



NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

Annual Meeting • Minutes Saturday, April 17, 2021 • 10:00 a.m. AMVETS Club • Bismarck, ND

Attendees: President Rich Brueckner, Vice President Ken Cumber, Past President Duaine Ash, Treasurer Jeff Herman, Secretary Marie Hoerner; Board/Club Members: Mike Anderson, Tom Boerger, Ed Dosch, Rick Eagleson, Rick Mohan, Don Schick, Joe Solseng and Keith Witt; Club Members Terry Fleck, Jared Pokrzywinski and Tony Splonskowski; Game & Fish Representatives Terry Steinwand, Greg Power, Ben Holen, Cayla Bendel and Greg Freeman; USFWS Reps Rob Holm, Steve Krentz and Aaron VonEschen; and Lance Gaebe (lobbyist) and Dani Hanson, Dwyer Law Group

1. Call to Order / Introductions – Rich Brueckner called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves.
2. Approval of minutes – A motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2020 fall meeting was made by Terry Fleck, seconded by Ed Dosch and passed. A motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2020 ZOOM meeting was made by Terry Fleck, seconded by Ed Dosch and passed. A motion to approve the minutes from February 8, 2021 special ZOOM meeting was made by Terry Fleck, seconded by Tom Boerger and passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report – Jeff Herman distributed an income/expense report for the General Fund and included the balance of the Legislative Fund, which was recently closed out.
4. Membership Update – Marie Hoerner said that 9 of the 12 member clubs have paid the 2021-2022 dues and second notices were mailed. It was noted that the number of paid members remains around 25. Rich Brueckner reported that he contacted River Rats from Williston and they are interested in the Congress. Joe Solseng noted there is a catfish club in Grand Forks. Jeff Herman said that members from the Bass Bandits club in Dickinson will be attending our annual fundraiser.
5. Election of Officers:
 - President Rich Brueckner said that with his term ending, Rick Mohan accepted the nomination. A motion to nominate Rick Mohan to a two-year term as president was made by Tom Boerger, seconded by Terry Fleck and passed unanimously. Rich Brueckner will remain on the board as Past President, replacing Duaine Ash in that position.
 - A motion to re-elect Treasurer Jeff Herman for an additional two-year term was made by Ed Dosch, seconded by Duaine Ash and passed unanimously.
 - A motion was made by Mike Anderson, seconded by Terry Fleck and unanimously passed to appoint Board members Tom Boerger, Joe Solseng and Ed Dosch for an additional two-year term.
 - A motion to appoint Duaine Ash to fill Rick Eagleson's remaining one-year seat through April 2022 was made by Terry Fleck, seconded by Ed Dosch and passed unanimously.
 - A motion was made by Duaine Ash, seconded by Terry Fleck and passed to accept the nomination of Jared Pokrzywinski to fill Cody Armstrong's remaining one year on the Board, which runs through April 2022.
 - There are two two-year open seats to replace. Mike Anderson is stepping down; however Brueckner thanked him for his years of dedicated service on the board and said his knowledge and help over the years are much appreciated. Rich Mohan is moving to President. Due to the lack of volunteers on the floor, Terry Fleck made a motion to be tabled filling the seats and give the new President the opportunity to recruit and/or fill the open seats. The motion was seconded by Keith Witt and

passed. The committee to search for candidates will be the new President Rick Mohan, Past President Rich Brueckner and Vice President Ken Cumber.

- Secretary Position: We are in a search for a new person and Marie Hoerner will work with Rich Mohan and Jeff Herman on the transition of duties. Her position will end at the end of April.
- Lobbyist Position: Duaine Ash made a motion to table filling the lobbyist position and allow the new president to address this issue until the fall meeting. The motion was seconded by Terry and passed.

6. Old Business

- Non-resident Fishing Outfitters – There was discussion on this subject. Cody Armstrong made a presentation on the current outfitters and brought this issue to the meeting last year, but Terry Fleck asked that it be address since he has not heard anything more about it and he would like to see this discussed to get a clear understanding of how it works relating to fees, qualifications, reporting requirements and what role should the NDSFC take. Greg Power said the outfitter fees are set via the Legislature. Terry Steinwand said the changes to Administrative Rules need to originate from G&F. Ed Dosch said this has become of an issue on Devils Lake. Tom Boerger believes that if fees are increased, it will discourage people to come to the state to fish and we would have fewer guides. Ken Cumber read the discussion from the minutes of the October 26, 2019 meeting. Rich Mohan suggested that the fishing guide fees issue be monitored and no action be taken at this time.
- Hosting Legislative Forums – Rich Brueckner said the Departments (i.e. G&F, DOT, Water) are all starting to identify the need for monitoring and education on ANS, but not our legislators. Some are familiar and supported our legislation, but are not aware of what would happen to our fisheries due to ANS. He would like local clubs and the NDSFC to host forums this fall to educate legislators on ANS issues. Rich would like a questionnaire to go to legislators on their level of ANS awareness and then bring them “up to speed” on ANS with a presentation by clubs/NDSFC. He plans to develop a platform and education legislators. Terry Fleck suggested that we work with Dani Hanson (Dwyer Group) on how we should go about educating legislators as it deals with the Ethic Commission rules/regulations.
- A cap on spending by individuals on the Board – Rich Mohan said he thought there was supposed to be an annual budget that would be approved for authorized expenditures, but then there would be an emergency fund that the President or whoever could spend a certain amount (i.e. \$50 or \$100) without Board approval. Jeff Herman has prepared a budget based on the standard line-item expenses shown in the Treasurer’s report. Terry Fleck sits on other boards and he believes it should be up to the Executive Board to approve the operating budget and not to bring it before the full board unless the expense exceeds the maximum approved amount. A motion was made by Terry Fleck, second by Tom Boerger and passed unanimously to leave the process up to the Executive Board to approve an expense budget. As soon as the new president selects a date, he will complete the process.

7. New Business

- Methods of fund raising – Rich Brueckner would like to put a committee together to go out to seek funding and donations from energy companies, tackle companies and to go back to the clubs to make contributions solicit contribution to help cover our lobbyists costs. Jeff Herman said we need to look at our limitations as a 501c4 organization. Due to our tax status, it was noted that the person making the donation cannot receive a tax credit for their donation. Jeff Herman said he wanted to change law on fund raising to include 501c4 organizations (Jeff’s idea regarding special lottery tags – one-page application – lottery to put on a raffle ticket). Jeff Herman and Rich Mohan would be willing to serve on the committee to come up with fund raising ideas and determine who to solicit.

Rich Mohan suggested that a slide deck be put together to tell the story of the Congress (i.e. ANS). If anyone would like to volunteer to serve on the committee, please contact one of them.

- 2021 Banquet/Fundraiser (Social 5:30; Dinner 7:00) – following the meeting, the door prizes and raffle tables will be set up for the fundraiser which begins at 5:30. Jeff Herman mentioned he guaranteed 225 meals, with 227 tickets sold. He said there are always no-shows, so we should be good.
 - Ed Dosch mentioned that he has been the Emcee of the banquet and he would like to thank everyone and recognize those who have been a big influence of this fundraiser. Rick Eagleson said that Paul Haug passed away a year ago this week.
 - Terry Fleck said he was approached by Scheels and asked if they could work with the NDSFC in providing prizes for our fundraiser. He said Scheels would like to have a budget and a list of prizes we are looking for, so they can get items at a discount or closeout throughout the year for our event. Scheels believes they could be very competitive, if not better, than our current provider. Marie Hoerner also passed along Wade Anderson's (Dakota Tackle) concerns about purchasing prizes from a North Dakota facility. Jeff Herman believes that working with Scheels could be beneficial to advertising and secure attendees for our fundraiser. Securing a company in North Dakota to purchase prizes for the fundraiser could be a responsibility added to the Fundraising Committee or have one of the committee members look at this specifically. Rick Eagleson explained the relationship with Reeds in Walker, MN. He said the owners of Reeds were members of FM Muskies and so the relationship began. Rick also said that when the NDSFC had their first event in Steele, ND, there was about \$500 in the bank. Rick and Paul Haug explained how they their club handled its fundraiser, so prizes were purchased from Reeds for our event.
 - The next meeting is tentatively set for Saturday, September 11, 2021 in Jamestown at the Game & Fish Department. The possibility of holding the meeting live and/or virtual will be explored.
 - Date for 2022 Banquet/Fundraiser (Easter April 17, 2022) – The fundraiser is tentatively booked for Saturday, April 23, 2022 at the AMVETS in Bismarck. Jeff Herman suggested the Mandan Moose as an alternative place to hold the event, so he will check on options for a backup facility. The recommendation of where to hold the 2022 fundraiser will be brought back to the Board.
 - A motion was made by Duaine Ash, second by Ken Cumber and passed unanimously to pay Marie Hoerner her secretary fee through May, in addition to a \$500 bonus for the work she had done over the last 20 years. She will prepare the minutes for our April meeting and transition the files/documents, email address and website.
8. ND Game & Fish: Greg Power and Staff
- R3 – Recruit, Retain, Reactivate: Cayla Bendel – G&F R3 Coordinator (Presentation Attached: “Securing the Future of North Dakota’s Strong Fishing Heritage”). It’s new buzz word but the actions have been around for some time – “Securing the future of ND’s strong fishing heritage”. Cayla said we aren’t seeing declines in North Dakota yet, so we are trying to keep things strong. There was an increase of ND license sales numbers in 2020, which spiked due to Covid. G&F cares about keeping our outdoor heritage. Angling R3 goals and strategies are to sustain and increase fishing participation where possible and to achieve fishing license sales compared to ND population, while encouraging mentorship. There will be an R3 information on the G&F website. Shore fishing is one of the R3 strategies through targeting and messaging on their website. Making

people aware that they don't need a big boat to go fishing. The mentoring part of the website will include fishing and hunting information such as where to go, what you need, regulations and more is currently under production. Another development is a possible fishing app for your smart phone, which will be a game changer for everyone.

- Certification of North Dakota ANS Management Plan – President Rich Brueckner asked Greg Power if he could explain why ND is not ANS certified. He noted that 44 states have a certified plan and North Dakota's is only signed by the Governor, but not certified. If certified, we would qualify for certain funding. Greg Power said that the first ANS plan in North Dakota started in 2005 and the G&F received little Federal funding. He said the G&F does not have the staff to deal with the additional paperwork for so little funding. In 2019, the additional Federal funding would have totaled \$45,000. This year, the additional ANS funding would have been \$93,000 and these dollars just are not worth the time(cost/benefit ratio). Greg noted that some states refer to ANS as AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species). Of the overall ANS budget, these monies would total less than 5% while requiring a much higher percentage of their FTE staff time. The Department remains engaged with the USFWS and other states...nothing functionally has changed nor has the State lost out. Further, the Department is open to revisiting the matter, if/when needed.
- ANS Communication Initiative – Greg Freeman, G&F Communications Supervisor (Presentation Attached: Communications Efforts) – Greg highlighted the various outlets on ANS communications efforts – news releases/briefs of 300-400 each year, ND Outdoor magazine (10 issues per year; 27k subscribers; goes to legislators and schools; and available on website for free), webcast is filmed weekly and is available on YouTube, Community Access TV; and social media on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube; as well as digital marketing, including billboards on Hwy 82, Bismarck and Fargo. They have 32,000 subscribers and 140 media. Greg showed samples of the various posters and billboards that include ANS signage. He pointed out requirements for an ANS sticker for nonresident boats on ND waters that are mailed out with license. They will be producing 30-second radio ads on ANS campaign dealing specifically to “clean, drain, dry” ad. Greg's presentation showed examples of billboards specific to ANS, Zebra Mussels, etc. When non-residents come in to buy fishing/waterfowl licenses are required to purchase an ANS sticker for boats. This requirement started in 2020 with giving warnings and \$25 fines will be given this year. Terry Fleck asked how we can educate people and understand the big-picture and flowchart of education – to also get to the lobbyists for the various organizations/groups. Greg Freeman said the legislators get the ND Outdoor magazine, but we need to get them in a room one-on-one, since most of them don't take the time to read the magazine.
- ANS Coordinator Report: Ben Holen (Handouts: ND Aquatic Awareness Week calendar, May 15-22, 2021 and ANS Program Efforts for 2020 to present. Presentation Attached) Ben said as far as “what's new”, in March they were notified that a Seattle Petco worker found a Zebra Mussels on a moss balls and then found in Wyoming and also now found across North Dakota (i.e. pet stores, landscaping, flower shops). They worked with the Ag Department to get a moss ball quarantine and now only certified USDA moss balls are in North Dakota. Ben wants to get back to making personal contact to schools and group (i.e. scouts, wildlife clubs). Ben said he is always available and encourages you to give him a call with any questions or want help with ANS material. Ben's presentation included their inspection efforts and the need to get individuals for watercraft inspections, so let him know if you know of any prospects. He also talked about the prevention/containment devised such as wash stations, waterless cleaning devices and virtual

watercraft inspection devices. They are looking to expand devices and monthly monitor of infested waters, as well as working with USFWS to do eDNA sampling in the James River. Ben then noted that the “ANS Awareness Week” is May 15-22 beginning with the Governor’s proclamation and continue throughout the week with press releases state agencies and local events (see attachment). Ben encouraged the clubs to post something about ANS on their websites or handout education materials.

Rich Brueckner said on May 20 or 21 in Devils Lake they are going to use a car wash to teach people how to clean, drain and dry their boats. They are also going to have educated people and a G&F representative explain how to clean their boat and handing out materials. They want the media at the event and hope it gets on the news and in the media. Terry Fleck suggested videoing the event and then post it as a YouTube event.

- Aging Dams and Reservoirs – Greg Power (Presentation Attached) – Department currently manages 129 reservoirs, primarily in SW portion of ND (south and west of the Missouri River). Greg talked about watershed and aging of dams/reservoirs, noting that 90 percent of the reservoirs were built in the 1930s and 1950s. Only one new reservoir was built in the last 20 years. He said that dams are very expensive, and our dams are aging. The State Water Commission identifies the issues and they come back to the local owner who is responsible to pay some/most of the bill. Greg pointed out that the Department of Environmental Quality is the authority on water quality issues. He mentioned that Scott Elstad, Aquatic Habitat Supervisor, works on a saving our lakes program.
 - Greg Power said they gave an annual award Fisheries Division Celebrates Area Landowners in Emmons County (Rice Lake area).
9. Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery Report (Presentation Attached: Providing fish for North Dakota anglers): Rob Holm began by saying that this was his last presentation since he will be retiring this June and introduced his hopeful replacement, Aaron VonEschen. Rob provided the 2021 Stocking Requests at Garrison Dam Hatchery, noting Largemouth Bass stocking is new this year as a result of ANS issues at Valley City. He said last year, they couldn’t get eggs from across the border from Ontario, Canada due to Covid and it will be the same this year. He also reported on the Valley City Hatchery. He said they are the number one walleye producing state in the world, with Ohio coming in second with 6.4M which is about half of North Dakota. Rob noted that when he started in 1996, his budget at Garrison Dam Hatchery was \$230K and today they receive funding of only \$240K. He said the Valley City Hatchery funding is about the same as at Garrison. His Forever Challenge is Hatchery closures and funding and they have struggled with funding since the 1980s, with funding coming from annual appropriations from Congress, so it’s up to you to make your views known. Proposed Bills (that never passed) Fish Hatchery Protection Act (H.R. 5026) and National Mitigation Fisheries Coordination Act (H.R. 2261). Rob said it is costing more to raise fish, but funding is not increasing. He said that 50 years ago the Garrison Dam Fish Hatchery was put there to support the fishery in Lake Sakakawea, while the Bald Hill National Fish Hatchery was put in Valley City for supporting the fisheries of Bald Hill Dam. He also said that 80% of their funding is going toward restoration recovery, with 20% going to mitigation. Notice the graph that illustrates the CEO reimbursement and the Hatchery stocking cost. Rob also shows the economic impacts in the last slide of his attached presentation, making note that these figures are from 2018. Rob thanks the NDSFC for inviting him to present at our meetings and for the support over the years.

10. Legislative Report: Lance Gaebe introduced Dani Hanson who is taking over for him at the Water Users, since he is going back to work at the State. Session has gone over very well so far. A summary of the bills was distributed (attached). Bill 2144, dealing with the continuing of electronic posting/trespassing came up in the legislature yesterday, dealing with Class A versus Class B misdemeanor. He said the budget bills are going remarkably well, including ANS. Most major component is the flood control project that doesn't relate to the NDSFC. However, it frees up Water Commission budget for flooding. There is a bill to reorganize the State Water Commission, to have more of a water focus and not just an engineering focus. There was a bill that would have raised the gas tax about 3% that passed the House, but not the Senate. Lance said if we wanted to continue our relationship with the Dwyer Group, Dani Hanson and Jack Dwyer would be happy to continue working with the NDSFC.

Terry Fleck about HB1380 – sets up the Legacy Fund that was created 10 years ago takes 30% of the gas taxes. Says that the streams from that earnings (they need to define earnings) to specific funds (i.e. income tax relief, goes back to Legacy Fund, clean sustainable energy for carbon capture at coal plants). Terry Fleck wanted to point out that there were no Legacy Funds that went to the ND Game and Fish and he doesn't feel that was right. We need to share the responsibility and the investment in doing the education and outreach and enforcement. Terry said that in neither HB 1380 and SB 2018 there was no money going to the G&F. He said the Legacy Fund is “our money—the peoples' money” and we have every right to call the legislators and let them know the G&F needs money to deal with ANS issues.

On behalf of the NDSFC and clubs, Rich Brueckner thanked Lance for the job he did the past two legislative sessions and wished him. He also thanked the G&F staff and Rob Holm for making presentations and updating our members. He said that we need to continue to education our representatives at the state and national levels.

11. Club Reports

- Ken Cumber, Dakota Anglers – have had meetings the last couple of months, but they are planning their summer schedule. They will be holding the Walleye/Northern tournament, Little Britches tournament and two outings. Their club is struggling and hard to get people to attend meetings.
- Jeff Herman, Bis-Man Reel & Rec – Held their Walleye tournament in mid-September 2020. Had a successful ice fishing tournament in 2021 at Lake Audubon with approximately 500 people, including 100 youth. Their Walleye Derby coming up on May 15th and had their Cabin Fever Banquet at the Moose, which was down a little.
- Ed Dosch, Lake Region Anglers – We also shut down in 2020 due to COVID. Had their annual meeting on April 16 with many new faces and plan to hold their five outings/tournaments starting at the end of May. Things are looking up at Devils Lake. Thanks to G&F for funding part of the chair fishing with the stairs (LRAA matched \$2,500). Elaine Dosch is chairman of membership and is reaching out to past and looking for new members.
- Keith Witt, ND Fishing Hall of Fame – They are still taking nominations until May 1 for the ND Fishing Hall of Fame. They received some from the NDSFC and there is a lot of interest this year. Also Ken Cumber will formally be inducted into the Hall of Fame, since 2020 was delayed due to COVID. Not Hall of Fame business, but in Garrison they finished an indoor fishing cleaning station similar to the one in Devils Lake, with the grand opening coming up. Thanks to G&F for financially supporting the project with a 75/25 match project. Keith also thanked Devils Lake for the insight with the project.

- Terry Fleck, Friends of Lake Sakakawea – Friends is different than most of the clubs, since they are an advocacy group. There have only been two chairmen since its inception – Duaine Ash and himself. Terry said that Greg Power has been talking to Friends about barotrauma for a lot of years and this is a big concern for their club because of the number of their tournaments. Their website is LakeSakakawea.com and there is a lot of data available. One of their concerns is pre-fishing for the fishing tournaments, where fish are taken from 30-40 feet of water and then putting fish back. They feel that deep water, pre-fishing is a problem. Don't want to see tournaments on Lake Sakakawea after August 15th. Not opposed to fishing tournaments, but they want to protect the older age class of fish. They would like you to join Friends.
- Greg Power provided an update on tournament conservation fees cap removal, which took off the \$5,000 cap and it affects very few tournaments. G&F sent out a survey in March with possible options. Jeff Herman explained the spreadsheet on tournament fees that he put together, where 10% goes back to communities to help maintain fishing infrastructure. He said that the money spent in North Dakota by anglers is a very vast amount. Terry Fleck said fishing is all about the resources that would provide more dollars to the G&F and without resources, nothing matters. There was a discussion on tournament fees and individuals shared their comments on the pros and cons of the tournament fee cap.
- President Rich Brueckner said that as we come to the conclusion of this annual and the end of his chair, he wanted to thank everyone for his time as President, but he is still here to support the Congress and serving as the Past President on the Board.

12. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted By: Marie Hoerner
Date Submitted: May 10, 2021

NORTH DAKOTA
SPORTFISHING
CONGRESS

P.O. BOX 2472 • BISMARCK, ND 58502

Fall Meeting Agenda

Saturday, October 17, 2020 • 9:00 a.m. via Zoom

Attendees: President Rich Brueckner, Vice President Ken Cumber, Past President Duaine Ash, Treasurer Jeff Herman, Secretary Marie Hoerner; Board/Club Members, Wayne Beyer, Tom Boerger, Ed Dosch, Rick Eagleson, Chad Engels, Terry Fleck, Rick Mohan, Keith Seidlinger and Keith Witt; Game & Fish Representatives Greg Power, Terry Steinwand and Ben Holden; Lance Gaebe (lobbyist; Zoom host).

1. President Rich Brueckner called the meeting to order and participants were acknowledged via Zoom.
2. A motion to approve the July 18, 2020 minutes was made by Ed Dosch, seconded by Duaine Ash and unanimously approved.
3. Treasurer's Report – Jeff Herman presented the 10-17-2020 financial statement and provided an update on the Legislative fund account balance (only minimal interest paid). A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Keith Witt, seconded by Ed Dosch and passed unanimously.
4. Membership Report – Marie Hoerner said that all of the 2019-2020 clubs have renewed for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, with the exception of Southwest Anglers Association from Dickinson. Rich Brueckner has attempted to contact them, as well as the Badland Bass Club, without receiving any responses, but he will continue to contact them.
5. Game and Fish Report – Greg Power provided a Fisheries Update (presentation included with minutes) with updated slides presented at the July meeting. Since July, the state has dried out considerably but we're still near a record number of fishing lakes.. According to a NDSU Ag Econ fishing/hunting study and there is over \$39M in state tax collections coming directly from anglers in North Dakota. Effective in October, Scott Winkelman is the new chief game warden. They also hired this month an R3 full-time position who deals with recruiting, reactivation and retention for hunting and fishing. He noted the fishing community lost Brenda Barstad of Devils Lake. The 2020 Covid-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of about 40 tournaments, but still around 100 tournaments were held this year. Greg said that some of the out-of-state tournaments sponsors desire to have a location/date of a new tournament approved months earlier than what the G&F protocol allows, which creates additional staff time dealing with the matter. He also pointed out that effective October 1, 2020, the fishing contest administrative rules were updated (\$5,000 fisheries conservation cap was removed; any fishing event charging an entry/participation fee of less than \$15 and with fewer than 50 participants and fewer than 15 boats, do not need to be permitted). Resident fishing licenses continue to be higher than previous years and the increase is Covid-related. There have been 16,000 additional licenses purchased to date compared to the past, so license sales are doing pretty good. In 2020, there were 10 specific ANS check stations conducted by warden staff. He also updated a new law was passed last session that created an enhanced ANS program to provide ANS education, inspection and monitoring programs conducted by the G&F. Greg noted revenue of \$1,388,700 as of October 15, 2020, with 20% from non-residents.

