



Sportfishing Congress Update

(November 2017)

North Dakota Aquatic Nuisance Species

1. **ANS populations** – no new ANS findings of which we are aware.
2. **Statewide ANS sampling** – fisheries staff conducted ANS inspections during regular fish population sampling throughout the season. Thirty-two high-risk waters were sampled for the presence of zebra mussel veligers (larvae) across the state. This year we added monthly zebra mussel veliger sampling on the Missouri River system (May through September; all negative with 11 of the 125 results pending). We also added vegetation sampling at 13 popular waterfowl hunting destinations that are not managed as fisheries (no ANS detected). Monitoring continued of the silver carp population in the James River.
3. **Red River monitoring efforts** – we continued monthly (April through October) zooplankton samples along the Red River to monitor zebra mussel veliger densities. Density results are pending. Water levels were too high this fall to conduct thorough and efficient adult zebra mussel sampling.
4. **Boat surveys and inspections** – over 1100 surveys and/or inspections were conducted this season, with no ANS detected. The survey data are still being entered and verified before being analyzed, but we will share more in-depth results when the analysis is complete.
5. **Expanding outreach** – this year we engaged with North Dakota marinas and pet stores for the first time on ANS issues. We intend to keep dialogue with these groups open in the future and perhaps expand to new user groups.