



NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

APRIL 14TH, 2012 – 10:00 AM
ND Game & Fish, Bismarck ND

Members Present: President Clark Williams; Past President Duaine Ash; Treasurer Rick Eagleson; Board members Mike Anderson, Don Baasch, Dave BeMent, Paul Haug, Ed Sweeney; Members Ken Cumber, Brian Dahlin, Richard Fink, Rick Mohan, Tony Splonskowski, and Joe Vetter, Jr. Others Present: Terry Steinwand, Greg Power, Bob Timian and Fred Ryckman, G&F; Rob Holm, USFWS; and Executive Secretary Marie Hoerner.

President Clark Williams called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. and thanked everyone for coming. (The meeting originally scheduled for the Mandan Eagles was moved to the Game & Fish.) Those present introduced themselves.

Treasurer Rick Eagleson distributed the "Treasurer's Report" which revealed the income and expenses as of April 14, 2012. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Don Baasch, seconded by Brian Dahlin, and passed.

Reports/presentations were provided by the following guest speakers:

Rob Holm: Project Leader, Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery

- In spite of all the water last year, 2/3 of hatchery production is from the Spillway Lake. They were still able to do much of the walleye production last year with help from the ND Game & Fish Department. They build dikes last year due to the flood and Rob showed pictures and a video of the dam during the 2011 Missouri River flood. G&F brought pumps to help with the flood issues; saving the walleye in the ponds.
- To give you more information on the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery report by Rob Holm, attached to the minutes is Rob's PowerPoint presentation from the meeting. Highlighted was:
 - Request for Walleye stockings (2011 Hatchery production);
 - New Mitigation Policy;
 - Fisheries Improvement Act of 2006;
 - 2012 FWS budget could fund 2,675 ND hatcheries, while only 3% of the F&W Service budget is for the Fish Hatchery System. The only department to see a decrease. 10 years ago there were 13 employees and today there are only 5 employees for FWS hatchery.
 - 2013 Budget -- \$3.3 million shortfall in the budget for mitigation hatchery operations and critical supplies. FWS 2012 budget is \$1.7 billion. The Fish Hatchery Systems takes 3% (\$64 million).
 - Primary objective of the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery historically is to produce fish for the Missouri River Reservoirs;
 - "Take Home Message" from Rob Holm for FWS;
 - Becoming a "Friends Group" -- There is not one organized in ND, but Rob would like to organize one. They could not do what they do without the help of the G&F;
 - The Garrison Dam NFH still has the best hatchery in the nation!

ND Game and Fish Presentations

- Greg Powers, Fisheries Chief (Attached to minutes is Greg's PowerPoint presentation from the April 14 meeting.)
 - Access – As of today, only the Rifle Range's boat ramp is out of commission. They are hoping to get back to the ramps in the district areas.
 - Sources for ANS information for SFC and others??? Survey asked of fulltime Fisheries Division staff – ANS 17%; Water Quality Deterioration-43%; Access-17%; Other-23%.
 - SD ANS Risk Assessment – Intentional stocking and planting were the two vectors most-commonly associated with introducing and spreading ANS. Boats, barges or equipment were the 2nd, with bait being the 3rd. ND is ahead of SD in ANS rules and regulations.
 - Your online licensing doesn't expose non-residents to the rules. ANS is both a resident and non-resident issue. ANS regulations are posted in other states' publications.
 - Department of Tourism sends out packets to nonresidents and they have information about ANS on their website.
 - Lake Eric (Ohio) has a large zebra mussel issue.
 - Greg Power said that since the January 2012 NDSFC meeting, the G&D had over 300 phone calls and emails regarding ANS rules; 150 were from complaints. ANS is of concern to G&F as well as the NDSFC.
 - Addressing the Challenges – projects needing public involvement, which includes ANS. G&F will continue to expand the monitoring, inspection, permitting, education and enforcement of ANS.
 - Transparency –Greg said ANS use to be call the “Bait bucket transfer”.

Bob Timian: Chief Enforcement – Comments and open up for questions. When ANS first started coming into North Dakota, the State Legislature enacted rules about enforcement. If the public doesn't buy in, it will never work to enforce the rules. In 2009 G&F started establish some check stations and did risk assessment to monitor what the compliance rate was and up the exposure to the public. Did check stations in the fall for waterfowl hunters. The standard now is the obvious (weeds) ANS on their boat. Need to warn and inform. Compliance check with the new livewell enforcement – moving water. Have not encountered a lot of actual ANS (plant or animal) and have written very few violations. Start transition from the warning into the situation of ANS violation. Based on information from people, the acceptance is pretty general. Need to reach the fisherman who travel around doing a lot of fishing in different areas. Duaine Ash asked about accessing prior violation records immediately. Timian said Smart phones can access records from the Bismarck system, but no system like the Highway Patrol. The cost to transition to a more complex system is costly, but they have a records management system to keep track of warning and violations. Verbal warnings do not go into the system, only written warnings. Violation of transporting ANS is charged more heavily then if you were not carrying ANS in your livewell. Clark Williams asked if more emphasis could be placed on people being inspected before putting their boat in the water. Bob said they are doing pre-insertion checks as well as boats coming off the water. Transporting fish in ND in a livewell without water is legal. The livewell needs to be drained at the location the boat came out of the water, not down the road. Timian said RAP can also be used to calling in potential fishing violations (report violations to your local wardens or G&F). Call-in fishing violations is no where close to the number of call-in hunting violations.

Fred Ryckman: New ND State ANS Coordinator – Review after 10 years of the program, the division continues to work on ANS issues. Look at barges and equipment coming to the state to makes sure they are not bringing ANS into the state. Need to get everyone involved in keeping ANS out. The goal is to have all fishermen on the G&F side in controlling ANS. Silver carp moved up the James River and they are trying to control this issue. The high river flows makes the issue harder to control.

Terry Steinwand, Director – Steinwand thanked the G&F and fisheries staffs. He said he has been involved with NDSFC for over 20 years. The G&F is not going to agree on everything and will disagree on

strategies, but need to work together. A fisherman needs to be able to access a lake by public means in order to fish legally. Steinwand said he has not heard anything on upcoming legislative bills for the 2013 session.

Committee Reports:

- Fundraiser: Mike Anderson
 - Fundraiser Tickets – Ticket sales are down from past years (155 sold so far this year). Need volunteers to help with special raffles.
 - 2013 Fundraiser Dates – Not yet determined. The date will be posted on the NDSFC website.
 - Prizes: Paul Haug – will need help with prizes. Has a lot of prizes and spent a lot of money.
- Membership:
 - Marie Hoerner provided a written membership report indicating that 5 of the current 13 member clubs have renewed their membership to date. There are currently 558 individuals on our mailing list and only 108 are paid-up members. We have emails for almost half of the members.
 - It was the consensus that the count for the total members of the NDSFC should be the total members from all of the member clubs, which will exceed the current 558 members. If you limit emails to only the clubs, the emails may not reach the individuals at all or not in a timely manner.

By-Laws: None per Paul Haug

E-tree: individuals, clubs – The member clubs are encouraged to delegate an individual or individuals who can forward emails to their members, rather than providing NDSFC with all the emails. NDSFC would like to communicate issues, especially during the Legislature, effectively to all fishermen. President Williams would like to make sure each club has a contact to distribute information to its members via e-tree.

ND Lobbyist – Duaine Ash has been the NDSFC lobbyists in past years, but prefers not to serve in this position for the 2013 session. If there is anyone in the Bismarck-Mandan area that you feel may be interested in serving as the Congress' lobbyist, please contact Duaine Ash. Richard Fink was given permission to include an “ad” for lobbyist in the next newsletter of the Bis-Man Reel & Rec. The most important criteria for a lobbyist would be effectiveness as the “face” for the Congress. If names for lobbyists are received, there would then be an interview and selection process conducted by the NDSFC Executive Board.

Club Reports:

- Barnes County, Don Baasch – August 10th – Kid's fishing at Garrison. Don said they need boats for this event. They are predicting 60 kids and would need about 15 boats. Barnes County Wildlife Federation would pay for bait, gas and some expenses for those providing a boat. Don will get the information together and give it to Clark Williams to distribute to the clubs via e-tree.
- May 5th is Voices of Lake Oahe's annual fundraiser in Linton.