Ben Holden, G&F ANS Coordinator, noted that the biggest aspect of ANS is education. G&F partnered with sportsmen's clubs to distribute zebra mussel education posters to areas with infestations; they continue to engage pet stores and classrooms; and developed an ANS dock/lift brochure and distributed 1725 of them to lake front owners statewide. Distributed 5,000 ANS brochures to trappers and continue partnership with

Jason Mitchel, who targeted areas in Minnesota. Approximately 2,000 watercraft inspections were conducted in 2000 which is double from last year. Once summarized, he will provide the results. They added two new watercraft inspection teams in Bismarck and Riverdale (previously only in Devils Lake and Valley City) and hired a fall ANS inspector for the first time (in the past it has been college kids, but they eventually go back to school and ANS doesn't stop in August). The Department inspected over 50 pieces of industrial equipment, where they have found zebra mussels (dead), and are working with partners to place wash stations at various locations. Monitoring efforts – sampled 143 different waterbodies for zebra mussels using plankton tow nets, which is up about 40 waterbodies from last year. Most of the samples have to be processed internally as Covid as slowed contractor lab (i.e. Montana) response times. This fall they are going to conduct dock and lift searches to monitor for zebra mussels. He noted that zebra mussels are really taking off at Lake Ashtabula. New infestation at Lake Lamoure and James River with obvious detection on the shorelines, but no veligers were detected in 101 waterbodies sampled in July. Said it was a down year for Asian Carp and they did a Crayfish survey in southeast North Dakota (last time was 2013) – the native Northern crayfish were the only species detected.

Rich Brueckner asked if the DOT monitors road construction where they are pumping water out of various locations and putting it on roads and is their equipment getting checked? Ben said he is usually informed of these projects. Power also said that the DOT, State Water Commission and Riverdale Corps have helped with sampling or providing needed coordination. On the Red River, they have seen an increase in veligers, but do not have the numbers for this year.

Terry Fleck said when he was chairman of the Water Resource District in Burleigh County, they had a ton of requests for water removal from Apple Creek and smaller tributaries, which came from Weisz Construction, Northern Improvement and other secondary companies that were doing road work in and near the county, so he is wondering if G&F is reaching out to the ND Water users and Water Resource District to bring them up to speed on making you aware of construction projects that are drawing water out of those bodies. Another question is can you explain the difference between the construction inspections? Ben said the large equipment comes from the Corp on the Missouri River System and that equipment is at higher risk because it has been sitting in waterbodies that have zebra mussels (generally the equipment originates from the Great Lakes which are infested with zebra mussels and other ANS), so it's high priority to have the equipment inspected. Greg Power noted that he gave an ANS presentation to the ND Water Users recently for information purposes. He also said that docks and lifts are becoming a real concern with the G&F. They don't have any jurisdiction on docks and lifts, but it is still education 101 when it comes to the potential impacts of zebra mussels and docks and lifts. Rich Brueckner said that in talking with local Devils Lake legislators, they suggested contacting the Association of Counties to get them involved in licensing boat dock/lift legislation. Terry Steinwand said that on October 1st an administrative rule was amended; boat lifts and docks are also include as structures that must free of any ANS when in transit. G&F doesn't have the authority to license docks and lifts at this time. Fleck asked about boat education outreach as they take boats out of the water and he believes that anything that goes in a body of water should be licensed.

Tom Boerger asked about proof of bait purchase and Greg Power said the G&F has come a LONG way in cleaning up our bait industry. They have looked at the bait receipt issue, but there are just too many issues to make its implementation effective. Fleck asked if they are giving any thought on any restrictions on putting fish back in the water caught in 30+ feet of water (dead fish released). Power said the GF continues its education efforts and he doesn't see it just as a tournament issue. Rick Mohan said one of their tournaments this year, due to Covid, changed to a "Catch/photo/release" and he believes that when the fish go back in quickly, there was a dead loss of about two fish. Power said it's not what you see immediately, but rather what is called post-mortality. Jeff Herman said he fished the NWT this fall and he heard guys that pre-fished

the tournament saying they caught 1,000 fish and some people probably aren't aware of the release, so we need to make people aware of the problem.

6. Old Business

- a. Lobbyist agreement with Lance Gaebe/Dwyer-Gaebe Group. We currently do not have any legislation that we are try to push through in the 2021 session, so do we want to hire Lance to monitor the situation. Chad Engels made a motion in favor of hiring Lance Gaebe on a monitoring-basis. The motion was seconded by Duaine Ash and passed. Lance Gaebe was asked to submit a proposal to monitor possible legislative issues during the 2021 session and the Board will review it and make a decision on accepting his proposal. Terry Fleck said he would be interested in being part of the group to review the proposal as Friends of Lake Sakakawea would again be interested in partnering with the Congress to share Gaebe lobbyist cost. Gaebe mentioned that the Legislature is planning to hold a hybrid session at this time, although some lobbyists plan to get together, there may be no-person testimony. He said they have installed cameras in most of the meeting/hearing rooms at the Capitol and they may encourage people to participate remotely. Greg Power said the trespass legislation may be an issue that we want to monitor.
- b. North Dakota Aquatic Nuisance Species Awareness Week – President Brueckner asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to work with Ben Holden from G&F on the ANS Awareness Week. Terry Fleck said he is not interested in chairing of the committee, but would serve as a member, as he believes it is a great idea to build state-wide awareness. Steinwand said he thought that from the July meeting, we wanted an ANS Awareness month and he has talked to the Governor's office about a proclamation for an "ANS Awareness Month", but with Covid he has not heard back from them. Rich said it really wouldn't matter if it's a week or month, but would like to kick it off in May/June when fishing gets started for the year. Holden said it was something they could bring up at their ASIC committee to reach a lot of difference avenues that haven't been hit in the past (i.e. transportation). Since there weren't any other volunteers, Rich will visit with individuals to get a committee together.
- c. Boat Gas Tax – Rich Brueckner said there are still issues with the amount of money, almost a \$1M in watercraft gas tax, that goes to the DOT. He said that when he went to the Association of Counties website, apparently on September 10th there was a presentation made to the committee about raising the prices of fuel gas tax. There was also a presentation by the DOT stating that they are going to need \$2.18 billion over the next 10 year to get our roads and bridges all up-to-snuff, but the email he read indicated that nothing came out of the interim tax committee in regards to legislation related to increasing gas tax. Steinwand said that he hasn't been following the gas tax issue, but he heard rumors that they wanted to increase the gas tax, but if it hasn't come out of the interim committee, does not mean that it won't come up during the legislature. Terry Fleck said that there are two issues being discussed – with the Legacy Fund revenue there is discussion to use some for infrastructure, so they may avoid the gas tax increase. Fleck also said they would like to see 70% of the Legacy Fund used for infrastructure and that would give DOT a lot of the money they need, although there are some legislators that think we need to raise the gas tax. Some of those on the Legacy Fund are sharing their thoughts with legislators and discussions are occurring. Brueckner said they will continue to monitor the gas tax issue and noted it hasn't been changed since 2005, so it's probably long overdue.
- d. Legislative Meetings – It was recommended by Brueckner at the July meeting that the clubs hold meetings with their local legislators to get their feeling related to the upcoming session. Fleck said Friends was in the process of scheduling a meeting with legislators around the Lake, but with Covid it has been delayed, but they will try to hold a virtual meeting. Again, Brueckner encourages local clubs

to reach out to their local legislators before January or during the session to discuss issues of importance to the Congress. Lance Gaebe encourages clubs to make legislative contacts this month, noting that when they are campaigning it is a good time to get the legislators' attention and then they will know you when the legislature starts and when you really do need something.

- e. Web Site update – Marie Hoerner said she has not made any further contacts since late last year on changing to a different provider. FYI – Last fall, Marie signed up for a 30-day trial with Wild Apricot and spent many hours attempting to design a new website and use their membership software. She called JW Schroeder, who said he couldn't help with the design and recommended Brian Dahlin. She found out that she is not a website designer, but would be willing to look for someone that could. Rich Mohan said that at our December meeting we talked about the Wild Apricot software that includes membership software and one of his club members (JW Schroeder) may be able to assist with us out. Duaine Ash made a motion to use Rick Mohan as the contact for JW Schroeder to provide assistance in rewriting our website, with the understanding that there may be a fee. Rick Mohan will follow up with the Board on his findings.

7. New Business

- a. Section 12.1-22-03 of ND Century Code

Criminal Trespass – Noncriminal Offence on Posted Property – Terry Steinwand said that the hunting trespassing issue came up during the last session and focused on criminal trespassing. If the last bill that was debated had passed, it would have highly affected ice fishing. He said they formed an interim natural resources committee and the legislature are looking at putting three bills forward for the 2021 session – extending the pilot study for electronic posting; making electronic posting the same as physical posting penalty; and the third one is a mixture of criminal and hunting trespass. Criminal Trespassing is the main bill (Class A misdemeanor), with hunters being excluded. Steinwand said NDSFC really needs to pay attention to how this legislation evolves.

On a different subject, Terry Steinwand said they are putting some capital improvement money into the Valley City National Fish Hatchery and he mentioned that Ed Dosch is now on the G&F Advisory Board in the Devils Lake area.

- b. ANS Partnership Program – Rich Brueckner said we are trying to pull together Nelson, Benson and Ramsey Counties to take on the challenges of the ANS monitoring and set up a Tri-County ANS Board, but they have not yet been able to get all together. He mentioned that 40/50% of activity on Devils Lake comes from out-of-state. Ben Holden said it would be great to have a decontamination wash station for boats coming off the waterbodies and that a lot of the wash stations will be self-serve to promote clean boats; however, they do need to train individuals to decontaminate the boats and have education material available. In addition, they need to figure out where the best place would be to locate the wash stations. It's a free program to promote clean boats, so there will not be a charge to wash boats. Ben said they are looking to hire local seasonal workers to do inspections, so please let Ben know if you know of anyone. They are looking to install inspection devices at boat ramps next year at Lake Ashtabula, Lake Lamoure and Devils Lake that are automated and solar powered and use cell phone service to take pictures of watercraft launching (automatically has a recorded message that says you have entered a zebra mussel infested waterbody, so remember to pull your plug, etc.). The devices would take a video and send it to Holden to review. The device works 24 hours a day. Terry Fleck asked if these devices could be made available to park board and Ben said yes. He also asked if there is a YouTube video on true decontamination process or has the G&F thought about producing one. Ben said that you can go to "westernais.org" to watch a decontamination video, but it should only be done by training individuals as there is a lot more to it. Terry also said that Parks and

Rec is doing a cost-share program. Rich Brueckner said there are also federal grant programs available. Jeff Herman said their club talked about partnerships with counties and park boards, but asked if the tribes have ever been contacted. Ben said the G&F has reached out to tribes, especially in Devils Lake about putting wash stations on tribal lands. Power also noted that MHA has been very good in addressing ANS matters.

- c. Wash stations at State Parks (Grahams Island, Fort Stevenson, etc.) – Terry Steinwand said G&F doesn't have enough time and manpower to run the stations at Devils Lake. Greg Power said they would like a partnership. The GF will pay for it, but do not want to not run the funding through their payroll. Ben said their wash station documents include paying a stipend for maintenance or manpower. Keith Witt said the biggest concern is to find administrative cost for stations. Ben said the best scenario would probably be to build the task into someone's current job duties and the G&F would provide a yearly stipend to cover some of those costs.
- d. The 2021 Annual Meeting/Fundraiser is set for April 17, 2021 at AMVETS. Marie Hoerner has obtained a raffle permit form to conduct our raffles, but will hold off on obtaining a raffle permit until closer to the end of the year to see what the Covid situation is at that time and what direction will be taken.
 - Nomination Committee – President, Past President and Keith Witt (appointed at large by the President) will be in contact with the board members with terms expiring in 2021 to see if they will continue serving for an additional two-year term.
 - Individuals with 2021 expiring terms will be contacted by one of the Nominating Committee members – Positions with terms expiring in April 2021 are Rich Brueckner (president); Duaine Ash (past president follows what happens with the president's position); Jeff Herman (treasurer); Tom Boerger, Joe Solseng, Ed Dosch, Mike Anderson, Rick Mohan and Keith Seidinger.
- e. Other new business
 - Application for Sportfishing Congress for Hall of Fame – Ken Cumber suggested that the NDSFC be nominated in 2021 to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, especially with all of the contributions made on behalf of fishing in North Dakota. Keith Witt said applications will be accepted until May 1 and someone will need to submit detail on what Sportfishing Congress has done for fishing in North Dakota. Keith said a board member could submit an application and they will also need two letters of support from neutral parties. Ken Cumber and Tom Boerger have agreed to spearhead the process. If anyone else want to help, please let Ken know.
 - Spending cap on monies spent without Board approval – Ken Cumber asked that this item be placed on the agenda. He believes there should be a cap on the amount spent without Board approval. Rick Mohan said that FM Walleyes prepares and presents an annual budget for board approval and they also have a limit on the amount paid without board approval. Jeff Herman and Marie Hoerner will put together an annual budget (income/expenses) to be presented at the April 2021 meeting. A determination on the limit will be decided on at the April meeting. Jeff mentioned that he already has an Excel spreadsheet with all income and expense items that could be emailed to the board monthly if needed.

- Terry Fleck there is a Land and Water Fund Grant (has apportioned over \$1.87 million for fiscal year 2020 for North Dakota), which is part of the great American Outdoor Act and will be annually funded with \$9 million. He said this is a great opportunity for your clubs to get grant funding and encourages anyone looking for funds to apply. There is an online grant application workshop on October 29th beginning at 1:00 p.m. If you are interested, contact Char Binstock, grants coordinator for North Dakota @ 701-328-5364; www.parkrec.nd.gov/business. Other grant programs are available through the ND Community Foundation and has a variety of levels of grants available for different areas of the state for projects. Terry said there are also grants available through local banks.

8. Club Reports

- Red River Area Sportsmen's – Wayne Beyer – Good river fishing for spring-summer and fall. Four river fishing piers and two boat landings. Mooreton Pond – 3 piers and landing. Identifying wash station location. Shoreline erosion project to improve river pier placement. Youth Ice Fishing Derby scheduled for 2-20-2021.
- Dakota Anglers – Ken Cumber – Planning for summer events/tournaments. Have a quarterly newsletter and hope to be able to get back to normal and on schedule.
- LRAA – Keith Seidlinger – Are started up meetings again in September, but have the summer months off. Postponed their April annual meeting until September and is now cancelled with the intent to hold it in April 2021. Hoping to go forward with next year's summer tournaments. Anyone who joined LRAA during the Covid year (2020), their membership is carried over to 2021 at no additional cost. Said that membership is down.
- Bis-Man Reel & Rec – Jeff Herman – Held their annual tournament on September 19th (33 teams) and had several meetings since then. Looking to have another tournament on November 10th. Postponed the annual Cabin Fever fundraiser until March 2021. Have been looking to help with Burleigh County Parks & Rec fish cleaning station to get it enclosed. They are interested in the grant money Terry talked about.
- FM Walleyes – Rick Mohan – Worked hard to remain engaged with their members and the community. Moved to some Zoom board and member meetings, but started in-person meetings this fall. Were able to hold their 3 tournaments (had online rules meetings and awards ceremonies) and had good participation, probably because a lot of other tournaments didn't happen. Stayed active with local Parks & Rec. Membership remains pretty steady and there's a lot of interest in activities.
- Fishing Hall of Fame – Keith Witt – Congratulated Ken Cumber as being inducted into the Fishing Hall of Fame for 2020. Unfortunately, the Governor's Cup was cancelled and the induction normally takes place during the tournament's rules meeting, so Ken's ceremony will take place next year along with the 2021 inductee. Keith again noted the deadline to submit nominees for the Hall of Fame is May 1st.

Rich Brueckner thanked Lance Gaebe for setting up the Zoom meeting. Lance's assistance was very much appreciated!

Duaine Ash asked if there was a plan in place to get additional funds for lobbying fees. Rich said once we get the proposal from Lance Gaebe on the amount of his fees, an email will be sent out or Zoom meeting will be held to determine whether we need to solicit additional funds. Terry Fleck said he would like to be included on receiving Lance's legislative proposal from Dwyer/Gaebe Group, since Friends would be interested in cost-sharing the project.

9. A motion was made by Rich Mohan, seconded by Keith Seidlinger and passed to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:15 p.m. Terry Fleck mentioned that under the new Roberts Rules of Order, the President no longer needs to ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Submitted By: Marie Hoerner

Date Submitted: October 18, 2020



Special Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 • 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Attendees: President Rich Brueckner, Vice President Ken Cumber, Past President Duaine Ash, Treasurer Jeff Herman, Secretary Marie Hoerner; Board Members, Ed Dosch, Rick Eagleson, Rick Mohan and Keith Witt; At-Large Board Member Keith Seidlinger ; Lance Gaebe (lobbyist; Zoom host).

President Rich Brueckner called the meeting to order and participants were acknowledged via Zoom.

The purpose of the meeting was to determine the level of lobbying services the NDSFC would like to hire the Dwyer Gaebe Group for the 2021 ND legislative session (proposal attached).

Lance Gaebe said that there is some concern that the Legislature may start and stop during the session due to COVID, but the contract could be adjusted accordingly by mutual consent. Rick Mohan said that although there is no legislative issues of concern at this time, he feels the Congress should stay engaged and have the option to change to a higher lobbying level if issues arise. Gaebe said that starting with the \$1,500 tracking level would be agreeable with him.

Following further discussion, a motion was made by Rick Mohan, seconded by Keith Witt and passed unanimously to engage Lance Gaebe and his group to monitor legislation at the “Legislative Tracking” level of \$1,500 per month, while the Legislature are in session (knowing that there may be delays due to COVID and the month may need to be pro-rated accordingly). This level would not involve lobbying or working with legislative to promote or push back legislation that wouldn’t be desirable for the Congress.

If it is necessary to advance to the “Lobbying” \$2,500 per month level, another special Board meeting will be held to vote on the change.

Gaebe mentioned that the Legislature has an organization session on December 1-3 where they select their chairman and the Governor will give his budget address on December 3rd.

There being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted By: Marie Hoerner
Date Submitted: November 20, 2020

NORTH DAKOTA
SPORTFISHING
CONGRESS

P.O. BOX 2472 • BISMARCK, ND 58502

Special Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2021 • 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Attendees: President Rich Brueckner, Vice President Ken Cumber, Past President Duaine Ash, Treasurer Jeff Herman, Secretary Marie Hoerner; Board/Club Members: Wayne Beyer, Tom Boerger, Ed Dosch, Rick Eagleson, Chad Engels, Terry Fleck, Rick Mohan, Keith Seidlinger and Keith Witt; Game & Fish Representatives Greg Power and Ben Holden; Lance Gaebe (lobbyist; Zoom host).

1. President Rich Brueckner called the meeting to order.
2. There was a discussion as to whether to hold the April 17, 2021 annual meeting and fundraiser at the AMVETS in Bismarck. Some of the members said they were going to hold events, while others either cancelled or postponed due to Covid. After further discussion, it was decided to move forward with the annual meeting and fundraiser on April 17th. Banquet and raffle tickets will be printed and distributed within the next couple of weeks and an ad will be put in the April Spring Fishing Edition of the Dakota Country Magazine. In addition, it will be put on social media and the ad will be emailed to all of the clubs to post on their websites and distribute to their members. The annual meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m., with the fundraiser social at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m.
3. Greg Power, Game & Fish Update
 - Update on Tournament Conservation Fees – Greg stated that the recent administrative rule change will now assess all tournaments the minimum of 10% toward a fishery conservation project – no exceptions; the intention is for all the conservation monies go back to the area where the tournament was held. He noted, they received a lot of disappointing, negative input from tournament fisherman (mostly from out-of-state). One common comment was the G&F is greedy; Greg reiterated all the conservation monies go back into the resource (the Department does not get any of these fees). Greg said the Department was not aware that some local Convention & Visitors Bureaus (economic impact in ND) bid and pay for tournaments to be held in North Dakota. For that reason, the Department has had discussions with CVBs and Tourism about proposing a reduction in the fee from 10% to 5%, plus \$5 per boat per day ... but nothing tangible right now thus there are no plans to change the fee from the current 10%. Greg will update the Congress if there are proposed changes.
 - Greg Power provided the following ANS and R3 update (including the attachment), saying: “Some questions were asked about ANS communications initiatives by the Department. The Game & Fish (including Ben and other staff) spent some time compiling a bit of information that I would like to share – 1) as you can see in the attachment, we are utilizing a LOT of venues addressing ANS messaging. As you can see, this is both a very intensive and extensive effort, 2) another question asked is why isn’t Jason Mitchell (JMO) the face of ANS prevention in ND. FYI, we hired JMO (and FOLS in the past) so they are not directly

connected with the Department. We thought and continue to believe having strong, preventative ANS messages originating from sources other than the Department provides more credibility to the seriousness of the matter. Unfortunately, we were not able to articulate this response last night. Nonetheless, Ben (and perhaps Greg Freeman who heads up our communications group) will discuss the merits of offering/using Jason in the national (May) ANS prevention week with the full AISC when they next meet, and lastly 3) since there is representation on the AISC from a number of other state agencies, at the next AISC meeting, Ben will share with them the need to see what their own agencies can do in help getting the word out with their constituency groups during the national (May) ANS prevention week.”

Terry Fleck said he checked with the League of Cities, the Association of Counties and he and Sara Otte Coleman had a discussion, as well as Doug Goehring, but his staff tried to explain that it was a Game & Fish issue. Terry explained to them what the future would mean if we don't take ANS seriously. It appears that ANS is not a concern, so it is up to the Congress and our clubs to lead the charge and Friends is here to do whatever you want to help. Chad Engels said in December he sent an email to Rich Brueckner, Greg Power and Terry Steinwand saying that Rep. Schmidt opened the door and he checked around on our behalf and said the Lieutenant Governor and State Water Commission are willing to meet with the Game & Fish if they request a meeting. The G&F was asked to contact the State Water Commission. Greg Power said the State Water Commission for many years have had discretionary money. Chad is going to resend the email. Terry Fleck suggested reaching out to Pat Fridgen at the Water Commission. Greg said the G&F isn't looking for money, but like Rich Brueckner said we need other partners like the Water Commission. Chad said he is willing to help with any discussions. Rich Brueckner said he will continue to work with Greg and Ben at G&F to see what can be done to kick-off the ANS week in May this year and possible a year in the future.

- Greg Power also provided the following R3 update, stating:
“I also mentioned about an important strategic meeting, we were having (and now have had) this morning regarding recruitment, reactivation and retention (R3) of anglers. This is a critical issue that deserves a lot of attention on many different fronts. To that end and if possible, I would like our R3 coordinator, Cayla Bendel, to give a brief R3 overview at the SFC April meeting. Further, we would like to engage you, as representatives of your local fishing clubs, in a brief discussion of your individual perspectives regarding what all we (GF) can do to help get more local fishing interest in your area (and club) as well as throughout the state. Lastly, Greg Freeman (again our communications leader) is willing to also attend and share with the group the various communication tools/approaches we now incorporate (I'm like many of you and am old school but recognize if we want to keep people fishing, etc. we need to sharpen our communication skills). Collectively, Cayla and Greg could take 45-60 minutes, if you can fit them into the agenda in April (and I will forgo my time talking fish!). Something for Rich and the executive committee to consider.”

4. Rich Brueckner mentioned that Marie Hoerner will be resigning her position as secretary after the April fundraiser, so we need to find a replacement. He also said that Lance Gaebe will be taking a position with the State of North Dakota at the end of May, so we will need to find someone to replace him for the next session.

