



P.O. Box 2472 • Bismarck, ND 58502 • www.ndsportfishingcongress.org

Volume 4

March 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Duaine Ash



Where has the time gone? It seems just like yesterday that Marie reminded me that it was time to get another article written for the newsletter. With all the nice weather we have this year, it has made the time fly. It won't be long before our thoughts will be on getting the boat ready or maybe start looking for a new one. With the arrival of all the fishing catalogs in the mail, it is giving me the "itch" to start getting the things ready. With the snow pack in the mountains being at over a 100% of normal for this time year, it gives us hope that Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe will be getting some much needed water, but the rest of the state is short on snow at this time. Although, we still have a couple of months to get some wet heavy snow to fill our smaller lakes.

We have been fortunate to have had Dean Hildebrand as our Director of the Game & Fish for the past ten years. He is leaving a legacy that the sportsmen of the state can very proud of. I have had the fortune of working and knowing him for more than twenty-five years. He has been a leader in every aspect of his life and I wish him and his wife, Joey, the best in their retirement.

With Dean's retirement comes selecting of a new director. Governor Hoeven had a tough decision in selecting a new director as he had a group of top-notch candidates to select from. We are happy that he

selected Fisheries Chief Terry Steinwand as the new Director. Terry is going to have some mighty big shoes to fill. We are confident that Terry will do an excellent job and we are anxious to work with him in making the state fisheries better yet.

Greg Power was selected to fill the position of Fisheries Chief. Greg will also do an outstanding job in that position. Congratulation, Greg! We look forward to assisting and working with you in the future.

We (NDSFC) continue to be involved in numerous projects involving state and federal agencies. We have a seat on the Corps of Engineers Master Plan Steering Committee, Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) to develop a state plan, COE Weed Task Force, and NDG&F Fishing Tournament Rules Committee. Lee Klappordt is representing the NDSFC on the Plenary Group. The Plenary Group is composed of fifty-plus representatives of key federal, tribal, state and municipal governments, and diverse interest groups from the Missouri River Basin that are concerned about the Spring Rise. The increase in releases from the dam is intended to benefit the pallid sturgeon, a fish protected under the Endangered Species Act. We are active in finding a solution to the Billings Lake drainage problem. There is a concern that carp could be introduced through these drainage systems into Devils Lake and we must find a way to keep this from happening.

Finally, I hope to see you at the Bismarck Elk's Club in Bismarck for our Annual Meeting and Fundraiser on Saturday, April 8, 2006.

Until the next time— Keep a tight line and take a kid fishing!

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GAME AND FISH PERSPECTIVES

by Greg Power



By manner of introduction, my name is Greg Power and I became the new Fisheries Division Chief in mid-January. I replaced Terry Steinwand, who was appointed the NDGFD director by Governor Hoeven in late November, 2005. I personally know a number of you; others I look forward to meeting. One matter I know you all have in common is a commitment to fishing through your volunteering of time working for the Sportfishing Congress. Similar to Terry in the past, I intend to work closely with your organization in an effort to 'better' the fishery resources of our state.

I'm married with four daughters (one in college). With the challenges of raising four girls, one often gets wrapped up in the day-to-day grind...hoping to just survive another day! Yet, when I take a step back, I realize how blessed we've been with such absolutely beautiful and wonderful daughters. Likewise, sometimes us sportsmen and women can get uptight about all the 'bad' we may perceive going wrong with our outdoors. At the same time, in our hearts we know we truly have the best of all worlds, living and experiencing some of the very finest the outdoors has to offer anywhere in the world...right in our backyard.

