65,000
North (Hoffer) McClusky, Sheridan County.....	11,000
Sheyenne Lake, Sheridan County	55,000
Wolf Lake, Sheridan County.....	18,000
Cedar Lake, Slope County (adult).....	74
Cedar Lake, Slope County	30,000
Dickinson Reservoir (Patterson Lake), Stark County (adult)	90
Finley Dam (Lynch Lake), Steele County.....	1,000
Big Mallard Marsh, Stutsman County	26,000
Crystal Springs, Stutsman County	14,000
Streeter Lake, Stutsman County	4,000
Sunday Lake, Stutsman County	10,000
Makoti Lake, Ward County	25,000
Rice Lake, Ward County	27,000
Sykeston Dam, Wells County (adult)	180

Sykeston Dam, Wells County.....10,000
 Tioga Dam, Williams County.....7,000

RAINBOW TROUT 

Bolke Dam, Adams County.....350
 North Lemmon, Adams County.....3,000
 Blumers Pond, Barnes County.....350
 Hatchery Kids Pond, Barnes County.....350
 Moon Lake, Barnes County.....3,000
 Strawberry Lake, Bottineau County.....693
 Lutz Dam, Bowman County.....350
 Northgate Dam, Burke County.....5,000
 Cottonwood Park Pond, Burleigh County.....700
 McDowell Dam, Burleigh County.....700
 OWLS Pond, Burleigh County.....911
 North Woodhaven Pond, Cass County.....900
 Langdon City Pond, Cavalier County.....350
 Baukol-Noonan Dam, Divide County.....4,000
 Baukol-Noonan East Mine Pond, Divide County.....350
 Beach City Pond, Golden Valley County.....350
 Camels Hump Dam, Golden Valley County.....3,000
 Ryan Park Pond, Grand Forks County.....700
 Raleigh Reservoir, Grant County.....3,000
 Sheep Creek Dam, Grant County.....4,000
 Castle Rock Dam, Hettinger County.....700
 Mott Watershed Dam, Hettinger County.....700
 Blumhardt Dam, McIntosh County.....700
 Watford City Park Pond, McKenzie County.....350
 Custer Mine, McLean County.....700
 Lightning Lake, McLean County.....1,000
 Riverdale City Pond, McLean County.....900
 Harmony Lake, Mercer County.....1,000
 Crown Butte Dam, Morton County.....345
 Fish Creek Dam, Morton County.....4,000
 Gaebe Pond, Morton County.....695
 Harmon Lake, Morton County.....6,000
 Porsborg Dam, Morton County.....700
 Stanley Pond, Mountrail County.....700
 Turtle River.....2,000
 Oliver County Sportsmen's Pond, Oliver County.....200
 Glenburn Pond, Renville County.....326
 Mooreton Pond, Richland County.....2,000
 Hooker Lake, Rolette County.....1,000
 Davis Dam, Slope County.....1,000
 Belfield Pond, Stark County.....700
 Dickinson Dike, Stark County.....3,000
 Little Britches Pond, Stutsman County.....276
 Velva Sportsmen's Pond, Ward County.....700
 East Spring Lake Pond, Williams County.....1,000
 Kettle Lake, Williams County.....700
 Kota-Ray Dam, Williams County.....2,000
 McGregor Dam, Williams County.....2,000
 West Spring Lake Pond, Williams County.....350

WALLEYE 

Lake Ashtabula, Barnes County.....262,000
 Fox Lake, Barnes County.....65,000
 Island Lake, Barnes County.....10,000
 Kee Lake, Barnes County.....10,000
 Moon Lake, Barnes County.....5,000
 Wood Lake, Benson County.....15,000
 Long Lake, Bottineau County.....25,000
 Lake Metigoshe, Bottineau County (adult).....2,000
 Lake Metigoshe, Bottineau County.....140,000
 Bowman-Haley Dam, Bowman County.....181,000
 Short Creek Dam, Burke County.....17,000
 Smishek Lake, Burke County.....26,000
 Brewer Lake, Cass County.....6,000
 Mount Carmel Dam, Cavalier County.....40,000

Pheasant Lake, Dickey County.....26,000
 Wilson Dam, Dickey County.....5,000
 Lake Coe, Eddy County.....40,000
 Warsing Dam, Eddy County.....10,000
 Dry Lake, Foster County.....41,000
 Fordville Dam, Grand Forks County.....25,000
 Larimore Dam, Grand Forks County.....10,000
 Heart Butte Reservoir (Lake Tschida), Grant County.....325,000
 Lake Addie, Griggs County.....25,000
 Red Willow Lake, Griggs County.....20,000
 Alkaline Lake, Kidder County.....91,000
 Jasper Lake, Kidder County.....46,000
 Round Lake, Kidder County.....21,000
 Sibley Lake, Kidder County.....101,000
 Lake Williams, Kidder County.....16,000
 Boom Lake (Marion Lake), LaMoure County.....19,000
 Diamond Lake, LaMoure County.....21,000
 Kulm-Edgeley Dam, LaMoure County.....5,000
 Lake LaMoure, LaMoure County.....20,000
 Twin Lakes, LaMoure County.....37,000
 Logan (Mueller) WMA, Logan County (fry).....200,000
 Marvin Miller Lake, Logan County.....99,000
 Mundt Lake, Logan County.....35,000
 Thurn Lake, Logan County.....10,000
 Wentz WPA, Logan County (fry).....200,000
 Buffalo Lodge Lake, McHenry County.....97,000
 Cottonwood Lake, McHenry County.....25,000
 Round Lake, McHenry County.....75,000
 Coldwater Lake, McIntosh County.....22,000
 Green Lake, McIntosh County.....38,000
 Lake Hoskins, McIntosh County.....32,000
 Lehr WMA, McIntosh County.....52,000
 Lake Audubon, McLean County.....213,000
 Lake Brekken, McLean County.....22,000
 Brush Lake, McLean County.....26,000
 Crooked Lake, McLean County.....99,000
 Lake Holmes, McLean County.....30,000
 Strawberry Lake, McLean County.....21,000
 White Earth Dam, Mountrail County.....20,000
 McVile Dam, Nelson County.....7,000
 Stump Lake, Nelson County.....577,000
 Tolna Dam, Nelson County.....20,000
 Whitman Dam, Nelson County.....22,000
 Devils Lake.....367,000
 Lake Sakakawea.....4,000,000
 Renwick Dam, Pembina County.....20,000
 Clear Lake, Pierce County.....48,000
 Cavanaugh Lake, Ramsey County.....10,000
 Dead Colt Creek, Ransom County.....14,000
 Lake Darling, Renville County.....450,000
 Elm Lake, Richland County.....27,000
 Lake Elsie, Richland County.....27,000
 Grass Lake, Richland County.....52,000
 Gullies Slough, Richland County.....32,000
 Horseshoe Lake, Richland County.....19,000
 Lueck Lake, Richland County.....11,000
 Wahl Lake, Richland County.....5,000
 West Moran Lake, Richland County.....11,000
 Dion Lake, Rolette County.....11,000
 Island Lake, Rolette County.....41,000
 Upsilon Lake, Rolette County.....33,000
 Alkali Lake, Sargent County.....17,000
 Buffalo Lake, Sargent County.....28,000
 Consolidated Lake, Sargent County.....12,000
 Kraft Slough, Sargent County.....82,000
 Sprague Lake, Sargent County.....27,000
 Lake Tewaukon, Sargent County.....164,000
 Tosse Slough, Sargent County.....19,000
 South (Hoffer) McClusky, Sheridan County.....20,000