Elections:

- Up for election effective April 14, 2012: VP (Lynn Schlueter), 3 Board Positions (Paul Haug, Ron Kraft, Ed Dosch) – Lynn and Ron do not wish to run for another term. At the January meeting, Ken Cumber expressed interest in serving. Following discussion, a motion was made by Duaine Ash nominating Ken Cumber as Vice President ; seconded by Don Baasch and unanimously passed. Ash made a motion that nominations cease; seconded by Ed Sweeney and passed. Ron Kraft's board position was not filled due to the limitations of the number of Board positions required per the By-Laws, so the seat was not filled. An additional position was added in 2011 and there will now be one less board member for 2012-2013.

New Business

- Clark Williams on behalf of the Lake Region Anglers Association presented awards to ND Game & Fish employees Wes Erdle and Bill Haase for the work completed in 2011 on the ramps in the Devils Lake area.
- The future of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress – Mike Anderson asked if we should promote the NDSFC publicly in Dakota Country, etc. or interviewing the Congress' president in articles in order to get the NDSFC name out.
- Suggestions to get more people involved in the Congress were to double the number of delegates for each club for the Congress. Articles in Dakota Country interviewing President or Bismarck Tribune, Grand Forks, Fargo, Valley City writers.
- Clark noted that he is not planning to run for President next year, so we need to start thinking of a candidate, effective April 2013.
- It was the consensus of the group that there will not be a newsletter after the fundraiser, but that news would be communicated on the website. A report on the fundraiser will be posted on the NDSFC website.

There being no additional business, a motion was made by Don Baasch, seconded by Brian Dahlin and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting. Everyone was asked to help setup for the NDSFC annual fundraiser at the Mandan Eagles, which begins at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner
Date submitted: April 20, 2012



Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery

Providing fish for North Dakota's anglers!

Presentation for the
North Dakota Sportfishing Congress
Annual Meeting

April 14, 2012 Mandan Eagles Club





Pump Intake

After

2011 Hatchery Production

Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery			
Species	Requested	Produced	2012 Request
Walleye	8,770,000	7,578,250	8,047,000
Pike	1,594,000	917,250	741,000
Chinook	265,000	263,550	250,000
Browns	25,950	25,350	28,400
Rainbow	60,750	60,400	60,350
Paddlefish	20,000	38,750	0
RBT/CUT	20,000	19,250	20,000
Sauger	0	0	200,000
TOTAL	10,755,700	8,902,800	9,346,750

2011 Hatchery Production

Valley City National Fish Hatchery

Species	Requested	Produced	2012 Requested
Pike	1,707,000	1,530,500	749,000
Perch	0	0	0
Crappie	335,000	103,900	185,000
Bluegill	0	0	0
Bass	112,000	176,000	100,000
Walleye	1,555,000	405,100	1,267,000
TOTAL	3,709,000	2,215,500	2,301,000



New Mitigation Policy

The Service will be reimbursed by the agencies responsible for fishery mitigation activities, or the Service will no longer perform these activities. Fish production will be commensurate with the level of funding received.




Taken from the 'Future of Fisheries' visioning paper

'The USFWS Fisheries Program lacks organic legislation that clearly defines its mission and authorities. This continues to create confusion and sometimes impedes the Program's ability to focus its efforts to meet the challenges of an ever-changing society and natural environment.'

Fisheries Improvement Act of 2006

A BILL (introduced but failed)

To authorize the Secretary of Interior to work with partners to restore and maintain fish and other aquatic resources at self-sustaining levels and support Federal mitigation programs for the benefit of the American public through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fish Hatchery System and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.

The background of the slide features a dark blue gradient with several concentric, light blue circular ripples, resembling water droplets, scattered across the lower half of the image.



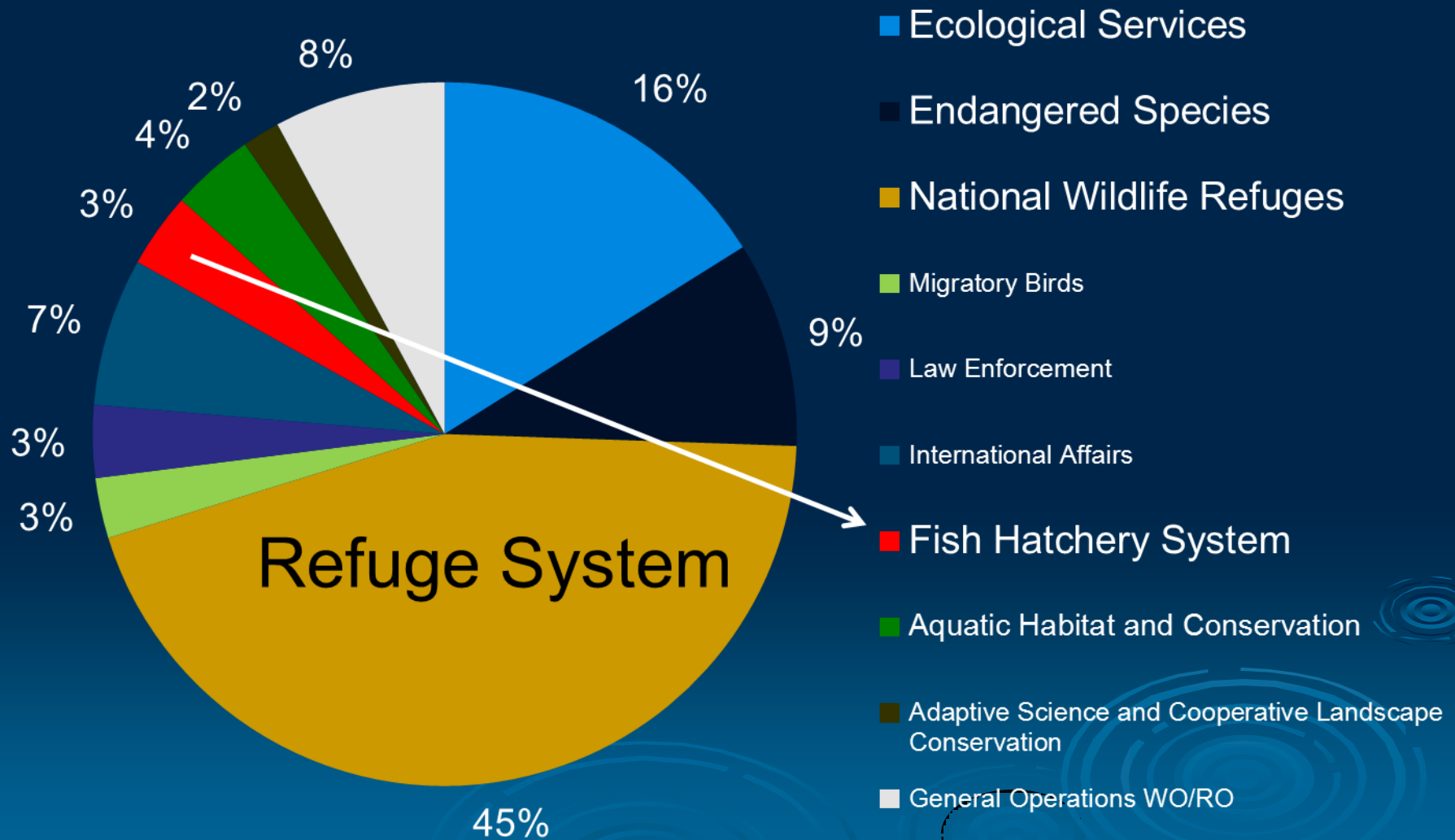
FWS Refuge System

For almost a century, the National Wildlife Refuge System had been managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service without an "Organic Act" spelling out how it ought to be managed and used by the public.

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 provides an "Organic Act" for the Refuge System.

It was passed to ensure that the Refuge System is managed as a national system of related lands, waters, and interests for the protection and conservation of our Nation's wildlife resources.