I believe I share the common desire of most if not all North Dakota outdoor enthusiasts – that is to provide quality fishing opportunities across the state. The Fisheries Division has three great assets that should go a long way in assuring quality fishing opportunities for years to come. First and foremost, our staff is absolutely first rate. I've worked with them all and believe me, they are always ready and willing to work additional hours if called upon. I've personally witnessed many times the adverse conditions they work in – from the 100 F heat of summer, to nights of sub-freezing temps on the middle of a lake or river ... and always being beaten by the relentless North Dakota wind. Without a doubt, they define 'professional'. Second, our structure is sound. From field crews working on fish surveys, to a boat ramp crew, to fish haulers, to staff working on lake rehabilitation projects, the Fisheries Division has a strong framework addressing the angler access, fisheries management and fish production needs of the state. And lastly, we have the trust of all our bosses, from Terry and the Game and Fish administration, to the Governor's Office, to the general fishing public, it makes our jobs easier knowing there is support and appreciation.

Now for things more immediate – at least through early February, this has been the winter that wasn't. I doubt we've ever had such a shallow ice-pack on our lakes as what we're witnessing right now yet it seems the ice is good enough for vehicle traffic (at least on most lakes). Apparently many anglers are trying (pushing!) their luck both with ice fishing and ice conditions! Ice fishing has been rather spotty this winter and interestingly this also appears to be the case in surrounding states.

One of the real bright sides of experiencing a 'Nebraska-like' winter is the dissolved oxygen in most of our lakes has remained high. Unlike two winters ago when we experienced some significant winter fish-kills, especially in the northern half of the state, this winter we should be able to get through in fine shape with hopefully only a couple of under-ice die-offs. The downside of course are the dry conditions and the potential lack of any run-off. Although many lakes across the state are not in need of any more water, that is not the case for large portions of southwest and southcentral North Dakota. There is a real need for some late winter snow and significant runoff in these areas.

Spring is not far away, and despite such a warm winter, I think we yearn for some open water fishing. As in the past, there should be ample opportunity to wet a line and hopefully feel a yank on the other end. Get out there and experience it ... and take a family member and/or a friend. Happy angling!!!



BIS-MAN REEL & REC

by Richard Fink, President

As of this writing, we are cautiously optimistic looking forward to the spring runoff in the Missouri River System. The mountain snowpack is slightly above normal. The river stage from the Garrison Dam tailrace to the South Dakota border continues at record low levels and has created many problems with boat access. The Bis-Man Reel & Rec has recently joined forces with the Voices for Lake Oahe to assist their organization in addressing access issues at Hazelton Boat Landing and Langeliers Bay. Contact information: Randy Bosch at bayside@bektel.com, 701-254-4462 or Ron Kraft at rk9977@msn.com, 701-223-1834.

We marked our 25th Anniversary in April, 2005 and will continue to celebrate this milestone in 2006 as we host our 25th Annual Spring Walleye Derby and 25th Annual Take-a-Kid Fishing Day.

2006 Events:

May 19 Fish Fry
Graner Bottoms – 5:00PM

May 20 25th Annual Spring Walleye Derby,
Graner Bottoms

June 10...25th Annual Take-a-Kid Fishing Day
Sweetbriar Lake

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has set up a five-year initiative to help restore the nation's native fish populations and their habitat.



Their web site is:
<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/morefish/>

A related site is:
<http://www.fishhabitat.org/>

On the later site, organizations can sign up to be a partner to pursue the goals outlined.

RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB WAHPETON, ND

by Wayne Beyer

- ✓ A Youth Ice Fishing Derby was held at Heitkamp Pond on Saturday, February 11th. Heitkamp Construction partnered with the Sportsmen's Club to offer door prizes, drill holes, provide equipment and grill hot food for all contestants.



- ✓ Gene Pinkney and Mike Connell, experienced fly fishermen, taught Jr. Wildlife Club members how to tie flies and make jigs on Thursday, February 16th.
- ✓ A panfish ice-fishing outing (weather permitting) is planned on Thursday, March 16th at a Minnesota lake.
- ✓ The 23rd Annual Spring Fishing Derby is planned at the Kidder Recreation Area along the Red River on Saturday, May 6th.
- ✓ The 8th Annual Catfish Tournament is scheduled on the Red River on Saturday, June 3rd.
- ✓ The 21st Annual Carp & Sucker Derby is scheduled at the Kidder Recreation Area / Red River on Wednesday, August 2nd.
- ✓ The Sportsmen's Club is sponsoring matching funds for a grant application to place a fishing pier along the Bois de Sioux River in south Wahpeton.
- ✓ The Sportsmen's Club partners with the ND Game & Fish Department to purchase rods & reels for the Rod & Reel Loaner Program offered through the Parks & Recreation Department.