Stober Lake, Sheridan County.....48,000
 Froelich Dam, Sioux County.....16,000
 Dickinson Reservoir (Patterson Lake), Stark County.....150,000
 North Golden Lake, Steele County.....30,000
 South Golden Lake, Steele County.....40,000
 Bader Lake, Stutsman County.....8,000
 Barnes Lake, Stutsman County.....26,000
 Big Mallard Marsh, Stutsman County.....52,000
 Clark Lake, Stutsman County.....14,000
 Crystal Springs, Stutsman County.....8,000
 Hehn Schaffer Lake, Stutsman County.....11,000
 Reule Lake, Stutsman County.....46,000
 Armourdale Dam, Towner County.....15,000
 Bisbee Dam-Big Coulee, Towner County.....31,000
 Bylin Dam, Walsh County.....10,000
 Homme Dam, Walsh County.....25,000
 Matejcek Dam, Walsh County.....10,000
 Hiddenwood Lake, Ward County.....20,000
 Harvey Dam, Wells County.....25,000
 Hurdsfield-Tuffy Lake, Wells County.....26,000
 Blacktail Dam, Williams County.....22,000
 Epping-Springbrook Dam, Williams County.....20,000
 Kota-Ray Dam, Williams County.....3,000
 McLeod (Ray) Reservoir, Williams County.....6,000

WHITE CRAPPIE 

George Lake, McHenry County (adult).....250
 Wolf Lake, Sheridan County (adult).....250
 Makoti Lake, Ward County (adult).....250
 State Fair Pond, Ward County (adult).....37

YELLOW PERCH 

Island Lake, Barnes County (adult).....3,000
 Koebnick Pond, Barnes County (adult).....3,000
 Boundary Lake, Bottineau County (adult).....800
 Carbury Dam, Bottineau County (adult).....600
 Thompson Lake, Bottineau County (adult).....400
 Short Creek Dam, Burke County (adult).....9,000
 Cottonwood Park Pond, Burleigh County (adult).....6,000
 OWLS Pond, Burleigh County (adult).....2,000
 Twin Lakes, Burleigh County (adult).....3,000
 Tanberg Dam, Divide County (adult).....2,000
 Lake Coe, Eddy County (adult).....24,000
 Miller Lake, Emmons County (adult).....5,000
 Odland Dam, Golden Valley County (adult).....680
 Deer Lake, Kidder County (adult).....2,000
 North Jasper, Kidder County (adult).....2,000
 Martin Slough, Kidder County (adult).....2,300
 South Lake, Kidder County (adult).....2,000
 Ruff Lake, Logan County (adult).....3,000
 Lehr WMA, McIntosh County (adult).....5,000
 Coal Lake, McLean County (adult).....412
 Lake Holmes, McLean County (adult).....25,000
 Triangle Y Pond, McLean County (adult).....400
 Porsborg Dam, Morton County (adult).....2,000
 Heart River (adult).....7,000
 Glenburn Pond, Renville County (adult).....200
 Wolf Lake, Sheridan County (adult).....600
 Belfield Pond, Stark County (adult).....2,000
 Dickinson Reservoir (Patterson Lake), Stark County (adult).....2,000
 State Fair Pond, Ward County (adult).....1,000
 Cottonwood Lake, Williams County (adult).....25,000
 McLeod (Ray) Reservoir, Williams County (adult).....5,000
 Tioga Dam, Williams County (adult).....5,000



Anglers jockey for position during a hot bite on the Missouri River System.

MIKE ANDERSON

Fishing Questions, Angling Answers

Recently, Greg Power, North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries division chief, responded to a series of questions posed by Dakota Country magazine in regards to fishing in North Dakota.

The questions and answers are certainly relevant to North Dakota anglers and *North Dakota OUTDOORS* readers, providing some perspective on the open water season and beyond.

Q: Any regulations changes for 2013 and beyond?

A: This is the off year of our two-year proclamation period and thus there are no changes. Other than buying a new fishing license for the new season beginning April 1, all rules and regulations are the same as in the past.

Between now and October, however, our field staff will review data from their respective water bodies across the state and determine if there's an obvious need for some type of regulation change. Collectively, we'll discuss any lake specific proclamation issues and decide if a regulatory change is needed.

We're riding a real high right now in terms of fishing in North Dakota and there aren't any identified regulation changes in the hopper, with the exception of paddlefish. However,

water conditions can change rapidly in North Dakota and we will make any final recommendations in fall.

Q: North Dakota's paddlefish snagging season, which opens May 1, remains popular. What is the status of the paddlefish population?

A: For the past couple of decades the Sakakawea-Yellowstone population of paddlefish has generally held its own. In recent years, however, it has become evident there will be fewer fish in years to come due to poor recruitment. Understanding this, the Department is seriously considering implementing a lottery system for obtaining a paddlefish tag in 2014.

Not only are paddlefish numbers projected to decline, interest/effort/participation in paddlefish snagging is slowly increasing. Existing public access sites and areas are becoming far more crowded. Congestion and reduced quality of the experience are growing concerns. In the past, the Department has limited effort and harvest with an in-season closure option when the harvest approached 1,000 paddlefish.

However, given current conditions and expectations that the harvest cap

will likely be reduced, the Department's current regulation options are increasingly limited. A lottery system is the best remaining regulatory alternative to continue the fishery, while maintaining control of harvest at a sustainable level.

Q: What is the outlook for the Missouri River System this year?

A: Dave Fryda, North Dakota Game and Fish Department Missouri River System supervisor, indicates the outlook will again be a mixed bag. Lake Oahe and the Garrison Reach will continue to have challenges while the Lake Sakakawea fishery should remain good for the coming year.

Just five short years ago *North Dakota OUTDOORS* published "A Tale of Two Reservoirs," contrasting the booming Lake Oahe fishery with the struggling Lake Sakakawea fishery. Today, those roles are again reversed. The one constant when it comes to the MRS fisheries in North Dakota is that change is inevitable and often rapid.

Most critical for both these fisheries is prudent water management in 2013 and beyond. Just 18 months ago the system was taxed with record releases and high reservoir levels. However, as

Dave pointed out, 2012 proved once again that the Missouri River basin is a basin of drought far more frequently than floods. During the past year, drought intensified throughout the basin and large amounts of water were flushed downstream to support a miniscule navigation industry. Consequently, the reservoirs look far different than they did just a year ago and forecasts aren't that encouraging.

Maintaining a rising water level during the spawning season (generally mid-April to mid-May) is critical for adequate forage and game fish production in both fisheries. Unfortunately, in years with minimal plains snowpack, that proves challenging and often one or both reservoirs drop during this critical period. Given the more immediate need for forage production in Lake Oahe, it has priority for a rising pool this spring if adequate runoff does not occur. If drought conditions persist, 2013 will see reservoirs decline to levels that hamper the recovery of the Lake Oahe fishery and begin to impact the Lake Sakakawea fishery. Further

water level declines will also begin to negatively impact angler access as some locations on both reservoirs again become unusable.