The Fish and Wildlife Service 2012 Budget Pie



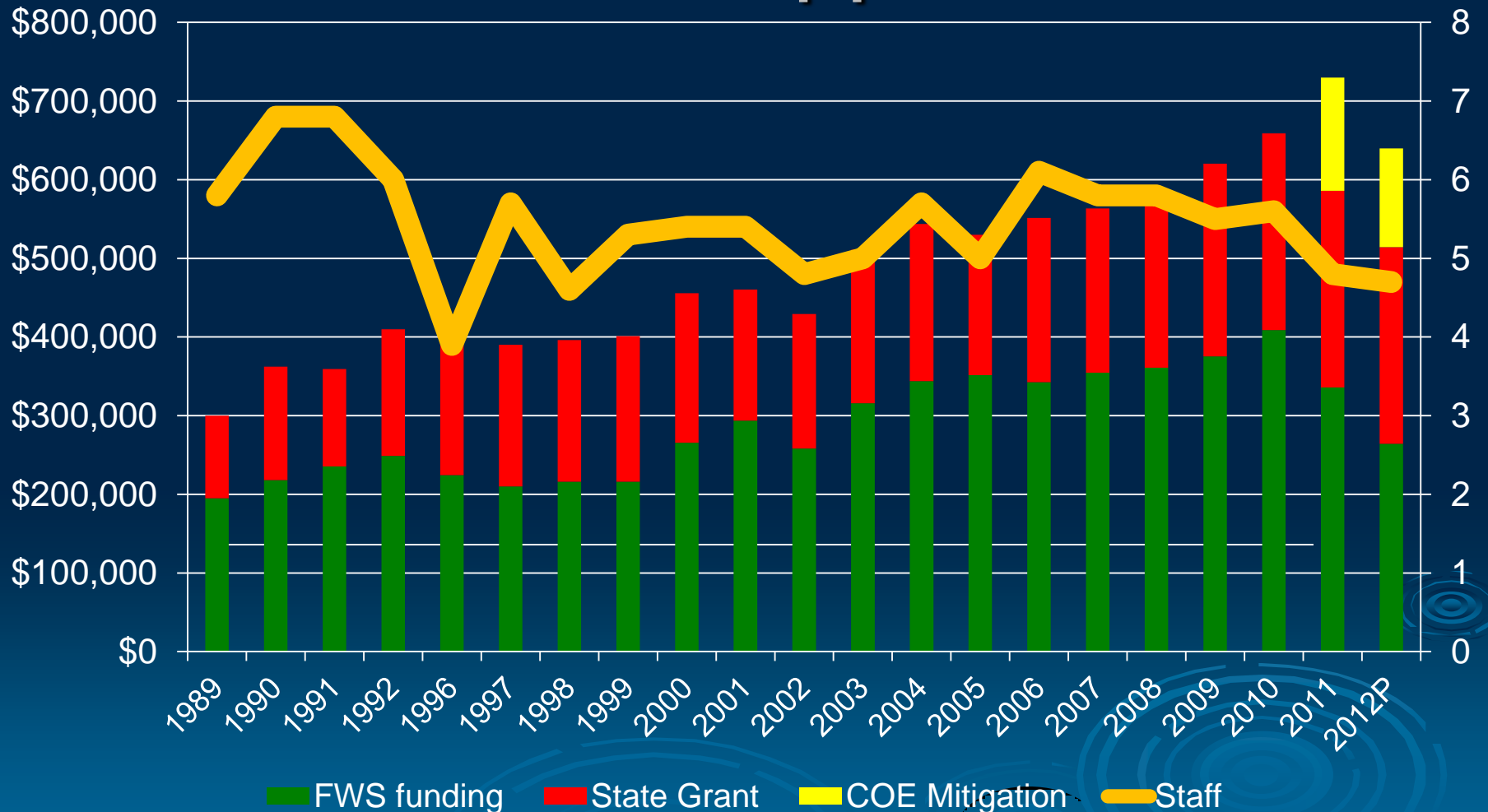
Mitigation

Mitigating for Federal water projects is not a high conservation priority for the Service when budgets are tight and available resources should be focused on native species and habitat priorities. The Service has intensified negotiations to obtain reimbursement for mitigation activities that are not specifically funded by project authorizing legislation. This course of action should allow more of the National Fish Hatchery System's base funds to be redirected to recovery and restoration of native aquatic species and their habitats. Taken from the Service visioning document

Congressional Support was there for us in 2012 – Thanks!

***“Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation** -The conferees have restored the proposed \$3,388,000 shortfall in the budget for mitigation hatchery operations and critical supplies. An additional \$3,800,000 is appropriated elsewhere in this consolidated Act for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reimburse the Service. Together, these amounts fully fund mitigation hatcheries. The conferees support efforts by the Service to recover costs of programs that are conducted to mitigate the environmental effects of other Federal partners. However, future budget requests must ensure that Federal partners have committed to make sufficient funding available to reimburse the Service before the Service proposes to eliminate funding for mitigation hatcheries so that operations at these hatcheries are not disrupted”*

Hatchery budget is solid with COE support



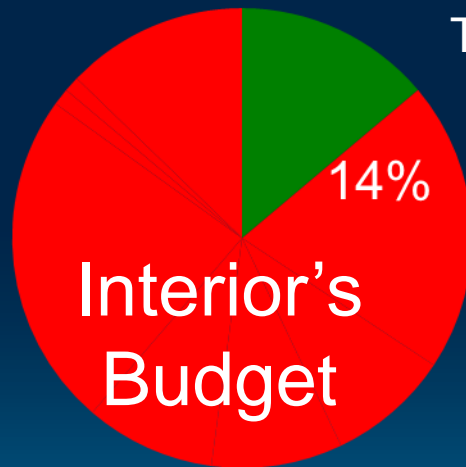
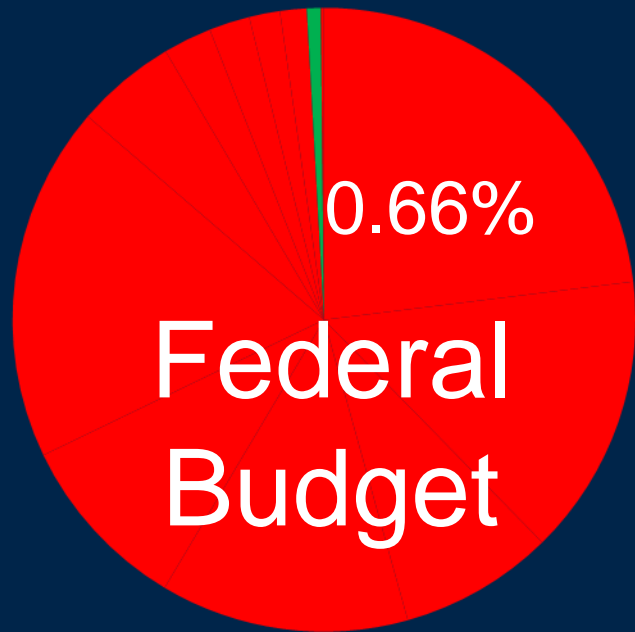
Can the hatchery budget meaningfully impact the federal deficit?

The portion of the federal budget that covers all environmental and natural resource funding is now under 1% of the federal budget. In 1983 almost 4% of the budget was spent on these programs. Spending on fish, wildlife, and natural resource conservation is now only 0.4% of the federal budget. Cuts to highly leveraged and cost-effective natural resource conservation cannot have a meaningful impact on the deficit relative to the much larger social programs and tax expenditures.

