



LEGISLATIVE REPORT – 2007 Session

Final Report

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity of serving you the past two legislative sessions as your lobbyist. It has been one of the most enjoyable endeavors that I have ever done in my life.

There were not as many bills that affected the sportsmen of ND as in previous years. The issues that deserve our attention are the using of ND Game & Fish funds for funding of projects that should be funded by General Fund monies. If individuals think that we have too much money in the G&F Department, why don't we spend it on PLOTS or SOL programs within the Department? In this session, money was taken out for boat ramp maintenance in the State Parks and for Wildlife Services. Both of these line items should be funded by General Fund money and not G&F.

The new laws take effect Aug. 1, 2007. More information on the hunting and fishing bills is available on the North Dakota Game and Fish website, <http://gf.nd.gov/>

This past session has been relatively quiet as far as introduced bills that relate directly to fishing.

The bill number was SB 2332—related to non-resident fishing licenses. The bill pertained to the price paid by non-resident fishing license to fish in our state. They would have to pay the same price as it would cost a North Dakota resident to fish in their state. I testified in opposition to the bill for the following reasons.

1. There are too many mom & pop shops that have young adults working for them and there is potential that they might charge an incorrect amount—either too much or not enough. Who would be responsible making sure the correct amount of money is collected?
2. Since the license issuers aren't required to have automated licensing machines there is a big possibility for error.
3. There is not a fiscal need for the extra money for NDG&F.

The bill came out of the Senate Natural Resource committee with a do-not pass vote. The full Senate voted do not pass—the bill was killed.

SB 2376 – appropriation for building a marina at Fort Stevenson State Park at Garrison. I had a real problem with the funding part of this bill. The bill was written so that the state (NDG & F) would put 1.1 million dollars into the building of the marina if 5.5 million in federal or other money was found. The funding of the local share should come from General Funds and not NDG&F reserves. There are only two boat ramps (Grahams Island—Devils Lake & Fort Stevenson—Garrison) in the state that get G&F funds and that are then allowed to charge fishermen to use the very ramps that they have funded. This bill was killed and incorporated into SB 2019—ND State Parks appropriation bill. Later, Parks cuts its request to five hundred thousand with four hundred thousand coming from the coast guard monies and hundred thousand from G&F. Before the appropriations bill was passed; Senator Dorgan secured/announced that COE's have indicated that they will build the marina and no G&F would be used.

HCR 3044 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study how the state might pursue additional uses of Lake Sakakawea & Missouri River waters for such beneficial purposes as domestic & industrial uses, recreation, fish & wildlife and irrigation. And how the state might initiate a Congressional review of the 1944 Flood Control Act and reexamination the Corp of Engineers and the way in which it manages the Missouri River system. **3/5/07 Senate Signed by President. 3/8/07 House signed by Speaker. 3/8/07 House filed with Secretary of State.**

SCR 4016 Urging Congress to direct the US Corps of Engineers to address and rectify the problems caused by sediment in the Missouri River main stem reservoirs. **4/5/07 House Signed by Speaker. 4/9/07 Senate Signed by President. 4/9/07 Senate Filed with Secretary of State.**

SCR 4037 A concurrent resolution urging the United States Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate annual with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to ensure that Adequate shoreline fishing area are available to satisfy the recreational needs of the citizens of North Dakota. **4/24/07 House Signed by Speaker.**