GARRISON DAM NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES

by Rob Holm

This year Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery set a new record. And if you like fishing walleye this is great news. North Dakota's lakes are looking better than ever this year in part from the stocking of nine and three quarter million fingerlings. To give you a little perspective of the achievement, imagine a pile of walleye the size of your typical crappie minnows, weighing three tons – that's the size of an elephant!

For North Dakota's anglers, hatchery stockings continue to make a significant difference in your success. For seven years, all walleye leaving the hatchery were marked with oxytetracycline. This antibacterial bath is applied to the walleye as day old fry – the result is a banding on the scales and other bony parts of the fish that can be identified years later under the microscope. This tagging program has provided unmis-takable evidence in support of walleye stockings. Data from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department shows natural reproduction is currently on the decline and stocking is playing an ever increasing role in maintaining the quality walleye fisheries in North Dakota. Results from the small lakes and reservoirs like Dry Lake, Crooked Lake, Rice and Spiritwood indicate that on average, 70% of the fish caught were from the hatchery. The larger reservoirs like Bowman-Haley, Jamestown, Ashtabula, and Heart Butte are also significantly influenced by stockings with an average of 66% of the walleye collected coming from the hatchery. Hatchery stocking of walleye in Lake Sakakawea account for 99% of the catch in the lower reach of the lake, 65% in the lake's middle reach, and 78% in its upper end (2003 data). With results like that it's hard to dispute the effectiveness of the hatchery. Bottom line: when climatic conditions are too poor for natural reproduction to occur, the hatchery is an effective tool for taking up the slack.

Walleye production is on the rise, thanks in part to Senator Dorgan's support to the hatchery. Over the past four years, the Senator has provided a million dollars to the hatchery to renovate its leaky walleye ponds with plastic liners. The result has been an increase of over a million walleye annually. To the fisherman that investment will show up as better walleye fishing, to the businessman, better business. From an internal Game and Fish Department Memorandum, there was just short of a million angler days of fishing effort in 2004-05. The economic value of fishing in North Dakota last year was about \$119 million dollars.

Changes for 2006 include emphasis on perch production at our Baldhill and Valley City hatcheries as well as Garrison Dam. And now, with the new pond liners Garrison, we will be able to produce both perch and pike over the course of the spring in the same pond – getting an even bigger bang for your buck. We are working with the ND Game and Fish Department to mark all the perch and northern pike produced at the hatchery to evaluate their contribution using the same methods used on the walleye. We brought in a new strain of rainbow trout, the Hot Creek strain, for stocking in the Missouri River below Lake Sakakawea. The fish should revive the trophy rainbow trout fishery that we had in the early 90's. We will maintain our stockings of brown and cutthroat stockings on alternate years as we have done previously, Chinook salmon stockings will be reduced to 250,000 five inch fish and we'll continue to meet the rest of the stocking needs as requested. If you are in the area, stop in for a hatchery visit. You may be surprised at what you see in the tanks – in addition to the prehistoric pallids being produced here, we are now dabbling with burbot! Hope you see the benefits of the hatchery programs play out this fishing season and we'll see you on the water.

UPDATE ON AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES PROJECTS

by LR Schlueter

North Dakota anglers are the key to aquatic nuisance species prevention, to keeping our fishing and hunting waters producing the recreation we want. It is our education, learning about the problems and how to prevent their spread, and our willingness to teach others that is important.

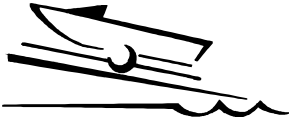
ANS prevention is not for someone else, it is for those that enjoy outdoor recreation, for today and for the future. We are our only hope for preventing ANS from reaching our waters.

