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Volume 4

December 2004

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Duaine Ash

We are living through some mighty interesting times. Parts of our state are having drought conditions and the other part is having excess moisture. With the beautiful fall conditions we have had this year; we have been able to accomplish a lot of things outdoors that normally would have been put on hold until spring.



This past year the NDSFC has been asked to sit on a committee to develop a State Management Plan for ANS (Aquatic Nuisance Species) for the state. There were several state agencies, private, conservation and tribal representatives involved. We (NDSFC) were also asked to participate and it was very educational for me. I was very impressed how the agencies interacted with each other and willingness to share in the development and implication of a plan. As far as I am concerned, this is the most critical issue the state has to deal with now and into the future. ND has only two problem species, carp and curlyleaf pondweed. We cannot afford to have any of the ANS introduced into the state. We do not want to lose our great state's natural resources to unwanted species of plants and animals. We have to make sure we maintain our great outdoors for our children and their children. Most of the unwanted species that are introduced into the state are done unintentionally – they are brought in as flowers for the water garden. As people get tired of caring for the pets, they want to release them and let them go free, so they dump ANS into our lakes, streams and

reservoirs. This is where the problems start. Once these are released into the wild and they multiply, they compete with the other fish and will cause harm to our environment. As far as exotic plants introduced, there are many ways this can happen and have to be dealt with. The most likely way of this happening is through interstate transfer – as “hitchhikers”. We are living in a very mobile society and we do love to fish different parts of the country. It is very likely we could be bringing back some unwanted critters without our knowledge, so how do we prevent this from happening? I feel we have a job of educating the public on how to clean and disinfect their boats before they are returned to our waters. The fines/penalties are going to have to be stiff enough to get peoples' attention. They will have to be set so the judges will not have the discretion to reduce them. We have to realize this is a problem; we do not have a second chance. Once ANS is introduced, it is too late and is here to stay and will spread to other waters.

I would encourage all of you to subscribe to the free secure website <http://www.protectyourwaters.net>. The site will send an updated message every time a new ANS is discovered. Some days you will receive several messages. Please pass this address to your friends, club members, legislators, city officials and local businessmen because ANS does not only affect anglers, but it will affect EVERYBODY!!!

Hope you all have a Blessed Holiday Season! Hopefully, we will be able to do a little ice fishing before the end of the year but with the price of fuel, I am not complaining about the nice weather.

Our next meeting is going to be held on Jan. 8, 2005 at the NDG&F Building, 100 N, Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND. Topics to be discussed: upcoming legislative issues, annual meeting and fundraiser. Hope to see you there.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

President .....	Duaine Ash, Devils Lake (701-662-3989)
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	Don Baasch, Valley City (701-845-1693)
	Emil Berard, Dickinson (701-225-3072)
	Ed Dosch, Devils Lake (701-395-4302)
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## NORTH DAKOTA'S AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIE PLAN

by LR Schlueter

It has taken many months, but the North Dakota Aquatic Nuisance Specie Plan (ND-Plan) has been written and open to public comment. The ND-Plan is a collaborative effort by anglers, hunters, private enterprise, local entities, tribal representatives, and state agencies to prevent the introduction of ANS into North Dakota. A major focus of the ND-Plan is common efforts to prevent ANS introduction, educational campaigns targeted for specific audiences, and monitoring to detect any pioneering ANS infestation. A list of injurious plants and animals which cannot be brought into or moved with North Dakota will be developed. There are some species which are at the top of the list: zebra mussel, Eurasian watermilfoil, Asian carp, and others that have shown to cause real problems.

The ND-Plan will need to have all impacted parties involved. Those impacted parties are more than anglers, hunters, and boaters, as ANS can be problems for water intake structures and power plant cooling towers. ANS prevention efforts needed will have to be reasonable and effective. Prevention efforts will include the public, private industry sector, and state and federal agencies. ANS prevention protocols should be part of state and federal agencies 'public trust' to do the right thing for North Dakota. The lead agency for ANS prevention efforts will be the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and will chair the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee which will guide ANS prevention efforts.

There is a 30 day comment period on the ND-Plan that ends in mid December 2004. You can request a copy of the ND-Plan from the North Dakota Game and Fish. Your comments on the need for the ND-Plan are important and comments can be sent to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department through the middle of December 2004.