5. At the annual meeting, there will be an election for Board members, so the Nominating Committee (Rich Brueckner, Ken Cumber) need to seek individuals to fill the open seats. If you are interested in a position or want to remain on the Board, let Rich know if you are willing to serve another term. Rich mentioned that his position of president is also up and doesn't plan to serve another 2-year term. Open positions are: President Rich Brueckner; Treasurer Jeff Herman (he has confirmed he would serve for another 2-year term); and board members Mike Anderson, Tom Boerger, Ed Dosch, Rick Mohan and Joe Solseng.
6. Lance Gaebe gave a legislative update:
 - HB 1425 – bill that would modify how the Legacy Fund (currently a \$8.1B fund) is invested. He said the bill would require that 20% of the new revenues to fund (30% of oil and gas tax) would have to be invested in ND-based projects (i.e. businesses, infrastructure).
 - HB 1464 to raise gas tax by 6¢ – presently 23¢
 - Registration fees for electric vehicles were also raised, since they don't use gas.
 - Electronic means of posting land and G&F gave examples. Passed the Senate unanimously.

Rich talked to Rob Holmes said at the Hatchery and he said they didn't anticipate any changes this year, but they may need help going forward if budgets are cut.

Greg Power said they hired Scott Winkelman as the new Chief Game Warden and told Rich he would be good to include in corresponding.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Submitted By: Marie Hoerner

Date Submitted: February 13, 2021

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Game and Fish



Securing the Future of North Dakota's Strong Fishing Heritage

Cayla Bendel | NDGFD R3 Coordinator

April 17th, 2021 | ND Sportfishing
Congress Annual Meeting

What is R3?

- Recruit
- Retain
- Reactivate

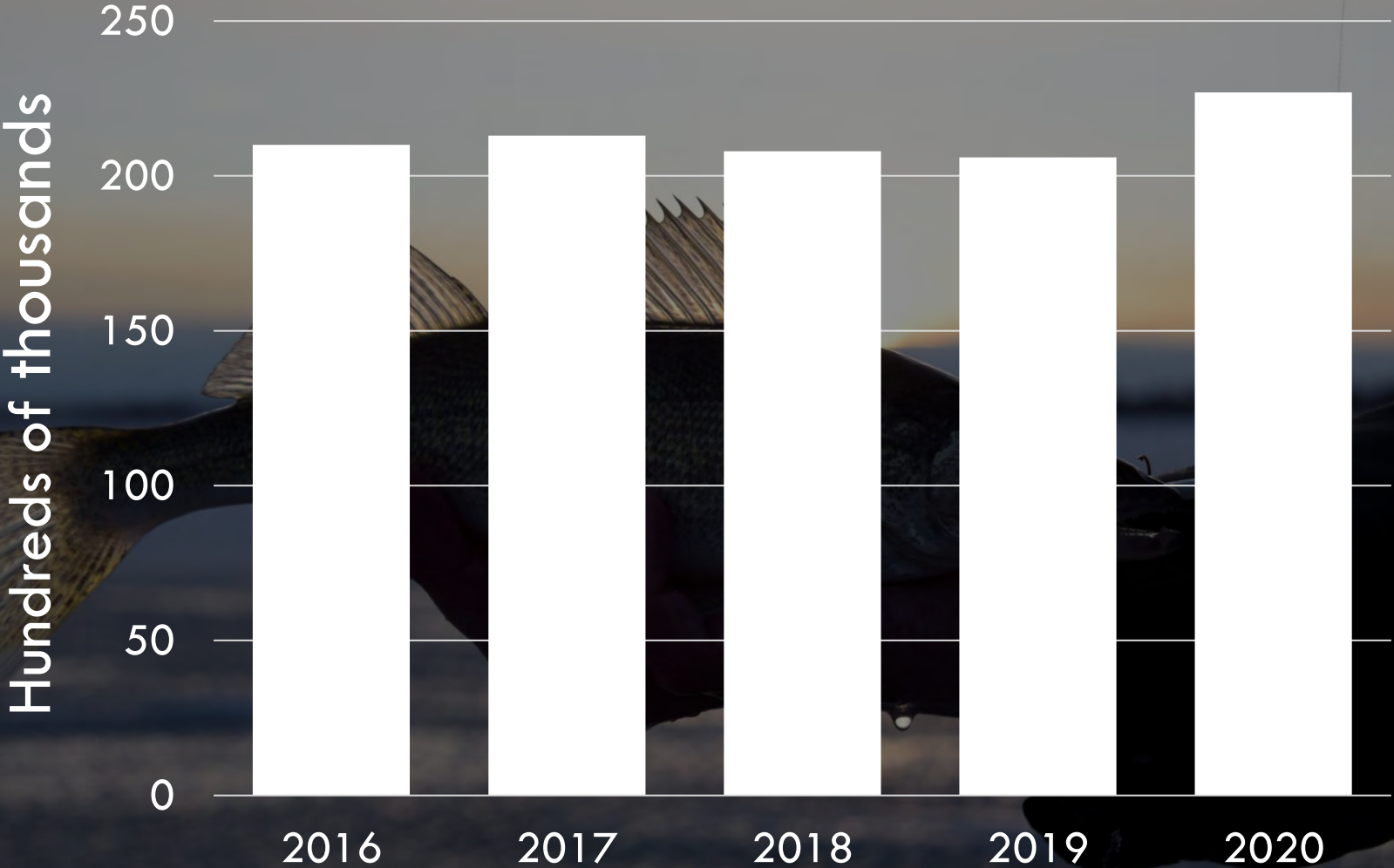
*“Securing the future of North Dakota’s
Strong Fishing Heritage”*



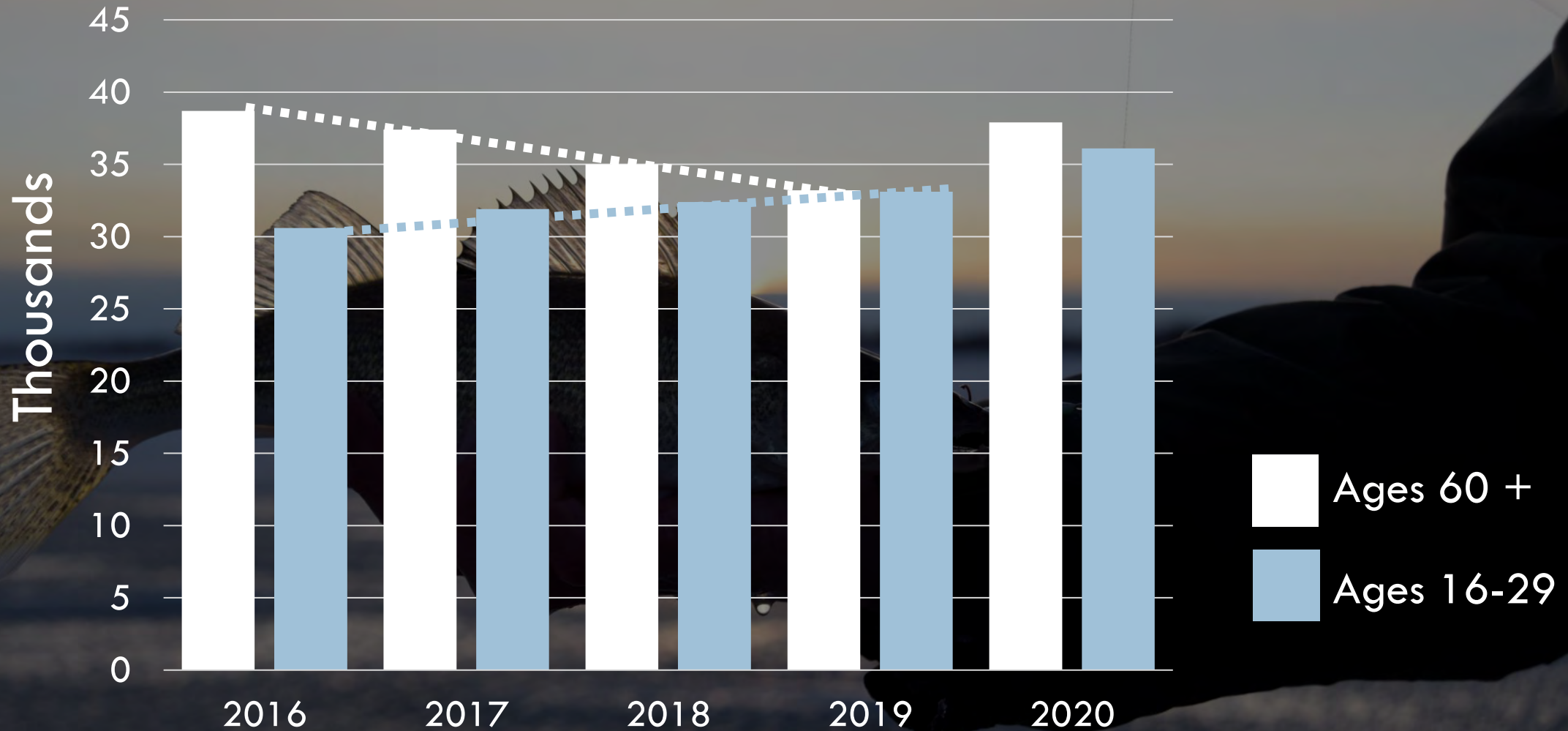
Why should we care?



Total North Dakota Fishing License Sales



Resident Fishing License Sales



Why should we care?

- Fisheries management and conservation funding
- Relevancy
- Advocacy
- Volunteers
- Outdoor Heritage



Okay, but the lake is already crowded enough...

- Underutilized resources
- Diversify
- Not everyone wants or needs to fish like you..
- More support and funding for fishing!



NDGFD angling R3 goals & strategies

- Sustain and increase fishing participation where possible
- Achieve fishing license sales comparative to ND population
 - Research + adaptive management
 - Increase in shore-fishing
 - Increase functionality and promotion of fisheries data and resources
 - Encourage mentorship



Questions?



North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Communication Efforts

Greg Freeman, Communications Supervisor
ND Sportfishing Congress
April 17, 2021



Communication Outlets

- News Releases, Newspapers
- *North Dakota OUTDOORS* magazine
- Webcast
- Outdoors News (broadcast tv)
- Website
- Social Media
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - YouTube
- Digital Marketing



News Release

- 32,000 Subscribers
- 140 media
 - Radio
 - TV
 - Newspaper



April 12, 2021

Moose and Elk Lotteries Held, Bighorn Sheep in September

North Dakota's moose and elk lotteries have been held, and [individual results](#) are available by visiting My Account at the state Game and Fish Department's website, [gf.nd.gov](#).

A total of 19,126 applications were received for bighorn sheep, 23,023 for elk and 26,035 for moose.

While in My Account, successful applicants must pay for a moose and/or elk license. In addition, a 2021-22 general game and habitat license, or combination license, is required. The moose/elk license will be mailed after the required hunting licenses are purchased.

The bighorn sheep lottery is scheduled in September, after summer population surveys are completed and total licenses are determined. Once the lottery is held, successful applicants will be contacted to select a hunting unit.

[News Releases](#) | [Webcast](#) | [Video News](#) | [Magazine](#)



North Dakota Game and Fish Department
100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095
Phone: 701-328-6300
Email: ndgf@nd.gov



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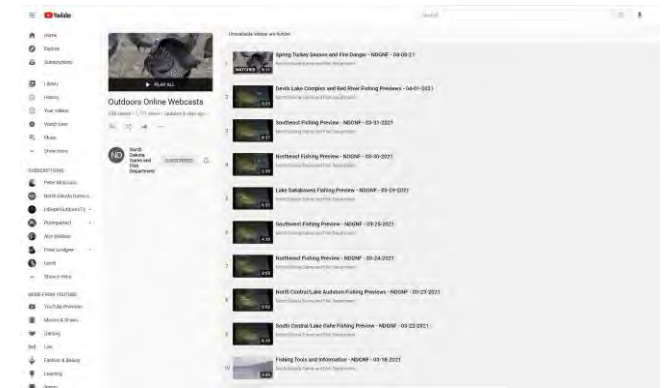
North Dakota *OUTDOORS*

- 27,000 Subscribers



Webcast

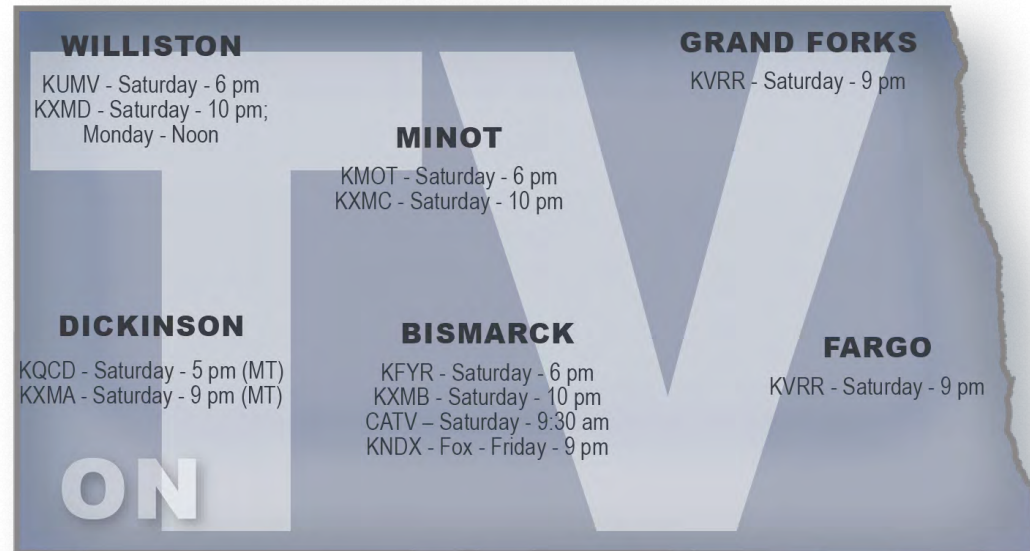
- YouTube
- Community Access TV across ND



Outdoors News (Broadcast)

- Statewide TV broadcast
 - News Stations
 - Community Access TV
- YouTube

NORTH DAKOTA **OUTDOORS** PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

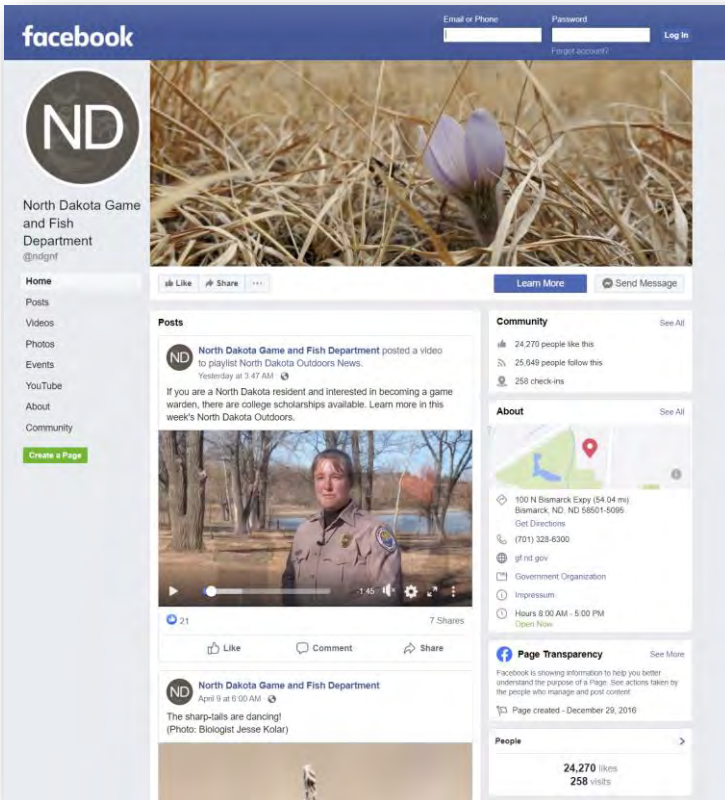


WEEKLY VIDEO NEWS BROADCAST

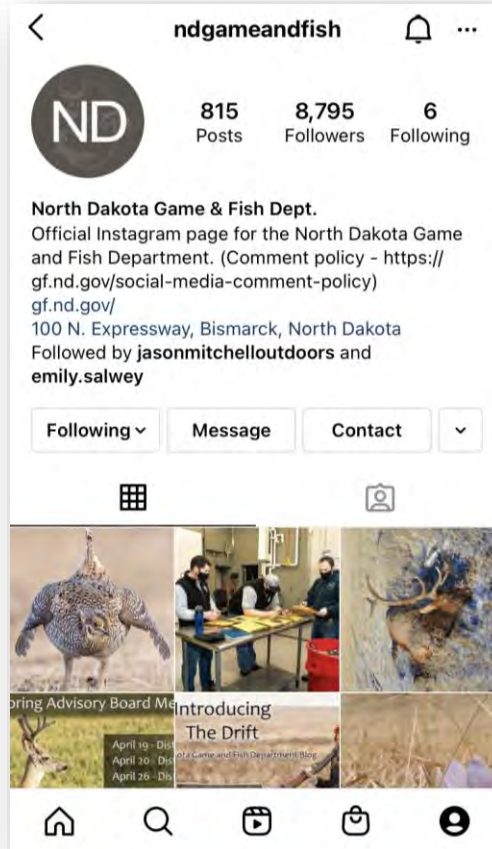


Social Media

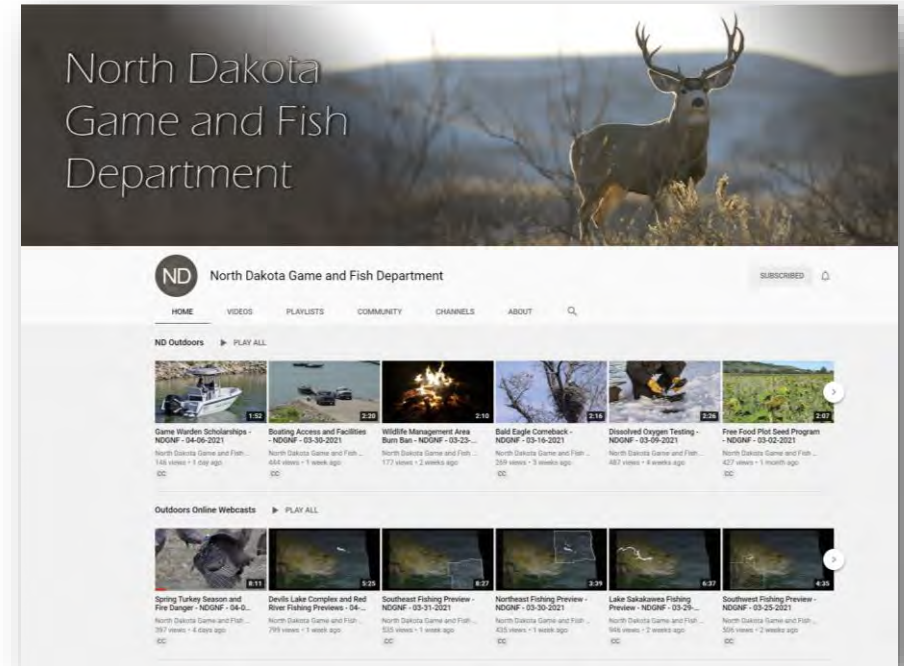
Facebook: 25,000 followers



Instagram: 8,700 followers



YouTube: Nearly 1 million views

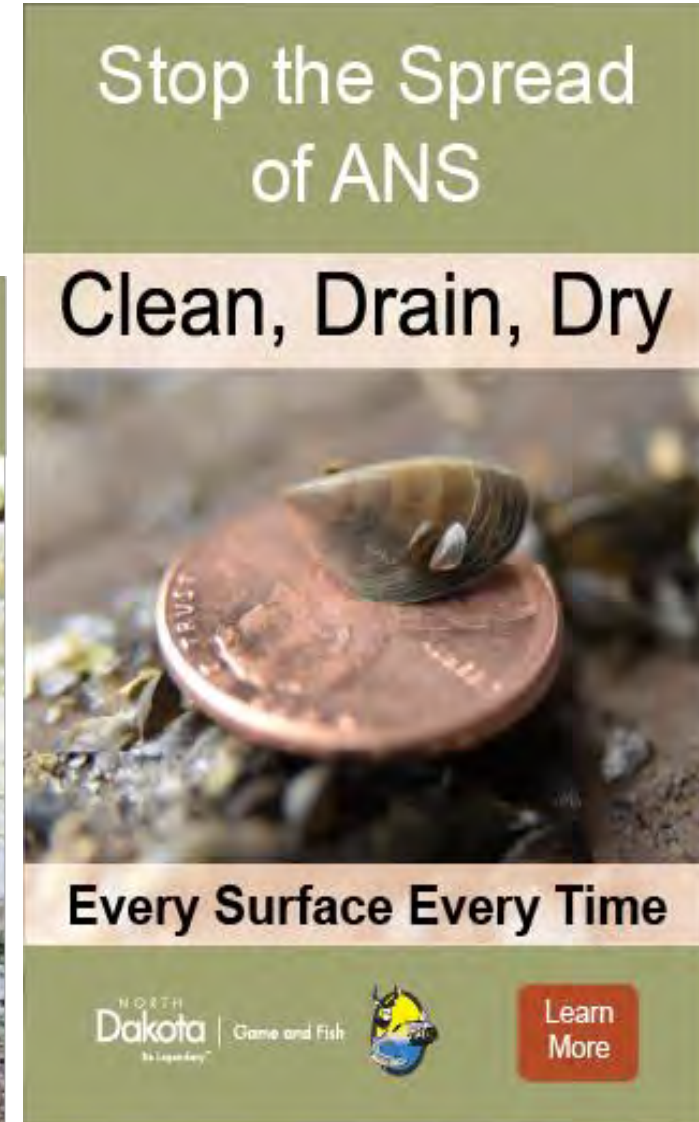


Digital Marketing

April 20 – Sept. 15
resident and nonresident (MN,
SD, WI, MT) boat anglers
11 million impressions

June 5 – August 20
watersports – jet skis, wake
boards
MRS, DL, Metigoshe – 25-39
3.5 million impressions

May 1 – September 15
billboards
ND Highway 2



Other Efforts

- Programmatic Audio
 - Spotify
 - Pandora
 - iHeart Radio
- Billboards
 - Digital
 - Static



Zebra Mussel Poster (2020)

ZEBRA MUSSELS

LET'S STOP THE SPREAD



What are zebra mussels and why are they a big deal?

Zebra mussels are small D-shaped or triangular bivalve with alternating light and dark brown stripes. Their filter feeding abilities can impact water quality and the ecosystem, which can negatively affect fish and wildlife populations. These mussels attach to hard surfaces and may foul equipment, clog water pipes and cut unprotected feet.



Additional recommendations for water recreationists:

Decontamination of watercraft and equipment is not required by North Dakota law, but highly recommended to reduce the likelihood of spread of ANS.

- 140 degrees F for 10 seconds of contact (recommended for the outside of watercraft and equipment.)
- 120 degrees F for at least 2 minutes contact (recommended for internal compartments of watercraft.)
- Dry for at least 7 days under hot summer conditions. Keep in mind the cooler and more humid, the longer the drying time required to kill adult zebra mussels.
- When transporting docks or boat lifts, visually inspect for ANS such as zebra mussels. It's critically important to dry docks/lifts for at least three weeks before placing in a different water body.



What are the current regulations?