The North Dakota Legislature recognized the problems that ANS could cause to North Dakota waters. They passed SB 2338 in the last session, a bill that both parties supported. That bill includes the formation of an advisory committee to the Director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. The North Dakota Sportfishing Congress has been named as a representative to the aquatic invasive species committee (AISC). The AISC has provided the Game and Fish Director with a list of aquatic plants and animals for consideration as North Dakota's ANS list. The AISC is now drafting ANS regulations for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department Director's review.

Future ANS efforts will include more educational efforts in newspapers, radio, TV, and magazines. The Department will prepare for distribution brochures, printed materials, and signs at various retail outlets, marinas, and sport shows. Presentations are planned for fishing tournaments, fishing/wildlife clubs, and public gatherings. The public will understand the impacts of ANS and how they can prevent its spread.

The message that we should have - ANS is a real problem; it can be prevented; prevention is simple and easy; the precautions are very effective - only if we do them.

With precautions in mind, you need to know that Eurasian watermilfoil has been found in Dead Colt Creek, Lisbon, ND. As a control measure, the reservoir was dewatered by approximately 10 feet this fall. It is expected that the cold weather will freeze and kill the exposed Eurasian watermilfoil plants. The site will be monitored for the next few years to determine if this was effective. Zebra mussels may have been planted in Fort Peck, an upper Missouri River reservoir. Montana Game, Wildlife, and Parks will be doing extensive monitoring in the next few years to determine if there is a zebra mussel population in the reservoir.



FRIENDS OF LAKE SAKAKAWEA

by Jill Denning Gackle

Secretary, Friends of Lake Sakakawea



Watch the mail!

The Friends of Lake Sakakawea will soon ask you to join them.

For as little as \$15, you could be a member of this organization with the goal of "building on the recreational, economic and environmental opportunities of Lake Sakakawea."

The Friends will be sending you their most recent newsletter, which details an impressive list of accomplishments during the past year, and gives you many reasons to join. You will also receive a form to fill out to join this organization.

During the past year, the Friends have managed to work closely with the Corps on updating the master plan, which will guide the use of the shoreline in the coming years. They have distributed funds for noxious weed control to every county bordering the lake, hired a lobbyist to protect the interests of stakeholders and vigilantly monitored the interests around the lake. Recently, the board took a hard look at ANS and how to control a potentially threatening infestation. The board believes that by everyone working together it's possible to make a good lake great.

The Friends keep their members informed with interesting e-mail reports and newsletters throughout the year.

Consider joining a group that is fighting hard for everyone who uses Lake Sakakawea's resources. To learn more, see www.lakesakakawea.com.

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS)

LOSE the HITCHHIKERS or LOSE the LAKE

It's YOUR CHOICE!

If you have any questions about ANS prevention, please contact:

North Dakota Game & Fish Department

100 N. Bismarck Expressway

Bismarck, ND 58501

(701) 328-6300

Email: ndgf@state.nd.us

More information can be found at:
<http://www.state.nd.us/gnf/pubs/>



NDSFC Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 8, 2006 • 11:00 a.m.

Elks Lodge • Bismarck

[Prior to the Sportsmen's Smoker & Raffle]

THE OTHER LAKE

by Rynee Kellar

I attended the 11-17-05 meeting in Bismarck by the Corps of Engineers. A lot of good testimony was given at the meeting.

The Lake Sakakawea people were represented very well. They had a variety of speakers who kept the COE on their toes. I commend them for their dignified efforts.

At the very end of the meeting, I brought up that the Hazelton Boat landing had marginal use in recent times. Each year that passes, the sandbar (delta) out front continues to build southward. Dredging would be a short term solution. The narrow water channel, which is not very deep, allows smaller boats to get to the main channel. Along this narrow channel are numerous bank fishermen who get disturbed when boats go by, and rightfully so, as there are not many areas they can fish along the Missouri River.