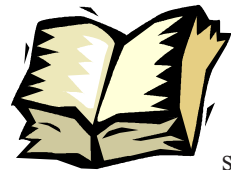
## RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

by Wayne Beyer

The Red River Area Sportsmen's Club is planning a youth ice fishing derby at Heitkamp Pond, located three miles north of Wahpeton, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on **Saturday, January 8th.**

Heitkamp Construction will partner with the club to offer great fishing on a pond with crappies and walleyes. Bait will be provided, hot lunch will be served and there will be door prizes for all contestants. Trophies will also be awarded to place winners.

The Sportsmen's Club also sponsored the placement of a fishing pier at Mooreton Lake this year.



## FM WALLEYES UNLIMITED INC.

by Chad Maloy

FM Walleyes will be entering its 27<sup>th</sup> year of existence and the club has seen significant changes since it's beginnings. Started out as a small club where members shared tactics and ideas with each other. This is still happening but in the past 10 years we have brought in anglers from outside the club to share their ideas.

As 2004 is winding down I reflected back on the excellent speakers I had the opportunity to see this past year. They included Scott Fairbairn, Marv Koep, Sam Anderson, Matt Straw and Chip Leer. I know I learned many new ideas and techniques from having listened to these fishing experts. The list of speakers for 2005 is also impressive:

- January 20 .... Tommy Skarlis at Doublewood Inn, Fargo
- January 22 .... YMCA & FM Walleyes Ice Fishing Derby at Camp Cormorant
- February 17 ..... Gary Parsons at Playmakers, Fargo
- March 17 ..... Annual Meeting & Chili Feed at Doublewood Inn, Fargo
- March 19 ..... Dinner Dance Banquet & Raffle at Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN

All meetings are free and open to the public except the Annual Meeting which requires a membership and the Dinner Dance which requires a ticket.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Best fishes,

*Chad Maloy, President*

## BARNES COUNTY WILDLIFE FEDERATION

by Don Baasch

The Barnes County Wildlife Federation had a busy summer starting with a walleye tourney, on Lake Ashtabula, in June. The winning team brought in 17.45 lbs. The largest walleye was 5.9 lbs. and the largest northern was 14.1.

July's Bullhead Derby brought in a whopping 752.5 lbs. of bullheads, with the winning team weighing in at 246 lbs.

Take A Kid Fishing Day was held June 1st with 49 kids attending.

The Jr. Naturalist Club took kids out in boats on July 1st with just a few fish being caught but the kids had a great time.

Club projects saw a new dock at Chautauqua Park, more fixing up on Faust Park and more improvements to Moon Lake and Clausen Springs. A new project is the Little Dam project in Valley City. This will start with clean up efforts and proceed into new steps, picnic tables and a better access area.

## GAME AND FISH PERSPECTIVES

by Terry Steinwand



It seems like I start out every article for the North Dakota Sport Fishing Congress by thanking you for all of your help. But I can't think of any other way to show my appreciation for all the work done by the Congress over the years. Of course, I'd always like to see more done but I also recognize the organization is a cadre of volunteers who wouldn't be doing it if they didn't really care. That's important to me as is the friendships built with many members of the Congress and their members over the years.

This article will take a little different tone than those in the past. I've typically tried to let everyone know the status of the fishery and what to expect. I'll still do that within this article but in an abbreviated fashion. I want to concentrate more on the upcoming legislative session and what I see coming out of that.

As usual, we experienced quite variable moisture conditions throughout the state this year. The southeast and northeast portions of the state remained relatively wet while the western portion was dry to very dry. Of course, the lakes associated with these areas followed those same trends. The two top 'stories' would certainly be the low water concerns on the Missouri River System and rising waters on Devils Lake. Both ends of the spectrum brought their own challenges. The common thread was that of providing adequate access for anglers to enjoy the fishery resource. We were successful in obtaining more funding for much needed ramp work on both areas. The challenge will likely continue into 2005. Along with many other entities we also worked with the Corps of Engineers on vehicular shoreline access for Lake Sakakawea. While I don't know what kind of policy the Corps will ultimately decide upon we are urging them to provide as much as possible. It's become more difficult for anglers to gain access to Sakakawea's shoreline and as a result we've seen a decline of 65% in shoreline use in the last 10 years. Bluntly put, this is unacceptable and we're hoping to have an influence on the Corps to reverse this trend.