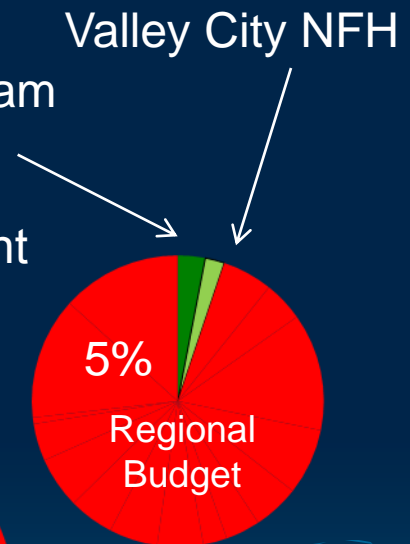
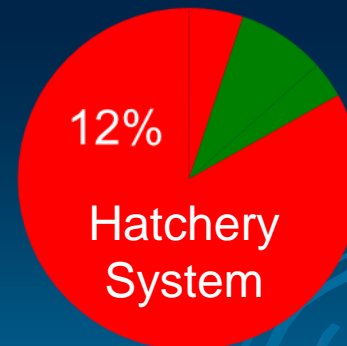
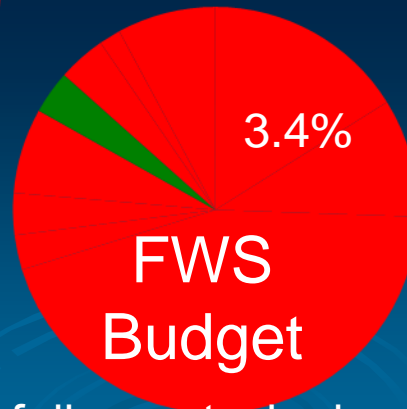
Excerpt from the 77th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

Our Piece of the Pie

\$458,423



That's 10¢ for every million dollars spent

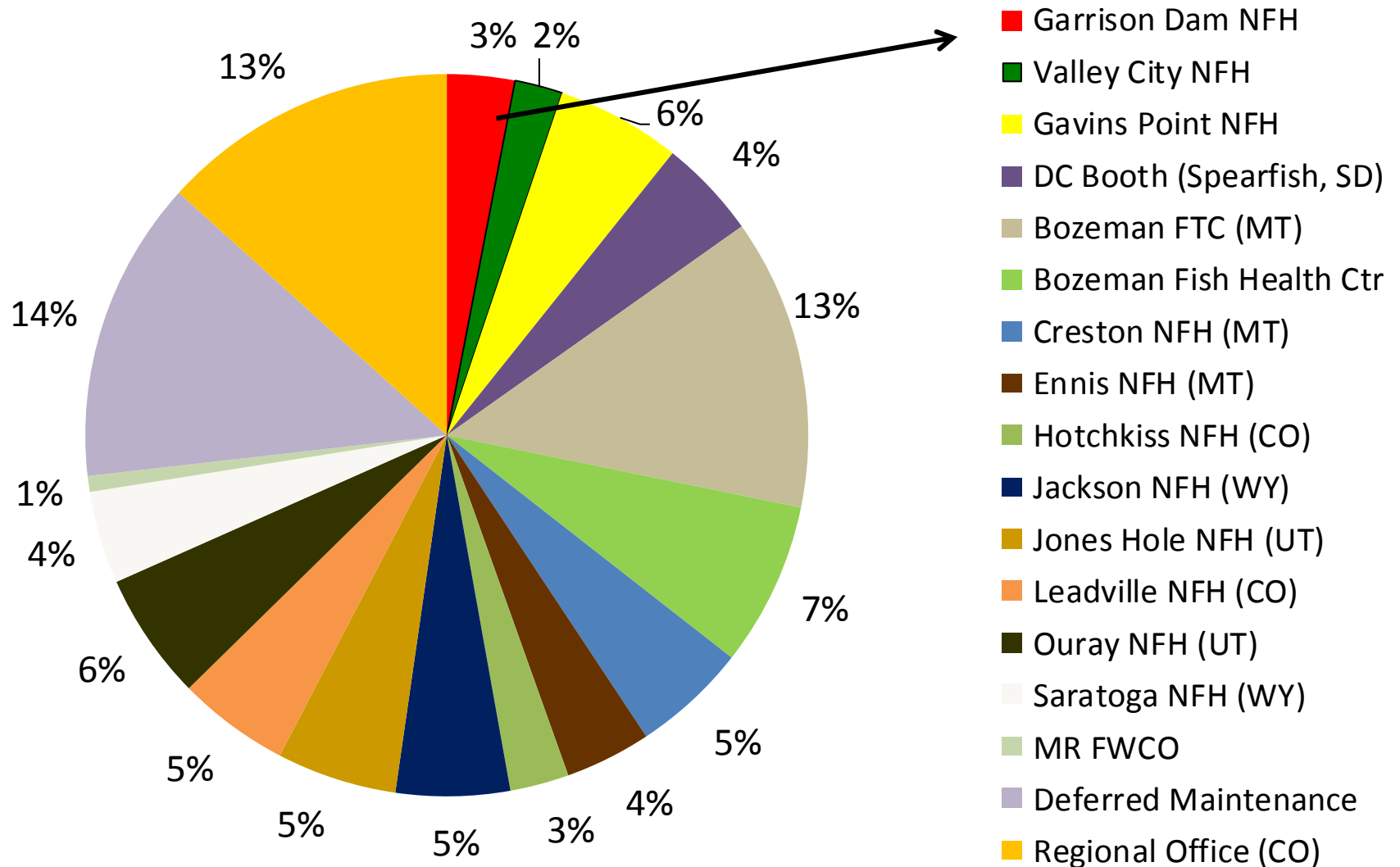


FYI - A million dollar's worth of dimes stacked one on top of the other would extend over 7 miles into the air – the ND hatcheries take one dime off the pile.

2013 Budget Bullets

- The Fish and Wildlife Service 2012 budget is \$1.7 billion
- The 2013 budget includes a \$20 million increase to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Great support even in times of budget decreases for most programs!)
- The Refuge System accounts for the largest slice at 45% (\$485 million)
- The Fish Hatchery System takes 3% (\$64 million) of the \$1.7 billion dollar FWS budget
- In 2013 the FWS budgeted \$6 million less for hatcheries and more for every other FWS program
- The hatchery decreases are due to mitigation reimbursement and a priority shift to native species and habitats
- Corps of Engineers reimbursed the hatchery system \$3.8 million this past year for mitigation stockings

Region 6 Fish Hatchery 2012 Budget Pie





Fish and Wildlife Service

Garrison Dam NFH

'The primary objective of Garrison Dam NFH has historically been to produce fish for the Missouri River Reservoirs created by the construction of dams as authorized in the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1943.'

What lakes are mitigation waters?