I would like to propose that this boat landing is moved about 2 miles south to another natural ravine which is at the south edge of the campground. The area that I'm writing about would put the boat ramp back into the main channel.

If the present ramp was left open to the public, moving the location of this ramp would solve the problem bank fishermen concerns with boats. Presently when fishing is at it's best, parking is not adequate as motorists are parking in the high-way ditch which causes safety problems. Moving seems to me to be the best solution.

After the meeting, the COE told me the cost of moving is not in the budget. It seems that at Sakakawea they holler and special funds thru the Congressional offices are obtained. We need that type of special funding to get this project going. Another issue present by the COE is that it will take an archeology study of the area to see if the boat landing can be developed. We need this landing on line early fishing season 2006. If memory serves me, it didn't take years of special studies to move ramps along Lake Sakakawea.

There are other ramps along Lake Oahe in North Dakotas that needs attention and I will leave it up to the locals to bring it to the attention of the COE. Maybe we need a meeting with COE that just talks about Lake Oahe?

It was quite interesting that the local COE office that oversees Lake Oahe was not introduced to the crowd. Was this intentional or were they just missed?



12TH Annual Sportsmen's Smoker & Raffle

Sponsored by: **North Dakota Sportfishing Congress**

When: Saturday, April 8, 2006

Where: Elks Lodge, Bismarck

Tickets: \$25.00 Includes:
 • Buffet Dinner
 • 4 Cash Door Prizes – \$500, \$100, \$50 (2)
 • Limited Seating; **Purchase Tickets Early**

Time: Cash Bar & Raffles begin at 6:00 pm
 Dinner approximately 7:30 pm

Activities: \$4,000 Fishing, Camping, & Hunting Equipment Raffles; Cash Raffles; & Live Auction

Contacts: Richard Fink: 701-258-6181 (home)
 Mike Anderson: 701-224-9048 (home)

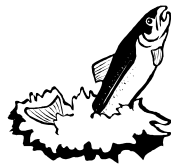


THANK YOU
 FOR
 YOUR SUPPORT!



LAKE REGION ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

by Clark Williams



DEVILS LAKE THREATENED

CARP

As the middle of the ice fishing season passes and we start thinking about spring a serious problem threatens the world class fishery of Devils Lake. There is a connection between the Pembina River drainage and the upper reaches of the Devils Lake drainage. The disturbing part is there are carp populations in the Pembina River drainage. During a wet spring or summer there is a very good chance that carp will be introduced into Devils Lake. As most of you know carp are a very successful competitor and would forever change the unique fishery that is Devils Lake and not for the better. Lake Region Anglers Association and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department have been working with the Devils Lake Joint Water Board to find a temporary solution for this spring and a permanent solution for the future. Progress is painfully slow, but there is movement toward reviewing possible solutions and selecting the best and most effective. Time may be getting short, as we know once the horses have escaped, shutting the barn door doesn't do much. Keep your fingers crossed.

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

LRAA submitted a request for a grant from the BOAT US Foundation to do additional work in the region on preventing the introduction aquatic nuisance species. The grant monies paid for the purchase of portable power-washers and assorted equipment. This equipment is on permanent loan to various resorts and marinas for use in cleaning boats before being launched and when the boats are pulled out of Devils Lake. LRAA is concerned that a problem could be brought to this important fishery by someone who is not careful or does not know how to prevent problem species from getting here.

CHILDRENS PROGRAMS

On a more upbeat note, LRAA has been very active in promoting fishing interest in the Lake Region with the kids. LRAA hosts two adult/child tourneys yearly where adults take a child fishing. Following these tournaments, the anglers are treated to a meal and prizes are provided. Four Exploratory Days (outdoor activities for 5-8th graders) where students received instruction on fishing techniques and are introduced to the enjoyment of fishing and the Devils Lake fishery. LRAA also sponsored four children to Lure EM for Life camps (a week long educational camp at the local bible retreat) and LRAA members regularly volunteer their time,

boats and equipment to take children and children's groups from local churches and schools fishing.