Now to the 'meat' of the article—the upcoming legislature. We don't know for certain exactly what bills will arise during the course of the session that will have an effect on fisheries or the anglers ability to enjoy the resource. The Department is asking for some changes in the law that involve bait vendors. The intent is not to make the business tougher but to make it more fair and help protect the resource. Much of it revolves around aquatic nuisance species and our ability to prevent it's movement into North Dakota. Which leads to the next piece of legislation. Although I don't know the exact wording yet but we will be asking for language that provide authority to list those aquatic species of animals, plants, and pathogens that cannot be brought into North Dakota. The Game and Fish already has some of that authority associated with other laws but do not have it with plants. Our intent is not to usurp any authority from the Agriculture Department. We simply want to deal with aquatic species and it's unclear whether or not any authority exists. This proposed piece of legislation

would mandate that the Game and Fish provide a list of biota that is not allowed into North Dakota. To date these are the only fisheries related pieces of legislation of which I'm aware. I've talked to the Executive Committee regarding some other potential legislation but not sure if it will (or should) move forward. I'll be speaking with Duaine on these issues in the next month or so. Associated with that discussion will be funding and manpower issues for the Fisheries Division.

Overall it was a fairly good open water season. As I'm writing this it's still nice outside and no lakes have yet frozen over. Every day we have open water reduces the possibility of winterkill in any given lake. We can still have a bad winter but the effects will be reduced. We still have plenty of challenges out there and are working on solutions to those we can control. I learned a long time ago that there are three categories of issues: those you absolutely can't control, those you can influence but can't control, and those you can control. I choose to deal primarily with those factors I can control and try to influence those that I can't. Anything else is a waste of time.

Once again, the standard conclusion of thank you and keep up the good work. Your continued involvement is important.

## THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS PLANS FOR SANDBAR HABITAT

by Lee Klapprodt

The Omaha District of the Army Corps of Engineers recently solicited public input on their plan for the creation and maintenance of emergent sandbar habitat on the Missouri River. So what is this about and why should I care?

Basically, it has to do with making sure enough sandbar habitat is available for least terns and piping plover to nest and fledge healthy year classes so we will eventually have more least terns and piping plovers. It seems that management of the river since the closure of the mainstem dams has had a negative effect on these birds to the point that their existence on this earth is endangered or threaten. You've probably heard about the birds and the pallid sturgeon in presentations at Congress meetings. To reduce or eliminate the threat to these critters, scientists have concluded that we need to improve the quality of habitat on existing sandbars and probably increase the amount of sandbar habitat to meet their fledging goals. On the Missouri between Bismarck and the Garrison Dam the idea is to increase the acres of suitable habitat from the 12.5 average surface acres per river mile we have now to as much as 50 acres average per river mile. To put that into perspective, that would be a strip of sandbar about 310 feet wide continuous for the length of the river from Bismarck to the Dam. Remember, they are looking for an average of 50 acres per mile, not a continuous strip.

The key point here is "suitable habitat". There may be more than 12.5 acres of sandbar per river mile, it's

THE CORPS PLANS — CONTINUE ON PAGE 5



## LAKE REGION ANGLERS DEVILS LAKE, ND

by Ed Dosch

The Lake Region Anglers have had a busy summer and fall. Record turnouts were reported for all outings this year!

As reported in the last newsletter, we were in the process of purchasing land at the East Bay boat ramp. That was accomplished with the help of the ND Game & Fish Department and Lake Region Access Committee. A HUGE thank you to all involved.

New cement ramps have been installed at 6 Mile Bay and one (1) at East Bay. The other one at East Bay could be installed next spring.

We are busy gearing up for a busy winter. Docks are now out.

We are trying something different this winter. We are going to have our annual Ice Fishing Seminar in conjunction with the Ice Team fishing tournament.

We are also having an outing during Devils Lake's Shiver Fest activities. The outing will be held on Sunday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Lakeview Lodge. The outing is open to the first 49 entrants with cash payouts.

*From all of us in the  
Lake Region Anglers Association,  
we wish everyone a Blessed  
and Safe Holiday Season!*

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## LAKE REGION ANGLERS MASTER ANGLERS PROGRAM

The LRAA has started a new program this year focusing on the youth and adult members that fish Devils Lake. It has generated excitement among our members and families. I have witnessed the excitement of my children when they receive their patch for the fish they caught. It is a great way to keep our youth excited about fishing and can't wait to go out the next time. I have received many entries on all species, so far, with exception of the perch. I expect that to change once we can start ice fishing on Devils Lake.



As this program continues to grow in the upcoming years, so will our members and our children.

If you are interested in participating, contact a LRAA member for rules.

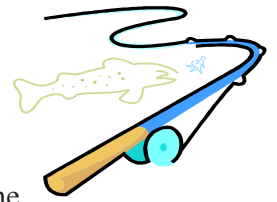
Have fun fishing!