Q: Are there plans to stock cisco or gizzard shad in Lake Oahe this year?

A: There is no doubt that the current walleye fishery between Garrison Dam and the state border is much different than what anglers experienced in recent years. Lack of forage following the 2011 flood led to decreases in walleye condition and growth rates, as well as a corresponding increase in mortality rate. According to Paul Bailey, Department district fisheries supervisor, most of the walleye from the exceptionally strong 2009 year-class have now reached 13-15 inches in length and will dominate angler catches in the upcoming year.

Over the past 40-plus years, this fishery has demonstrated a remarkable ability to recover if water level management and springtime weather conditions are favorable for forage fish reproduction. However, recovery will be delayed if the dry conditions of

2012 were just the start of a longer-term drought.

Last year, the Department worked with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks to stock adult gizzard shad in Lake Oahe in an effort to provide additional forage for predatory fish. Paul indicated that it appears that this shad reintroduction was a moderate success. However, it will likely take several consecutive mild winters for shad numbers to increase to the levels seen in the mid-2000s. It is likely that we will stock additional adult gizzard shad again this year.

Cisco are a coldwater forage species and thus we have never stocked nor intend to stock them into our portion of Lake Oahe. They already exist and reproduce in the colder waters of lower Oahe in South Dakota.

Q: Lake Sakakawea made a nice comeback last year. Can you provide updates on: 1) stocking plans for 2013; 2) the status of salmon; 3) how smallmouth bass increased so dramatically last year; 4) are you worried about oil development eventually impacting Lake Sakakawea?

1. Again, according to Dave Fryda, the Lake Sakakawea fishery was generally very good in 2012 and should remain so in 2013. Smelt and other forage species remain adequate despite high entrainment rates experienced during the flood event of 2011. Declining habitat conditions due to dropping water levels may begin to impact the fishery as this year progresses.

Currently, the proportion of the walleye population exceeding 20 inches is the third highest since surveys began in 1968. Additionally, anglers will see lots of 14- to 16-inch fish recruited to the fishery in 2013 due to a strong 2010 year-class that has grown exceptionally well.

Northern pike abundance is off the charts at levels double the previous record. Good opportunities for pike exist throughout the



FRED RYCKMAN

Fisheries biologists tag the rostrum of a young paddlefish. In recent years, fisheries managers say paddlefish have suffered from poor recruitment into the population.

reservoir, but most pike are still less than 10 pounds. As the strong 2009 year-class continues to grow, Lake Sakakawea will again be a prime location for trophy pike.

Currently, stocking plans for Lake Sakakawea include 2 million walleye and 200,000 chinook salmon.

2. Predicting how the salmon run and angling success will be is one of the more difficult tasks we encounter. We don't have a lot of ability to monitor salmon abundance and size from the time they are stocked until they return in the fall run as adults. A couple indicators of the salmon run potential are smelt abundance and the number of young maturing male salmon (jacks) seen in the previous year's spawning run. Smelt abundance declined following the flood of 2011, but remains adequate. Jack salmon abundance in 2012 wasn't overly impressive, suggesting perhaps a smaller run in 2013.
3. Like virtually all species, small-mouth bass suffered greatly during the last drought. However, they had an advantage in recovering quickly due to their later spawning times. In 2008, water levels began to rebound in midsummer from a prolonged drought. We noted a strong year-class of smallies in our fall reproduction surveys and have noted other strong year-classes in subsequent surveys. The population currently has lots of nice-sized bass, with a high abundance of larger fish as reflected in the record number (53) of "Whopper" smallmouth reported in 2012. This fishery should remain strong in 2013.
4. Regarding energy development, the large number of wells and pipelines close to the reservoir and within the flood plain certainly has a risk associated with them that will only increase as the industry further develops. Fortunately, we haven't documented any biological impacts to date. On the other hand, many



Most of North Dakota's "new" perch lakes were started by fisheries biologists netting adult perch and transporting them to other waters.

popular recreational areas along Lake Sakakawea are in the heart of the oil development region. We routinely hear from anglers who are avoiding certain, once-popular access sites due to not wanting to risk damage to boats and other equipment on rough roads.

Q: Did the small- and medium-sized lakes lose enough water because of dry conditions last summer to raise concerns? Are you worried about another impending drought?

A: Yes, there was/is a concern, but then again every fisheries biologist in the Dakotas, from day one on the job until retirement, is aware of weather patterns and is concerned about drought.

A very dry winter and summer this past year resulted in a 2- to 4-foot reduction in lake levels pretty much throughout all of North Dakota. Normally, this rate of loss would be absolutely alarming. But with record floods in 2011 and many lakes at record-high lake levels, if there ever was a time we could afford to lose that much water, it was last year. One thing for certain, we won't be able to absorb another 2- to 4-foot loss in water levels again in 2013 without the risk of summer and winterkills increasing dramatically.

Q: We heard of fishing waters in winter that we've never heard of before with

healthy populations of yellow perch. Does Game and Fish know how many of these such lakes are actually out there?

A: An exact number, no. Although, most of these "new" perch lakes were started by the efforts of our field biologists, some did not. When a lake can start producing good numbers of 10-inch and larger perch, the word spreads quickly. That certainly was the case again this past winter.

I should note that in 2012 we hit the 400-lake mark that we're actively managing. Just 20 years ago we had fewer than 180, so we now have a record number of lakes. And in many cases, these waters are supporting a record number of fish, not just perch, but pike, walleye, bass and so on. Like I've said for the past couple years, the good old days for fishing are now.

Q: What are Game and Fish's plans for perch stocking?

A: With dry conditions over the past year-plus, the number of new lakes that can overwinter perch is greatly reduced. Also, we need to obtain landowner access easements on many of these lakes before we stock them. However, I'm sure there will be some new lakes fisheries biologists have in mind that will be stocked this spring with spawning perch.

Q: What's the Game and Fish Department's criteria for a healthy perch stocking lake?

A: First, it has to be of some size. And more importantly, the maximum depth has to be 12 feet, although 15 feet or more is much better. Then, if it's without pike or other predators, the better chance it has to become established as a perch fishery. Lastly, we need to ensure there is public access.

Q: Do fisheries biologists get a chance to test-net all these perch lakes each year?

A: Not even close. There are just too many lakes to get to them all. But usually within two years after the initial stocking, we're able to get in and do a quick assessment.

Q: Largemouth bass and trout typically are at the bottom of the popularity list in North Dakota. Has that changed at all? Is the trout stocking program in limited lakes still ongoing?

A: I don't think their popularity has changed much, but we're conducting a mail survey right now and that is one of the questions. I don't think it's a dislike for trout or bass, but rather that North Dakotans are crazy for walleye year-round, plus pike and perch in the winter. We still have lakes that are more suitable for trout and/or bass and we'll continue to manage them for these species, and encourage families and youth to get after them as they can be relatively easy to catch and provide great entertainment. We continue to stock as many trout as we did 10 years ago.

Q: Any concerns with hatchery funding this year?

A: This has become an ongoing concern and, unfortunately, talk at the national level hasn't been overly encouraging. Again on a local level, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery employees do a great job trying to keep the "recreational fish" stocking portion of their mandates solvent. But recreational fish stocking continues to be de-emphasized within the USFWS so the state will likely be asked to do



CRAIG BHRLE

Talk on the federal level about hatchery funding hasn't been encouraging, state fisheries officials say.

more, and we will.

