

NORTH DAKOTA
SPORTFISHING
CONGRESS

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 1, 2009

Duaine has been doing a great job of keeping track of what's coming down the track in the Legislature. Your feedback is vital to his ability to accurately represent the Congress and his use of your feedback give significant weight to his testimony, see HB1248. Be sure to check your email every few days and give me or Duaine your feedback. Share with your clubs, members and friends. You can check on individual bills at www.legis.nd.gov/information/news.

Pay particular attention to House Bills: HB1248, 1379 and 1470 and Senate Bills: SB2068 and 2424.

HOUSE BILLS

HB1188: Exploitation of Wildlife: this bill provides significant penalties for G&F violations including suspension of privileges. Primary focused on Hunting issues it does include fishing in the language. NDSFC and Game and Fish are neutral on this bill at this time. It has been introduced in Committee with no recommendation at this time.

****HB1248:** this was the bill proposing allowing 4 lines per fisherman for shore fishing. It got significant press on the AP wire. All responding clubs and fishermen were opposed as was the Game and Fish Department. Duaine was able to utilize your feedback in his testimony in Committee. Partially dues to that testimony the Committee voted 11-1 to not recommend and Friday it was defeated in the House. Congratulations.

****HB 1379:** this is a continuation of the past discussion about a marina at New Town. This proposing a two phase appropriation. First for \$300,00 from the General Fund through Department of Commerce for a feasibility study on Marina. Secondly \$1,700,000 of General Fund money through Game and Fish for a road and ramp near the Marina on Arrowhead Point. We have been assured that there is no intent to use Game and Fish money for any part of this project. We are concerned about using Game and Fish for a road project and are watching the progress of this bill closely. It has been introduced and heard on 1/23 but no Committee recommendation at this time.

HB 1470: this is a bill to provide laws and penalties against operating a motorboat, hunting or operating a snowmobile while under the influence of alcohol as defined by 0.08% by weight. We have opposed this bill in the past due to concerns about how an operators vessel would be protected if they were arrested while operating. We have been ensured by Game and Fish Law Enforcement that in the event of an arrest the Game and Fish has the responsibility to ensure that the vessel is properly protected from damage while the operator is otherwise indisposed. We are at present neutral. It was read and referred to Transportation for comment.

SENATE BILLS

****SB2068:** this is the bill requiring a separate distinguishing number on all G&F licenses that is not, nor is related to, the individuals Social Security Number. NDSFC came out in favor of this bill with the stipulation that it meets with a feasible method of implementation through Game and Fish. It was introduced, hearing was on 1/15. It was referred to Game and Fish and Human Services for discussion and recommendation and has been placed on the Senate Calendar with a dnp vote of 4-3.

SB2146: this is a housekeeping bill transferring money from highway tax distribution to motorboat and safety accounts.

SB2189: this is a bill to allow children under 18 to have free game and fish licenses and to allow the Game and Fish to increase license fee to offset the loss of revenue. NDSFC is neutral on this bill at this time. The bill has been introduced and has been modified twice. It is still in Committee.

****SB2424:** this bill is to require Game and Fish and the State Water Commission to pay 50:50 for any water project feature built or required to control Aquatic Nuisance Species. This has been introduced and referred to Natural Resources Committee. The Committee hearing will be on February 5th. Game and Fish is opposed to this bill, especially considering its potential large price tag. My understanding is that the State Water Commission is also opposed. Feedback from members and clubs so far has been unanimously opposed to this bill. Give Duaine all the ammunition you can before the hearing.

SB2305: this bill is for an appropriation for a feasibility study for an embankment at Beaver Bay south of Bismarck. This has been introduced and was heard on 1/30. No Committee recommendation at this time. Voices is in favor and Duaine has looked at this site and NDSFC has supported this in the past. Presently NDSFC is in support.

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Clark Williams, President
Duaine Ash, Past President, Lobbyist.