*Randy Yoder, LRAA Board Member*

## GREAT PLANERS TROUT & SALMON CLUB

by Mike Anderson

Another soft water season has come to an end for the Great Planers. I guess if you were to summarize the theme that preoccupied most salmon fishermen and women this past year it would have to be the concern for low water and congested boat ramps. Although salmon fishing was slow getting started, as well as, from time to time, there were some bright spots. The club derby again was a success, although the average size (4.46#) was down from the past few years. Sixty-two teams caught 152 fish. The winning team of Derwin Mann and Jason Renner weighed in 46 pounds. An annual derby highlight, aside from the camaraderie and great time, again was the vast number of door prizes handed out both Friday and Saturday.



Another bright spot this year, as is every year, was the annual Physically Challenged Kids Fishing Day held September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. Twenty-seven anglers from 25 families participated. The kids caught 132 trout most of which were in the two pound range. However, the catch of the day was a 9 pounder caught by Landon Fischer. Everyone ended the afternoon with hot dogs, pop, chips, and cookies. Each year this event reminds us of the pitfalls of taking fishing and the outdoors for granted.

Hands down the highlight of the salmon season this year has to be large salmon caught in the tailrace. Several fish over 20 pounds and dozens in the teens were caught during late summer and early fall. It is assumed these fish went through the turbines following their release, spend their immature life in Lake Oahe, and returned up river to spawn this fall. I guess there can be at least one positive to the annual debate of preventing the loss of young salmon of the year to being flushed through the turbines.

Speaking of spawning, the ND Game & Fish had another successful salmon spawning effort this fall, despite the low water. ND Game & Fish staff demonstrated its ingenuity in finding a spot with enough water where the fish will show up and to effectively run its self made salmon ladder. A total of 2145 fish (784 females and 1361 males) were taken and over 1.7 million eggs collected. Things were still going strong, but, had more than enough eggs to satisfy the needs for North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. So, I guess if we can find sufficient water, there still should be enough salmon to go around.

I'll wrap up with an announcement of club winter events on the calendar. First, the annual Pizza Appreciation Party for the ND Game & Fish fisheries staff and Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery staff is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup> at A&B Pizza in Bismarck. Each year we show our appreciation for these people's efforts in providing and maintaining the state's cold water fisheries.

Finally, our annual meeting will take place Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at the AmVets in Bismarck. This is a potluck meeting with the primary function being election of officers and finalizing business—including announcing annual awards—from the past year.

Have a good, safe, and warm winter and maybe we will meet on the hard water.

# FM MUSKIES INC.

Chapter meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at the VFW in West Fargo at 7:00 p.m. The Fargo-Moorhead Chapter met on Nov. 22.

President Brett Waldera brought the meeting to order by speaking about the Chapter Challenge. It will be held July 20<sup>th</sup> to



22<sup>nd</sup> out of Paradise Cove Resort on the Winnipeg River in the Minaki area. We talked about making a few changes and possibly even doing some evening fishing this year, and we'll keep you updated on the events as they transpire.

The F-M members who ordered the commemorative Crane baits picked them up. I can't wait for the next one in the series.

We had about 60 hits on E-bay from parties interested in the Al Skaar/Gill Hamm print we had up for sale, but no takers at this time. We will see how things pan out and maybe put it up for sale again at a later date.

The F-M Chapter's biggest meeting of the year is in December. We will have our election of officers, our tackle auction, speakers from the DNR from both MN and ND, and a chili feed. This meeting always draws the largest attendance for the year.

Our largest fundraiser of the year, Angler's Night, scheduled for Feb. 3, 2005, is fast approaching and takes a lot of preparation to run productively. We hope to increase sales of tickets with a different type of payout than in the past. One lucky individual will win \$500.00 and ten other people will each win \$100.

There was some talk about another development starting up on Lake Vermillion. The Three Bay Project, as it is called, would entail shoreline between Madsen Bay and Armstrong Bay, from what I've seen. This is a similar situation to the one at 5 Mile Point at Leech Lake. We hope to have a little more information by the December meeting.

That's all for now. See you at the Sport Shows.

May all your follows strike!

*Brad Waldera*

# BIS-MAN REEL & REC

*by Errol Behm*

## ARE THINGS BETTER THAN EVER???

Most of us have reminisced about the good old days when we've been out fishing. It appears as though there is an ebb and flow to Mother Nature and it is a matter of perspective if those days are long gone. Some fisheries are better, such as the Devils Lake area, and then there are many concerns for the Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River system.