Q: Devils Lake is on a roll. What is the status this year?

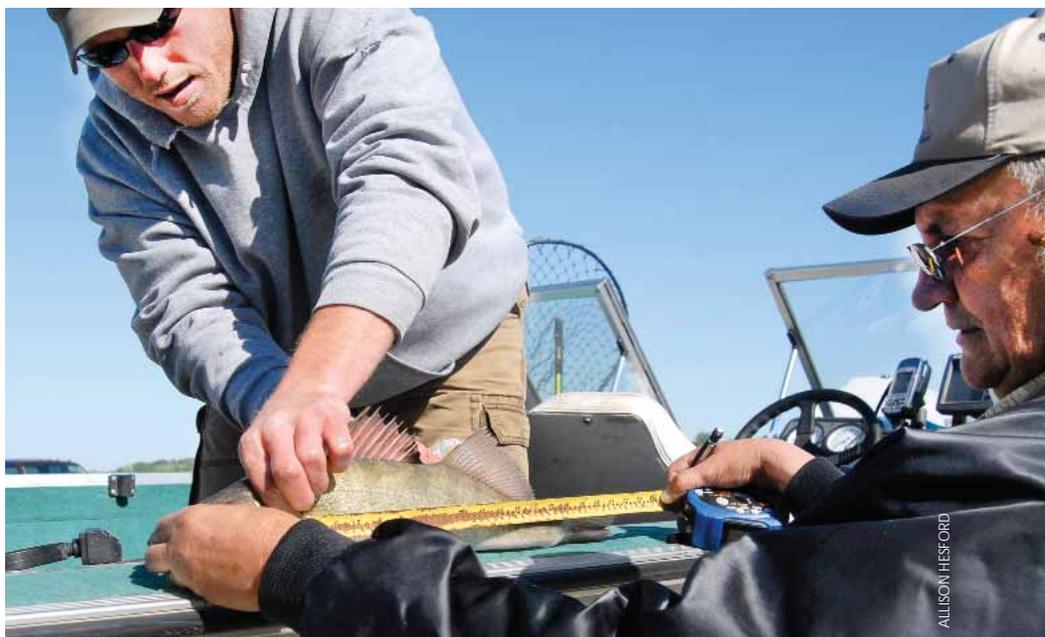
A: The lake level has not stabilized. The combination of limited inflows last spring, a dry summer, and the operation of the emergency outlets, contributed to a decrease in lake level of about 3 feet in 2012.

Even if the outlets didn't exist, Devils Lake would naturally experience

water level changes. The lake level just does not remain steady for very long. A fluctuating water level is actually beneficial for fish reproduction and survival.

At high lake levels this past decade-plus, walleye and northern pike have generally reached higher population levels relative to perch and white bass than when the lake was at lower levels.

According to Todd Caspers, Department fisheries biologist in Devils Lake,



ALLISON HESFORD

Game and Fish conducts creel surveys on North Dakota waters occasionally to determine angler use and harvest.

surveys continue to show that walleye and northern pike are very abundant, with about 75 percent of the adult walleye between 10-15 inches long, and about 20 percent are between 15-20 inches long. About one in 20 walleye are 20 inches or longer. The current walleye size structure is on the small side, but should improve in the next few years as the abundant younger fish age and grow.

Northern pike are running larger, with about 75 percent between 21-28 inches and about 15 percent are between 28-34 inches.

South Dakota State University is just completing a bioenergetics study on Devils Lake. Randy Hiltner, Department fisheries supervisor in Devils Lake, has helped guide this study to determine not only food habits, but also growth and mortality rates. Nothing too earth shattering in terms of what the predator fish eat. Scuds (freshwater shrimp), various other aquatic insects, leeches and small fish, such as fathead minnows, are common table fare. One finding of interest from the study showed that adult white bass do not eat many small yellow perch.

Regarding walleye reproduction, it has been good for some time. High lake levels provide good spawning habitat as "new" shoreline is scoured by wave action and exposes clean rock and gravel.

Q: Any thoughts on where the next, if any, state record walleye might come from?

A: Obviously the big three – Sakakawea, Oahe/Missouri River and Devils Lake – come quickly to mind. Devils Lake put out some very large walleye last year, some of the largest ever out of that lake. However, sleepers for a possible state record include many of our midsize reservoirs such as Darling, Audubon, Heart Butte and Ashtabula. And believe it or not, the Red River has the ability to produce large walleye.

Q: You work with fish all the time. What is your personal favorite type of fishing?



Surveys on Devils Lake continue to show that about 75 percent of the adult walleye are between 10-15 inches, and about one in 20 are 20 inches or longer.

SANDRA JOHNSON

A: Perch in the winter and walleye during the open-water season leads my list, but with a caveat. The only fishing I will do is where the crowds are not, so I pass up some hot bites. There's nothing better than casting cranks from shore at night or working the electric motor on the Missouri pursuing walleye in peace and quiet. It's not just about catching fish, but all the neat things you see or hear while fishing in the back 40. You may have to get up early or stay out late, but thankfully North Dakota still offers quality fishing without the crowds.

Q: Any creel surveys coming up this year?

A: If all goes according to plan, there will be a creel survey on Devils Lake this summer and again next winter.

Q: Game and Fish conducts population surveys on most of the perch lakes each year. Is there a place where anglers can find out the results of those tests to eliminate wasted time and zero in on big perch lakes and avoid lakes with stunted perch?

A: Though this may be a simple question, trying to answer it is anything but. However, the Department has not been, nor plans to be a repository of "where are the fish biting." We continue to direct the public to the local bait shops, as they often have the latest first-hand fishing reports. In terms of

available information, we do currently provide, and periodically update, directions to a given lake, what species are common, and if available, a contour map. This information is included in the *North Dakota OUTDOORS* magazine and online at <http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/fishing-waters>.

However, we haven't provided catch record information. This matter has been both a practical and philosophical debate for years with pros and cons on both sides. The reality is that of the current 400 water bodies in the state that we're actively managing, we are only able to get to slightly more than half of them during the course of the year to assess the adult fish population. And for the water bodies we do get to, the catches can vary based on a number of factors and so interpretation of catch records often require a broader working knowledge.

For example, a high catch rate from a given lake does not necessarily translate into angler success. Saying all that, we are providing additional information about our lakes in this magazine. (See Page 6). This is not catch record data, but summaries from the respective fisheries supervisors for anglers to use and frame realistic expectations. This information will be updated periodically online at <http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/fishing-waters>.



BUFFALOBERRY PATCH

By Greg Freeman, Department News Editor

CRAPPIE TIES RECORD

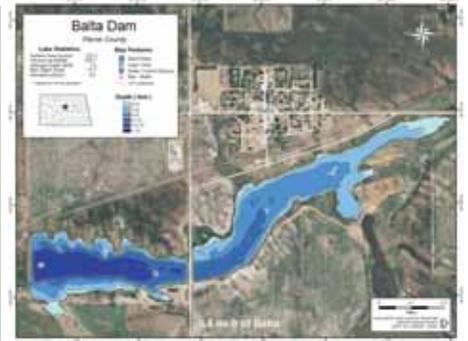
Chris Rick's catch in January tied a state record for crappie that's been on the books for nearly 15 years.

