

## **NDG&F April 9th Newsletter**

### **State Fair Pond in Minot Closed for Improvements**

The State Fair Pond in Minot is closed due to construction projects prompted by last year's Souris River flood. Located on the north end of the fairgrounds in the State Game and Fish Department's Conservation and Outdoors Skills Park, the pond will reopen July 20 on opening day of the North Dakota State Fair.

Greg Gullickson, Game and Fish outreach biologist in Minot, said the dock is currently undergoing repairs and improvements, making the shoreline the only fishable area. "The shore slope of the pond is steep and not the best place to fish," Gullickson said. "We will be reseeded all of the grass in the area, dredging the pond, moving buildings and dirt and repaving walkways."

Contractors will be in and out of the area until early July, Gullickson said, and much of this work involves large machinery and equipment remaining on the site.

"In addition to upgrading the existing area, the Game and Fish Conservation Park will double in size," he added. "Additional acreage and buildings are available to us, so we will have much more room to concentrate on specific programs."

Anglers looking for alternate urban fisheries in Minot during the next few months should try the Souris River, Gullickson said, with several areas available to fish from shore.

### **Shore Anglers Fishing Red, Bois de Sioux Rivers Need Proper License**

A change in regulations concerning anglers fishing the Red and Bois de Sioux rivers involves those who fish from shore.

Effective April 1, anglers fishing from shore on the North Dakota side of the Red and Bois de Sioux rivers must have a valid North Dakota fishing license. Last year, either a North Dakota or Minnesota license was allowed.

All other regulations regarding fishing these two rivers remain the same. Anglers fishing from a boat or through the ice can possess either a valid North Dakota or Minnesota fishing license. In addition, the daily limit for northern pike caught from the Red or Bois de Sioux remains at three, while the pike limit in the rest of the state is now five.

Anglers should refer to the [2012-14 North Dakota Fishing Guide](#) for additional information.

### **Taking of Live Aquatic Bait Prohibited from the James River**

Anglers and bait vendors should be aware of a regulation that prohibits taking of minnows or other aquatic bait from portions of Pipestem Creek and the James River.

Fred Ryckman, North Dakota Game and Fish Department aquatic nuisance species coordinator, said record high flows in the James River last year facilitated the movement of silver carp upstream into North Dakota. "With this discovery, it is illegal to take live bait from all of Pipestem Creek below Pipestem Dam, and from the James River between the Jamestown Dam and the South Dakota border, including any tributaries up to the first vehicular bridge or crossing," Ryckman said.

The 2012-14 fishing proclamation states “no live bait may be taken from any water body in North Dakota that is infested with aquatic nuisance species.” Silver carp is an ANS that can out-compete native and other game fish in large river systems.

“Bait transfer is one of the many pathways where ANS can be moved from water body to water body,” Ryckman added. “Elimination of this potential movement of ANS will provide protection of the state’s fisheries and other aquatic resources.”