We have to be constantly aware of boating pressure, pollution, destruction of habitat and over harvest. These all result in an increased angling challenge. Hopefully through cooperative efforts we can maintain booming fisheries. Most of us are not so concerned about huge fish as the number available in both small lakes and the larger fisheries.

Even with low water levels and limited access points, 2004 was still a great year to be out there roaming the waves for that whopper sport fish. Hopefully 2005 will bring us as much fun or more. This can happen with careful fisheries management and the prevention of over harvest. We hope the levels of yesteryear can be maintained or brought to even greater heights.

The Bis-Man Reel & Rec Club has always attempted to be a team player in providing area anglers with facilities and opportunities that are better than the good old days. In fact, in most cases, the good old days are now.

Some activities sponsored by Reel & Rec that are being planned for 2005 are:

- ✓ Member's Annual Steak Fry ..... January 13, 2005
- ✓ Ice Fishing Extravaganza at TottenTrail/  
Lake Audibon ..... February 19, 2005
- ✓ Sport Fishing Congress Banquet ..... April 23, 2005
- ✓ Spring Derby for members ..... May 21, 2005
- ✓ Take-A-Kid Fishing Day ..... June 11, 2005

Get out there and feel the action. We wish you a Happy Holiday Season.

## THE CORPS PLAN – CONTINUE FROM PAGE 3

just not "suitable habitat". How they establish the habitat is going to be important. Much of it may be done by simply eliminating and controlling vegetation through chemical or mechanical means. However, they could go so far as to dredge the river to build up new sandbar areas. Anyone living near the river will tell you that manipulation of the sandbars or the shoreline can have amazing effects, sometimes the effects aren't totally predictable nor very desirable.

Why should I care about what the Corps might do to the sand bars? River sandbar alterations, depending on their nature and extent, could have a significant impact on the river and its overall aquatic ecosystem. Various fish habitats such as walleye spawning substrate as an example could be impacted. It is very disappointing to me, and I believe to many others, that the Corps has done such a dismal job of educating the public on what they are proposing to do with our river. One very poorly advertised public meeting was held in Bismarck and they solicited input in an ad they placed in the paper. The Corps hopes to do a relatively simple Programmatic Environmental Assessment in assessing the impacts of this proposed project. Some might call this the quick and dirty approach. Sometimes an Environmental Assessment is perfectly adequate. However, in this case I believe the Corps should be developing a much more extensive Environmental Impact Statement. Doing so would provide much better (thorough) answers to questions about collateral impacts

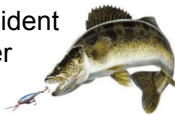


# SOUTHWEST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

*A non-profit organization*  
 P.O. Box 1473 • Dickinson, ND 58601



Far Left Back Row: Harley Schepp, President and Bruce Messmer, Secretary/Treasurer SW Anglers.



The Southwest Anglers Association received a "Take Pride In America" certificate of commendation from Governor Hoeven. This award recognized outstanding commitment and exceptional contribution to volunteer stewardship of North Dakota resources and community service. Their works included projects to enhance recovery of the Patterson Lake fishery, fund-raising to participate in construction of numerous angler facilities and leadership in the "Save Our Lakes" Dickinson Dike Renovation Project.

The Bowman-Haley Anglers have completed "Save Our Lakes" shoreline and habitat improvement projects at Bowman-Haley Reservoir and are now exploring alternatives for the complete restoration of Kalina Dam in Bowman County.

## BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

The North Dakota Sportfishing Congress is one voice that represents all state angler interests. Membership ensures that your voice is heard as an Individual or as a Club Member. This is an opportune time to become a member of the Sportfishing Congress and have your voice heard at the upcoming State Legislative Session.

This newsletter will serve as a notice to Individual Members and Club Members (who have not already paid their dues for 2005) to renew their membership. Membership renewal date is at the top of your mailing label and is listed as the month/year (e.g. 04/05). Membership fees are due on or before the annual meeting, which is held in April of each year.

Individual Member annual dues are \$5.00 and for convenience, have the option to prepay for three to five years. Please complete the "Individual Membership Application" in this newsletter and return it along with your payment to:

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress  
 PO Box 2472 • Bismarck, ND 58502

Club Member annual dues are \$50. Each Club and its membership is represented by two voting delegates at each meeting. To maintain your club's voting rights for 2005 please complete the "Club Membership Application" in this newsletter and return it along with your payment to the same address indicated above. NOTE: Please don't forget to list the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of the club delegates.


