



North Dakota Sportfishing Congress Board Meeting

Saturday, December 6, 2008 • 10:00 a.m.

ND Game & Fish – Bismarck, ND

- Members Present: President Clark Williams; Board members Mike Anderson, Duaine Ash, Don Baasch Rick Eagelson, Richard Fink, Paul Haug, and; Members: Barb Ash, Dave BeMent, Dave Bement, Emil Berard, Miles Bobb, Ken Cumber, Ralph Gardner, Bob Haglund, Rynee Kellar, Ron Kraft, Joe Neuenschwander and Tony Splonskowski. Others Present: Terry Steinwand, Greg Power, and Executive Secretary Marie Hoerner.
- Clark welcomed everyone for coming and everyone introduced themselves, indicating which club they were affiliated. Clark mentioned he invited some legislators to attend, but none were able to attend the meeting.
 - The minutes from the April 12, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed. Motion by Duaine Ash and seconded by Rynee Kellar.
 - Treasurer Rick Eagleson distributed the “Treasurer’s Report”, which also revealed the income and expenses from the April 2008 fund raiser. The ND Game & Fish gave the NDSFC \$500 for ANS support on the website, creating links. A motion to approve the Treasurer’s report was made by Mike Anderson, seconded by Paul Haug and passed. It was mentioned that NDSFC sponsored the food and beverage at the wildlife management event for Dean Hildebrand, but the clubs donated enough to cover the expense.
 - North Dakota Game and Fish Department:
 - Greg Power (Fisheries Chief) thanked the NDSFC for their participating and support for the Dean Hildebrand management event. He said there was a great turnout from clubs and Dean’s family truly appreciated it.
 - Power provided an update on ongoing events and lake status, indicating they only had a couple minor fish kills. He said the GF is managing about 285 lakes statewide. Also, about 170,000 fishing licenses were sold statewide and has been stable, and this number includes out-of-state licenses. Devils Lakes continues to bring in a lot of nonresidents. He mentioned that fishing licenses in North Dakota are probably the cheapest in the country, still at \$10 and have gone up \$1 in 20 years. (Attached is a comparative table provided at the meeting.)
 - Power said that last March/April, new administrative rules were put in place, including ANS, and wholesale bait vendors (including bait transport), have gone well. In the last 10 years, the GF started to get their arms around ANS and they want to make sure our vendors have clean and cheap bait. North Dakotans can't trap in MN and Minnesota cannot trap in ND. He said there are about 270 retail bait vendors and 20+ wholesale bait vendors; however it is now illegal to bring in flathead minnows into North Dakota, due to ANS and disease issues. Power mentioned that administrative rules for private fish hatcheries are going to be added.
 - Regarding fish tournament rules – leagues will be included in the fishing tournament. The G&F is dropping the number of boats from 25 to 15 to be considered a fishing tournament, and are dropping the number of ratio of patrol boats required for fishing tournaments.
 - Fish houses administrative rules – There is no longer a maximum size of the fish house; however, if you're in an ice house, you can't have a hole of 12”. The size of a hole will be eliminated and campers can now be used on the ice, as long as they are made out of floatable material.