The Jamestown angler reeled in a 3-pound, 4-ounce crappie from Jamestown Reservoir.

The record was established in 1998 by Don Newcomb, a Mandan angler who was fishing Lake Oahe.



SUBMITTED PHOTO



More Lake Contour Maps Added

North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries personnel continue to update or add new fishing waters to the list of available contour maps on the Department's website.

Jerry Weigel, Department fisheries production and development section leader, said each year data is collected on a few new waters, or existing waters that have experienced significant change. Contour fishing maps are developed from this data to show the layout of the lake, public access and local facilities.

Contour maps recently added to the website are Battle Lake, Eddy County; Buffalo Lake, Pierce County; Coe Lake, Eddy County; Consolidated Lake, Sargent County; Dry Lake, Foster County; Horseshoe Lake, Richland County; Hurdsfield-Tuffy Lake, Wells County; Lueck Lake, Richland County; Marvin Miller, Logan County; New Rockford Reservoir, Eddy County; Ryan Pond, Grand Forks County; Shutte Lake, Rolette County; Silver Creek Dam, Nelson County; and Wahl Lake, Richland County.

All contour maps available to date can be found by accessing the fishing link at gf.nd.gov/fishing, then clicking on "fishing waters and access."



RON WILSON

2012 DEER GUN SEASON SUMMARIZED

North Dakota deer hunters took approximately 34,500 deer during the 2012 deer gun hunting season.

The State Game and Fish Department made available 65,150 deer gun licenses in 2012, and more than 95 percent were issued. Overall hunter success was 63 percent, and each hunter spent an average of 4.4 days in the field.

Randy Kreil, Department wildlife chief, said this past season's hunter success rate bounced back from an all-time low of 51 percent in 2011. "The 63 percent clip is fairly good, but still below the long-term average of around 70 percent," he said. "In addition, the number of days spent hunting is still higher

than usual, which is expected with lower deer populations."

Hunter success for antlered white-tailed deer was 76 percent, and antlerless whitetail was 62 percent.

Mule deer buck success was 81 percent. No mule deer doe licenses were issued in 2012.

Hunters with any-antlered or any-antlerless licenses almost exclusively harvest white-tailed deer. These buck and doe hunters each had a success rate of 64 percent.

The Department is in the process of determining recommendations for licenses in the 2013 deer proclamation, which will go to the governor's office for approval in late April.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG GULLICKSON

Paddlefish Snagging Season Opener

North Dakota's paddlefish snagging season opens May 1 and is scheduled to continue through the end of the month. However, depending on the overall harvest, an early in-season closure may occur with a 36-hour notice issued by the state Game and Fish Department.

Snag-and-release of all paddlefish is required on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays. Those planning to participate during snag-and-release-only days need to have in their possession a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag. Use or possession of gaffs is prohibited on snag-and-release-only days, and, if it occurs, during the snag-and-release extension period.

Mandatory harvest of all snagged paddlefish is required on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. On these days, all paddlefish caught must be tagged immediately. The use or possession of a gaff hook within one-half mile

in either direction of the Highway 200 bridge on the Yellowstone River is illegal at any time during the snagging season.

Legal snagging hours are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. One tag per snagger will be issued. Snagging is legal in all areas of the Yellowstone River in North Dakota, and in the area of the Missouri River lying west of the U.S. Highway 85 bridge to the Montana border, excluding that portion from the pipeline crossing (river mile 1,577) downstream to the upper end of the Lewis and Clark Wildlife Management Area (river mile 1,565).

If the season closes early because the harvest quota is reached, an extended snag-and-release-only period will be allowed for up to seven days immediately following the early closure, but not to extend beyond May 31. Only snaggers with a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag are eligible to participate. Only a limited area at the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers is open to this extended season snagging opportunity.

All paddlefish snaggers must possess a paddlefish tag in addition to a valid fishing license and certificate that may be required.

2012 BIGHORN, MOOSE AND ELK HARVESTS

Harvest statistics released by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department show overall hunter success during the 2012 season for bighorn sheep was 100 percent, 93 percent for moose and 62 percent for elk.

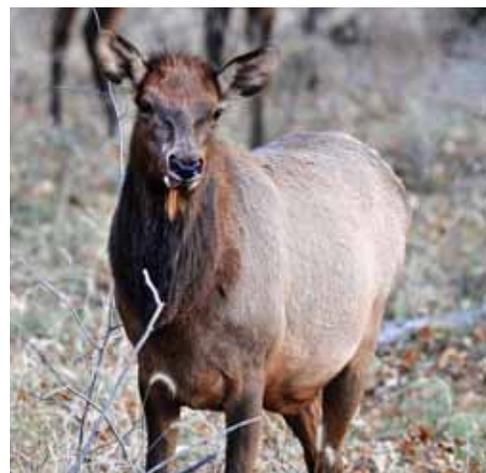
The Department issued three bighorn sheep lottery licenses and one auction license. All four hunters harvested a bighorn ram.

The Department issued 143 moose licenses last year. Of that total, 139 hunters harvested 129 animals – 80 bulls and 49 cows/calves. Harvest for each unit follows:

2012 MOOSE HARVEST				
UNIT	HUNTERS	BULLS	COW/ CALF	SUCCESS RATE
M4	6	0	2	33
M5	5	4	1	100
M6	14	5	8	93
M8	15	15	0	100
M9	30	15	13	93
M10	69	41	25	96

The Department issued 315 elk licenses last year. Of that total, 302 hunters harvested 188 elk – 101 bulls and 85 cows/calves. Harvest for each unit follows:

2012 ELK HARVEST				
UNIT	HUNTERS	BULLS	COW/ CALF	SUCCESS RATE
E1	67	14	31	69
E2	123	34	44	63
E3	73	37	3	56
E4	38	16	7	61



CRAIG BIHLE

Fishing and Hunting Expenditure Report Finalized

Fishing and hunting in North Dakota contributed an estimated \$1.4 billion in annual input to the state's economy, according to a report by the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at North Dakota State University.

The report, commissioned by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, tracked hunter and angler expenditures for the 2011-12 hunting and fishing seasons, and is similar to other studies conducted periodically since the late 1970s.

"The last time we commissioned an economic impact study was about 10 years ago," said Game and Fish Department Director Terry Steinwand. "These studies help alert us to any major shifts in hunter and angler activities or participation."

Overall, anglers and hunters in North Dakota spent

nearly \$643 million on equipment, vehicles, boats, travel, lodging, food and many other items. In addition, these expenditures generated nearly \$727 million in secondary economic benefits, gross business volume, secondary employment and state-level tax collections, according to NDSU researchers.

According to the report, resident hunters and anglers accounted for nearly \$556 million of total expenditures, while nonresidents contributed about \$79 million. Anglers spent \$425 million and hunters \$217 million.

These direct and indirect expenditures from resident hunters and anglers generated

approximately \$35 million in state-level tax collection. Nonresidents generated another \$5 million.

"We know that hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation are an important quality of life factor for many North Dakotans," Steinwand said. "This report reinforces the notion that economic activity associated with our outdoors is significant as well."

Compared to spending in the 2001-02 season, total direct expenditures by resident hunters and anglers increased by about \$44 million, and by \$4 million for nonresidents.

