

# FISHING IN NORTH DAKOTA

# NORTH Dakota

Be Legendary.

## GAME FISHING SEASON NEVER CLOSES

The "new" season officially opens on April 1 of each year. Licences are good April 1 through March 31. Check fishing regulations for more information on licensing, species and access to all fishing waters in North Dakota (<https://gf.nd.gov/fishing>).

NONRESIDENT LICENSE FEES	
Season Individual	\$50
10 Day Individual	\$40
3 Day Individual	\$30
Season Married Couple	\$65

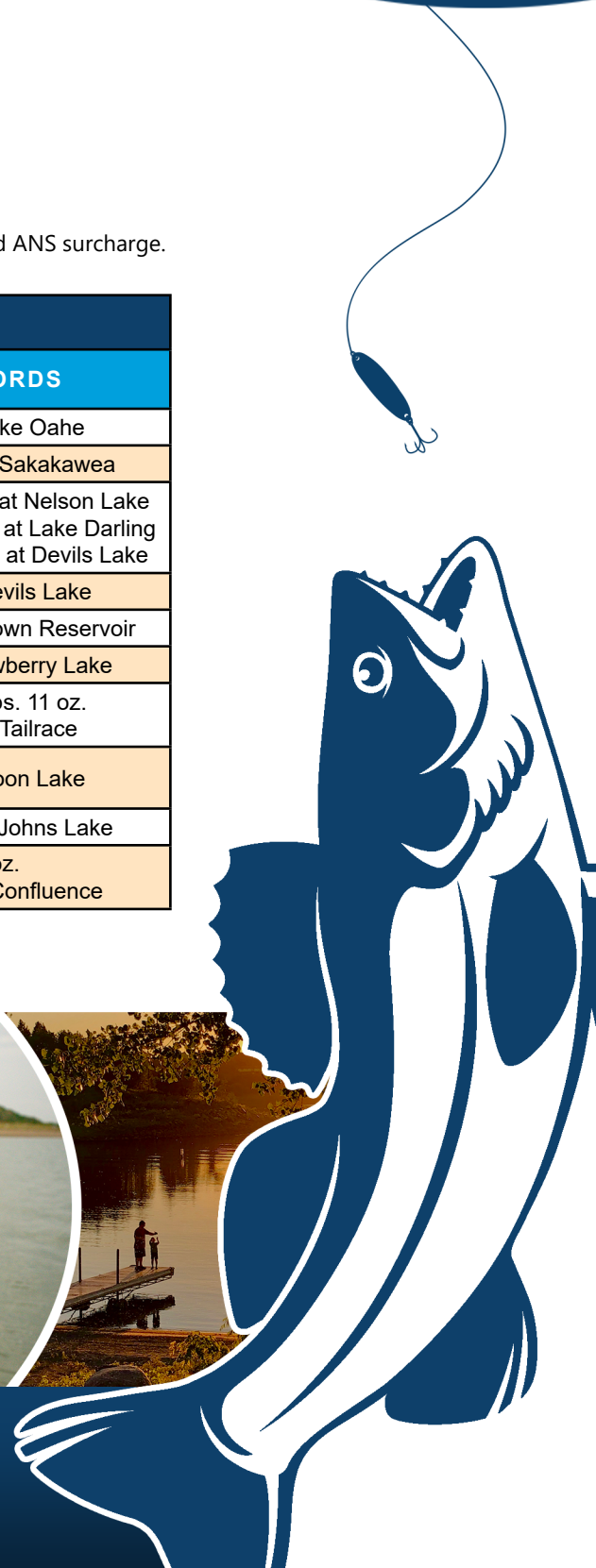
\*Fees include Fishing, Hunting, Furbearer Certificate (only purchase once per year) and ANS surcharge.

FISH SPECIES LIMITS AND RECORDS			
	DAY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	STATE RECORDS
Walleye	5	10	16 lbs. 6 oz. at Lake Oahe
Northern Pike	5	10	37 lbs. 8 oz. at Lake Sakakawea
Largemouth/ Smallmouth Bass or combination	3	6	Largemouth 8 lbs. 8 oz. at Nelson Lake Smallmouth 6 lbs. 13oz. at Lake Darling White Bass 4 lbs. 10 oz. at Devils Lake
Perch	20	40	2 Lbs. 15 oz. at Devils Lake
Crappie	10	20	3 Lbs. 4 oz. at Jamestown Reservoir
Bluegill	10	20	3 Lbs 12 oz. at Strawberry Lake
Trout	3	6	Brown Trout 31 Lbs. 11 oz. at Garrison Dam Tailrace
Catfish	Limits vary by location. Visit <a href="https://gf.nd.gov/fishing">https://gf.nd.gov/fishing</a>		42 lbs. 1 oz. at Moon Lake
Muskie	1	1	42 lbs. 1 oz. at New Johns Lake
Paddlefish	Tag required and limited season. Visit <a href="https://gf.nd.gov/fishing">https://gf.nd.gov/fishing</a>		131 lbs. 0 oz. at Missouri Yellow Confluence

Limits for all other species may be found at <https://gf.nd.gov/fishing>



For more information visit <https://belegendary.link/FishingND>  
or reach out to Mike Jensen at [mjjensen@nd.gov](mailto:mjjensen@nd.gov) or 701-328-2525.



## GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS

For a complete list of area guides and outfitters, visit [www.NDtourism.com/listings/guides-outfitters](http://www.NDtourism.com/listings/guides-outfitters)

## WHERE TO FISH

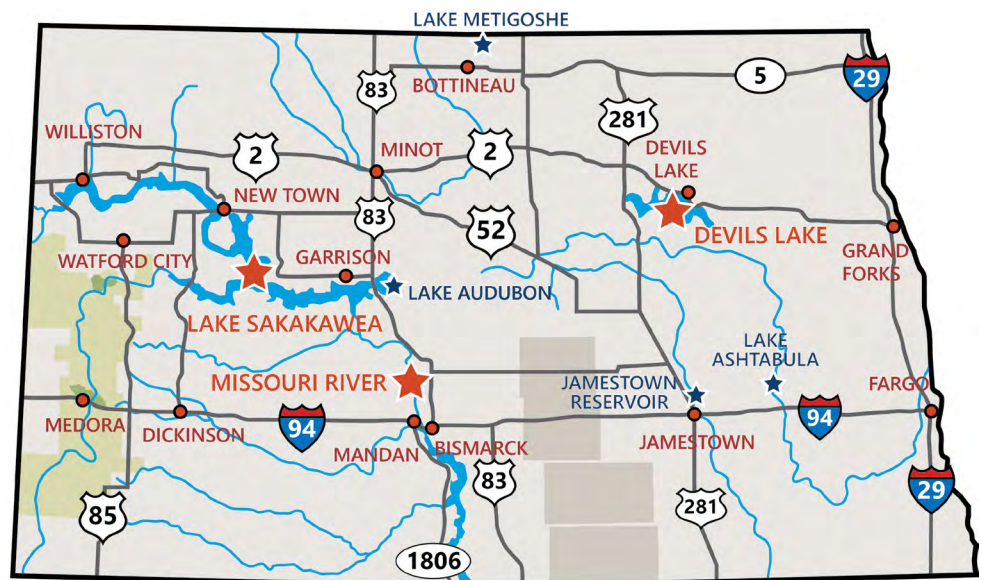
Some of the major fishing waters in the state are what we call the “big three,” Devils Lake, Lake Sakakawea and The Missouri River including northern Lake Oahe.

- **Devils Lake** — The state’s largest natural body of water has several resorts and campgrounds and the Spirit Lake Casino. You’ll find excellent ice fishing for perch, walleye and northern pike in the winter and walleye, pike and white bass in the open water.
- **Lake Sakakawea [sah-KAHK-ah-WEE-ah]** — This huge lake has more shoreline than the coast of California and is home to a variety of species including walleye, northern pike and Chinook salmon.
- **The Missouri River including Lake Oahe [Oh-ah-HE]** — The free-flowing river offers a good setting for walleye in the spring and fall. The far northwestern reaches of the Missouri in North Dakota is one of the better spots in the country to snag a giant paddlefish in May. Lake Oahe stretches from rural south-central North Dakota into South Dakota. Anglers can find walleye and northern pike in this area, but there’s also crappie, catfish, sturgeon, and white bass.

## HOTSPOTS

North Dakota Game & Fish manages over 400 fishing waters besides the big three. Large reservoirs with strong fishing include Lake Darling, Lake Ashtabula, Jamestown Reservoir, Lake Tschida and Lake Audubon. Anglers can find some of the best fishing spots at the following locations:

- **Walleye** — Lake Sakakawea, Devils Lake, Woodhouse Lake (no ramp), Dry Lake, Marvin Miller Lake
- **Northern Pike** — Helen Lake (no ramp), Pipestem Reservoir, Sand Lake, Renwick Dam, Beaver Lake
- **Yellow Perch** — Devils Lake, Stump Lake, Moon Lake
- **Bluegill** — Lake Ashtabula, Lake Metigoshe, Raleigh Reservoir, Wood Lake
- **Crappie** — Jamestown Reservoir, Nelson Lake, Homme Dam, Trenton Lake
- **Smallmouth Bass** — Lake Ashtabula, Lake Audubon, McClusky Canal, Kota-Ray Dam, Spiritwood Lake
- **Brown Trout** — North Lemmon, Velva Sportsmen’s Pond, Garrison Dam Tailrace
- **Catfish** — Red River of the North, Lake Oahe, Missouri River
- **Largemouth Bass** — Nelson Lake, Kota-Ray Dam, Nygren Dam, Clausen Springs
- **Paddlefish** — Missouri/Yellowstone Confluence near Williston
- **Rainbow Trout** — Sheep Creek Dam, Fish Creek Dam, Lightning Lake
- **White Bass** — Devils Lake, Lake Tschida, Bowman Haley Dam



To find more resources including maps, stocking reports, lake survey data, and additional regulations visit <https://gf.nd.gov/fishing>.

Regardless of your fishing preferences and skills, fishing in North Dakota provides hours of recreation and creates life-long memories. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has all the information you need to get started.



**EVERY SURFACE. EVERY TIME.**