Corps of Engineers

Lake Sakakawea

Lake Audubon

Bowman-Haley Reservoir

Lake Ashtabula

Pipestem Reservoir

Homme Lake

Spillway Pond

Lake Oahe

Bureau of Reclamation

Dickinson Reservoir

Heart Butte Reservoir

Jamestown Reservoir

Heckers Lake

New Johns Lake

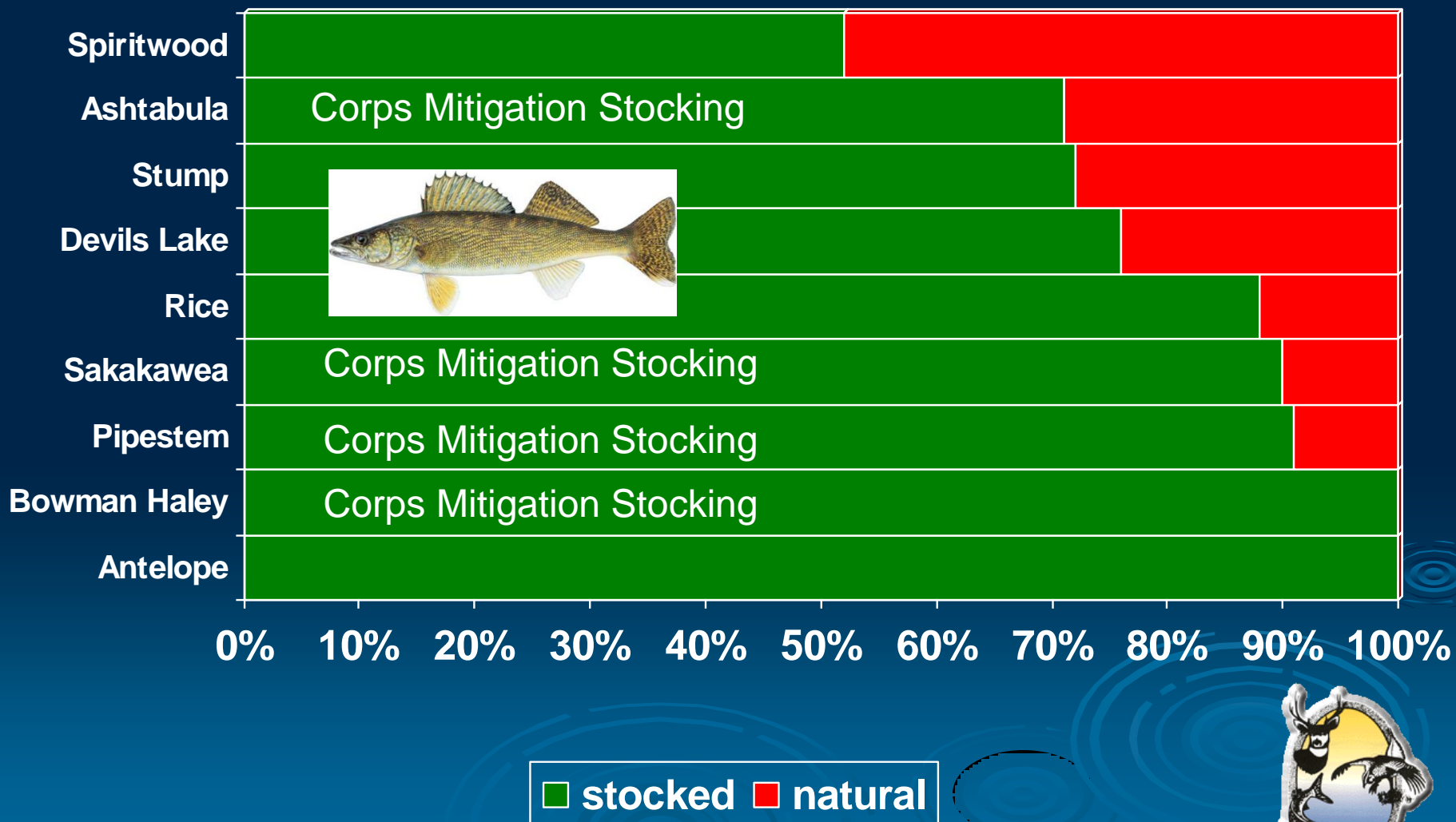
East and West Park Lakes

Lake Brekken and Lake Homes

Lightning and N/S McClusky Lakes

Walleye Recruitment 2005

Based on OTC marks and YOY catch rates



Take Home Message

- The FWS has changed its mitigation policy – we will no longer stock mitigation fish unless the responsible agency picks up the tab – focus on native species and habitats
- The 2013 budget for the FWS has an overall **increase** of \$20.9 million dollars on a \$1.7 billion budget – and a **decrease** of \$6.1 million for funding hatchery operations and mitigation
- Strong support for the Fish and Wildlife Service overall
- The COE is being asked to fund part of the hatchery decrease for mitigation stockings (\$3.8 million nationally)

Take Home Message

- The Fish Hatchery System represents a small fraction of the FWS budget – 3.4%
- The North Dakota hatcheries continues to function effectively in producing native fish for mitigation stockings in spite of funding decreases
- The ND hatcheries are active in the Pallid Sturgeon Recovery effort and Lake Sturgeon Restoration
- Friends Groups are a great avenue of support for the fish hatchery – please consider becoming a friend
- We still have the best hatcheries in the nation!

Becoming a Friends Group

In 2006, the US Congress formalized Fisheries Friends and other volunteer efforts in support of the FWS Fisheries program by passing the National Fish Hatchery Volunteer Act.

The North Dakota Sportfishing Congress is the umbrella organization for all the fishing clubs of North Dakota. It is designed to be a watchdog and work with the Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Legislature and the Congress of the United States.

Support the ND Hatcheries - sign up your club to become a member of the Friends of the Garrison Dam/Valley City National Fish Hatchery

Thanks to the Sportfishing
Congress for your support over the
years.



“Bad news travels ten times faster than good news”

- Mr. Terry Fleck!

Will jump over all the good news -

- Record number of fishing lakes
- Record fish populations
- Near record license sales
- Record amount of fishing infrastructure
- Record number of new community fishing lakes
- Unique opportunity to liberalize some fishing regs
- Continuation of strong State-Federal partnership at the two hatcheries
- Strong public support for the states fishing programs
- The number one fishery staff in the United States
- etc

To focus on one topic -

ANS

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species Management Plan intends to:

- Form an advisory board, or Aquatic Invasive Species Committee (AISC), to North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Director to coordinate ANS prevention and control activities, and encourage state agencies and the private sector to become involved in ANS prevention and response;
- Develop a list of ANS that cannot be brought into or transported within North Dakota;
- Organize educational and outreach efforts for public and private sectors, and use a targeted audience approach to marketing ANS prevention;
- Monitor waters at high risk for ANS, and determine the pathways of high risk for importation of ANS into or within the state;
- Develop a monitoring program for early detection and rapid response to control a pioneering infestation;
- Inspect recreational boats, commercial vessels, and construction equipment used in aquatic situations, and determine owner/operator ANS precautions and awareness;
- Recommend legislative solutions that can help protect North Dakota's human and natural resource communities from ANS damage;
- Make North Dakota eligible for federal matching funds and a method(s) to prioritize funding of ANS prevention and control projects, leverage these funds with local communities, private entities, and governmental agencies; and
- Improve collaboration between national, regional, state, and local ANS prevention efforts.

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species Management Plan intends to:

- Form an advisory board, or Aquatic Invasive Species Committee (AISC), to North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Director to coordinate ANS prevention and control activities, and encourage state agencies and the private sector to become involved in ANS prevention and response;

- completed immediately and functioning

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species Management Plan intends to:

- Develop a list of ANS that cannot be brought into or transported within North Dakota;
 - **completed and functional**

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species Management Plan intends to:

- Organize educational and outreach efforts for public and private sectors, and use a targeted audience approach to marketing ANS prevention;
 - ongoing and an issue of great debate – need to continue and expand using select forums but must have a known market and is publically acceptable

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species Management Plan intends to:

- Monitor waters at high risk for ANS, and determine the pathways of high risk for importation of ANS into or within the state;

- ongoing

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species Management Plan intends to:

- Develop a monitoring program for early detection and rapid response to control a pioneering infestation;
 - ongoing but drafts need to be updated.

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species Management Plan intends to:

- Inspect recreational boats, commercial vessels, and construction equipment used in aquatic situations, and determine owner/operator ANS precautions and awareness;
 - ongoing but will require more work
 - Mandatory for out-of-state tournaments; recommended for others
 - Out-of-state commercial vessels, barges, etc. are to be inspected but still working on notification process; also 'inspection protocol' is being tweaked
 - General recommendations to all watercraft operators available but has been muddled somewhat as recommendations and requirements have been used too interchangeably

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species Management Plan intends to:

- **Recommend legislative solutions that can help protect North Dakota's human and natural resource communities from ANS damage;**
 - **thankfully no progress to date – prefer (at this point) to stay away from any direct legislative action; rather administrative rules and the governors fishing proclamation are the preferable mechanisms for rules/regulations; ND rules are highly functional and ahead of many other states.**

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species Management Plan intends to:

- **Make North Dakota eligible for federal matching funds and a method(s) to prioritize funding of ANS prevention and control projects, leverage these funds with local communities, private entities, and governmental agencies; and**
 - **completed (eligible for federal aid) but as always difficult to find other funding partners**

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species Management Plan intends to:

- Improve collaboration between national, regional, state, and local ANS prevention efforts.

- ongoing

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Nuisance Species Management Plan intends to:

- Monitor waters at high risk for ANS, and determine the pathways of high risk for importation of ANS into or within the state;
- Develop a monitoring program for early detection and rapid response to control a pioneering infestation;
 - Ongoing; will continue to address – 1) many of the states fishing lakes, 2) known high-use wetlands used by waterfowl hunters, and 3) select wholesale bait ponds and private fish hatchery ponds
 - Methodology and design of ‘monitoring program’ will continue to evolve

Aquatic Nuisance Species Pathways and Attempts to Control

- Bait Industry
- Private Fish Hatcheries and Stocking Permits
- Federal Fish Hatcheries, Department stocking protocol, and HAACP
- Department Routine Sampling (moving from lake to lake)
- Recreational Fishing
- General Boating
- Commercial Vessels and Construction Equipment
- Waterfowl Hunting
- Water Diversions
- Mother Nature (e.g. birds, flood events, etc)

Aquatic Nuisance Species Pathways and Attempts to Control

- **Bait Industry**

- Great strides in regulating; bait much cleaner than 10-20 years ago. Functional suite of rules/regs in place that provides the Department with the needed authority and oversight. Also, site (legal descriptions) approval for wholesale trappers is now required which greatly assists the Department in determining potential conflicts

- Two shortcomings -

- Although ANS infested waters are illegal to trap, both some retailers and anglers likely trap in some of these areas.
- Non-resident wholesale inspections.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Pathways and Attempts to Control

- **Private Fish Hatcheries and Import Permits**

- Here too mechanisms are in place that ensure ANS are not introduced into new waters including disease-free certification for select fish species originating from out-of-state sources. All aquatics brought into the state require valid import permits.