Complete or executive summaries of the report are available from the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at NDSU, by contacting Edie Nelson at (701) 231-7441 or edie.nelson@ndsu.edu. In addition, these publications can be found online at <http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/>.



RON WILSON



GREG GULLICKSON

YOUTH GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE

Wildlife, shooting, civic and fraternal organizations are urged to submit an application for the Encouraging Tomorrow's Hunters program, a State Game and Fish Department grant program developed to assist in recruitment of the next generation of hunters and shooters.

Grant funds will help cover event expenses, including promotional printing; event memorabilia such as shirts, caps or vests; ammunition and targets, and eye and ear protection.

Past funding has enabled several

groups to conduct youth pheasant and waterfowl hunts, while others have sponsored trap and other shooting events, including archery and rifle shooting.

Any club or organization interested in conducting a youth hunting or shooting event can get more information, including a grant application, from the Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov, or by contacting outreach biologist Pat Lothspeich at (701) 328-6332.

The deadline to apply for a 2013 grant is April 19.

Report Bald Eagle Nest Sightings

Even though bald eagle nests in North Dakota are more common today than in the past, the State Game and Fish Department is asking for help in documenting locations.

Sandra Johnson, Game and Fish Department conservation biologist, emphasizes the Department is looking for locations of nests with eagles present, not individual eagle sightings. "March and April is the best time to see an eagle nest, as eagles are actively incubating eggs," Johnson said. "It may become difficult later in spring to see the nest because of leaves beginning to grow on trees."

Johnson said it is easy to distinguish an eagle nest because of its enormous size. "They stand out because of the large tree and the size of the nest," she said.

Historically, Johnson said eagle nests were found along the Missouri River. "Now they have been observed in more than half of the counties in the state, mostly near streams and mid- to large-sized lakes, but also in unique areas such as shelterbelts surrounded by cropland or pasture," she said.

Johnson estimates the state has around 100 active bald eagle nests, possibly more.

Nest observations should be reported to Johnson at (701) 328-6382, or by email at ndgff@nd.gov. Johnson asks observers not to disturb the nest, and to stay away at a safe distance. "It is important not to approach the nest as foot traffic may disturb the bird, likely causing the eagle to leave her eggs unattended," she said.



ASHLEY SALWEY

DEER SAMPLES NEGATIVE FOR CWD

Samples taken from North Dakota deer during the 2012 hunting season have all tested negative for chronic wasting disease.

Last fall, samples for CWD testing were taken from more than 1,300 deer harvested by hunters in the western third of the state.

“As always, the success of our surveillance program could not be accomplished without the cooperative efforts of hunters, meat processors and taxidermists,” said Dr. Dan Grove, North Dakota Game and Fish

Department wildlife veterinarian.

Since the Game and Fish Department’s sampling efforts began in 2002, more than 23,000 deer, elk and moose have tested negative for CWD. Three mule deer, one each in 2009, 2010 and 2011, all taken from unit 3F2 in southwestern North Dakota, tested positive. All three were within 15 miles of each other.

The hunter-harvested surveillance program annually collects samples taken

from hunter-harvested deer in specific regions of the state. The Game and Fish Department also has a targeted surveillance program that is an ongoing, year-round effort to test animals found dead or sick.

CWD affects the nervous system of members of the deer family and is always fatal. Scientists have found no evidence that CWD can be transmitted naturally to humans or livestock.

NORTH DAKOTA RECORD FISH

SPECIES	STATE RECORD WEIGHT	WATER	YEAR	NAME	CITY	MINIMUM WHOPPER WEIGHT	MINIMUM CATCH AND RELEASE CLUB
GAME FISH							
Tiger Muskellunge	40 lbs.	Gravel Lake	1975	Marvin Lee	Rolette ND	25 lbs.	40 Inches
Pure Muskellunge	46 lbs. 8 oz.	New Johns Lake	2007	Cory Bosch	Mandan ND	25 lbs.	40 Inches
Northern Pike	37 lbs. 8 oz.	Lake Sakakawea	1968	Melvin Slind	Roseglen ND	20 lbs.	32 Inches
Channel Catfish	42 lbs. 1 oz.	Moon Lake	2009	Tina Willis	West Fargo ND	12 lbs.	30 Inches
Burbot (Ling)	18 lbs. 4 oz.	Knife River	1984	Orland Kruckenberg	Hazen ND	8 lbs.	28 Inches
Walleye	15 lbs. 12 oz.	Wood Lake	1959	Blair Chapman	Minnewaukan ND	8 lbs.	25 Inches
Saugeye	11 lbs. 12 oz.	Lake Sakakawea	1984	David Groth	Williston ND	8 lbs.	25 Inches
Lake Trout	16 lbs. 6 oz.	Missouri River-Garrison Dam Tailrace	2012	Royce (Pete) Johnston	New Town ND	5 lbs.	24 Inches
Rainbow Trout	21 lbs. 4 oz.	Missouri River-Garrison Dam Tailrace	1998	Wade Weltz	Anamoose ND	5 lbs.	21 Inches
Brown Trout	31 lbs. 11 oz.	Missouri River-Garrison Dam Tailrace	2005	Timmy Johansen	Beulah ND	5 lbs.	21 Inches
Cutthroat Trout	10 lbs. 1 oz.	Missouri River-Garrison Dam Tailrace	2003	Chris Vernon	Bismarck ND	5 lbs.	21 Inches
Sauger	8 lbs. 12 oz.	Lake Sakakawea	1971	Mike Fischer	Chaseley ND	4 lbs.	20 Inches
Largemouth Bass	8 lbs. 8 oz.	Nelson Lake	1983	Leon Rixen	Minot ND	5 lbs.	18 Inches
White Bass	4 lbs. 10 oz.	Devils Lake	2012	Charlie Vang	Brooklyn Park MN	3 lbs.	16 Inches
Smallmouth Bass	6 lbs. 13 oz.	Lake Darling	2007	Bruce Elberg	Burlington ND	3 lbs.	16 Inches
Yellow Perch	2 lbs. 15 oz.	Devils Lake	1982	Kyle Smith	Carrington ND	1 lb. 12 oz.	13 Inches
Crappie (tie)	3 lbs. 4 oz.	Lake Oahe	1998	Don Newcomb	Mandan ND	1 lb. 8 oz.	13 Inches
Crappie (tie)	3 lbs. 4 oz.	Jamestown Reservoir	2013	Chris Rick	Jamestown ND	1 lb. 8 oz.	13 Inches
Bluegill	2 lbs. 12 oz.	Strawberry Lake	1963	Budd Hystad	Velva ND	1 lb. 8 oz.	11 Inches
Paddlefish	130 lbs.	Upper Missouri River-Confluence Area	2010	Alex Mergen	Black Hawk SD	70 lbs.	
Chinook Salmon	31 lbs. 2 oz.	Missouri River-Garrison Dam Tailrace	1986	Thomas Schwartz	Beulah ND	12 lbs.	
NONGAME FISH							
Common Carp	31 lbs.	Sheyenne River	2003	Austin Loberg	Thompson ND	15 lbs.	
Bigmouth Buffalo	54 lbs.	Heart Butte Tailrace	2011	Keith Huschka	Dickinson ND	15 lbs.	
Freshwater Drum	26 lbs. 2 oz.	Lake Sakakawea-Bear Den Bay	1988	Larry Harris	Sidney MT	6 lbs.	
Lake Whitefish	8 lbs. 11 oz.	Missouri River-Garrison Dam Tailrace	1984	Bill Mitzel	Bismarck ND	4 lbs.	
Goldeye	3 lbs. 13 oz.	New Johns Lake	1998	Craig Unser	Mandan ND	2 lbs.	
Black Bullhead	4 lbs. 1 oz.	Devils Lake	1988	Riley Zavada	Wolford ND	2 lbs.	
Cisco	2 lbs. 8 oz.	Missouri River-Garrison Dam Tailrace	2000	Tyler/Scott Jr Borup	Pick City ND	1 lb. 12 oz.	