- Anglers may not transport live bait in water away from any Class I ANS infested water, visit the North Dakota Game and Fish website for a current list of Class I ANS infested waters.
- Remove all vegetation from boats, trailers, fishing and hunting equipment.
- Drain all watercraft, including bilges, livewells, baitwells and motors before leaving a water body.
- Remove all drain plugs that may hold back water during any out-of-water transport.

CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY equipment to protect our lakes and streams.

For complete regulations visit: gf.nd.gov/ans

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Zebra Mussel County Posters (2020)

LaMoure County

ZEBRA MUSSELS

LET'S STOP THE SPREAD IN LAMOURE COUNTY

What are zebra mussels and why are they a big deal?

Zebra mussels are small D-shaped or triangular bivalve with alternating light and dark brown stripes. Their filter feeding abilities can impact water quality and the ecosystem, which can negatively affect fish and wildlife populations. These mussels attach to hard surfaces and may foul equipment, clog water pipes and out unprotected feet.



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Decontamination of watercraft and equipment is not required by North Dakota law, but highly recommended to reduce the likelihood of spread of ANS.

- 140 degrees F for 10 seconds of contact (recommended for the outside of watercraft and equipment.)
- 120 degrees F for at least 2 minutes of contact (recommended for internal compartments of watercraft.)
- Dry for at least 7 days under hot summer conditions. Keep in mind the cooler and more humid, the longer the drying time required to kill adult zebra mussels.
- When transporting docks or boat lifts, visually inspect for ANS such as zebra mussels. It's critically important to dry docks/lifts for at least three weeks before placing in a different water body.

What are the current regulations?

- Anglers may not transport live bait in water away from Lake LaMoure, Cottonwood Creek downstream from Lake LaMoure, and the James River in Dickey County.
- Remove all vegetation from boats, trailers, fishing and hunting equipment.
- Drain all watercraft, including bilges, livewells, baitwells and motors before leaving a waterbody.
- Remove all drain plugs that may hold back water during any out-of-water transport.

CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY equipment to protect our lakes and streams.

For complete regulations visit: gf.nd.gov/ans

SPONSORED BY THE JAMES RIVER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB AND THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT




Barnes County

ZEBRA MUSSELS

LET'S STOP THE SPREAD IN BARNES COUNTY

What are zebra mussels and why are they a big deal?

Zebra mussels are small D-shaped or triangular bivalve with alternating light and dark brown stripes. Their filter feeding abilities can impact water quality and the ecosystem, which can negatively affect fish and wildlife populations. These mussels attach to hard surfaces and may foul equipment, clog water pipes and out unprotected feet.



Additional recommendations for water recreationists

Decontamination of watercraft and equipment is not required by North Dakota law, but highly recommended to reduce the likelihood of spread of ANS.

- 140 degrees F for 10 seconds of contact (recommended for the outside of watercraft and equipment.)
- 120 degrees F for at least 2 minutes of contact (recommended for internal compartments of watercraft.)
- Dry for at least 7 days under hot summer conditions. Keep in mind the cooler and more humid, the longer the drying time required to kill adult zebra mussels.
- When transporting docks or boat lifts, visually inspect for ANS such as zebra mussels. It's critically important to dry docks/lifts for at least three weeks before placing in a different water body.

What are the current regulations?

- Anglers may not transport live bait in water away from Lake Ashtabula, the Sheyenne River from Lake Ashtabula downstream to the Red River and the Red River.
- Remove all vegetation from boats, trailers, fishing and hunting equipment.
- Drain all watercraft, including bilges, livewells, baitwells and motors before leaving a waterbody.
- Remove all drain plugs that may hold back water during any out-of-water transport.

CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY equipment to protect our lakes and streams.

For complete regulations visit: gf.nd.gov/ans

SPONSORED BY BARNES COUNTY WILDLIFE FEDERATION AND THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT





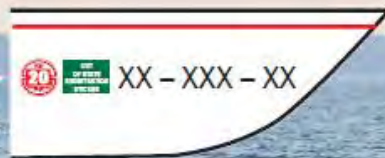

ANS and Boaters

ATTENTION ANGLERS/BOATERS WHO TRAVEL TO NORTH DAKOTA

- Starting this year, all motorized watercraft not licensed in North Dakota, and operated on North Dakota waters, must annually obtain a valid, nonrefundable aquatic nuisance species sticker.
- The new sticker is just part of comprehensive legislation passed in 2019 to generate additional funds for ANS research and prevention measures in North Dakota.
- ANS stickers may only be purchased through the Department's website, gf.nd.gov. The fee is \$15 per year.
- This ANS sticker must be placed on the starboard side of the watercraft within 6 inches of the registration number and displayed within 10 days of purchase.
- A copy of the purchase receipt is proof of validation until the sticker is received via postal mail. Allow approximately 5 business days for the physical sticker to arrive after purchase.



Place on
boat here



gf.nd.gov

NORTH
Dakota | Game and Fish
Be Legendary™



2020 ANS ad
introducing
nonresident sticker

NORTH
Dakota | Game and Fish
Be Legendary™



ANS and Boaters



ANS sticker for
nonresident
boats
(mailed out with license)

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES STICKER

All motorized watercraft **not licensed in this state** and **operated on North Dakota waters:**

- Must annually obtain a valid, nonrefundable aquatic nuisance species (ANS) sticker.
- ANS stickers may only be purchased through the Department's website, gf.nd.gov.
- This ANS sticker must be placed on the starboard side of the watercraft within 6 inches of the registration number and displayed within 10 days of purchase.
- A copy of the purchase receipt is proof of validation until the sticker is received via postal mail.

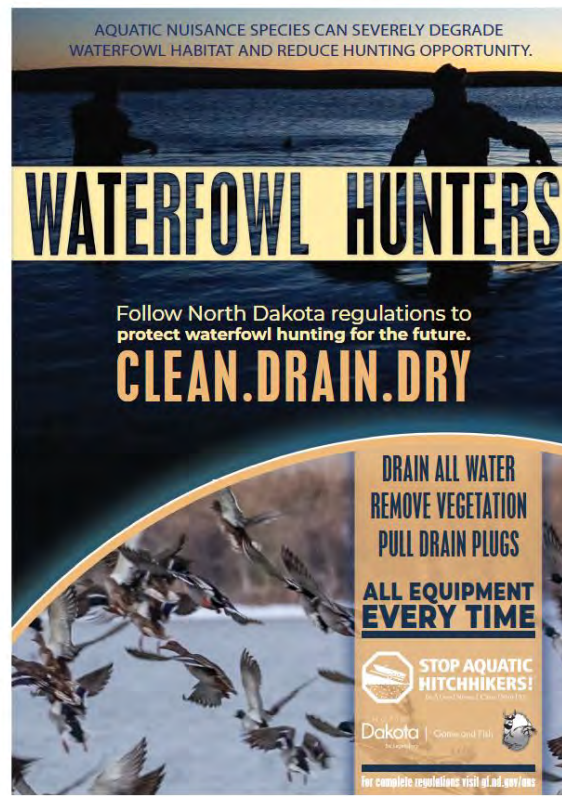


2020
ANS
outdoor
signage



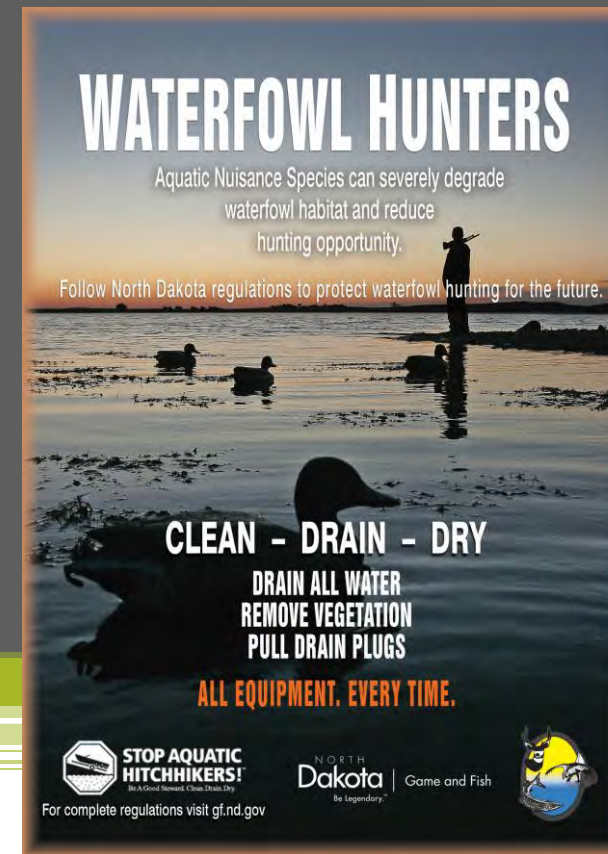


North Dakota *OUTDOORS*
(magazine, November 2020)



August-September 2020 ND Outdoors 27

North Dakota *OUTDOORS*
(magazine October 2020)



North Dakota *OUTDOORS*
(magazine October 2019)



ZEBRA MUSSELS

LET'S STOP THE SPREAD

CLEAN DRAIN DRY
KEEP PLUGS PULLED
EVERY TIME

Clean, Drain and Dry equipment to protect our lakes and streams
For complete regulations visit:
gf.nd.gov/ans





ZEBRA MUSSELS

LET'S STOP THE SPREAD

INSPECT CLEAN DRAIN
KEEP PLUGS PULLED
EVERY TIME

IT'S NORTH DAKOTA LAW gf.nd.gov/ans




ZEBRA MUSSELS

FOUND IN THE RED RIVER

LET'S STOP THE SPREAD

NEW ANS RULES FOR 2016
Pull Drain Plugs and Leave Them Out
When In Transit Statewide

Drain All Red River Water from Minnow Buckets,
Boats and Other Watercraft

INSPECT - CLEAN - DRAIN
Every Time You Leave the Water

For Complete Regulations: gf.nd.gov/ANS




PROTECT NORTH DAKOTA WATERS

from Aquatic Nuisance Species

KNOW THE LAW

BEFORE leaving a waterbody:

1. Remove all aquatic vegetation and ANS from all equipment.
2. Drain all water, including bilge, livewells, baitwells and motors.
3. Pull drain plugs and standpipes and keep open during transport.

For more information:
gf.nd.gov/ans



PROTECT NORTH DAKOTA WATERS

from Aquatic Nuisance Species

Clean - Drain - Dry

Zebra mussels from the Red River

Aquatic nuisance species are nonnative plants and animals that threaten fishing, boating, swimming and other water-based activities. North Dakota has carefully crafted regulations to help prevent the introduction and spread of ANS.

Summary of North Dakota Laws

- Remove all aquatic plants and organisms from equipment (such as boats, decoys, commercial equipment) before leaving a water access.
- Drain all water.
- Keep plugs pulled during watercraft transport.
- Transport bait in 5 gallons of water or less.
- Drain bait water when leaving ANS infested waters.

In addition, it is highly recommended that boaters dry their boats, or power wash with hot water, between uses.

For more information on ANS and regulations, visit gf.nd.gov/ans




ANS winch sticker

Graphic inserted in licensing mailing

ANS Red River outdoors sign

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES ALERT
ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS APPLY

ANGLERS MUST:
Remove all water from bait buckets or bait containers when leaving this water, or any of its tributaries up to the first vehicular bridge or crossing.

BOATERS MUST:
Pull all drain plugs, drain water, and leave plugs out when watercraft is transported anywhere in the state.

INSPECT - REMOVE - DRAIN

WATERCRAFT FOR ANS  PLANTS AND ANS  ALL WATER

For more information, visit www.gf.nd.gov
NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT





North Dakota Game and Fish 2021 Plans

Presented by Ben Holen



What's New ?



Education

- Get back to making personal contacts
- Digital marketing campaign
- Continue program elements
- Grow our ANS community in North Dakota



Inspection Efforts

- 5 total inspection teams
- Additional team in Jamestown
- 17 seasonals conducting watercraft inspections
- Assist wardens with roadside checks



Prevention VS Containment Waters



Prevention Waters

Goals

- Educate boaters
- Prioritize entrance inspections
- Reduce ANS risk factors
- Intercept ANS fouled watercraft
- Emphasis areas - Devils Lake, Missouri River System, Jamestown Reservoir, Lake Metigoshe, Alkaline Lake



Containment Waters

Goals

- Educate boaters
- Prioritize exit inspection
- Reduce risk factor
- Decontaminate fouled watercraft
- Priority waters - Lake Ashtabula, Lake LaMoure, Red River, Lower Sheyenne River, Lower James River



Prevention/Containment Devices

ILIDS- Virtual watercraft inspection devices

- Devils Lake (Grahams Island), Lake Ashtabula, Lake Lamoure

CD3 Systems- Waterless cleaning devices

- Red River (2 locations), Lake Ashtabula, Lake Metigoshe

Wash stations

- Lake LaMoure, Jamestown Reservoir, Lake Ashtabula

Expand devices on prevention waters 2021



Monitoring

- 140+ waters for QZM
- Monthly monitoring of infested waters
- Pet Stores, Floral, and Landscaping checks
- Work with USFWS to do eDNA sampling in the James River



NISAW May 16-22

- Kicks off with Governors Proclamation
- Press Releases NDPRD,NDGFD, NDWC, ND Department of AG, NDDEQ, GCD
- Local events and sharing of materials COE, BOR, TCJJDA, BLM, RRBC, FOLS,NFS, DL Entities, TCJDDA, and more.

May 2021- ANS Awareness Week Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
NDPRD-Press Release NDGFD-2 minute show	NDGFD- Press Release JMO Social media post	Water Commission-Press Release Ted P- Joel Heitkamp KFYR TV- Terry Steinwand Gullickson-Radio Minot	Ag Commission- Press Release Job-Radio Grand Forks Lothspeich-Radio Bismarck	DEQ- Press Release NDGFD Webcast Leier-Radio Fargo	GDCD- Press Release	Governor Office's- Proclamatio NDGFD- 2 minute show

Others contributions/events

- COE- Share content via social media, ANS education material at Kiosks, CDD ramps and banners
- Red River-Basin Commission- Radio PSAs on KFGO, Joel Heidcamp show
- Forest Service- Share content on various channels
- BOR- Create a video PSA, ANS classroom activities, Share content
- DI entities - Share PSA, hand out education material, events?
- FOLS- Follow up on PR, assit with communication in western ND
- TCIDDA- Flags, CDD ramp stencils, ANS banners
- BLM- Share info on channels
- NDGFD- Webcasts, outdoors magazine, social media posts, Inspectors/outreach biologist handing out education material
- DL Tourism- Web posts
- ND Water Users- ANS article
- WC- Numerous ANS posts/articles
- NDPRD-Web posts



North Dakota Game and Fish Department ANS Program Efforts (2020-Present)

Education

- Partnered with James River Sportsman's Club and Barnes County Wildlife Federation to distribute zebra mussel education posters to communities with new infestations
- Developed and distributed 3,000 ANS dock/lift brochures and 5,000 ANS trapping brochures
- Renewed contract with Jason Mitchell Outdoors for the development and dissemination of ANS messaging; the agreement includes TV, radio, billboards, social media, and print advertisements
- Continued the Department's ANS education campaign through a wide array of media outlets
- Implemented an ANS waterfowl digital marketing campaign in the fall of 2020
- Partnered with multiple states and Wildlife Forever to support a joint ANS digital marketing campaign set to begin summer of 2021
- Implemented a new digital marketing campaign set to begin in April that focuses on water recreationists; expected impressions from the contract are approximately 25 million

Prevention

- In 2020, placed two new summer seasonal watercraft inspection teams in Riverdale and Bismarck; in previous years, teams were exclusively located in Valley City and Devils Lake. Additionally, hired two part-time fall watercraft inspectors to continue work into October. In 2021, hired 13 watercraft inspectors and Missouri River creel clerks will devote time specifically to ANS entrance inspections; over 17 individuals will participate in watercraft inspections this year.
- Generated approximately 2,137 watercraft inspection surveys, which was more than double 2019's efforts
- Intercepted 4 watercraft fouled with zebra mussels; all watercraft were leaving North Dakota infested waters
- In the process of placing 4 CD3 waterless cleaning devices and 3 ILID inspection cameras at various boat ramps for 2021
- Contact or inspected 130 local business concerning the zebra mussel moss ball outbreak; NDGFD worked closely with the Department of Agriculture to implement a moss ball quarantine, which is still in effect

- Supporting wash station development at Lake LaMoure, Ashtabula and Jamestown Reservoir in 2021

Monitoring

- Vegetation surveys of a dozen popular duck hunting WPA, no ANS detected
- Crayfish surveys of a dozen waters in the Southeast District, only Northern Crayfish were detected
- Collected ZM early detections samples from 143 different waters
- Monthly veliger sampling of Devils Lake and Sakakawea
- Confirmed zebra mussel population at Lake LaMoure and veligers at Dakota Lake
- Documented flowering rush at Carpenter lake
- Collected monthly veliger samples on the Red River, Lake LaMoure, Ashtabula, and Sheyenne River
- Did not document or capture an Asian carp in 2020

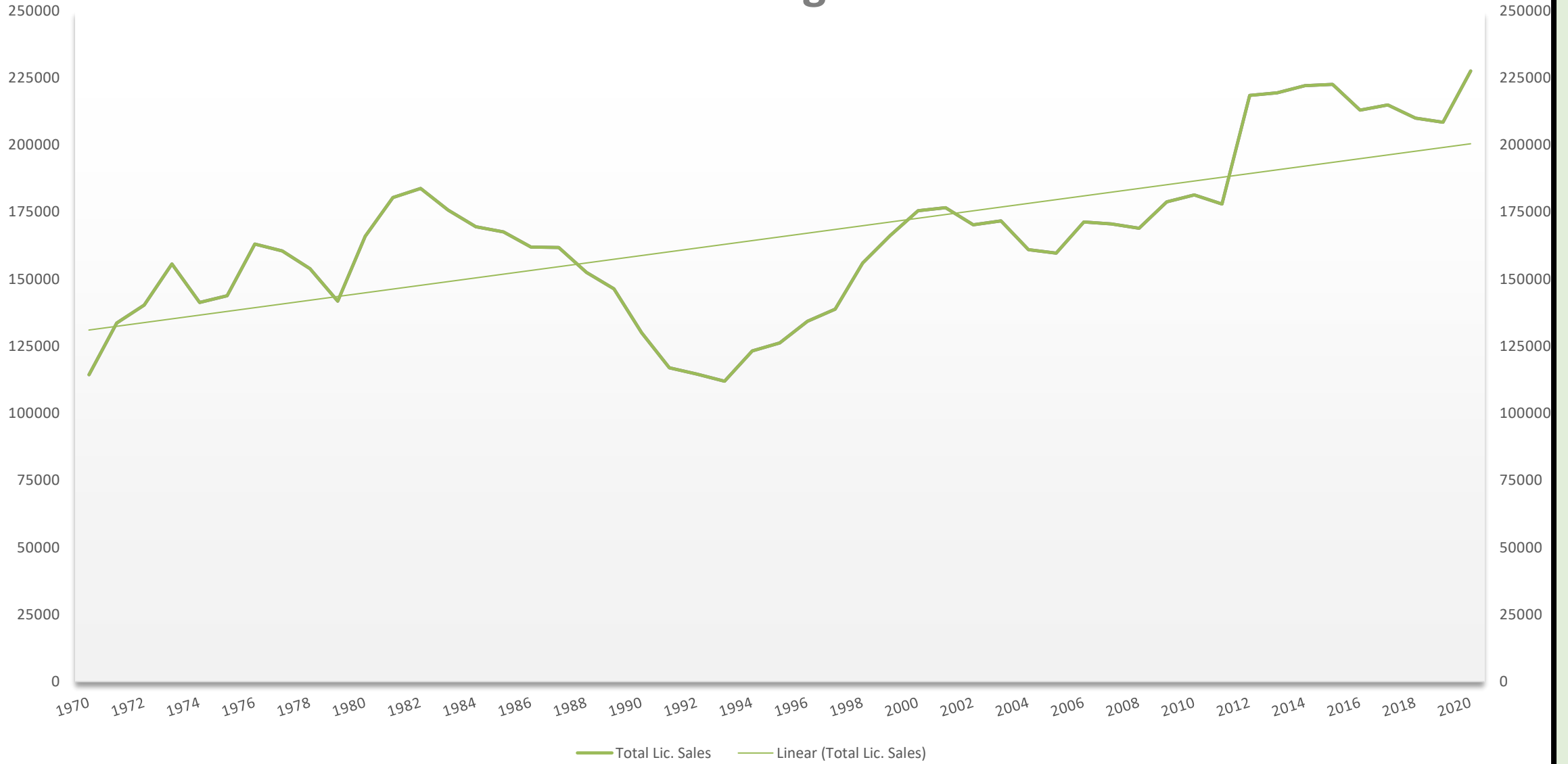
North Dakota Sportfishing Congress

April 17, 2021



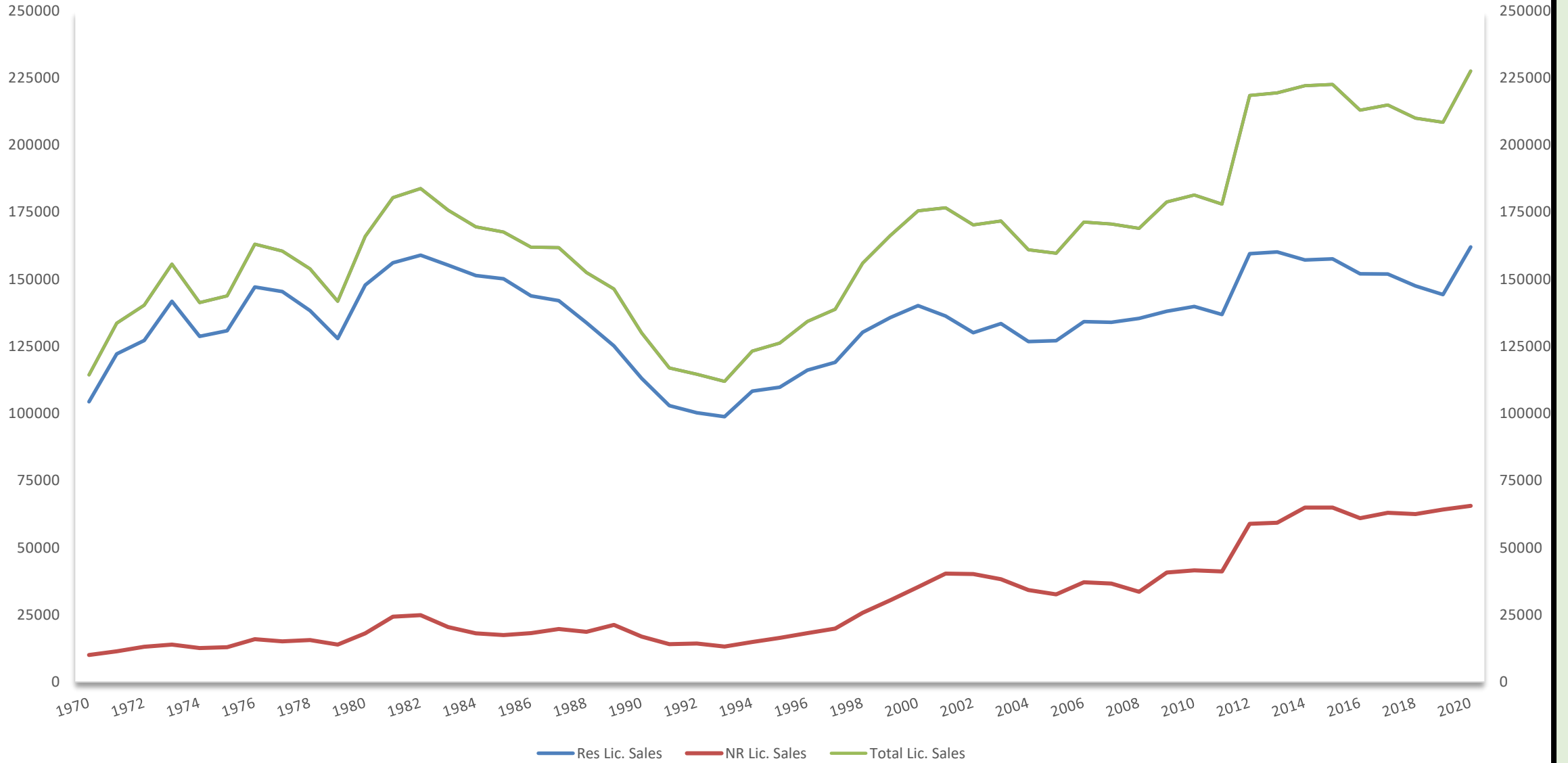
FISHING LICENSE SALES

North Dakota Fishing License Trends



FISHING LICENSE SALES

North Dakota Fishing License Trends



Shout Out!!!