- Shortcomings –

- Aquarium fish industry and lack of any oversight

Aquatic Nuisance Species Pathways and Attempts to Control

- **Federal Fish Hatcheries, Department stocking protocol, and HAACP**

- Through additional screening, time of water fill, and intake design, most risks are eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level at the hatcheries. There are several steps in the process from rearing to stocking that allow control points to address risks for ANS. Microscopic animals and pathogens, given the nature of a surface water supply are risks, that cannot be removed. As such, monitoring for their presence is a standard, ongoing practice.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Pathways and Attempts to Control

- Department Routine Sampling
(moving from lake to lake)



FIELD GUIDELINES TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF SPREADING ANS
NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT (DEPARTMENT)
FISHERIES DIVISION
APRIL 2008

Introduction

In recent years, Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) have been at the forefront of concern for the Department. The passing of state legislation in 2005 (Century Code Chapter 20.1-17) paved the way toward preventing and controlling the spread of ANS in North Dakota. One provision of the legislation was for the development of rules to prevent the movement of ANS into or within the state. The Fisheries Division participated with and directed the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee in developing Administrative Rules which were implemented in 2008. These Administrative Rules place restrictions on water and vegetation movement and ANS possession. As a steward of the aquatic resource, the Department is responsible for leading the charge against ANS. With intensive and widespread field activities every year, traditional Fisheries Division activities may pose a likely vector for spreading ANS. However, implementing the following guidelines will greatly reduce the risk of spreading ANS through the Division's activities.

Purpose

These guidelines are intended to help Department personnel adhere to new ANS Rules, to minimize the potential to spread ANS during field activities, and to set an example for the public to follow. Additionally, following these guidelines will minimize the risk of transporting other unregulated non-target species, such as bullheads, common carp, or white suckers.

General Procedures

- Field personnel should perform inspections for new, undocumented ANS infestations concurrent with each sampling event.
- When gear or organisms will be transferred between water bodies, those waters should be compared to determine whether they have similar flora and fauna. If they do not, consider whether there is a risk of transporting undesirable organisms from one water body to another.
- Sampling should be planned so that waters with known ANS infestations or undesirable organisms are sampled last in a rotation, thus allowing cleaning or disinfection of equipment before subsequent use.
- When an infested water needs to be sampled before a non-infested water, designate a separate set of sampling gear for infested waters, reserving clean gear for non-infested waters. Transport the two sets of gear in such a manner to prevent contact and possible contamination of the clean gear.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Pathways and Attempts to Control

- **Recreational Fishing and General Boating**

- (relatively) strong ANS rules are in place to minimize the threat of ANS being transferred from lake to lake via boats, etc. Highlights of these rules include –
 - all water (excluding up to five gallons in a bait bucket) must be drained from the watercraft before leaving a water body
 - all weeds must be removed from the boat, trailer, etc. before leaving a water body
 - other than legal live baitfish, it is illegal to transport fish in water away from a water body
- General education – again multi-faceted. These efforts are intended to generally target residents however billboards and purchasing a license on-line also informs non-residents of the rules. In addition, all out-of-state tournaments now have a required inspection prior to any pre-fishing.
 - Shortcomings –
 - water in five gallon buckets with legal baitfish can still be transported/transferred from lake to lake
 - compliance (especially by the ignorant and youth – esp. with other watercraft)

Aquatic Nuisance Species Pathways and Attempts to Control

- **Commercial Vessels and Construction Equipment**

- Inter-government coordination (Corps, SWC) flag most (but likely not all) incoming heavy equipment (e.g. barges) that will end up in North Dakota waterways. Subsequent inspections by Department staff provide the needed safeguards that ANS (specifically mussels) are not imported.

- Shortcomings –

- How to capture all equipment coming into the state
- Inspections themselves (e.g. what to document, paper trail, etc) – currently being addressed
- Movement of equipment within the state.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Pathways and Attempts to Control

- **Water Diversions**

- Numerous active or proposed water projects (mainly ditching and draining diversions) can lead to interdrainage movement of ANS, especially common carp. Department staff is cognizant of this threat and thus comment on all permit review, recommending the project sponsor incorporate the needed safeguards. In addition, in some cases Department field staff have constructed structures (e.g. fish weirs) that prohibit upstream movement of ANS fish.

- Shortcomings –

- Permit review results in recommendations not mandates.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Pathways and Attempts to Control

- **Waterfowl Hunting**

- (relatively) strong ANS rules are in place to minimize the threat of ANS being transferred from lake to lake via boats, etc. Highlights of these rules include –
 - all water must be drained from all equipment (including duck-boats) before leaving a water body
 - all weeds must be removed from decoys, duck-boats, etc. before leaving a water body
- General education – multi-faceted but likely more needs to be done to target the non-residents.
 - Shortcomings –
 - general compliance
 - this pathway may be one of the most difficult to fully address. There are thousands of wetlands that likely have duck decoys placed in them annually that come directly from (especially) Minnesota waters.

Once Again, the Need to Work Together

There are approximately eighty (80) identified strategies to address identified issues/concerns within North Dakota's ANS Management Plan. Of these, the vast majority have been considered and are being addressed. Many/most are ongoing thus will require perpetual attention.

Sources of ANS Information for SFC and Others??????

FACTS

Survey asked of fulltime Fisheries Division staff

*What do you see as the largest, **single** challenge facing North Dakota fisheries in the next decade? DO NOT include climatic/weather events (e.g. drought).*

(NOTE: unanimously water management (specifically drought) is the number one issue facing North Dakotas fisheries short and long term)

- Water Quality Deterioration - 43%
- Access - 17%
- ANS - 17%
- Other - 23%

FACTS

South Dakota Aquatic Nuisance Species Risk Assessment

Prepared by

Katie Bertrand
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences,
South Dakota State University

FACTS

Intentional stocking and planting were the two vectors most-commonly associated with introducing and spreading aquatic nuisance species.

Boats, barges, or equipment were the second most common vector cited for introducing ANS to new areas. Nearly 25% of ANS identified in this risk assessment were transported by this vector.




Bait was the third most commonly cited vector in the introduction and spread of ANS.

FACTS

	North Dakota	South Dakota
<u>ANS RULES / REGULATIONS</u>		
No possession ANS	X	X
No vegetation on equipment when leaving a water body	X	
No water when leaving a water body	X	
No import of live aquatic bait by anglers	X	?
Heightened permitting requirements for bait vendors, etc	X	X
Stingent stocking and importing requirements	X	?
No emptying of bait bucket into waters	X	X
Mandatory boat inspections for out of state tournaments	X	?
No bait trapping in infested waters	X	X
% Non-resident anglers	23%	34%

Comment: Your online licensing doesn't expose non-residents to the rules.



North Dakota Game and Fish
Online Services

View Cart

Items in cart: 0

Main Menu » Payment Confirmation » Print Items

Purchase Summary

Your payment has been successfully processed. A total of **\$11.00** has been charged to your credit card.

You should carry a copy of your license when hunting or fishing. To print a copy of your license, click on View and use the print option available in the PDF viewer or Click Download to download a copy of the license.

Description	Action	Download
License: asdf asdfasdf License No: OLN02666473	View (pdf)	Download License (pdf)

There are new laws regarding [Aquatic Nuisance Species \(ANS\)](#). All those who fish and hunt MUST be aware of these new laws and it is your responsibility to comply with these new rules. Please refer to the following ANS link for a listing of the new regulations and what you can do to assist in reducing the threat of ANS to North Dakota's waters.

[Click here to view the new regulations.](#)

Comment: Nonresidents are the problem with bringing ANS in.

- 17,200 Licensed Anglers in Cass and Grand Forks counties
- 8,800 Licensed Boats in Cass and Grand Forks counties
- Many of these individuals also have property and licenses in Minnesota and according to the most recent info, spend more time fishing Minnesota than North Dakota

Comment: Your education is all geared toward residents.

- Generally true as North Dakota is our responsibility and only where we have any authority. However, various media forums have been used by us, esp. in Minnesota, to further educate the public (beyond what other states are already doing within their borders).
 - NDO - 20% non-residents
 - Dakota Country - 33% non-residents
 - ANS advertisements in Minnesota Outdoors News

Comment: How about Lake Erie and the zebra mussel infestation? Hasn't that fishery has been destroyed?

