



Legislation Summary for the week of Jan. 10-14, 2005

The second week was pretty quiet. Tuesday mornings during this legislative session, we will meet at the Game & Fish office at 10:00 AM and go over the bills that have been or will be introduced and will be heard during this session.

HB 1101 - Personal Float devices for children on vessels was heard by Natural Resource Committee in the Pioneer Room on Friday, Jan 7, 05 at 9:00 AM. This amendment to section 20.1-13-20 of the ND Century Code changes the age requirement from 10 to 12 to having to wear appropriately sized and properly fastened coast guard-approved type I, II, or III wearable personal floatation device while the vessel is in operation. I remained neutral as the emails I received from you were kind of mixed. After much discussion, the committee voted and a 7- 6, do not pass. This week the House failed the bill 29 yea & 62 na.

HB 1137 - Would amend the North Dakota Century Code by requiring compliance with bait vendor administrative rules prior to issuance of a wholesale or retail bait vendor license. The bill was heard Thursday, Jan 13, 05 in the Pioneer Room. HNRC recommended a do-pass.

There were no bills introduced on the Senate Natural Resources Committee that we needed to take a stand on.

The bills that I will be following this coming week of Jan 17- 21 will be:

HB 1296 - Would amend the North Dakota Century Code by allowing suspension of hunting and fishing privileges to persons with felony convictions only. It also repeals the laws that prohibit hunting under the influence. House Judiciary Committee to hear on Thursday, Jan 19, 05, 9:00 AM in the Prairie Room.

SB 2141 - Would amend the North Dakota Century Code by revising the boating under influence law. Senate Transportation Committee to hear on Thursday, Jan 20, 05 at 9:45 AM in the Lewis & Clark Room. The result of my inquiry is that we will be supporting this bill.

ATTENTION: THE CORPS IS HOSTING A PUBLIC MEETING THURSDAY, JAN 20, 2005 FROM 6:30 TO 8:30 PM AT THE BISMARCK CONVENTION CENTER (CIVIC CENTER) EXHIBIT HALL, ROOM 105 AT 601 E. SWEET AVENUE TO GATHER COMMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP AN EMERGENT SANDBAR HABITAT FOR THE LEAST TERNS AND PIPING PLOVERS. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE GET A LARGE CROWD TO ATTEND.

This meeting is important to all who recreate on the Missouri River and its sandbars. Potential impacts to recreation use of the river could be significant. Bring your friends and let us pack the meeting room and let the Corps know where we are concerned about their plans to develop additional Least Tern and Piping Plover habitat. The Corps held a meeting in October that was poorly publicized and few attended. NDSFC & FOLS wrote a letter to the Corps stating that we were disappointed that we were not informed nor given the opportunity to present testimony, so they have decided to come back and gather our comments. Since they are giving us this opportunity it is imperative that we get a packed house. If you use the river you should make every attempt to educate yourself on this issue. Attending the Corps' meeting is an important first step to get answers. **SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!!!**

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 701.351.0260 or by email at duaine_ash@yahoo.com during this legislative session.

Report submitted by: Duaine Ash