Fisheries Division Celebrates Area Landowners

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department honored several Emmons County area landowners in April for their cooperation in providing boating and fishing access to Rice Lake and construction of a carp barrier to keep the undesirable species from getting into the popular Emmons County fishery.

While this annual certificate of appreciation is typically given to an entity, park board or club, this year it was given to these individuals because their support demonstrates how local cooperation can positively influence area fishing lakes and recreation areas, said Bob Frohlich, Game and Fish Department fisheries development supervisor.

The cooperating landowners in the Rice Lake access project include Mark and Jean Hollaar; Todd Nieuwsma; Allen Nieuwsma; Gordon and Debra Van Boven; and Kenneth Nieuwsma. Cooperating in the carp barrier project were Dale Nieuwsma and Duane Nieuwsma.

“These efforts exemplify the long-standing cooperation with North Dakota landowners, providing valuable fishing opportunities for the public for years to come,” Frohlich said.

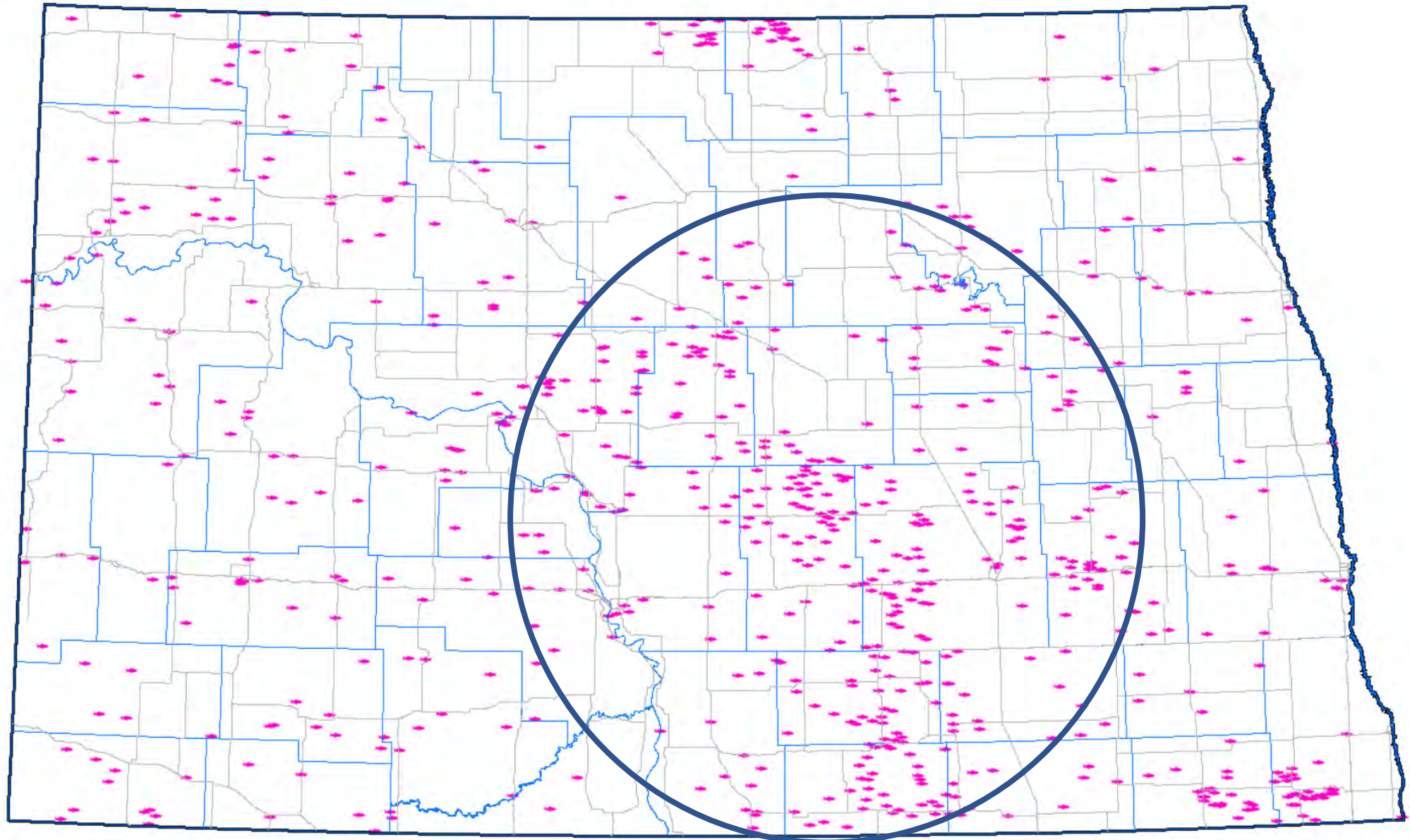


Crash Course on Aging Dams/Reservoirs And Respective Fisheries

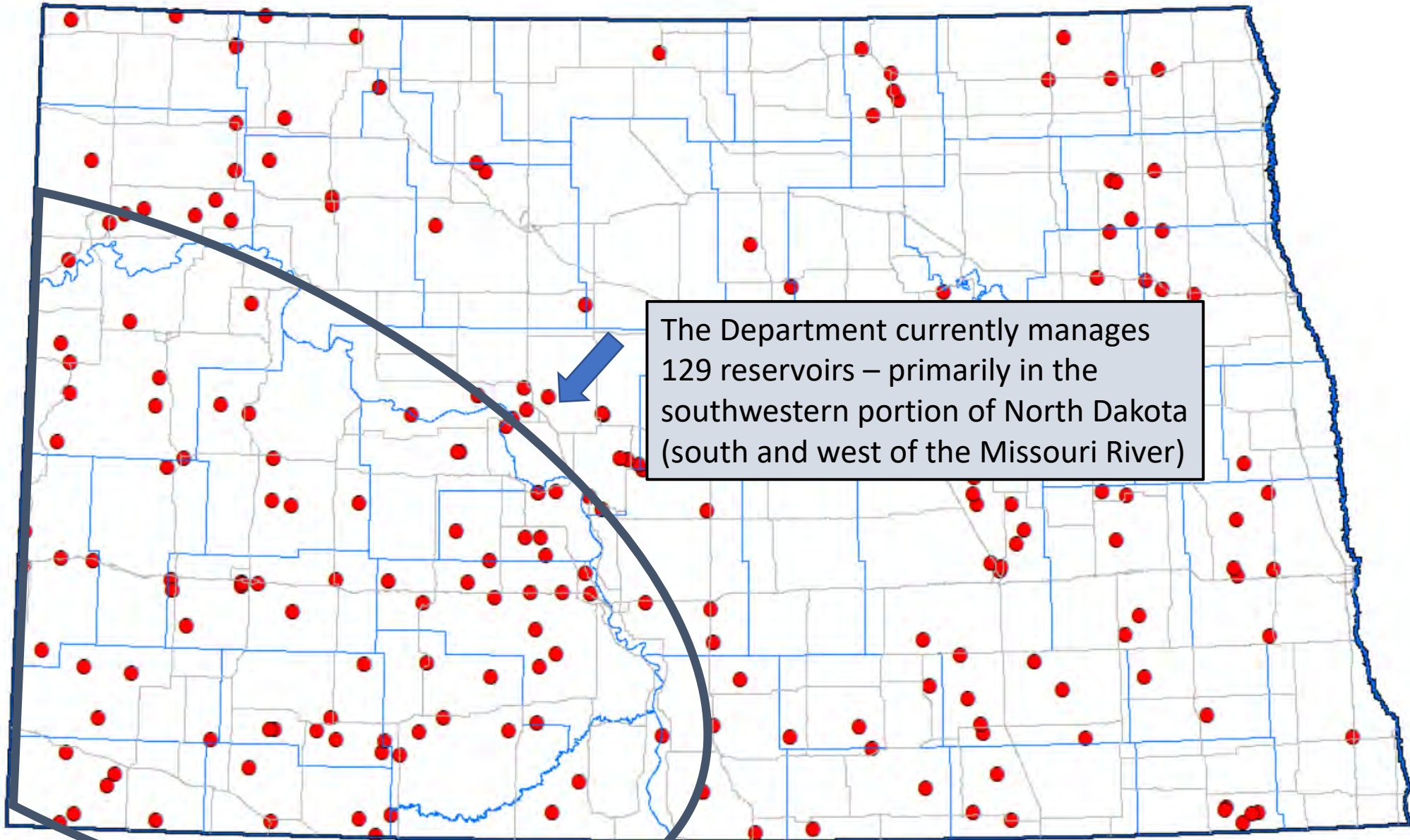


North Dakota Fishing Water Bodies

438 Waters; 820,000 acres (Jan. 2021)



North Dakota Fishing Reservoirs (Jan. 2021)



Restoration of recreation dams and reservoirs

Have our fishable dams and reservoirs reach an age for restoration?

What is eutrophication, hypereutrophic, oligotrophic, mesotrophic waters?





Keeping North Dakota's streams, rivers and lakes clean demands more than dockside diligence. Even if you don't live along the shores or banks, you may be contributing to the pollution of lakes and streams because they are larger than their shorelines. They're part of a system called a watershed.

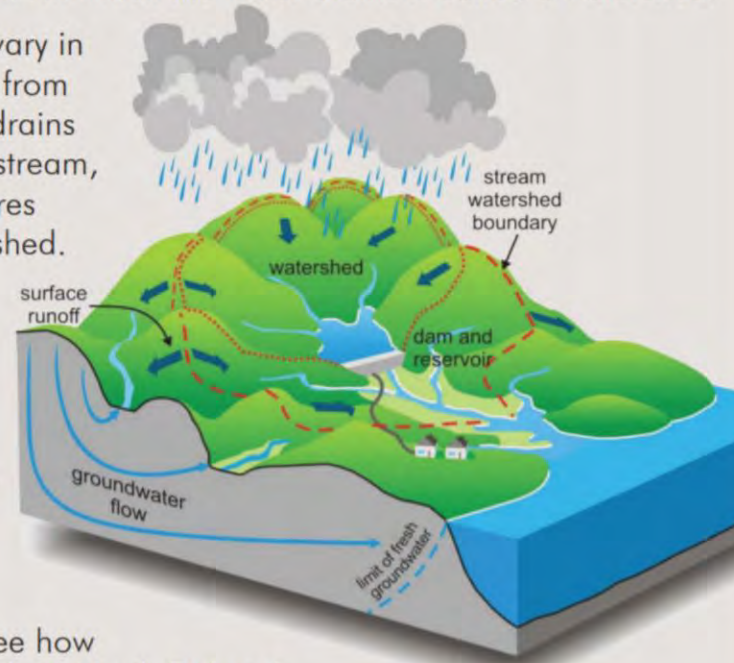
WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

Water from rainfall or snowmelt that doesn't evaporate or soak into the soil runs into ditches, streams, wetlands or lakes. The area of land from which the water drains is called a watershed.

Watersheds vary in size. If water from a few acres drains into a small stream, those few acres are its watershed.

This stream and others like it run into larger streams or lakes. Small watersheds make up larger ones.

It's easy to see how the watersheds of North Dakota's lakes can have land areas many times larger than their lake surfaces.



HOW DO YOU FIT INTO YOUR WATERSHED?



April 2019

Mott Watershed Dam

(46.3738 N, -102.3277 W)

Hettinger County

- Mott Watershed Dam is a small reservoir in southwest North Dakota (Figure 1). See map at (<https://qf.nd.gov/qnf/maps/fishing/lakecontours/MottWatershed2004.pdf>)
- There is one public boat ramp on the southeast side of Mott Watershed Dam.
- The Mott Watershed Dam watershed is about 1,900 acres of mostly grassland/pasture and agricultural land. The most common crops grown are spring wheat, durum wheat and canola (Table 1).
- Mott Watershed Dam is a Class III fishery, which are "capable of supporting natural reproduction and growth of warm water fishes (e.g., largemouth bass and bluegill) and associated aquatic biota."
- Mott Watershed Dam is managed for rainbow trout, with catchable fish stocked annually. Largemouth bass and bluegill were also found during the last sample by the ND Game and Fish.
- Mott Watershed Dam was previously assessed in 2003-2004.

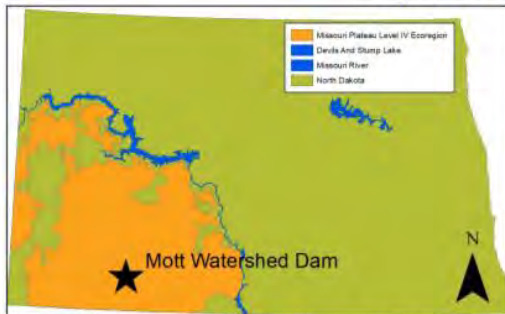


Figure 1. Location of Mott Watershed Dam within the state

Table 1. Percentage of land cover in the watershed and near the lake (NASS, 2013). Value listed of crop type represents percentage of total production.

Land Cover Type	% in Watershed	% within 500 meters
Agriculture	70.3%	59.2%
Spring Wheat	56.0%	91.2%
Durum Wheat	16.0%	0.6%
Canola	13.2%	0.8%
Grassland/Pasture	22.5%	21.6%
Developed	6.0%	19.1%
Open Water	1.2%	< 0.1%
Wetlands	< 0.1%	NA

Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen

- Mott Watershed Dam commonly stratifies in the summer, with warm, well-oxygenated water at the top of the water column, and cold, low-oxygen water near the bottom.
- There was thermal stratification recorded in May and July 2014. Temperature change in the water column was 3.04 degrees Celsius (°C), 5.74°C and 0.00°C in May, July and October, respectively.
- All samples showed most of the lake as well-oxygenated, except during thermal stratification.

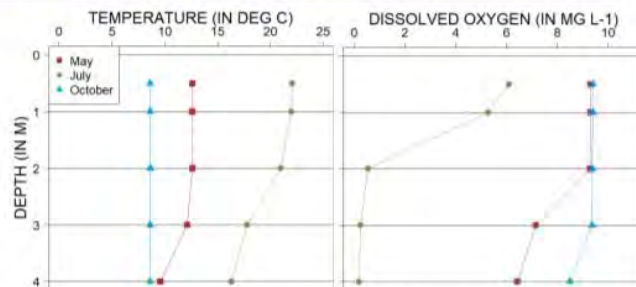


Figure 2. 2014 profiles of temperature (left) and dissolved oxygen (right) in milligrams per liter (mg L⁻¹)

Trophic State Indices

- Trophic state is a measure used by scientists to assess the condition (where lower scores indicate better water quality) of a lake using three common measures: total phosphorus (TP), Secchi transparency and chlorophyll-a concentration.
- Mott Watershed Dam is a eutrophic lake (TP = 3) that has high nutrient concentrations and moderate algal growth.
- Current trophic state has declined compared to historical indices.
- There have been no confirmed **harmful** algal (cyanobacteria) blooms at Mott Watershed Dam.

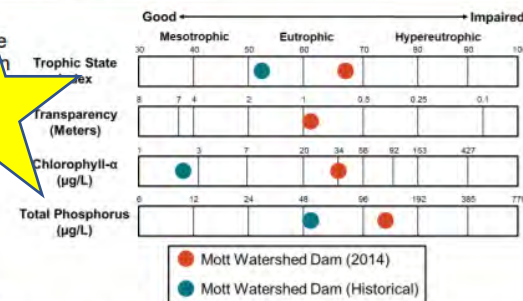


Figure 3. Trophic state indices for 2014 and historical samples

Nutrients

- Median concentration of total nitrogen (TN) in 2014 was less than the historical median but greater than the median for the Missouri Plateau Level IV Ecoregion (hereafter, Missouri Plateau) where Mott Watershed Dam is located (Figure 4).
- Median concentration of dissolved TN was slightly less than TN.
- Median TP concentration in 2014 was greater than the historical median and greater than the median for the Missouri Plateau (Figure 4).
- Median concentration of dissolved phosphorus was slightly less than TP.
- Ammonia and nitrate plus nitrite were each detected twice in 2014 at Mott Watershed Dam.

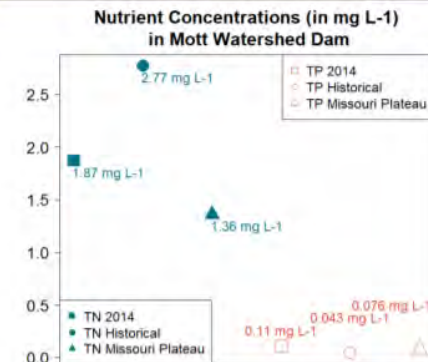


Figure 4. Median concentrations of TN and TP in mg L⁻¹ compared to regional medians

Water Chemistry

Table 2. Median concentrations of selected constituents for 2014 and historical samples and from all Missouri Plateau reservoirs.

Measure	2014 Median	Historical Median	Ecoregion Median
Alkalinity	247 mg L ⁻¹	443 mg L ⁻¹	280 mg L ⁻¹
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃ ⁻)	255 mg L ⁻¹	426 mg L ⁻¹	291 mg L ⁻¹
Calcium (Ca ²⁺)	49.0 mg L ⁻¹	42.6 mg L ⁻¹	49.3 mg L ⁻¹
Carbonate (CO ₃ ²⁻)	2 mg L ⁻¹	59 mg L ⁻¹	19 mg L ⁻¹
Conductivity	1,140 µS cm ⁻¹	1,910 µS cm ⁻¹	1,790 µS cm ⁻¹
Dissolved Solids	762 mg L ⁻¹	1,365 mg L ⁻¹	1,270 mg L ⁻¹
Magnesium (Mg ²⁺)	52.9 mg L ⁻¹	90.2 mg L ⁻¹	62.3 mg L ⁻¹
Sodium (Na ⁺)	117 mg L ⁻¹	271 mg L ⁻¹	258 mg L ⁻¹
Sulfate (SO ₄ ²⁻)	360 mg L ⁻¹	667 mg L ⁻¹	681 mg L ⁻¹

- Bicarbonate and sulfate are co-dominant anions in Mott Watershed Dam, while sodium and magnesium are co-dominant cations (Figure 5).
- Median concentrations of most cations and anions are less than the historical median for the lake and less than the median for the Missouri Plateau.

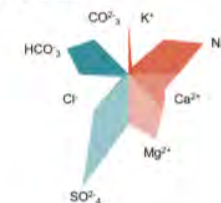


Figure 5. Maucha diagram showing ionic balance based on 2014 data

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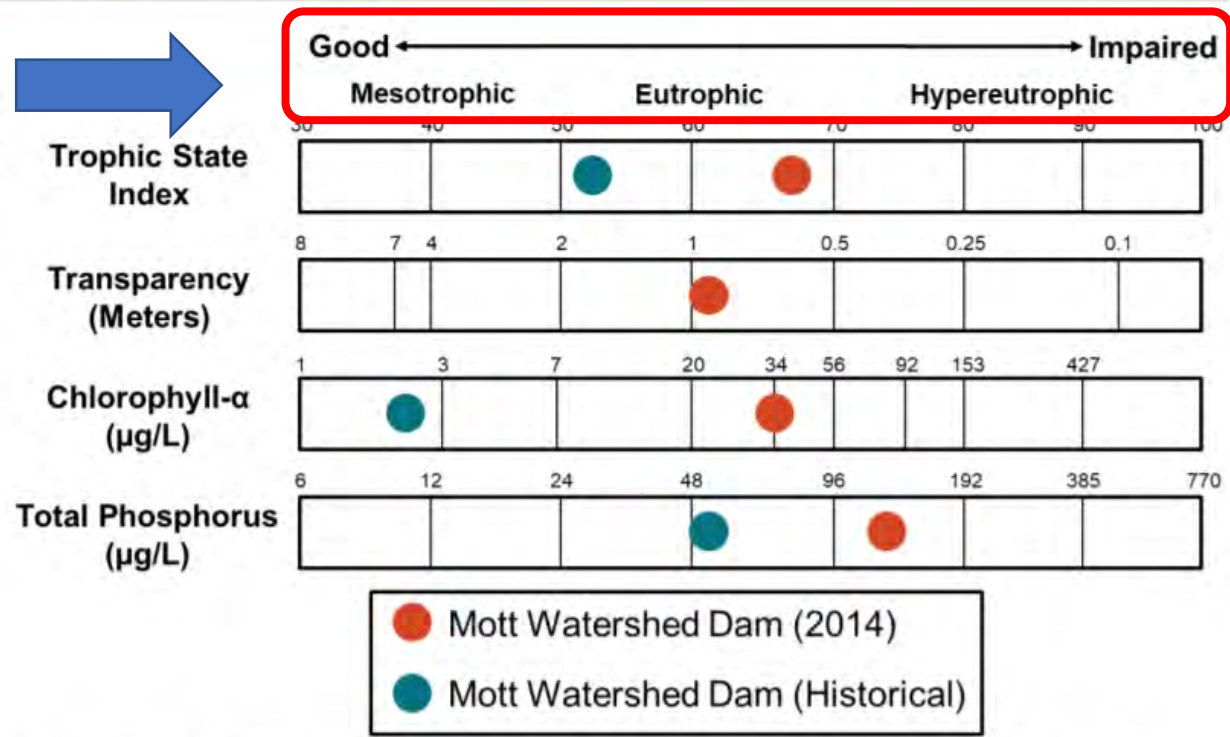
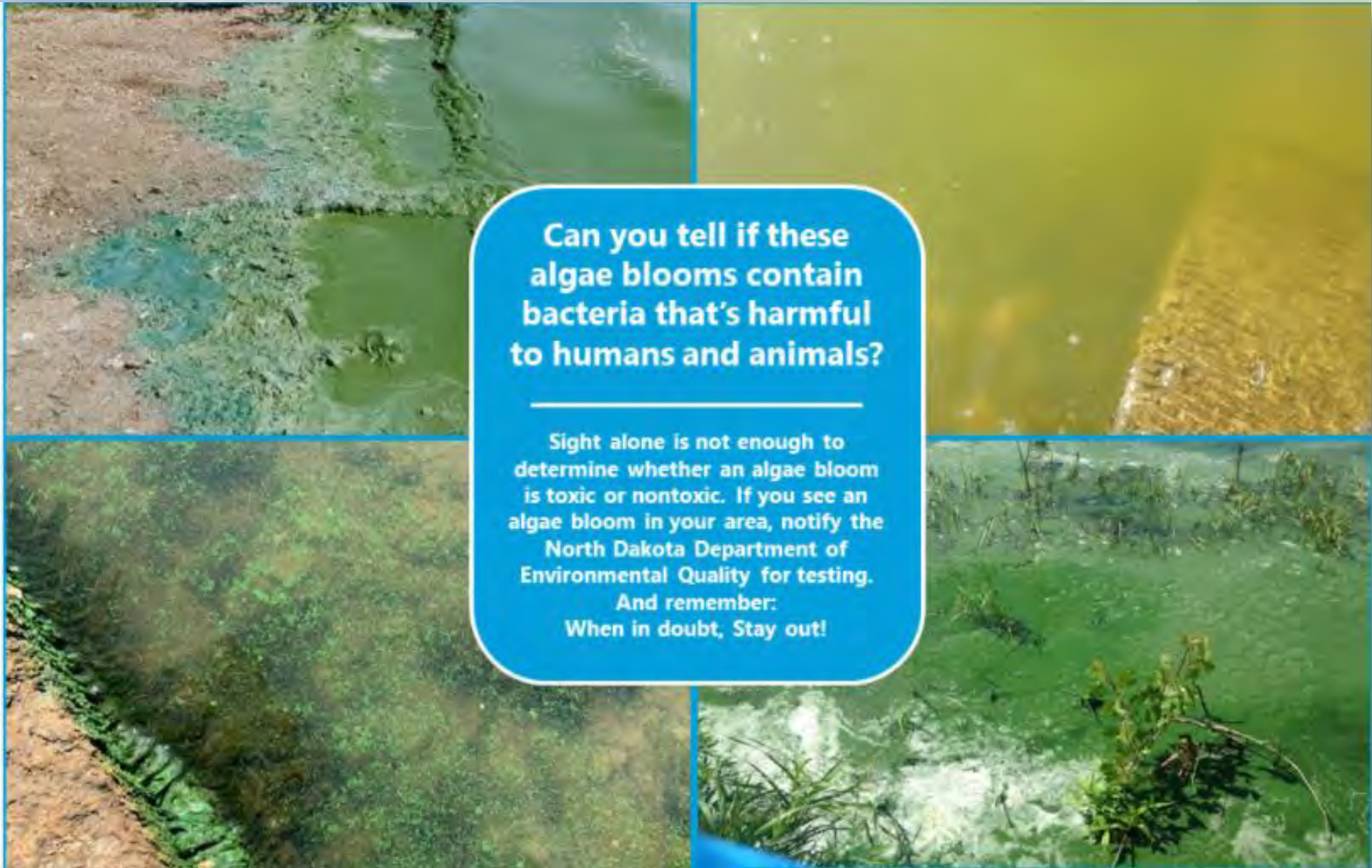


Figure 3. Trophic state indices for 2014 and historical samples





**Can you tell if these
algae blooms contain
bacteria that's harmful
to humans and animals?**

Sight alone is not enough to determine whether an algae bloom is toxic or nontoxic. If you see an algae bloom in your area, notify the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality for testing.

