

2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



First of all I would like to 'Thank You' for letting me be your lobbyist for 2005 ND Legislative Session. It was an experience that I will treasure for life, it gave me the privilege to work with a lot of interesting, dedicated individuals.

We were kept busy during the 2005 State Legislature as more bills involving hunting and fishing issues were considered than any other session.

The session ended April 23, and 33 of 58 bills affecting the department made it through the House and Senate and were signed into law by Gov. John Hoeven.

The new laws take effect Aug. 1, 2005. More information on the hunting and fishing bills is available on the game and fish website, discovernd.com/gnf.

House of Representatives

The House Natural Resources Committee (HNRC) meets Thursdays and Fridays in the Pioneer Room. Members: Jon O. Nelson, Chairman; Todd Porter, Vice Chairman; Dawn Marie Charging, Donald L. Clark, Duane DeKrey, Dave Drovdal, Lyle Hanson, Robert Hunsakor, Dennis Johnson, George Keiser, Scot Kelsh, Mike Norland, Darrell D. Nottestad, Dorvan Solberg.

Senate

The Senate Natural Resources Committee (SNRC) meets Thursdays and Fridays in the Ft. Lincoln Room. Members: Stanley W. Lyson, Chairman; Ben Tollefson, Vice Chairman; Michael Every, Layton Freborg, Joel C. Heitkamp, John T. Traynor, Rich Wardner

HB 1066 - Changes license vendor bond fee to \$10 for \$15,000 coverage. Passed house 87-0. Passed senate 45-0. Signed by governor.

HB 1100 - Provides protection of game and fish department records of biological data, and the name, address and electronic address of an individual participating in a wildlife harvest survey. Passed house 84-0. Passed senate 45-0. Signed by governor.

HB 1101 - Would have increased the age from 10 to 12 for those who need to wear a life jacket while in a boat. Failed house 29-62. *We opposed this bill as we felt that it was the parents responsibility to decide when the kids should have to wear life jackets. The reason behind this legislation was to standardize it with the Coast Guard.*

HB 1137 - Requires compliance with bait vendor administrative rules prior to issuance of a wholesale or retail bait vendor license. Passed house 59-32. Passed senate 45-0. Signed by governor. *Testified in favor and encouraged both chambers to support.*

HCR 3019 - Urging the U.S. Corps of Engineers to retain sufficient water in the upper portion of Lake Oahe to ensure a stable water supply for the residents of the Standing Rock Reservation and the surrounding communities & urging the Governor and the Attorney General to take appropriate action to ensure federal officials retain sufficient water in the upper portion of Lake Oahe to protect the health and well-being of the citizens of the area. *Testified in favor and encouraged both chambers to support.*

HCR 3026 - A concurrent resolution urging the United States Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the level of Lake Sakakawea at a minimum elevation of 1,825 feet mean sea level. House and senate adopted. *Testified in favor and encouraged both chambers to support.*

HCR 3027 - Urging the U.S. Corps of Engineers to retain sufficient water in the upper portion of Lake Sakakawea to ensure a stable water supply for the Southwest Pipeline Project and the 26 communities and the 3,000 farms and ranches that receive water from the Southwest Pipeline Project; urging the Governor and the Attorney General to take appropriate action to ensure federal officials retain sufficient water in Lake Sakakawea to protect the health and well-being of the citizens in southwest N.D. *Testified in favor and encouraged both chambers to support.*

SB 2041 - An individual hunting with a tribal hunting license within the exterior boundaries of an Indian reservation on Indian trust land or land owned by an Indian is not required to possess a state license to hunt on such lands. Passed senate 40-6. Passed house 58-33. Signed by governor. *We remained neutral on this bill.*

SB 2100 - Clarifies the term resident for game and fish purposes. Passed senate 46-0. Passed house 70-21. Signed by governor.

SB 2113 - The legislative council shall study, during the 2005-06 interim, issues related to hunting and fishing by nonresidents and nonresidents who are former residents, and report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the 60th legislative assembly. Passed senate 44-0. Passed house 78-9. Signed by governor.

SB 2141 - Revises the boating under the influence law. Passed senate 46-0. Passed house 74-17. Signed by governor. *We concurred with NDG&F in supporting this bill. Note: There has never been a BWI issued to a fishermen in ND; the problem area is in an area of five miles above or below the city of Bismarck/Mandan area.*

SB 2294 - Regulates the licensing of wholesale bait vendor licenses. Passed senate 46-0. Passed house 77-13. Signed by governor. *We concurred with the NDG&F in supporting this bill. There was a large quantity of bait leaving the state and the G&F was not receiving a fair compensation for the resource. It was indicated the an individual has been taking and selling over \$5,000.00 worth of bait a week.*

SB 2338 - Establishes a management plan for prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species. Passed senate 46-0. Passed house 88-2. Signed by governor. *We concurred with this bill. I felt this was the most important bill that was before the legislator this session as we need to stop ANS before we get it in our state and this bill is the first giant step in doing so.*

SB 2369 - Effective 2006, creates a nonresident 10-day fishing license for \$25, and eliminates the current 7-day \$20 license. Passed senate 47-0. Passed house 89-2. Signed by governor. *We supported this bill providing that we did away with one of the current license, which was done.*

SB 4026 - Urging congress to enact legislation to address the adverse economic impact on businesses and the economic health of North Dakota caused by the low water levels of the federally managed reservoirs on the Missouri River in North Dakota. *Testified and encouraged both chambers to support this legislation.*

Submitted by Duaine Ash, Lobbyist #383