- ANS rules became effective April 1, 2008. Power said that brochures, billboards and posters have been distributed and metal signs have been posted at boat ramps. Power asked board members for their feedback on ANS compliance - if public is aware of the rules. Richard Fink thinks it's a 50/50 understanding; Baasch said individuals in fishing organizations are well aware of ANS; Clark said "if you are involved in fishing" then people are aware of ANS, but the hunters, especially those from out-of-state, are not aware of ANS regulations. It's not just the boats, but also the decoys containing ANS. As far as new infestations, none were found, except more curly leaf was found in a few areas Wardens will likely start writing tickets for ANS next year. ND ANS rules are some of the strictest around; SD does not have an official plan yet. MN, IA and Wisconsin are very aggressive on ANS education, even on lakes, then putting stickers on boats after visiting with the fishermen. GF is looking at putting ANS information in boat registration renewals.
 - Be aware – Fishermen are allowed to take walleye home in livewell and bait in your minnow bucket. However, if ANS, such as zebra muscle if found, this may be taken away.
 - Proclamation – this is the off year, so no new proclamation in 2009. A few new rules are effective in December 2008 regarding dark house spear fishing and added two weeks to dark house spear fishing. GF doesn't see a lot of change for the next proclamation which is over a year away.
 - Provided a hatchery update, which was a pretty good year (attached to minutes). Power said there are no plans to stock walleye in Sakakawea next year and gave rationale.
 - Development program – Bob Frohlich at the G&F is involved. This is ongoing on the Missouri River and Senator Dorgan got federal money to help with access money this go-around could be used on Lake Oahe also. With the water levels going up and down on the river, the boat ramps are taking a beating and may need work.
 - Power said that fishing in the tailrace was phenomenal last winter. Fall bite in the lower River was later in the fall than normal, while Ken Cumber said it was also that way for Spiritwood. Walleye reproduction in the Missouri River was three times higher than in past years.
 - Power said that Underdahl passed away and left the G&F a lot of money, which is being used on fishing piers – working on 8 to 12 piers a year for shore fishing.
 - Fish management – Power said that of the big three (Lake Sakakawea, Devils Lake and Lake Oahe), two of three normally produce very well which is the case now; however, perch on Devils Lake is not good.
 - Nine new walleye lakes – included Rice, Antelope, and Alkaline (9,000 walleye harvested from this lake in August alone).
 - Power said the G&F stocked about 50 lakes with trout this past year. 75,000 salmon in Sakakawea (twice a year) and shooting for 25-50,000 in the Missouri River. Sakakawea and Oahe both have tremendous catfish population and they are removing a few of them and planting them in smaller water bodies.
 - There were limited staff changes at the Game & Fish.
 - Chronic problem was cormorants. Small lakes can be a real problem with cormorants.
 - Legislation – there is no new legislation, at this point, in 2009 for G&F for fishing.
 - \$122,000 plus \$100,000 of G&F money working for ramps and docks at Lewis & Clark ramps is in the G&F budget. Parks & Rec charges a fee to access their ramps in the parks. NDSFC had written a letter earlier to the Governor's office regarding this matter.
- Terry Steinwand – Director of ND Game & Fish
- Terry and Greg Power hope to meet with Sen. Tom Fischer on December 15 to visit about carp and water development projects.
 - Don't see any fishing issues in the 2009 session and only four hunting bills have been filed so far.
 - Other issues are the New Town marina and automatic posting of land for hunting

- Fishing & State Issues
 - Encroachment on G&F funding by outside interests – Mike Anderson said it should be a fundamental issue of the NDSFC. This is a position assumed by our group.
 - New Town Marina – Jerry Aftem
 - ANS – Need to keep active as a group to push compliance. Out-of-state is where we could have problems since most of our ANS comes from out of state. Its time also to start enforcing the law, without the reinforcement of actual penalties a percentage won't bother with the hassle of cleaning their boats as needed..
 - Enforcement & RAP – fees and fines that go back to the RAP program. President Clark Williams said the LRAA will have a meeting December 16 to meet with States Attorney, Judges and District Warden Supervisor. There is a weekly press release on the citations written in the state as well as the disposition of those cases. If anyone would like that information contact Clark, he gets the releases weekly.. We need to get the word out that there are actual citations being written and penalties imposed. Additional enforcement positions comes from the Legislature – A warden pilot and computer graphic position have been submitted to the Governor and Legislature for approval. Greg Power was asked to let us know if Terry Steinwand has some enforcement issues in the Legislature coming in 2009. The group felt this was an area of increased importance for the protection of the resource.
 - Loma Carp Project – Lynn not here to report; it was mentioned everyone is still trying to keep carp out of Devils Lake. Offer was made to about a dozen landowners – easements have only been signed by 2 of them so far. For the past 4-5 years, the G&F has wanted to raise a road grad. The GF would like to finish it by next spring. It would only take a few weeks to complete the project.
 - Greg Power provided an update on salmon stocking in the MRS.
 - FYI – The G&F received an unsigned letter complaining that the Garrison Fire Department selling pickled fish at a fundraiser.
 - Boating and Alcohol – FYI – just an issue brought up regarding the River violations.
 - Fundraising was discussed. With the increased costs of doing business: increased lobbyist costs, the website and newsletter costs. we need to look at increasing revenues. A number of topics were discussed including working to increase our fundraiser ticket sales and attendance, a raffle to raise revenues and increasing the number of memberships. Rickard Fink suggested we look at increasing our individual dues from \$5.00 to possibly \$10. The issue of increasing dues was tabled until the spring meeting. Also was discussed about getting more email addresses so we can distribute newsletters that way and save postage.