And remember:
When in doubt, Stay out!

NORTH
Dakota

Game and Fish



Legendary.™

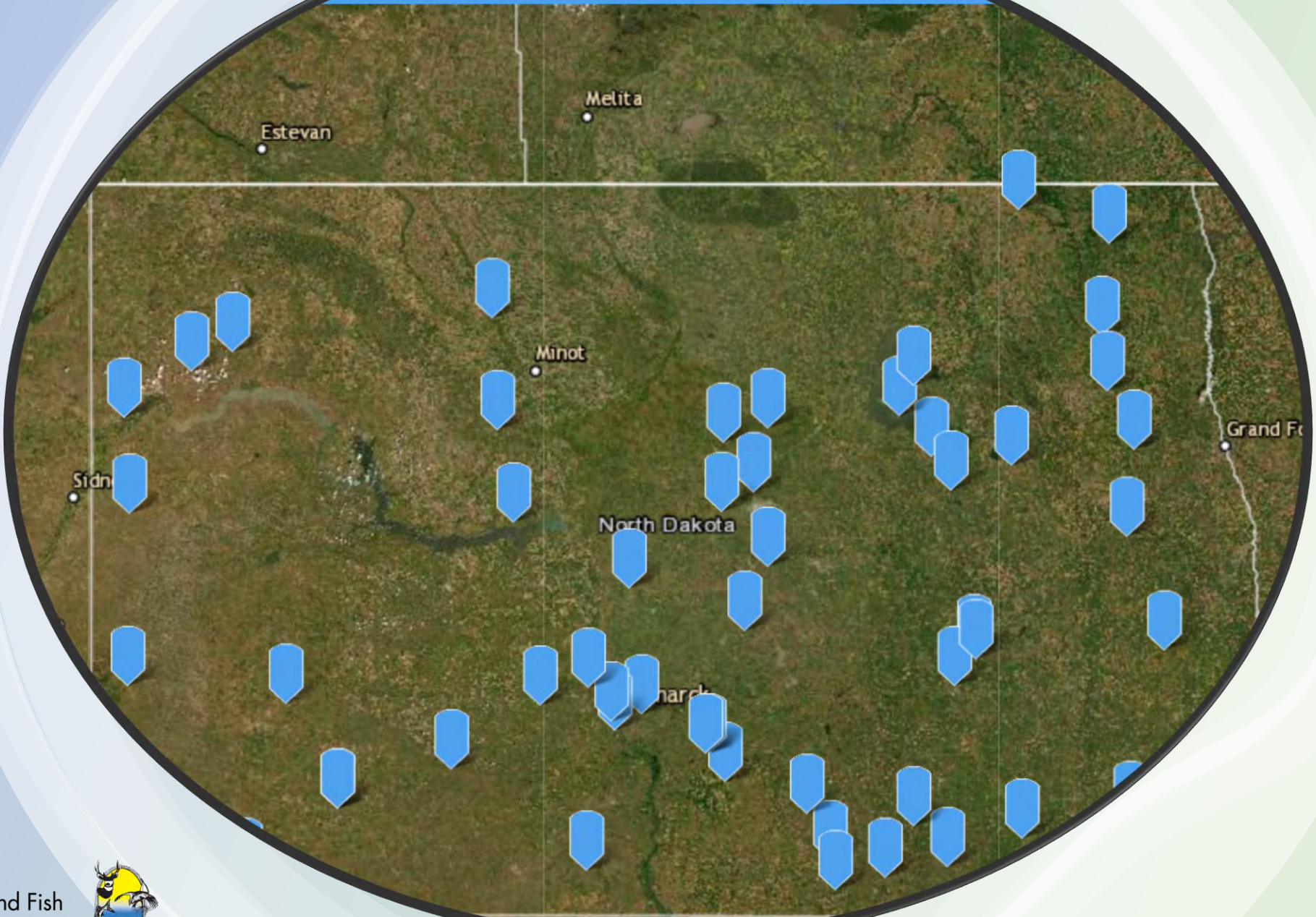
Environmental
Quality

Division of Water Quality

701-328-5210 • www.deq.nd.gov

Advisories

Current Warnings



Restoration of recreation dams and reservoirs.

Have our fishable dams and reservoirs reached an age for restoration?

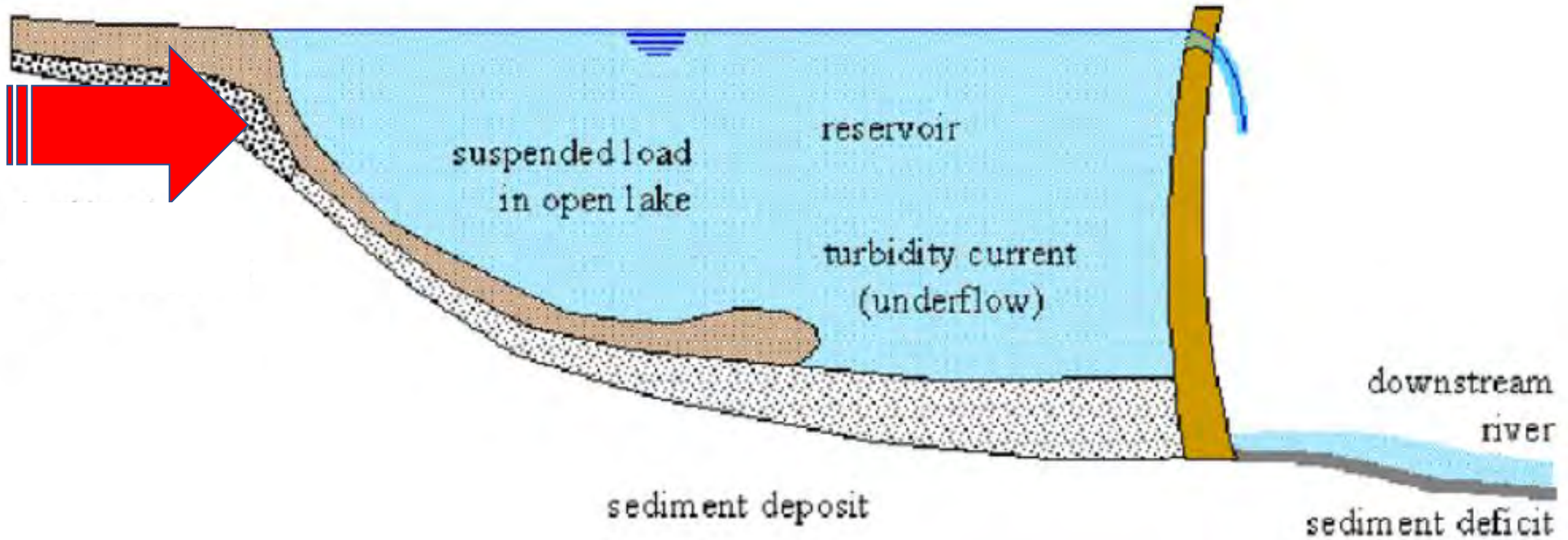
What is eutrophication, hypereutrophic, oligotrophic, mesotrophic waters?



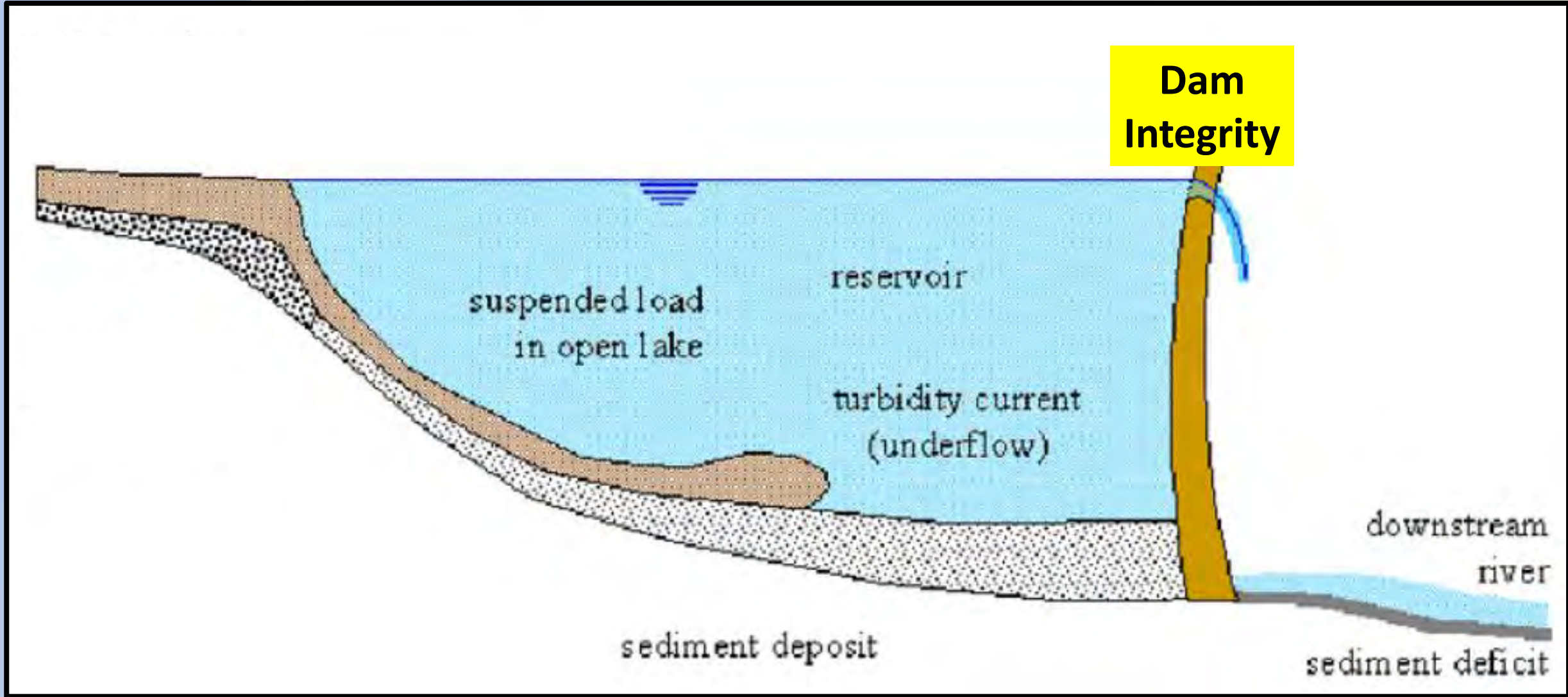
Aging of Dams/Reservoirs

**Watershed Nutrient Load
And Sediment Load**

**Dam
Integrity**



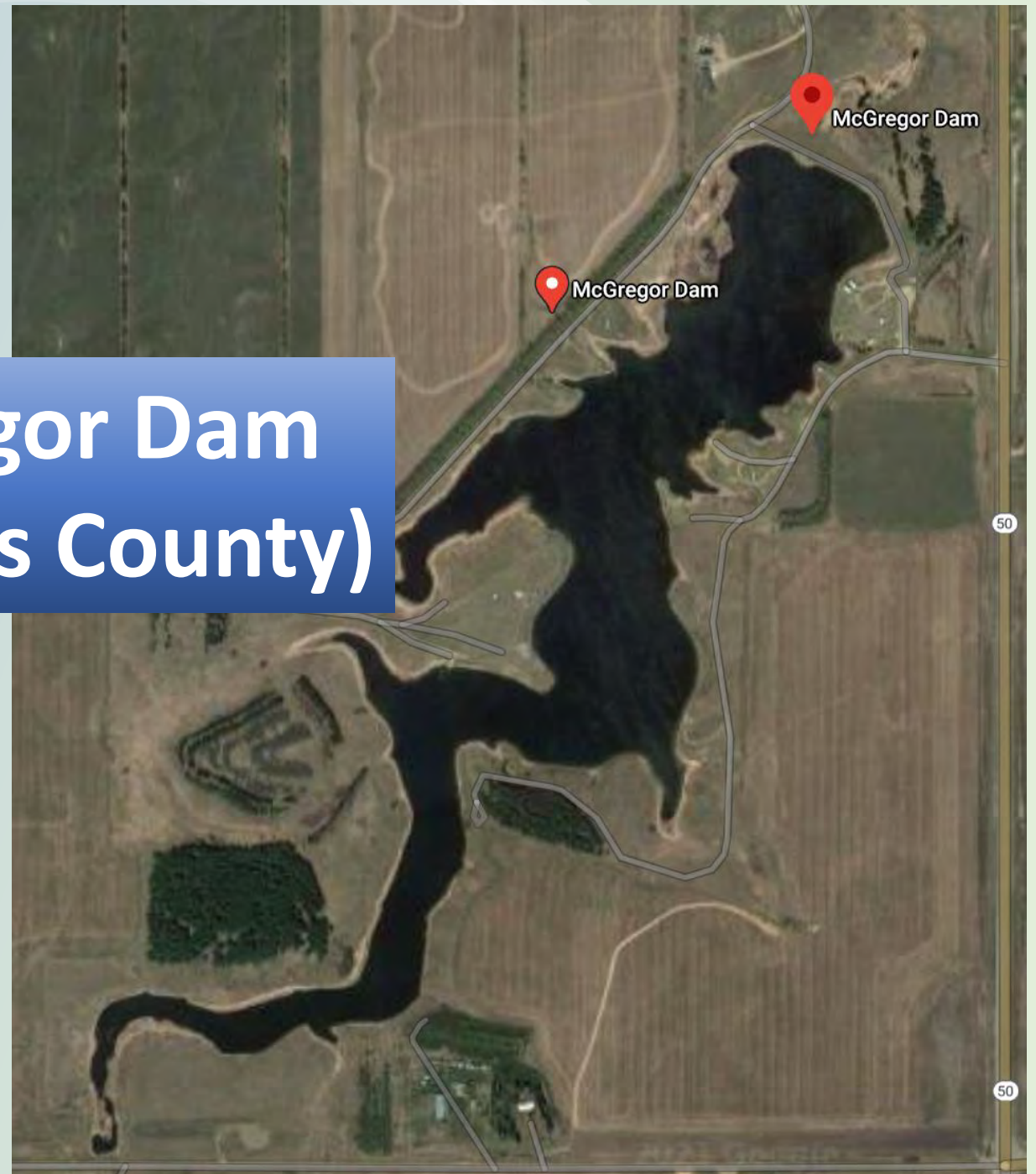
Aging of Dams/Reservoirs



Aging of Dams/Reservoirs

Dam Integrity

McGregor Dam
(Williams County)



Aging of Dams/Reservoirs

Dam Integrity

Investigation Report – McGregor Dam

Williams County, North Dakota



SWC Project #528
July 2018



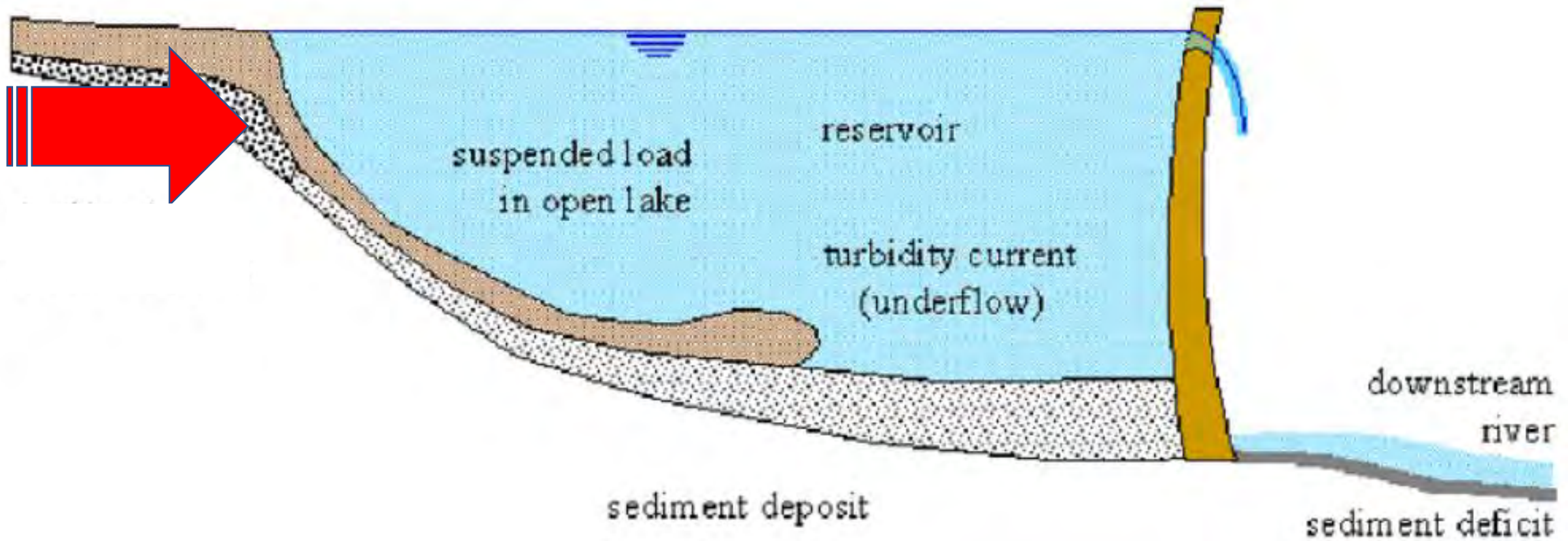
Table 5. Preliminary Probable Construction Cost Summary (Details are in Appendix C)

Alternative	Cost
A – Do nothing	\$ 0
B – Repair principal spillway and replace emergency spillway	\$ 866,000
C – Remove principal spillway and replace emergency spillway	\$ 1,102,000
D – Dam Decommissioning	\$ 569,000