Club members are listed on the NDSFC website and can have a link to your club's site. Club information including delegates, contact information, club events, etc., can also be included on the website. Clubs are encouraged to share information and stay informed by going to: [www.ndsportfishingcongress.org](http://www.ndsportfishingcongress.org)

Get new members to join today and their annual membership for 2005 will include the remainder of 2004 through April 2006. Become a member now and vote in April to include your immediate family with "Individual Membership". New NDSFC membership brochures are now available. Get one for your angler friends or club by writing to the Sportfishing Congress at the above address.



**LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD  
 AT THE NEXT  
 LEGISLATIVE SESSION!**

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR



The Annual Meeting and Fund Raiser is set for **Saturday, April 23, 2005** at the Elks Lodge in Bismarck.

# ANNUAL DUES NOW DUE

This newsletter will serve as a notice to the Club Members and the Individual Members (who have not already paid their dues) that the annual dues are now due. (Your membership paid-up date is at the top of your mailing label listed as the month/year, e.g., 04/05.)

Club Member's dues are \$50 and were due on or before the annual meeting that is held in April of each year. To maintain your club's voting rights for 2003, please complete the *Club Membership Application* in this newsletter and return it along with your payment to North Dakota Sportfishing Congress, P.O. Box 2472, Bismarck, ND 58502.

**NOTE:** Don't forget to list the names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of the club delegates.

Individual Member's dues are a minimum of \$5. Please complete the *Individual Membership Application* in this newsletter and return it along with your payment to the same address indicated above.

You will note there is a checkoff for payment of multiple years' dues for individual members. For convenience, an individual may choose to prepay several years' dues at one time.

## NOTE

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please email Marie Hoerner at [sportfishing@bis.midco.net](mailto:sportfishing@bis.midco.net) with a Subject of "*Sportfishing Newsletter*".

The year/date above your name on the mailing label indicates your membership renewal date. Your support is needed!



P.O. Box 2472  
Bismarck, ND 58502

- \$5 - 1 Year
- \$15 - 3 Years
- \$25 - 5 Years

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 2472  
Bismarck, ND 58502

- \$50 - 1 Year

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Current President \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

***Each Club Member is represented on the Executive Board by two delegates. Please provide the following information on your current delegates:***

### Delegate 1

### Delegate 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# DISAPPEARANCE OF SHORE FISHERMEN

by Vic Gibbins

Over the last 40 years, bank fishing along the Missouri River and its gigantic impoundments have all but disappeared. Section lines provided the access to much of the Missouri River and what became Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe. While many of these roads were little more than prairie trails, they let us go fishing in the river. These roadways were closed to anglers and hunters when the Corp of Engineers fenced out their property lines. Access for the shore angler became confined to a few limited points along the river and in the reservoir. Those few sites that remain open to shore anglers are often the boat ramps where boaters gain access to the entire lake. The shore angler has been systematically excluded from the Missouri River and Lake Sakakawea's and Lake Oahe's shoreline. The Corps of Engineers should consider open additional areas to shore anglers, but they should also do this in areas where angler travel can be directed away from areas as not to damage fragile resources. The areas should not become open highways to drive all over, making unneeded trails, and not for hunting from the vehicle.

The Corps of Engineers is proposing to build sand bars and islands in the Missouri River for Piping Plovers and Lease Tern nesting sites. These rare birds are protected by the Government who is providing suitable sites for the birds. Without access along the river's edge and reservoir shoreline, could shore anglers become as rare as these birds?

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especially to our fishery resources. An EIS will cost more money because it takes more time and is more involved – remember the EIS they did on the Master Manual took 14 years. However, don't we want to know the full extent of possible impacts to our fishery? Don't we want them to fully consider all possible alternatives? Isn't it prudent to have more assurance that the work they propose will have the intended benefit to bird populations?

Unfortunately, the deadline the Corps set for public input was December 1, 2004. If you didn't get your comments in, it may be too late. I'm happy to report that the Sportfishing Congress and the Friends of Lake Sakakawea both sent letters expressing concerns well ahead of the deadline so anglers did have a voice. I know the North Dakota State Water Commission submitted pretty substantive comments expressing much the same concerns I've outlined above.

A final point. This is just one more example of the need for Sportfishing Congress to represent the concerns of North Dakota anglers. This organization can monitor issues and proposed government actions that might otherwise slip through the cracks in our busy lives. I don't know if we have had an impact on the Corps' decision concerning sandbar habitat on the Missouri River but we made our concerns known and we will continue to monitor the situation and report to our members accordingly.

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