- Mike Anderson said the Annual NDSFC Spring Fundraiser will be held Saturday, March 28, 2009 at the Mandan Eagles Club. This is our big fund raiser event. It was noted that Bismarck has good ticket sales, and we need more ticket sales outside of the Bismarck area. Minot and Grand Forks only have 4-5 members of NDSFC. It was suggested to have a ticket sale incentive, such as sell a book of eight tickets and get 12 free raffle tickets at the day of the event. The Fundraising Committee will determine the incentive. A motion was made by Duaine Ash to have a gun raffle for \$5 pre-sold tickets with a limit of 500 tickets sold, which you “need not be present to win”. The motion was seconded by Richard Fink and passed. Mike Anderson will see about getting the permit. Paul Haug will look into getting the guns and Clark and Lake Region Anglers will get the tickets printed and distributed.

- Membership – We need to work to get our local club members to join the NDSFC and get email addresses to cut down on costs when distributing the newsletter. With the exception of Devils Lake and Bismarck we have few actual paid NDSFC members. We asked all the member clubs to reinforce to their membership how much NDSFC does for them and what their \$5.00 helps support. Presently, we will keep all individuals on the mailing list, even if they have not paid the \$5 dues. Marie Hoerner will email the current list of NDSFC members to all attendees. Please let Marie know if you have address/email changes or deletions (deceased members).

- Duaine Ash has been the NDSFC lobbyist for the past two legislative sessions. With him living in Devils Lake, it has become a little costly and President Clark Williams asked if it's worthwhile for our group to have a full-time lobbyist. Terry Steinwand said that a bill may come up, so maybe someone on an every-other week basis would be sufficient; just to have the presence among the legislators. It was mentioned that a shared lobbyist does not work 100 percent of the time due to issue conflicts. The NDSFC was established in the 1980's to help support fishing issues to address issues that the G&F could not. Following discussion, a motion was made by Ken Cumber to pay Duaine Ash a flat lobbying fee of \$6,600 for the 2009 legislative session, and if fishing legislation is brought before the Legislature which requires him to be in Bismarck on a more regular basis, additional fees would be paid with Board approval. The motion was seconded by Rynee Kellar and approved.
- Open board seats to be presented at the March 28, 2009 annual meeting are for President, Treasurer, and Board members Mike Anderson, Richard Fink and Don Baasch. A Nominating Committee consisting of the President Clark Williams, Past President Duaine Ash and Board member Don Baasch will present a slate of nominees in March. However, Richard Fink indicated he would not like to serve another term, but he recommended Dave Bement fill his seat. President Clark Williams expressed a willingness to serve another two-year term as President and Rick Eagleson said he would serve as Treasurer for two more years.
- The next NDSFC newsletter will be mailed around March 1, 2009 and articles need to be submitted to Marie Hoerner (sportfishing@bis.midco.net) by February 15. This will give clubs the opportunity to promote their events, as well as to promote the March 28 NDSFC fundraiser.
- It was noted that the "Legislative updates", prepared by lobbyist Duaine Ash, will be posted on the NDSFC website during the legislative session.
- The next NDSFC Board meeting will be held Saturday, March 28, 2009 at the Mandan Eagles Club prior to the start of the annual fundraiser that evening.