Aging of Dams/Reservoirs

Watershed Nutrient Load



Trophic State Indices

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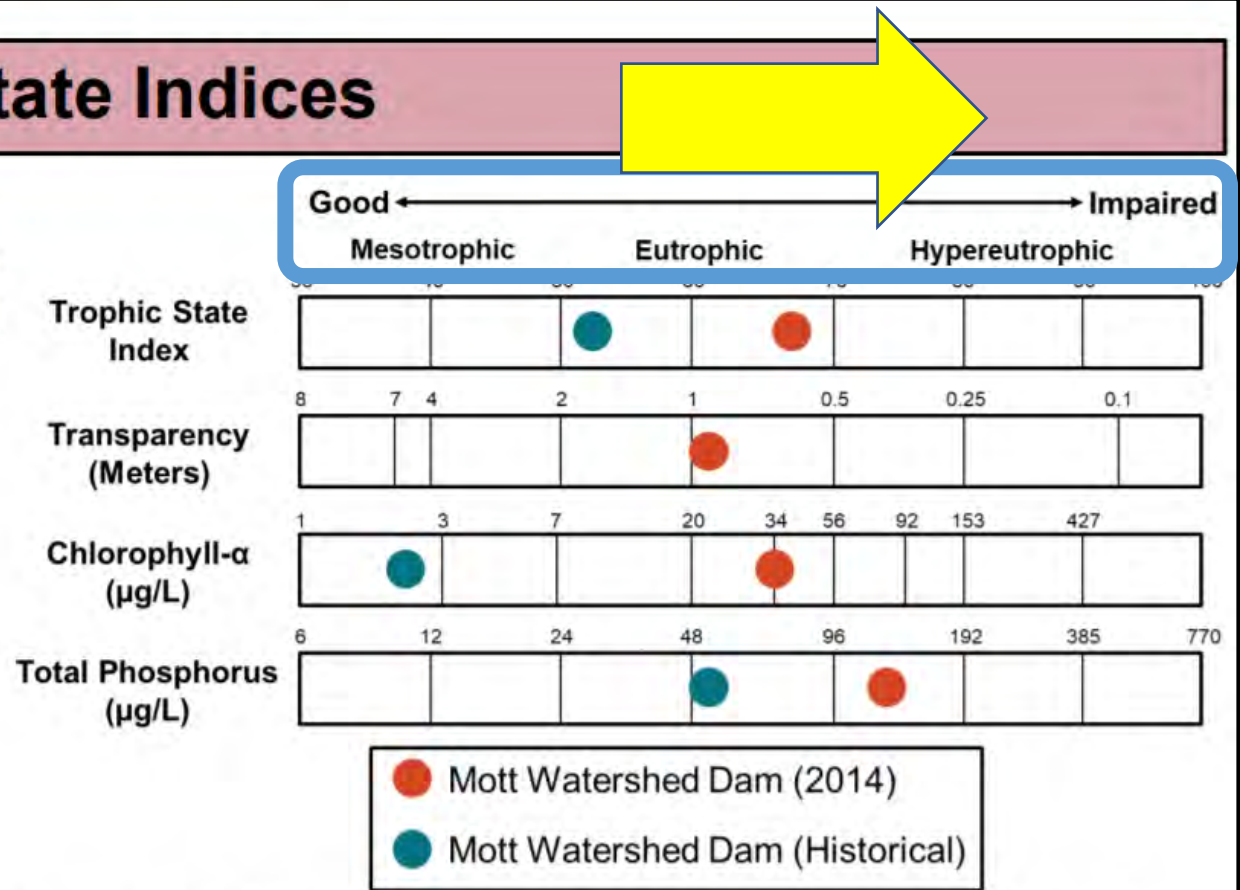
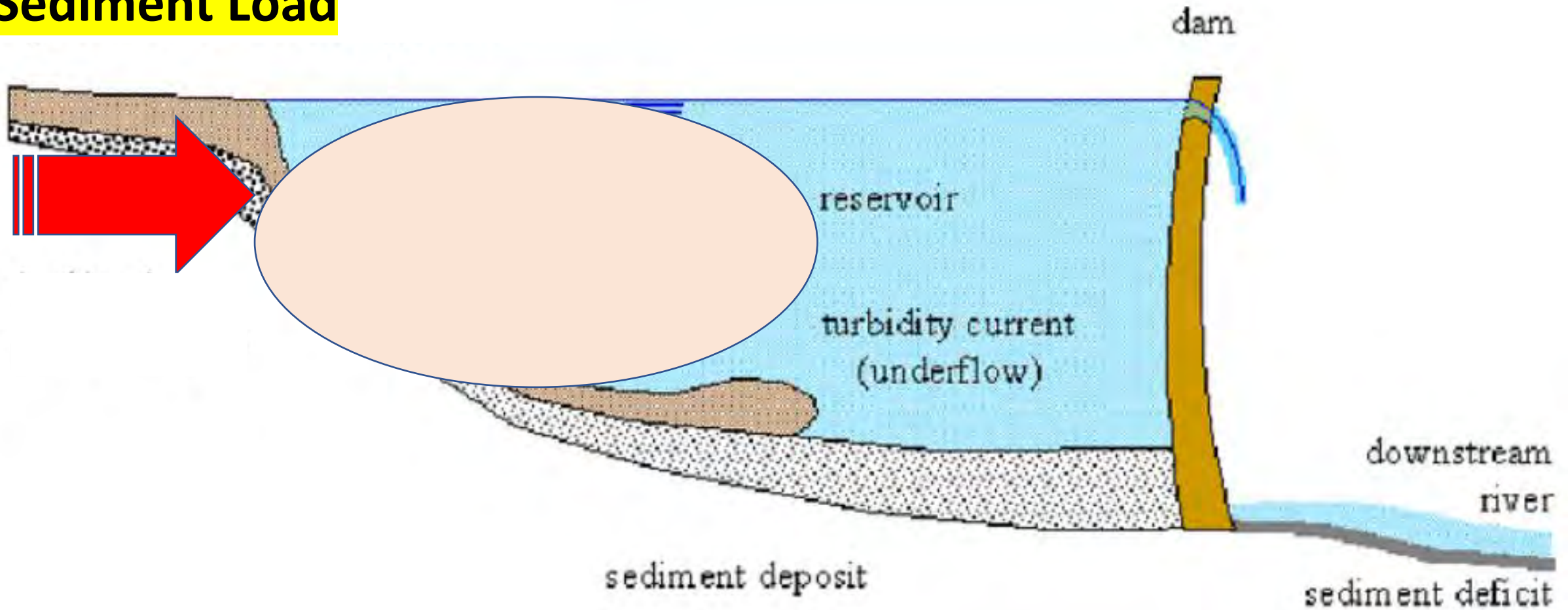


Figure 3. Trophic state indices for 2014 and historical samples



Aging of Dams/Reservoirs

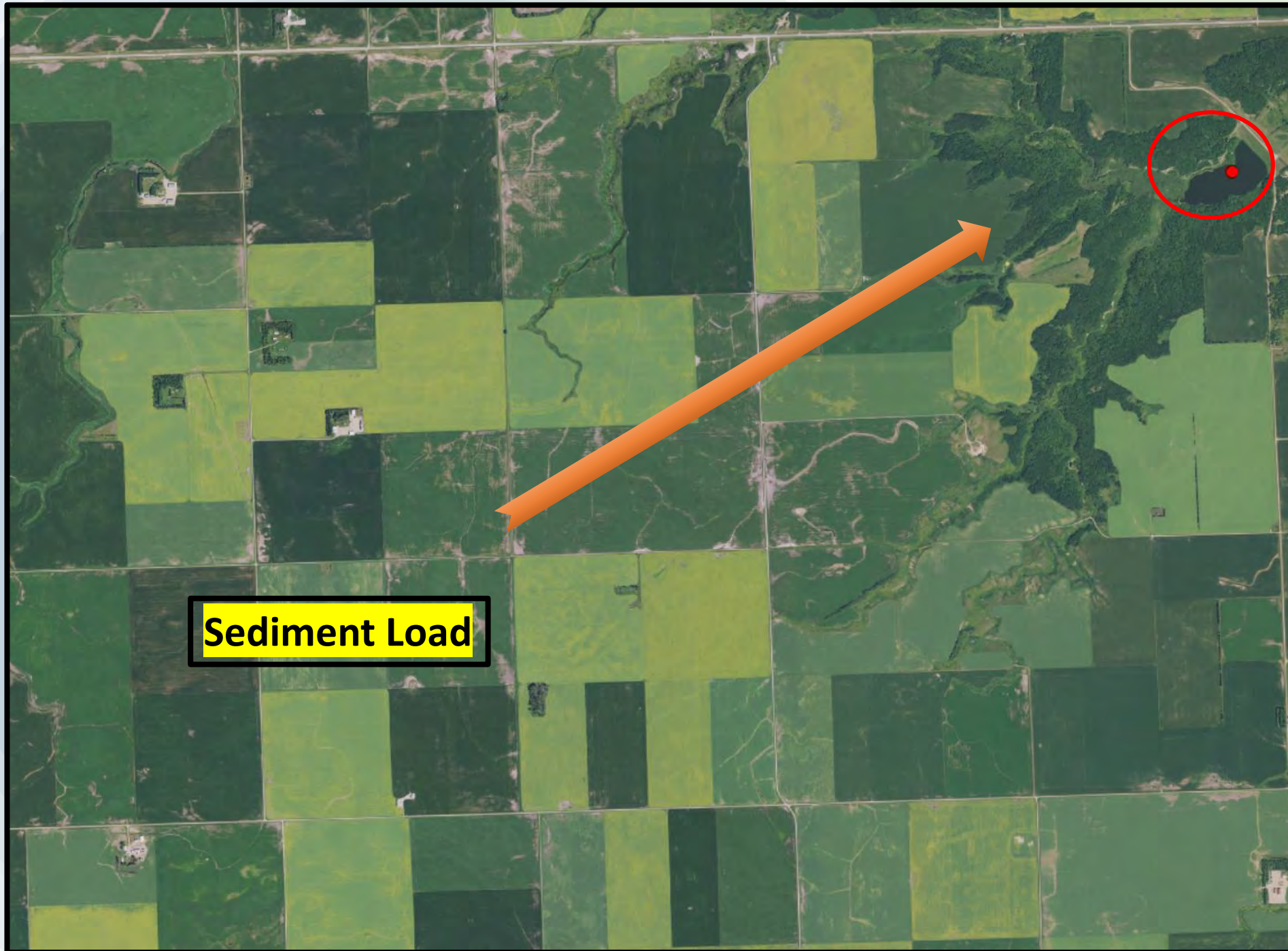
Sediment Load



Milton Young Dam (Cavalier County)

Built in the 1960s

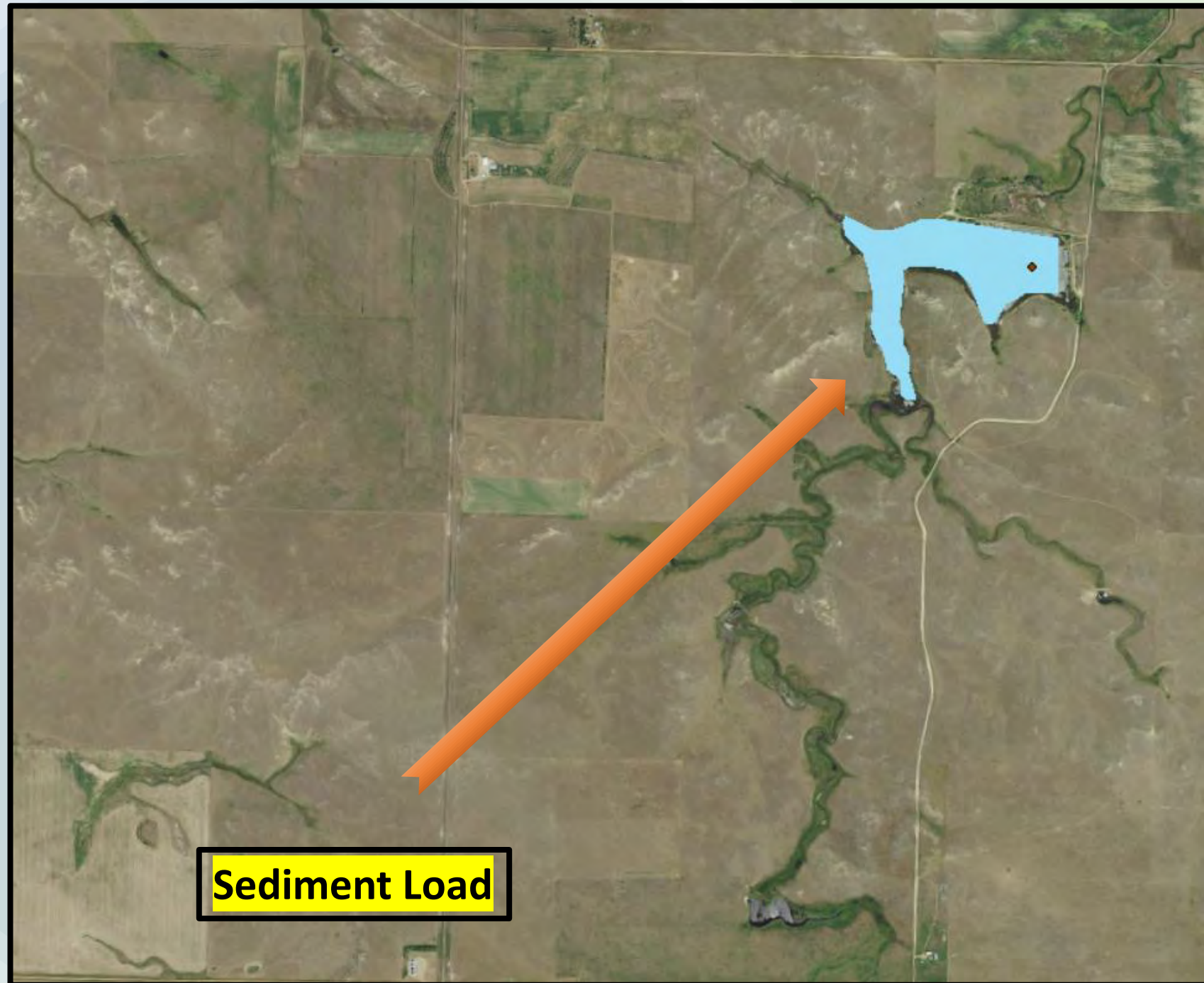
By the 1980s, we
discontinued
managing this water
due to sedimentation



North Lemmon Dam (Adams County)

Built in 1908

Oldest reservoir fishery
in the state and still
provides quality fishing
opportunities



Sediment Load



Restoration of recreation dams and reservoirs

Have our fishable dams and reservoirs reach an age for restoration?

- for many/most the answer is yes. However, the reality is due to a myriad of issues including costs little will likely get done other than some ongoing dam repair.



NORTH
Dakota | Game and Fish
Be Legendary.™



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Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery

Providing fish for North Dakota's anglers!

Presentation for the
North Dakota Sportfishing Congress
Annual Meeting
April 17, 2021 AMVETS Club, Bismarck, ND





2021 Stocking Requests

Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery

Species	2021 Request	2020 Production	2019 Production
Walleye	9,598,000	10,473,020	11,247,600
Advanced Walleye 3+	196,000	278,140	264,650
Northern Pike	718,000	1,660,300	649,300
Shovelnose Sturgeon	0	4,964	3,630
Chinook Salmon	400,000	424,950	551,000
Rainbow Trout	69,800	71,500	74,240
Brown Trout	18,500	11,600	24,500
Largemouth Bass	232,000	7,200	5,700
Muskellunge & MUH	3,000	11,300	6,600
TOTAL			

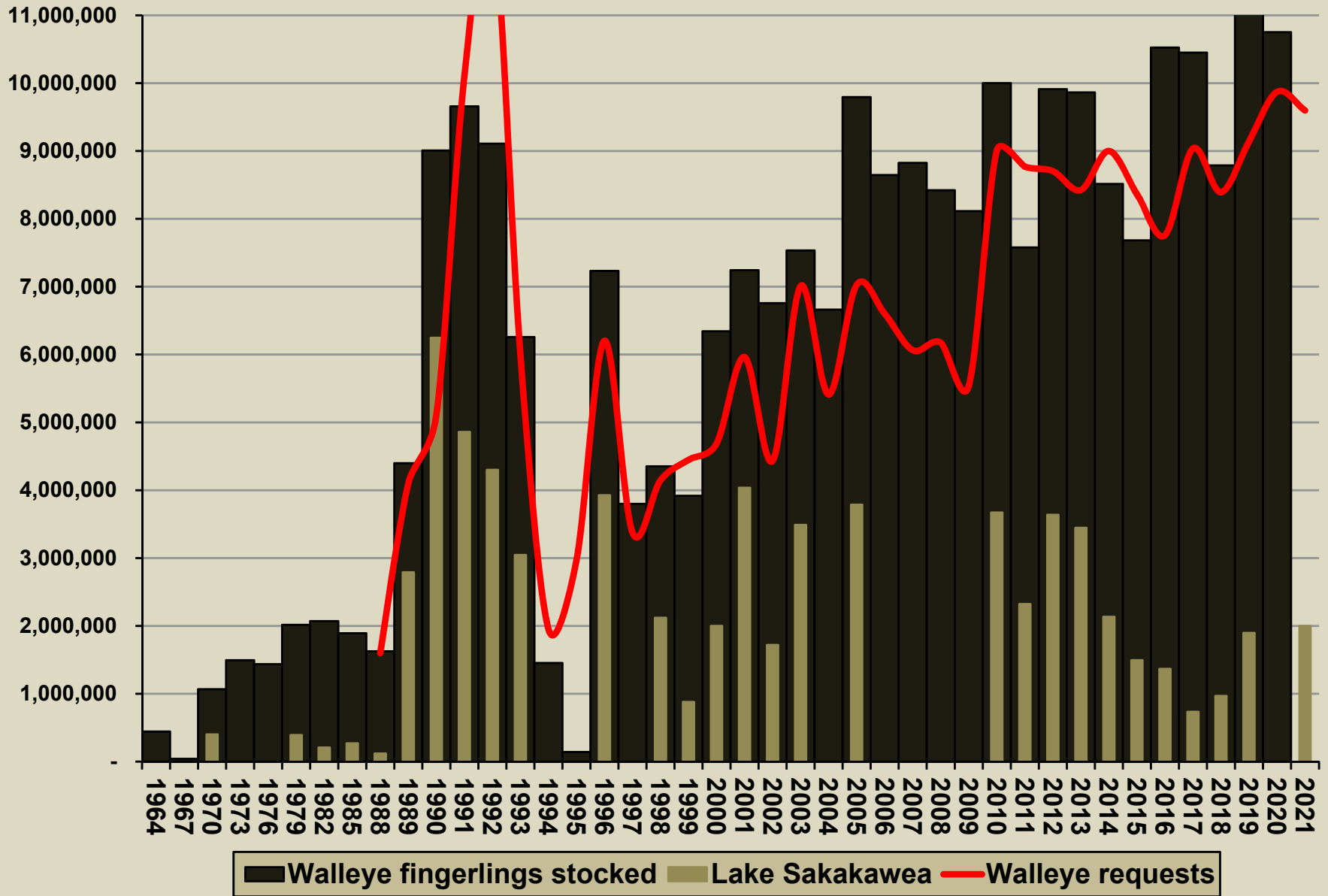


2021 Stocking Requests

Valley City National Fish Hatchery

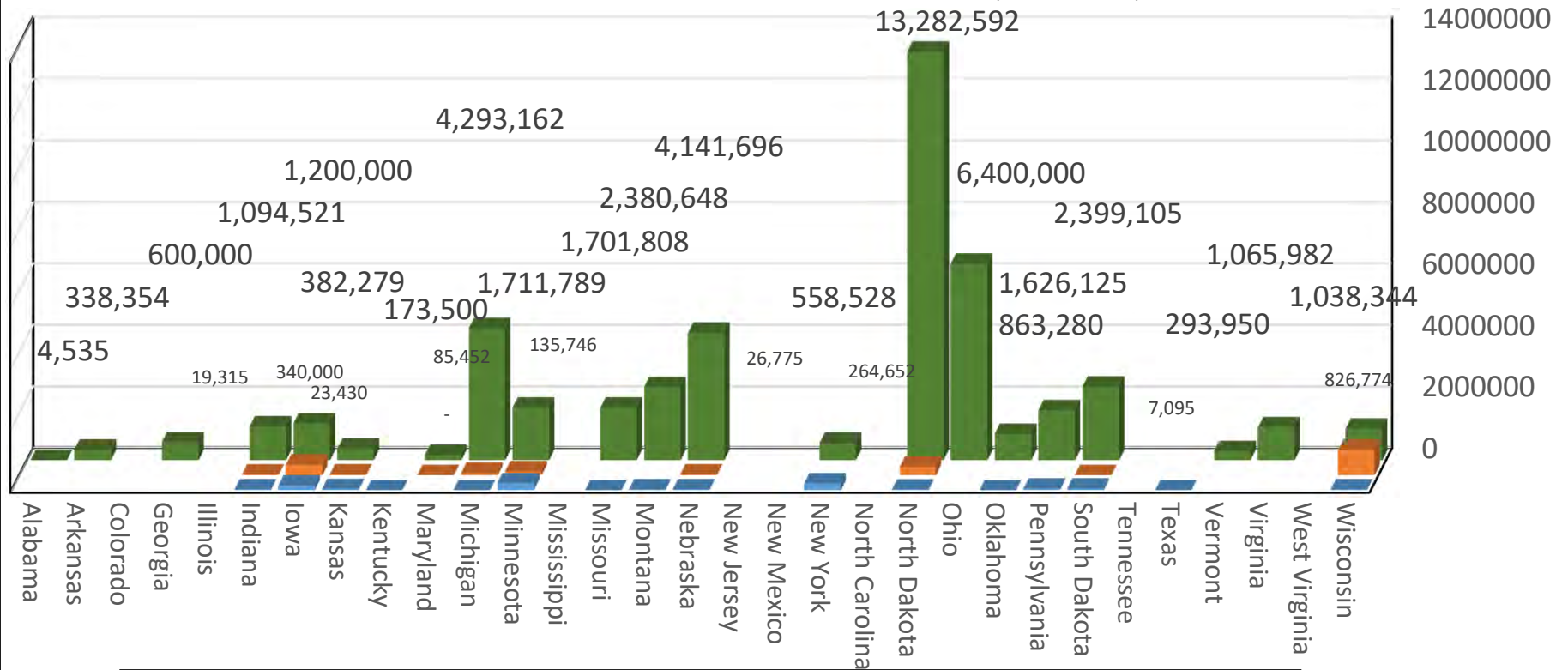
Species	2021 Request	2020 Production	2019 Production	2018 Production
Northern Pike	737,000	755,030	803,600	467,800
Black Crappie	0	0	0	0
Largemouth Bass	0	8,760	22,240	42,000
Walleye	1,812,000	2,931,870	2,035,000	1,674,900
Lake Sturgeon	8,000	0	9,000	4,940

Garrison Dam NFH Walleye Stockings and Requests



Walleye Stockings by State

State and Federal fish hatcheries included (2017-2019)



- Walleye fry (000)
- Advanced Walleye fingerlings
- Walleye fingerlings

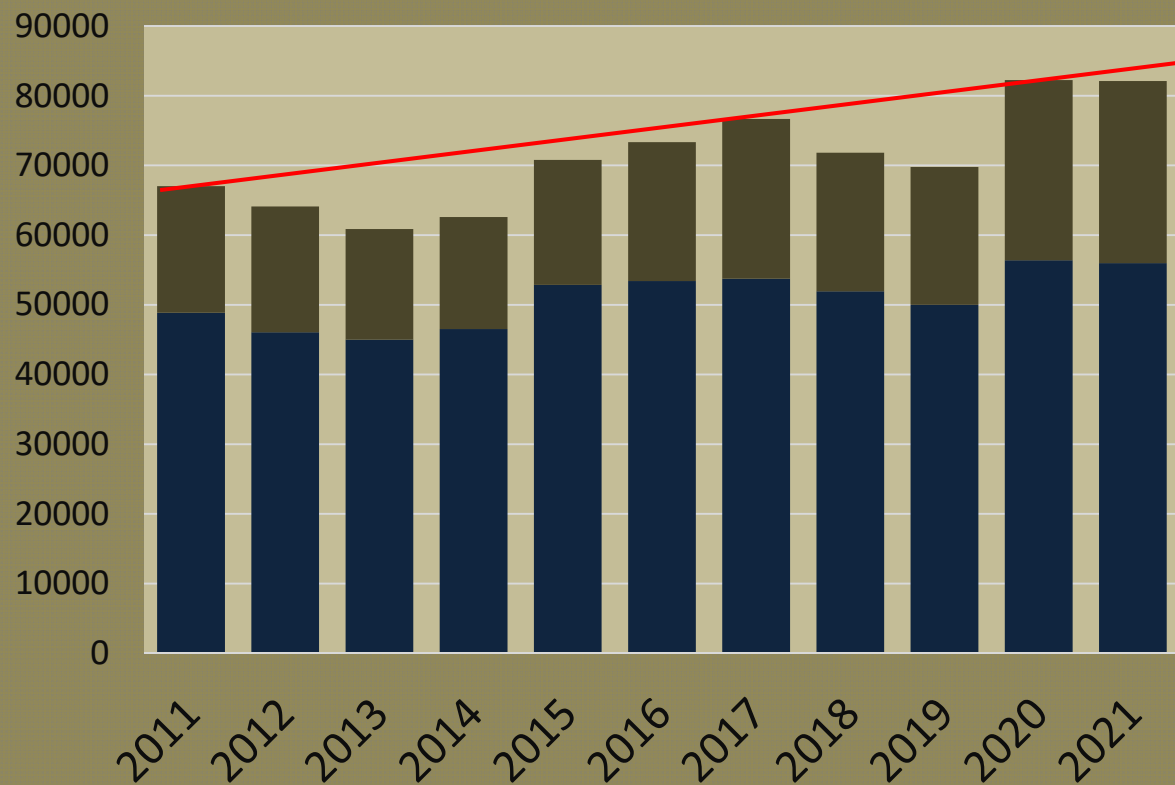
Federal Budget

Hatchery funding is tracking the 2.5% inflation rate pretty close.