[Buy a Fishing License](#)[Fishing Regulations](#)[Fishing Maps](#)[Fishing Forecast and
Current Reports](#)[Fish Ohio](#)[Go Fish!
\(When, Where, & How\)](#)[Fishing Basics: Getting
Started](#)[My First Harvest Certificate](#)[Angler Programs](#)[Pond Management](#)[Fisheries Management](#)[Stream Conservation](#)[Private Fish Suppliers](#)[Aquaculture](#)[Aquatic Invasive Species](#)[Wildlife Publications](#)[A-Z Species Guide](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[WildOhio Cookbook](#)[Calendar of Events](#)[Support Ohio's Wildlife](#)[About the Division](#)[Our Mission](#)[Wildlife Council](#)[Wildlife Careers](#)

The Lake Erie Central Basin "Dead Zone"

In response to the many questions from anglers, media and those concerned about Lake Erie resources, we present the following fact sheet regarding the central basin "dead zone."

What is the central basin "Dead Zone?" The central basin "dead zone" is a layer of cold water at the bottom of the central basin that has little or no dissolved oxygen in it. The central basin is located from about Huron, Ohio, to Erie, Pennsylvania. As waters warm in the central basin during the summer, they form three specific layers. The warm surface and upper layer is called the epilimnion; it is characterized by warm water with good oxygen and plant and animal life. The second layer is called the thermocline, and it is a small layer of rapid temperature change and loss of some oxygen. The bottom layer is known as the hypolimnion; it is cold, has low to moderate oxygen, no sunlight or algae activity, and decomposition by bacteria occurs here. These conditions can occur in most offshore waters deeper than 15-18 meters (49-60 feet) to the bottom of the lake. Hot weather, precipitation and wave action all dictate the onset and length of this condition. It can vary in depth and the amount of oxygen in the hypolimnion across the lake, north and south, east and west as a variable, patchy matrix. These conditions occur every summer from mid to late July through early September. After September this zone breaks down, when the lake becomes all one temperature again in an event called a turnover.

What are the causes of this condition? The dead zone occurs because bacteria use up oxygen as they decompose dead algae and other materials that have sunk to the bottom. As they use up oxygen, there is none to replace it because of the temperature and water density gradient. The central basin is unique in that the cold hypolimnion layer at the bottom is relatively small and all or nearly all of the oxygen may be used up seasonally by bacteria in the decomposition process. The Western Basin of Lake Erie is too shallow for this cold water layer to occur; plants and algae can occur throughout the water column, so decomposition can go on freely at the bottom throughout the summer without using up all the oxygen. The Eastern Basin of Lake Erie is much deeper, so it has a greater volume of cold, well-oxygenated water to use up in the short time period. The shape and depth of the Central Basin and its many sources of nutrient inputs mean that this anoxic condition could occur or has occurred seasonally each year. In fact, research has shown that this period of low oxygen in the Central Basin hypolimnion has been recorded for centuries. This condition is made worse by heavy nutrient inputs (like phosphorous and nitrogen) via rivers and other man-made sources that give rise to large blooms of both green (good) algae and blue-green (noxious) algae. Water quality agreements made in the 1970s helped reduce nutrient inputs into the lake, but increasing development pressures have led to problems with Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and non-point source pollution from agriculture and development. Certainly human-induced effects have made this problem worse.

Related Links

[Lake Erie Home](#)[Go Fish](#)[Steelhead](#)[Walleye Telemetry Project](#)[Projects](#)[Strat Plan](#)[Reefs](#)[Dead Zone](#)[Commercial Task Force repo](#)[Links](#)



2100 Commonwealth Blvd.
Suite 100
Ann Arbor MI 48105-1563
Tel: 734-662-3209

MICHIGAN DNR

NEW YORK DEC

OHIO DNR

ONTARIO MNR

PENNSYLVANIA F&BC



Lake Erie Committee

REPRESENTING THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES OF LAKE ERIE AND LAKE ST. CLAIR

For Immediate Release
March 30, 2012

Contacts:
Canada: John Cooper: 705-755-5476
USA: Marc Gaden: 734-662-3209 x 14

Lake Erie Committee Recommends Walleye and Yellow Perch Catch Levels for 2012

Allowable walleye and yellow perch harvest to increase in 2012

WINDSOR, ON – The Lake Erie Committee, a binational board of fishery managers from Michigan, New York, Ohio, Ontario, and Pennsylvania, recommended a 2012 total allowable catch (TAC) of 3.487 million walleye and 13.637 million pounds of yellow perch¹. These recommended harvest levels represent an increase in allowable walleye and yellow perch catch for 2012 over last year, reflecting updated stock assessment results. Extensive biological assessments and analyses—conducted and analyzed jointly by Canadian and American fishery agencies—inform these TAC recommendations. The committee also engaged commercial and recreational stakeholders in a new and enhanced committee structure—called the Lake Erie Percid Management Advisory Group (LEPMAG)—to heighten awareness of stakeholder fishery objectives, to gain consensus about decisions, and to improve the process for binational dialogue among all interested parties.

The committee sought to maintain TACs at levels consistent with Lake Erie's biological conditions while providing commercial and recreational fishers with some level of stability, as indicated in LEPMAG discussions. However, the committee is concerned about environmental conditions in Lake Erie and potential impacts on fisheries in future years. The heightened stakeholder engagement reflects the committee's interest in involving the fishing community in discussions related to management of the lake's percid fisheries.

WALLEYE

The Lake Erie Committee recommended a binational TAC for walleye in 2012 of 3.487 million fish, compared to the TAC of 2.919 million fish in 2011. Actual walleye harvest in 2011 was approximately 1.69 million fish, or 58% of the TAC. Scientists and field biologists from Ontario and the Great Lakes states—working together as the Walleye Task Group—reported that walleye

Comment: The Department of Tourism sends out packets to nonresidents and there isn't one piece of ANS info in there, just visit North Dakota.



meandering north to Canada. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has online maps that detail access points along the length of the river.

Stop the Spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species

Aquatic nuisance species like Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels, VHS virus and many others, threaten the productivity of all waters where they do not currently exist. In an effort to greatly reduce the potential for ANS transfer, North Dakota law requires all anglers and boaters to remove vegetation from all watercraft and equipment before leaving a water body. Boats and other equipment coming into North Dakota must be free of all vegetation and water with no exceptions, and live baitfish may not be transported into North Dakota from other states or Canadian provinces. Go to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website for complete regulations.

Public Support????

Since January 12, 2012 when some SFC exec board members decided the Game and Fish Department is doing too little in regards to ANS matters -

- ✓ ~300 public phone calls or emails
- ✓ ~150 were some complaint
 - ✓ ~75 dealt with too many big fish being harvested
 - ✓ ~10 dealt with ANS rules **too** restrictive specifically the livewell matter
 - ✓ 2 wanted more enforcement; rules were fine, just need compliance
 - ✓ ZERO from the public about more ANS restrictions - inspections, etc.



Outdoor Tales

Brad Durick

Outdoor regulation—when is it too much?

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) are a very serious matter these days. All over the United States there are steps being taken and laws being passed to prevent the spread of ANS or eliminate them from certain lakes. This is very important to maintain the fisheries we have all come to know and love, but it seems some states are behind the eight ball and are getting crazy.

First off, North Dakota, for the most part, has done a great job of prevention by requiring boats to empty all water from livewells and bilges before transport from a body of water. They have also taken great steps to regulate live bait and dealers of live bait, all logical and simple steps to stop the spread of unwanted.

Minnesota did not take a strong stance on the ANS situation five to ten years ago and now they are finding ANS spreading like wildfire throughout the state.

It seems every week you hear about a new lake with zebra mussels. What really got Minnesota kicked into gear was the discovery of Asian Carp (the jumping kind) in the Mississippi River.

Now in typical government over-reaction to a problem comes a bunch of stupid regulations that don't solve problems and make life difficult for the people who do follow the laws.

Many are meant for lakes but the one size fits all solutions don't

fit boundary waters, including the Red River.

They have made it illegal to transport water from a body of water to the same body of water. They are also making it illegal to transport packaged bait into the state unless it is manufactured by an approved DNR vendor. Of course the best one is, they require all boats (including the ones registered in other states) to have a big ugly regulation sticker on them.