A motion was made by Richard Fink, seconded by Ralph Garner and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner
Date submitted: December 14, 2008

		NON-RESIDENT FISHING LICENSE PRICE COMPARISONS (2008)									
		<i>Annual</i>	<i>Hus/Wife</i>	<i>15-day</i>	<i>10-day</i>	<i>7-day</i>	<i>4-day</i>	<i>3-day</i>	<i>2-day</i>	<i>1-day</i>	<i>Youth</i>
	North Dakota (16)	\$35	\$45		\$25			\$15			
	Montana ^a (15)	\$70			\$54				\$25		
	South Dakota (16)	\$60	\$60					\$32		\$14	
	Minnesota ^b (16)	\$41	\$53			\$30		\$25		\$10	\$18
	Wisconsin (16)	\$50	\$65	\$28			\$24				
	Iowa (16)	\$40				\$31		\$16		\$9	
	Nebraska (16)	\$58						\$25		\$10	
	Wyoming (14)	\$92								\$14	\$15
	<i>Three State Neighbor Avg</i>	<i>\$57</i>	<i>\$57</i>		<i>\$54</i>	<i>\$30</i>		<i>\$29</i>	<i>\$25</i>	<i>\$12</i>	<i>\$18</i>
	<i>Seven State Average</i>	<i>\$59</i>	<i>\$59</i>	<i>\$28</i>	<i>\$54</i>	<i>\$31</i>	<i>\$24</i>	<i>\$25</i>	<i>\$25</i>	<i>\$11</i>	<i>\$17</i>
	() above indicates age when no longer considered youth										
	^a - MT - includes conservation fees which are required										
	^b - MN - also has addt licenses for ice shelters, dh spear houses, trout stamps										
	North Dakota (16)	\$35	\$45		\$25			\$15			
	<i>Three State Neighbor Avg</i>	<i>\$57</i>	<i>\$57</i>		<i>\$54</i>			<i>\$29</i>			
	<i>Seven State Average</i>	<i>\$59</i>	<i>\$59</i>		<i>\$54</i>			<i>\$25</i>			



2008 Production Summaries By Hatchery



2008			Waters Stocked	Pounds	#/LB	Numbers
Garrison Dam NFH						
Brown Trout	Plymouth Rock	FGL	13	7,860	2.6	20,321
Burbot (Ling)		FGL	1	10	1754.7	18,073
Chinook Salmon	Lake Sakakawea	SMT	3	6,827	21.8	148,590
Northern Pike		EGG	1	0		1,200,000
Northern Pike		FGL	33	597	1758.5	1,049,650
Northern Pike		FRY	1	0		805,000
Rainbow Trout	Firehole-Domestic	FGL	1	8,350	2.4	20,040
Rainbow Trout	Shasta-Domestic	FGL	46	34,130	3.3	112,607
Shovelnose Sturgeon		FGL	1	54	40.7	2,204
Shovelnose Sturgeon		FRY	1	0		94,000
Walleye		FGL	117	3,877	2173.4	8,425,690
Walleye		FRY	1	0		2,150,000
Valley City NFH						
Black Crappie		ADT	1	32	2.0	64
Bluegill		FGL	7	47	3630.9	169,200
Crappie		FGL	5	105	1404.0	147,000
Largemouth Bass		FGL	5	53	1398.1	73,400
Northern Pike		FGL	37	475	1457.1	692,000
Yellow Perch		FGL	1	3	1000.0	3,000
South Dakota GFP						
Gizzard Shad		ADT	1	275	0.5	128
Wyoming G&F						
Rainbow Trout	Firehole-Domestic	FGL	2	3,000	1.0	3,000
Rainbow Trout	Hot Creek - Domestic	FGL	4	1,088	4.6	5,000
Private Bait Vender						
Pure Muskellunge		FGL	2	160	4.8	768
Tiger Muskellunge		FGL	2	160	4.4	704
Other						
Northern Pike		ADT	1	0		173
Yellow Perch		ADT	1	0		35,800
			209	67,102	15,176,412	

Yearly Total: Eggs: 1,200,000 Fry: 3,049,000 Fingerling 10,891,247 Adults: 36,165