North Dakota State Record Requirements:

- All recognized fish must be harvested by legal methods for recreational fishing and come from North Dakota waters that are open for public fishing.
- All new state record fish must be weighed on a scale used commercially and certified by the North Dakota Public Service Commission or an equivalent authoritative agency in other states or Canadian provinces.
- All weights must be rounded to the nearest ounce.
- In the presence of an employee of the North Dakota Game and Fish

Department, the actual fish (not pictures) must be visually verified within 90 days of the catch.

- Angler must thoroughly complete and submit to the Department a Whopper card application (Whopper Club Application) or a hand-written or typed note with all similar information.
- A recognizable photo of the fish must be furnished to the Department.
- A fin sample may be required/collected for some species for genetic analysis.



TOP WHOPPER CLUB APPLICATIONS FOR 2012



BUFFALO – 34 pounds, Heart Butte Tailrace; 28 pounds, 9 ounces, James River; 27-8, Missouri River; 25-11, Missouri River; 25-4, Lake Sakakawea.



BULLHEAD – 2-13, Jamestown Reservoir; 2-11, Jamestown Reservoir; 2-8, Jamestown Reservoir; 2-8, Jamestown Reservoir; 2-6, Jamestown Reservoir.



BROWN TROUT – 9-15, Missouri River; 8-15, Missouri River; 8-12, Missouri River.



BURBOT – 9-0, Lake Sakakawea; 8-3, Missouri River.



CHANNEL CATFISH – 27-8, Red River; 20-0, Red River; 19-8, Red River; 19-3, Red River; 18-0, Red River.



CHINOOK SALMON – 14-8, Missouri River; 12-8, Lake Sakakawea; 12-1, Lake Sakakawea.



COMMON CARP – 30-2, Jamestown Reservoir; 30-1, Lake Sakakawea; 28-8, Jamestown Reservoir; 28-0, Jamestown Reservoir; 24-4, Jamestown Reservoir.



CRAPPIE – 2-12, Sheyenne River; 1-15, Jamestown Reservoir; 1-14, Lake Tewaukon; 1-12, Pipestem Reservoir; 1-12, Missouri River; 1-12, Jarvis Lake.



CUTTHROAT TROUT – 6-8, Missouri River; 6-8, Missouri River.



DRUM – 10-13, Missouri River.



GOLDEYE – 2-5, Missouri River.



LAKE TROUT – 16-6, Missouri River; 7-3, Missouri River.



LARGEMOUTH BASS – 7-2, Baukol Noonan Dam; 5-8, Heckers Lake; 5-6, Dead Colt Creek; 5-4, Long Lake; 5-0, Dead Colt Creek.



NORTHERN PIKE – 24-14, Lake Sakakawea; 24-9, Lake Sakakawea; 24-6, Missouri River; 24-6, Lake Sakakawea; 23-12, Lake Oahe.



PADDLEFISH – 101-0, Yellowstone River; 95-0, Missouri River; 92-0, Missouri River; 92-0, Missouri River; 92-0, Missouri River.



RAINBOW TROUT – 14-12, Missouri River.



SAUGER – 4-7, Yellowstone River.



SMALLMOUTH BASS – 5-14, Tolna Dam; 5-3, Lake Ashtabula.



WALLEYE – 13-15, Devils Lake; 13-9, Missouri River; 12-10, Missouri River; 12-9, Lake Oahe; 12-9, Lake Oahe.



WHITE BASS – 3-14, Devils Lake; 3-12, Lake Sakakawea; 3-12, Devils Lake; 3-9, Devils Lake.



YELLOW PERCH – 2-9, Devils Lake; 2-8, Devils Lake; 2-4, Devils Lake; 2-3, Devils Lake.

back cast

By Ron Wilson



North Dakota *OUTDOORS*' spring fishing issue has always been sort of a yardstick for me, marking the number of years I've spent behind an industrial green metal desk that you'd crawl under during a bomb threat.

When I do the math, I know that this is my 11th fishing issue, the first coming in 2003, which means I've been at the Game and Fish Department for 10 years.

A decade ago, when the Game and Fish Department managed nearly 100 fewer waters across the state as compared to today's all-time high of 400 or so, I wrote on this same page that "As a reader, outdoor writer ... this is one of the issues of *OUTDOORS* I always hurried to my mailbox to retrieve. Tucked somewhere in the magazine, be it in a story or list of the state's fishing spots, I knew I would discover new waters, small jewels that I imagined received little fishing pressure."

Today, considering I read every word in this magazine over and over before it ever hits the press, that sense of anticipation of the fishing issue's arrival has been lost. But the sense of discovery during the editing process, stumbling upon a new, must-try water, especially now that we have so many, remains. These waters, some I've most certainly heard of, but haven't considered fishing before for whatever reason, are written on yellow sticky notes and scraps of paper and stashed here and there as reminders.

No matter the year, whether we're writing about drought or the threat of high water across the countryside, the *OUTDOORS* fishing issue signals, depending on Mother Nature, naturally, the start of the open water fishing season, or at least thereabouts.

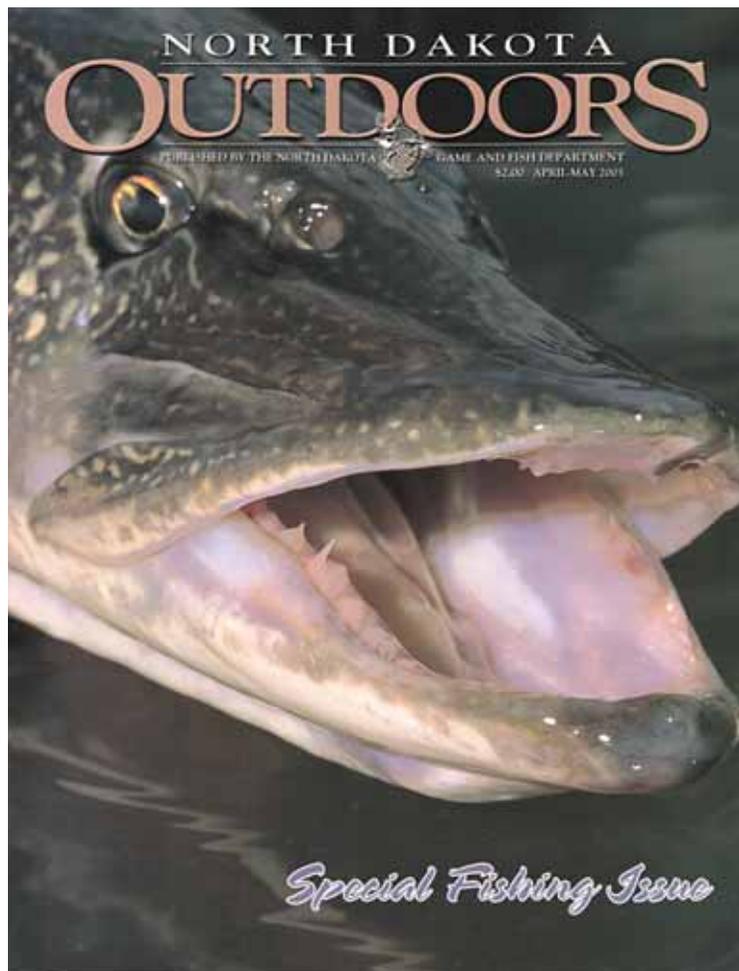
That doesn't mean we haven't thought about it a time or two prior to this magazine's release. It's just that consideration about the open water season in North Dakota, which attracted 146,000 resident and nonresident anglers in 2012, have been, out of acceptance to winter, dormant for months, quietly sulking under two-plus feet of ice, below orange-flagged tip-ups, ice fishing shacks and harvested fish tossed atop the snow, some seemingly frozen in mid-flop.