I will say it again. Preventing ANS is important, but you have to balance regulation with killing an industry.

There will be a point where Average Joe angler will just say, "forget it" and play golf.

From my perspective as a guide, all this is doing is making me have to jump through more hoops that have nothing to do with the thing they are trying to prevent.

I don't think a big ugly sticker is going to solve any issues. The thing that makes me mad is I don't like to stick sponsor stickers to my boat, why would I want to put a huge regulation sticker on my new boat?

I can't import bait that is not approved by a licensed vendor, even if frozen and caught in the same body of water. How dumb is that? I can't catch a fish, freeze it and take it back to the same body of water as bait. The kicker to that, the bait is still legal in North Dakota on the same body of water. The list goes on and on.

ANS is a huge problem and can get worse. For the third time, we must do what we can to prevent it but we also must be careful not to make it so difficult for people to get out and enjoy the outdoors they give up the heritage. There has to be a happy medium.

We only get one life to enjoy the outdoors we must take care of it and enjoy it all at the same time.

Until next time get outside and make some memories.

PAGE 14

OUTDOOR NEWS

I was astonished a few months ago when my brother, Chris, declared that he wanted to buy a fishing boat.

This was from a guy whom I have guided for his entire life. He never owned the concept surrounding boat ownership much less trying to catch fish on his own. Maybe it's one of those middle things that happens to 30-year-olds. Sometimes it's a red convertible (Corvette, a 24-year-old girlfriend, or some heavy duty gold jewelry. He (wisely) decided on a boat and asked me to help with the purchase and rigging so it could hit the water turnkey ready.

My first thoughts was to keep it simple. I didn't want to overwhelm him with gadgets and equipment. He needs to learn about boat ownership from the ground up, just like the rest of us. My first boat was a '60s vintage aluminum boat with a trailer held together with duct tape and stove pipe wire.

My decision for Chris for his first boat was a Lund Fury. This 16-foot entry-level aluminum reminds me of the Pro Angler versions of the early 1980s where a 16-footer was state of the art. It's small by today's standards but actually the perfect length and width for a beginner boat.

I decided to keep the boat basic, light,

My brother's first boat

METRO FISHING GUIDE SERVICE



BY STEVE CARNEY

and simple because Chris will be entering a huge learning curve starting with launching by himself and learning basic boat control. I figured a 16-foot boat would be easier to understand, and he could learn faster with a more compact rig.

I equipped the boat with a 30-horsepower Mercury with tilt and trim. This motor is the perfect match as it pushes the boat about 52 mph and pulls down well. I also wanted to start Chris off with a manageable outboard so he could get the feel for handling a boat and motor that don't require a lot of physical labor, especially in rough water.

Electronics pose a dilemma because Chris was under the impression—like many anglers out there—that the more you spend on the electronics, the better your angling skills. We had a long talk on this one and I convinced him that an entry-level unit made more sense because he has zero experience with boat

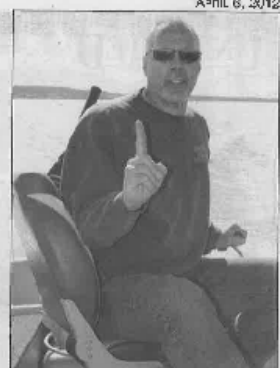
electronics.

We settled on a Mark 5 Lowrance Graph in the \$180 range. It offers good definition and marks fish very well. In fact, the "hunk" and fish markings on this inexpensive unit were just as good as my more expensive one.

Our maiden voyage of the newly acquired 16-foot rig was two

weeks ago on the Missouri River of South Dakota. Granted, this is not the ideal rig for the Missouri's big water, but we had calm winds and stable weather for the two days. I found the boat-and-motor combination superb for a beginner rig. Chris and I spent a lot of time reviewing its handling capabilities as I walked him through the basics of driving a boat and introducing him to the many levers, controls, and safety features.

It was a little overwhelming with the new challenge, but he plans on spending a great deal of time on his own fishing



Chris Carney, 55, of Chanhasson, during the maiden voyage of his 16-foot Lund on the Missouri River of South Dakota.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CARNEY

small lakes in the western suburbs and figuring things out on his own. They've gleaned some things from me throughout our decades of fishing together. Soon he'll realize the value of time on the water.

RON'S RAMBLINGS



BY RON SCHANA

I've been thinking... we seem to be in panic mode regarding the very serious invasive species problem facing Minnesota waters. We bring—anglers, boaters, DNR, legislators and especially a few metro lake associations.

While many of us who boat

and fish are willing to do whatever seems practical and, hopefully, effective to prevent the spread of invasive, many folks aren't sold on DNR's policy that boaters/anglers will have to jump through and abide by.

In recent weeks, the pages of *Outdoor News* have been filled with angry letters from readers who distrust the effectiveness of DNR's rules. Many questions don't have answers.

Nevertheless, if DNR officials are ignoring the public disbelievers (big brother says do it or get a ticket) that would be unwise. If the boating public doesn't buy into the program, it certainly will fail.

In defense of DNR's efforts, this is a new ball game. Nobody really knows what will work to stop zebra mussels, but halting the spread of infested water seems a first logical step, at least.

Unfortunately, DNR didn't limit its invasive prevention rules to the logical. Did you know DNR also requires all boats to display a sticker in the boat. A sticker?

Yeh, the sticker—roughly 6 inches by 2 inches—features a summary of the aquatic invasive species laws, and what you must and must not do.

If you don't have fresh law, you're a law violator! Your water might be drained, your

boat clean, the drain plug out, but no sticker... you are in violation... over a sticker. A sticker! What's a poor lives visitor gonna think when he gets fined for not having a sticker? (Requiring a sticker as few snails like bureaucratic overkill. Worse, it plays to the those who already believe the DNR is illegal.

So far, our war chest against zebra mussels consists mostly of new laws and a few boat inspections. All understandable. But fishermen also are wondering what to do with their expensive minnows. DNR admits that by simply suggesting anglers should carry extra water (from

somewhere?) or DNR simply says unwanted bait must be dumped in the trash—not in the lake, on the ground or on the shore.

Time, but has anybody ever tried to find a trash container? For public use? Where rotting minnows will be welcome?

Is there another solution to the bait problem? Could something be added to the minnow water to kill the baby zebra mussels? Could something we dumped into the bilge or bait well that would kill the minnows?

Like DNR or anybody else explored such possibilities? Well-known angler Larry Bullig has been testing a few home-spun remedies, using fathead minnows as substitutes for

Tilt N Drain Oil Drain Kit

Habitat 2 Food Plot Seeding

Selectively Quoting and Misrepresenting

“... inadequate staffing of qualified biologists to properly manage even the largest of our fishing resources”

“Management is by guess work and “that’s how we always have done it” rather than based on sound and current biological data and principles primarily because” we just don’t have the staff”.”

“Game and Fish has at present a policy that what we are doing is adequate since it has worked in the past, the policy of do as little as necessary and let the resources take care of themselves”

“What is needed is a plan to bring the Game and Fish Fisheries Department into the 21st century. “

This type of rhetoric is far from -

Partnership - an arrangement where parties agree to cooperate to advance their mutual interests.

Collaboration - working together to achieve a goal.

Many Department Staff including the fisheries professionals question the source of so much misinformation.

SUMMARY

Addressing the Challenges - Projects Needing Public Involvement

- Engage and support managing water levels, esp. for MRS and Devils Lake
- Engage farm groups in attempting to improve water quality
- Participate/lead in anti-litter campaigns. Pursue an adopt-a-lake program
- Push for free public access to any water body where sportsman dollars are spent
- Hatchery funding support
- Push for all local entities participating in development projects pay the full 25% cost share, similar to 95%+ of other of the states counties, etc.
- Support SOL, **ANS** and other divisional programs
- Full public participation in RAP

Immediate ANS Plans will continue to focus on PREVENTION

- Coordinator will work AISC on recent staff assessment of pathways, controls, etc.
 - Will provide direction as to areas that need strengthening
- At a minimum, the following will continue or be expanded -
 - Monitoring
 - Inspecting
 - Permitting
 - Education
 - Enforcement

Goal - minimize the spread of ANS in
North Dakota

We would appreciate your help working
together