DEVILS LAKE ACCESS AND FACILITIES

LRAA has worked with the Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce and its Access Committee to purchase land to upgrade the East Bay Ramp facility, providing additional parking and improved boat ramp access. At the Hennegar Ramp facility, the LRAA worked with the Devils Lake City Engineer on constructing a better boat ramp approach and improving access to the boat ramp. The LRAA has also discussed temporary access to Pelican Lake with the North Dakota DOT and is helping to develop a future permanent access on Pelican Lake.

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH

The LRAA has had a number of discussions with the Fisheries Division on management of our states fishing resources. As part of those discussions, changes in the daily and bag limits in the new fishing proclamation for panfish were discussed. Of particular concern was the low yellow perch numbers and what solutions might be possible. Discusses were held concerning predations by northerns, walleyes and cormorants as well as stocking and 4 years of poor spawning. The consensus was that 4 years of poor spawn are the primary reason for low population numbers and thus poor perch fishing and that predations factors are minor in comparison. North Dakota Game and Fish is pursuing a significant stocking effort for next year to see what impact such a program might have.

The LRAA hosts an appreciation supper for the local staff of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department each year. All of the Department who are in the area are invited to attend and enjoy the refreshments and be recognized. The LRAA enjoys this friendly evening where we can get to know our Department's staff.

CALENDAR

The Annual Meeting Lake Region Anglers Association will be on Friday, March 31, at the KC Hall, all are invited.

Tournaments planned for this summer are:



- ✓ Adult/Child Northern 2/11/06
- ✓ Spring Northern 5/13/06
- ✓ East Bay 6/4/06
- ✓ Devils lake Open 6/17/06
- ✓ Adult/Child 7/8/06
- ✓ Walleye Widow Get Together 8/5/06

Good Fishing!

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., 04/06.)

Club Member's dues are \$50 and are due on or before the annual meeting that is held in April of each year. To maintain your club's voting rights for 2005-06, 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 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 _____

☐ I would like to receive the newsletter via email. (please check if applicable)



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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____)-____-____

Email _____

Delegate 2

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____)-____-____

Email _____

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REFUGE FISHERIES

By Wade King, Fishery Biologist

The Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Management Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is located in Bismarck, ND. As part of our duties, we are responsible for providing management of five, National Wildlife Refuge lakes throughout North Dakota and Eastern Montana. Although the primary goals of the refuge revolve around waterfowl management and production these lakes have also provided opportunities for recreational fisheries over the past decades.

One of the most notable bodies of water is Lake Darling, which lies within the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge, located approximately 25 miles North Northwest of Minot, North Dakota. Currently, the fishery is in decline due to a large predator base that has prevented the last few age classes of walleyes and yellow perch from recruiting into the population. Although the perch fishery is in poor condition, anglers will have an opportunity to catch a large walleye or northern pike which is evident from past summer surveys. Three northern pike have been caught over 20



pounds in February, 2006 alone, with one large female weighing over 30 pounds.

The eastern part of North Dakota has two refuge waters named Lake Tewaukon and Sprague Lake, which are both part of Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge by Cayuga, North Dakota. Both lakes provide a variety of game fish including northern pike and walleye, as well as, black crappie and yellow perch. Both lakes are known for producing limited numbers of huge crappies in the one pound range and abundant, healthy walleyes.

The remaining lakes consist of Lake Ilo, by Dunn Center, North Dakota, and Medicine Lake located 4 miles Southeast of the town of Medicine Lake, Montana. Both lakes are affected by poor water quality issues annually and for the most part, are managed strictly as northern pike fisheries. Although these are marginal fisheries, they both produce good numbers of pike and provide ample angler opportunities with excellent shoreline access.

As with all lakes, make sure you check for special regulations before you go fishing, especially daytime use restrictions which are common on refuge lakes. One item worth noting is that all four North Dakota refuge lakes provide excellent boat ramp access as well as, docks and piers that can be accessed easily.

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