FWS Hatchery Budgets

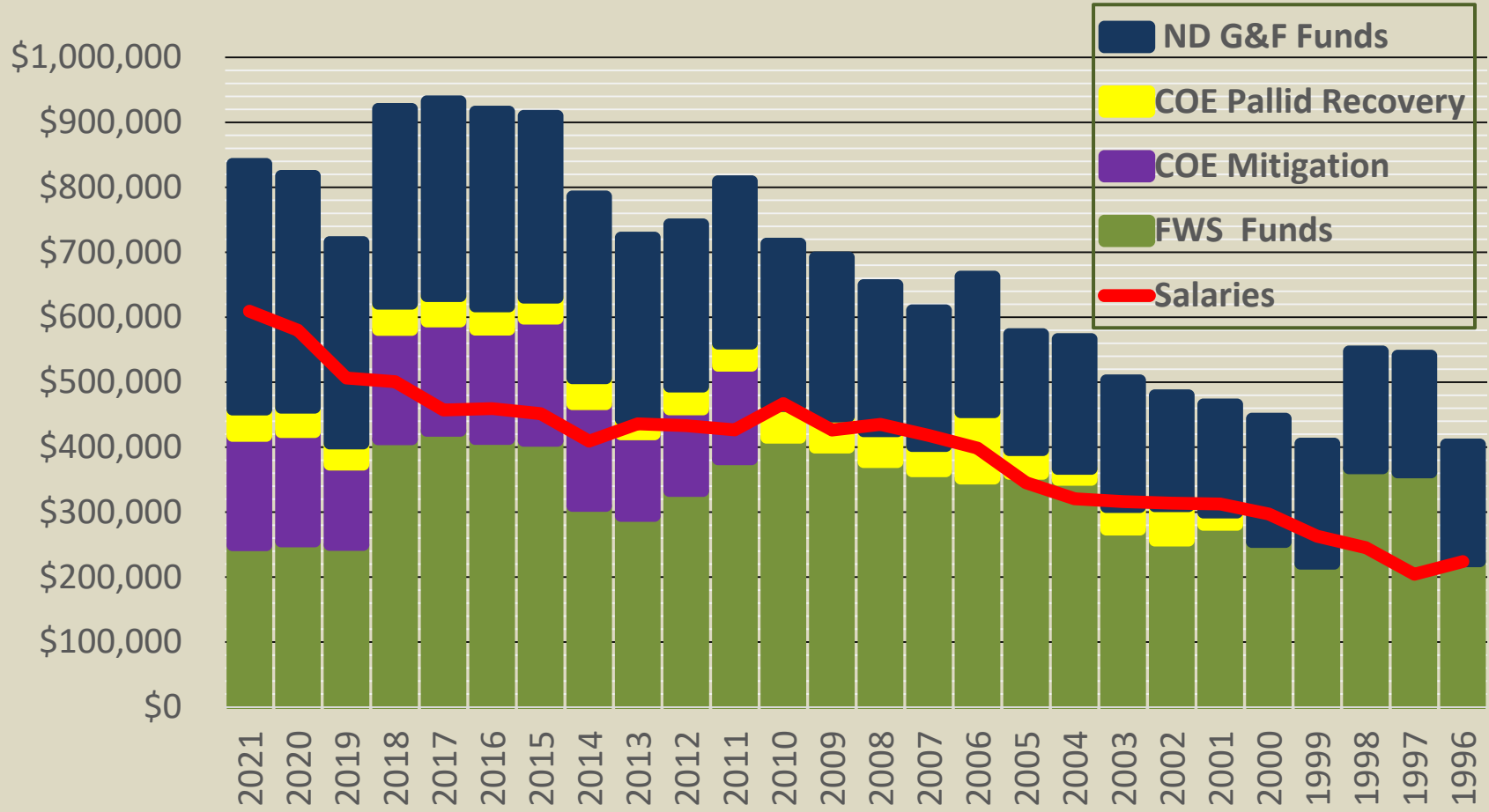
(000)

- Hatchery Maintenance
- Hatchery Operations



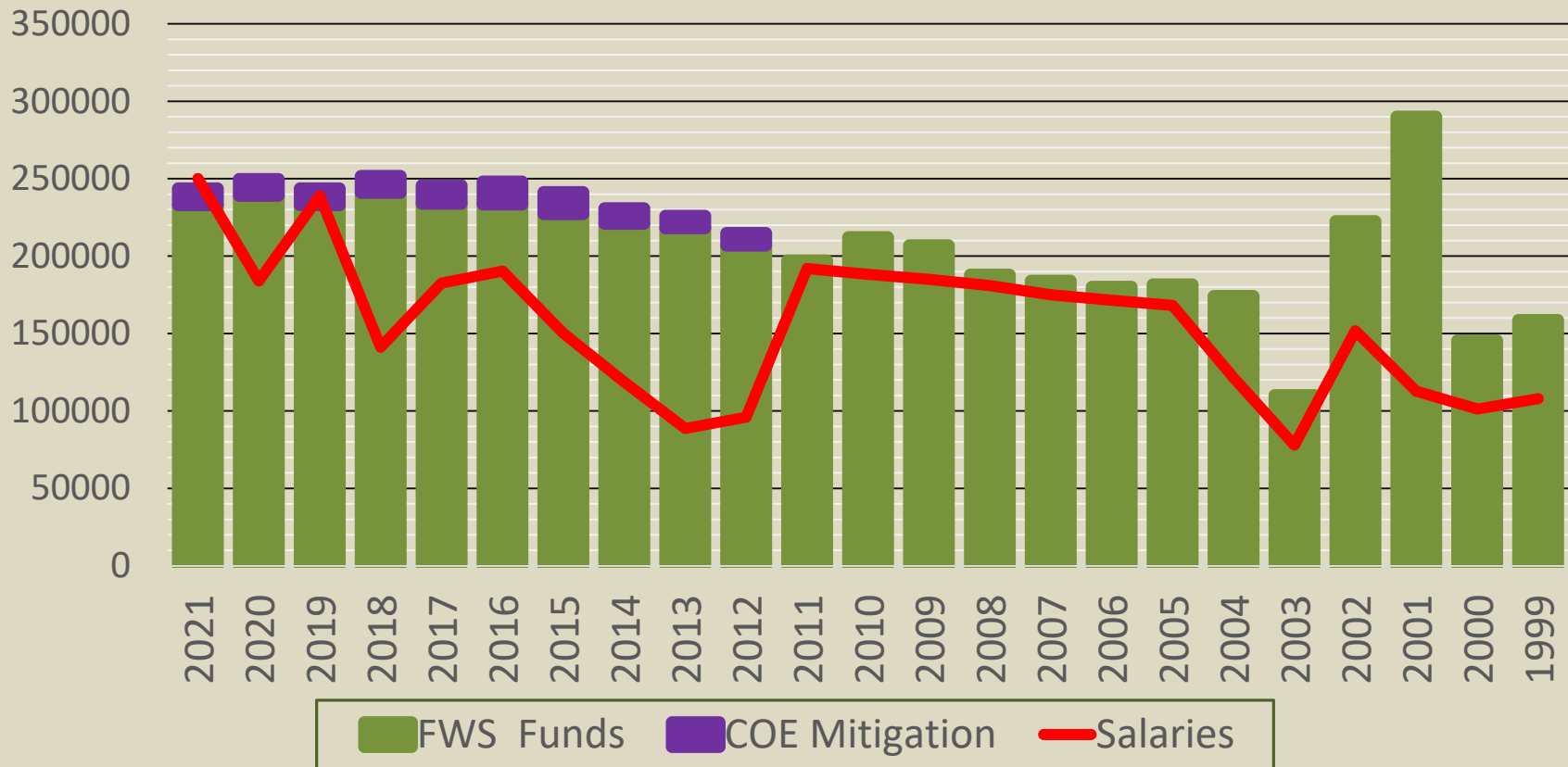


Garrison Dam NFH Funding





Valley City NFH Funding



The Forever Challenge

Hatchery Closures and Funding

The National Fish Hatchery System has struggled with funding since the 1980's.

Unlike the state fish hatcheries, National Fish Hatcheries are not supported by user fees – fishing license and tackle sales and the DJ funding mechanism.

Funding comes from annual appropriations from Congress. Consequently, when we have a Congress or an administration that has favorable views of fish hatcheries, we get funded. When budgets are tight or are not seen in a favorable light, funding is cut or hatchery closures occur.

Politics Impacts Hatchery Production

When budgets are tight our priorities shift from recreational fishing to our only legal mandate – endangered species recovery. We are *authorized* to raise fish for fishing but not *mandated*.

Remember – it is the administration that appoints the head of the Fish and Wildlife Service and that individual directs the policy for the hatchery. Not all directors have a positive view of the hatchery nor feel that producing fish for fishing is a federal responsibility.



Congress is responsible to their constituents – YOU. If you don't like how things are going it is up to you to make your views known.

Proposed Bills

(that never passed)

Fish Hatchery Protection Act (H.R.5026)

A bill introduced by Paul Gosar (R-AZ) to prohibit closing or repurposing any fish hatchery or propagation program of the Department of the Interior unless such action is expressly authorized by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes. (2014)

Bill endorsed by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the American Sportfishing Association.

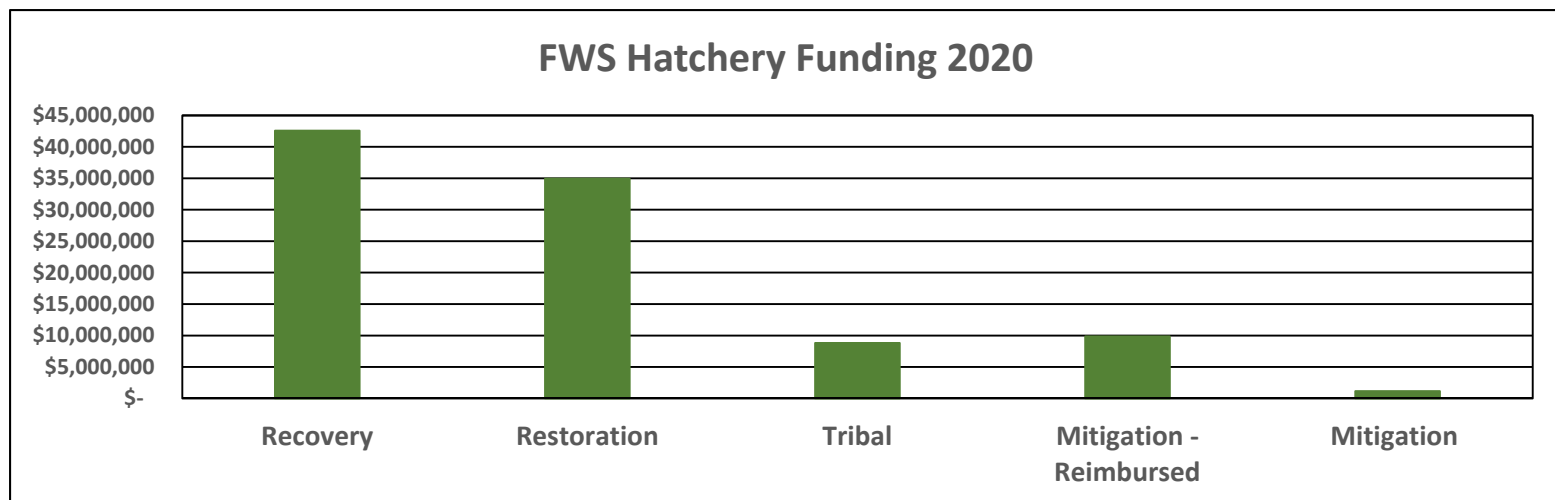
Sponsors include: Nick Rahall (D-WV), Doug Collins (R-GA), Mike Michaud (D-ME), Rick Crawford (R-AR), Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ), Phil Roe (R-TN), G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), **Kevin Cramer (R-ND)**, Tim Griffin (R-AR), Mike Simpson (R-ID) and Joe Heck (R-NV).

U.S. Congressman Paul A. Gosar released the following statement following a legislative hearing on his legislation H.R. 5026, the Fish Hatchery Protection Act:

“While most answers from the Fish and Wildlife Service today defied commonsense, I was pleased to hear the Deputy Director’s answer to my question about the future of the rainbow trout stocking program at the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery in which he stated, “Yes, I believe we would reinstate the rainbow trout stocking program following the repair of a broken water supply line.”

Changes in Priority

Representative Gosar's (R-AZ) testimony, "The Fish and Wildlife Service is attempting to unilaterally turn our National Fish Hatchery System into an endangered species recovery program. This is extremely misguided as several of the hatcheries affected were constructed more than 50 years ago for the sole purpose of offsetting the loss of native fisheries resulting from the construction of federal dams..."



Mitigation Responsibility?

Federal water projects authorized and constructed prior to 1965 did not have mitigation responsibilities tied to the responsible Federal agency. The Missouri River dams were all pre-1965 and consequently no mandated mitigation.

Law change in 1965 requires beneficiaries (water/power users) to assume all mitigation costs (Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power).

Fish hatcheries established pre-1965 to mitigate for fisheries losses from dam construction were termed 'de-facto' mitigation hatcheries. They used appropriated funding to provide fish for mitigation while the post 1965 fish hatcheries were funded fully by the COE (or others) for fish production. It wasn't until the 1980's that the FWS pursued cost sharing arrangements with federal entities responsible at the urging of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Congress.

To date only the COE and TVA have provided funding to defacto mitigation hatcheries(beginning in 2011). Garrison Dam NFH benefits from this funding, however it also stocks many Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs unreimbursed.

Proposed Bills

(that never passed)

National Mitigation Fisheries Coordination Act (H.R. 2261)

Bill sponsored by Rick Crawford (R-AR) and cosponsored by David Roe (R-TN), Steve Womack (R-AZ) Doug Collins (R-GA)

This bill directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to impose a charge for conducting mitigation fishery activities in connection with federal water resources development projects carried out by water development agencies (the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, or the Tennessee Valley Authority). The agencies **must pay** the charge in accordance with a fishery mitigation plan developed and approved by the USFWS Director and the agency head.

The National Mitigation Fisheries Coordination Act of 2013 has two basic elements:

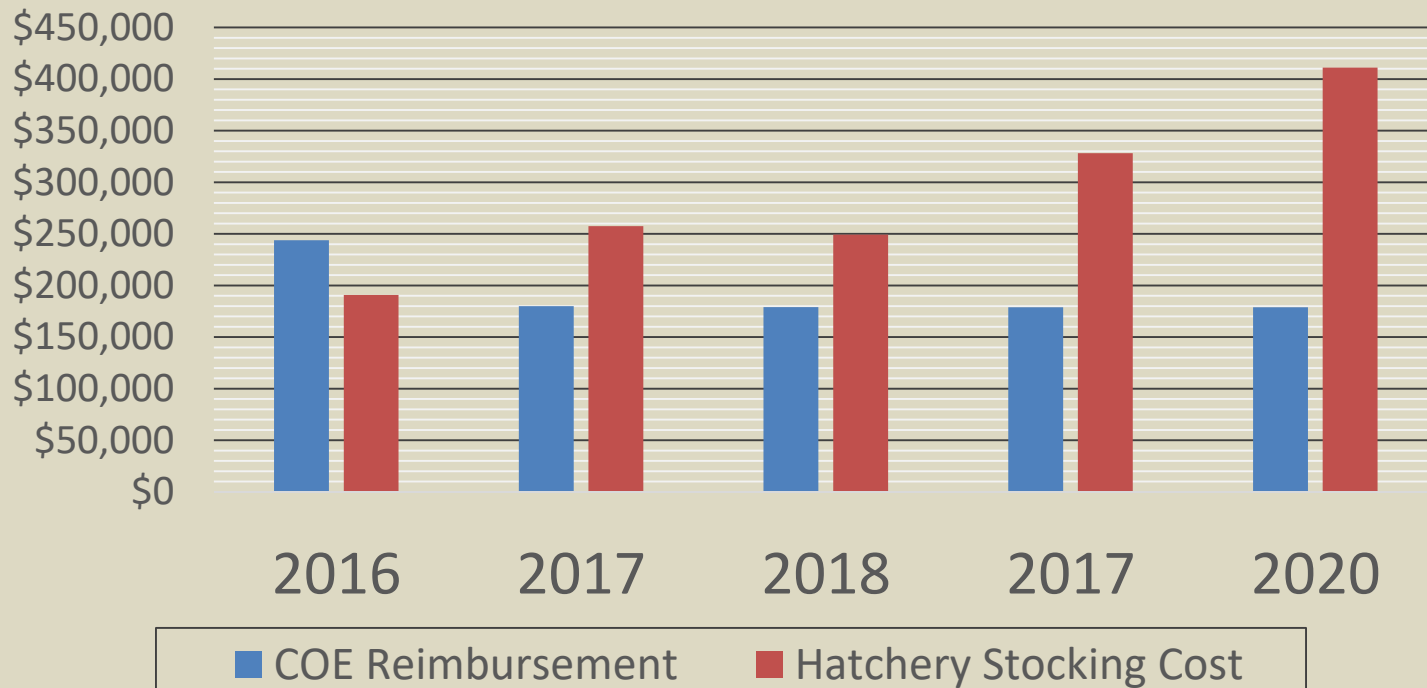
1. A requirement that the Water Development Agencies causing the need for mitigation pay for the mitigation.
2. Requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work with the Water Development Agencies to develop long-term agreements that will satisfy the commitments for mitigation the Water Development Agencies made to the states where Water Development Projects were built.



Garrison Dam NFH Complex

Mitigation Stockings

Corps Mitigation Reimbursement



Economic Impacts

- Fishing in ND brought in \$787.8M in the 2017-2018 fishing season in direct expenditures. That was an increase of \$320M from the 2011 season.
- Boats and trailers accounted for \$350 M
- Fishing generated \$36M in state taxes
- Fishing generated \$1.5 billion in gross business volume and \$813M in secondary economic effects

***FISHING IN NORTH DAKOTA
IS BIG BUSINESS***

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



Legislative Report

67th Legislative Assembly Concludes

The state legislature adjourned sine die on early in the morning of Friday, April 30, after 76 days. This leaves four days (80-day limit) for policymakers to reconvene for redistricting and to address federal COVID-19 relief funds. Lawmakers also have the option to ask the Governor to call a special session, which would not count against the legislature's allotted 80 days.

A total of 914 bills were introduced and acted on this session. Numerous studies were also proposed for consideration during the interim. In the next couple of months, Legislative Management will meet to review all proposed studies and prioritize which ones will be assigned to interim legislative committees for work prior to the 2023 Legislative Session.

Budget Bills

HB 1017 Game and Fish Department budget bill

Signed

HB 1017 is the Game and Fish Department appropriation and budget bill. The agency which receives revenue from game and fish license sales (hunting, fishing, and boat registrations) and federal sources. It receives no general fund dollars. The final bill authorizes just over \$92 million for the biennium. The aquatic nuisance species program will receive \$1,509,009.

Signed by the Governor April 23

HB 1020 State Water Commission budget bill

Signed

HB 1020 is the funding bill for the State Water Commission. Updated revenue forecasts indicated an additional \$74 million in the 2021-2023 biennium above what was forecasted at the beginning of the session. Final funding is as follows:

Line Item	Final version of HB 1020
Capital Assets	\$173 M
Water Supply	\$125 M
Rural Water Supply	\$59.6 M
Flood Control	\$48 M
Discretionary	\$6 M
Line of Credit	\$50 M

The discretionary bucket is a new concept and will be available to the State Water Commission (SWC) to use for any project. The bill carries an emergency clause which means it became effective as soon as the Governor signed it and the bill was filed.

Signed by the Governor April 27

[SB 2012](#) Department of Transportation appropriation

Signed

SB 2012 is the appropriation bill for the Department of Transportation. SB 2012 appropriates special fund authority of \$1.5 billion and line items \$70 million in one-time funding for infrastructure improvements. It also includes \$750,000 to assist townships to match FEMA dollars for emergency repairs. There are not additional funds allocated for rest area or turnout locations.

Signed by the Governor April 19

[HB 1464](#) Fuel Tax Increase to support Roads and Bridges

Failed

HB 1464 would have increased the gas tax by 3 cents per gallon and electric vehicle fees by \$15 annually raising an estimated \$44 million. The bill passed the House, but was defeated by the Senate on March 26 by a vote of 16 to 29.

Defeated Senate 16-29 March 26

Posting and Land Access Bills

[HB 1081](#) Law Enforcement Authority on Trust Land

Signed

HB 1081 places current administrative rules under the purview of the Land Commission into statute conceivably clarifying that local law enforcement has authority to enforce those rules in the case of a violation.

Signed by the Governor April 29

[HB 1113](#) Landowner's Permission Before Baiting

Signed

This bill clarifies requirements for obtaining a landowner's permission before using bait or trail cameras on their property.

Signed by the Governor March 23

[SB 2036](#) Access to Lands and Electronic Posting Study

Signed

SB 2036 continues the legislative management study regarding access to lands and public posting into the 2021-2022 interim. This includes evaluation of the electronic land access database and application developed during the 2019-2020 interim and expansion of the project to all counties. Testimony indicated positive feedback from those who participated in a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness and feasibility of electronically posting land (Ramsey, Richland and Slope counties were included in the original study).

Signed by the Governor March 31

[SB 2144](#) Criminal Trespass and Electronic Posting

Signed

SB 2144 revises the penalty for criminal trespass on fenced property by giving law enforcement discretion to cite an individual for a non-criminal charge (\$250 fine) or up to a Class A misdemeanor if they entered or remained in an enclosed fence, defined as "a permanent structure on non-urban, private property, which is maintained and capable of containing livestock," or otherwise enclosed as manifestly to exclude intruders, unless the individual is a licensed hunter or angler who is lawfully hunting or fishing.

The bill also allows electronic posting of land by the owner or authorized person in an online database or application maintained or authorized by the state and made available to the public, which identifies whether land is available to hunters. Electronic posting against hunting trespass will be available to all North Dakota counties.

Signed by the Governor May 28

Raffle operation bill

HB 1162 Electronic Raffle

Signed

HB 1162 would allow raffles to be conducted online if licensed by the state.

Signed by the Governor April 27

Other Bills

HB 1031 Legislative Management Study on State Agency Fees

Signed

HB 1031 establishes studies by Legislative Management to look into the fees imposed by state agencies.

Signed by the Governor April 21

HB 1068 Snowmobile Definition

Signed

HB 1068 clarifies the definition of a snowmobile as an off-road vehicle.

Signed by the Governor March 9

HB 1074 Clean up to Game Warden Files

Signed

HB 1074 updates language regarding files kept by the Chief Game Warden of the Game and Fish Department.

Signed by the Governor April 21

HB 1120 White-tail Deer Licenses for Disabled Veterans

Failed

HB 1120 would have authorized the Game and Fish Department to make 100 disabled veteran white-tail deer licenses available annually. HB 1120 passed the House but was defeated by the Senate.

Defeated Senate 8-39 March 16

SB 2208 Interim Water Study

Signed

SB 2208 establishes an interim study to examine many important water management policy issues including: combining NDCC chapters 61-16.1 and 61-21; making assessment procedures uniform; establishing an appeals and mediation process; managing water by watershed; reviewing responsibility of culvert sizing; cost-benefit analyses on projects; water permits and irrigation permit process; and the relationship between the SWC and water resource districts. The study committee will include both legislators and non-legislators.

Signed by the Governor April 22

HB 1088 SWC Development Plan

Signed

HB 1088 gives the SWC the ability to require funds other than the Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars to be used by projects as a local match. The SWC retains the ability to consider these dollars as local match if it wishes.

Signed by the Governor March 17