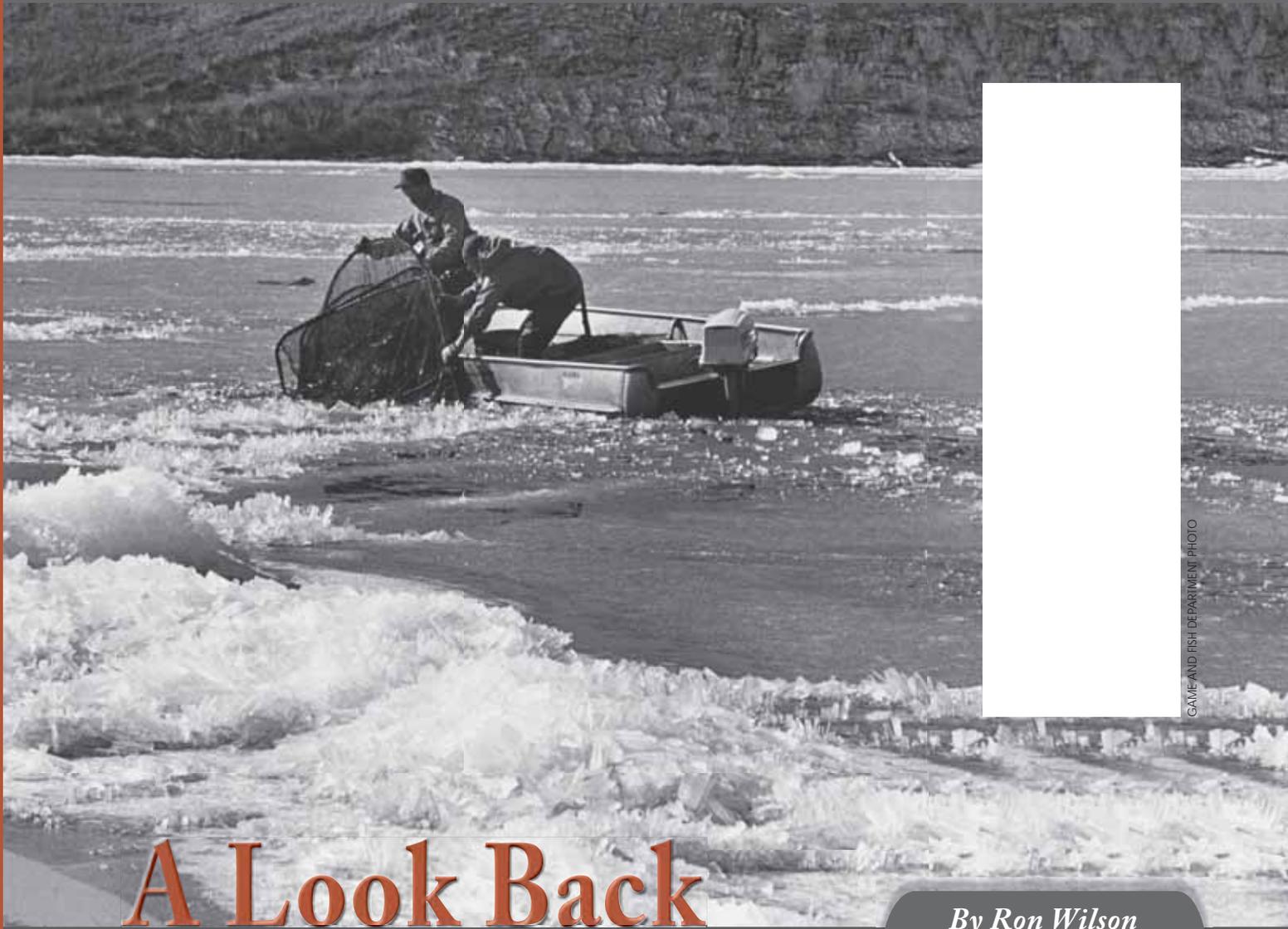
Anglers around here, devotees of the Missouri River and its walleye fishing, are some of the most eager, hitting the river because the calendar says it's spring, even though it often doesn't feel much like it for more than a couple of days straight.

They look cold, bundled in basically the same gear they wore ice fishing, as we wheel by on the interstate at 60 miles per hour in a heated vehicle with the windows rolled tight. While it's hard not to wonder if they've excitedly jumped the gun a bit, it's hard not to be a little envious, not to mention feel like a bit of a wimp, because they're fishing and we're not.

If we haven't already, we will join them soon enough.

RON WILSON is editor of *North Dakota OUTDOORS*.





GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT PHOTO

A Look Back

By Ron Wilson

For many years the back cover of *North Dakota OUTDOORS* has taken A Closer Look at mostly plants and animals found in the state. Beginning with this issue, we're taking A Look Back.

A lot has changed in the outdoors over the years. In the fishing gear department alone, for example, huge advances have been made in the equipment anglers employ to catch fish. There are a dizzying number of artificial baits to choose from today, many sinking, diving and swimming at varying depths and speeds, rods made of Space Age materials and a complicated array of electronics that beep and chirp in their quest to help anglers "find" fish.

While boats and motors used by Game and Fish Department fisheries biologists today are different than those from, say, 1969 when this black and white photograph was taken, some things have stayed basically the same. For instance, the techniques, nets and other gear fisheries biologists use to spawn northern pike and walleye have remained relatively unchanged in the last half-century, said Greg Power, Department fisheries chief.

The same could be said, too, for the unpredictable early spring weather that often accompanies these spawning efforts. Nets are just as likely to freeze in place today as they did 44 years ago.

The above photo was taken in April at Beaver Bay on Lake Oahe during the northern pike spawn. During this particular event, where fisheries biologists milk eggs and milt from adult pike, the wind blew honeycombed ice over the nets and tipped them, making it impossible for fish to enter the trap. District game warden Gerald Geisen, left, and district fisheries manager Alven Kreil are pictured in their attempt to free the net.

Back then, there were about 125 managed lakes in the state, compared to 400 or so today.

RON WILSON is editor of *North Dakota OUTDOORS*.