

OFFICIAL NORTH DAKOTA HUNTING & FISHING GUIDE

HELLO

2025



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HELLO HUNTERS AND ANGLERS



Governor Kelly Armstrong and his son, Eli

"Welcome to our great state of North Dakota. Hunting and fishing are a big part of my family's life, and if you are reading this, I am guessing they are a big part of yours as well. I hope your next adventure brings you to North Dakota's outdoors. You won't be disappointed."

A stylized white signature of Governor Kelly Armstrong on a teal background.

NORTH Dakota

Be Legendary.

2025 Guide Information: Detailed hunting and fishing information can be found at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department: 701-328-6300 or gf.nd.gov.

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Missouri River, near Williston



Pheasant hunting, near Garrison



HELLO CATCH AFTER CATCH!

From leisurely shore fishing to serious walleye angling, North Dakota has some of the most extraordinary fishing anywhere. With more than 400 lakes and rivers full of walleye, perch, bass and northern pike, there's a good chance your line will stay busy. Feed your competitive side in tournaments like the Governor's Cup and the Devils Lake Ice Fishing Tournament. Whatever your style, our fishing season never closes.

SCAN



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**



Devils Lake

FISH THE BIG THREE

DEVILS LAKE

The state's largest natural body of water has several resorts, campgrounds and Spirit Lake Casino. You'll find excellent ice fishing for perch, walleye and northern pike in the winter, and walleye, pike and white bass on the open water.

LAKE SAKAKAWEA

This amazing 479-square-mile reservoir — famous for its walleye, northern pike and Chinook salmon — has numerous bays surrounded by cut banks and badlands bluffs. It offers dozens of public boat ramps and several marinas, including Lewis and Clark State Park, Lake Sakakawea State Park and Fort Stevenson State Park. You will also find many privately owned campgrounds and resorts including Lund's Landing, Indian Hills Resort, Tobacco Gardens Resort & Marina, Van Hook Resort, Dakota Waters Resort and more.

MISSOURI RIVER INCLUDING LAKE OAHE

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 south-central North Dakota into South Dakota. Anglers can find walleye and northern pike in this area, but there are also crappie, catfish, sturgeon and white bass.



Lake Sakakawea, near Garrison

GAME FISHING SEASON NEVER CLOSES

In North Dakota, you can fish 365 days of the year if you choose. Park your boat when the lakes freeze and bring out your icehouse to jig for walleye, perch and bluegill — or try darkhouse spearfishing for northern pike. Licenses are good for most species April 1 through March 31.

NONRESIDENT LICENSE FEES

Season Individual	\$55
10 Day Individual	\$45
3 Day Individual	\$35
Season Married Couple	\$70

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



Lake Audubon



Devils Lake

HOTSPOTS

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

WALLEYE

Lake Sakakawea, Irvine-Alice-Mikes Complex, Lake Darling, Coal Lake, Diamond Lake

NORTHERN PIKE

Beaver Lake, Carbury Dam, Lake No. 5, James River, Makoti Lake, Hinsz Lake, Bernstons Lake

YELLOW PERCH

St. Mary's Lake, Rueb-Eszlinger Lake, R and M Lake, Homme Dam, Stump Lake

CRAPPIE

Northgate Dam, LaMoure Lake, Homme Dam, Sweet Briar Lake

BLUEGILL

Baukol-Noonan East Mine Pond, Brewer Lake, Dead Colt Creek, Raleigh Reservoir, Camels Hump Lake

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Lake Ashtabula, Lake Audubon, New Johns Lake, Indian Creek Dam, Hiddenwood Lake

BROWN TROUT

North Lemmon, Velva Sportsmen's Pond, Garrison Dam Tailrace

CATFISH

Red River of the North, Lake Oahe, Trenton Lake, Missouri River

LARGEMOUTH BASS

Northgate Dam, LaMoure Lake, Homme Dam, Sweet Briar Lake

PADDLEFISH

Missouri/Yellowstone Confluence near Williston

RAINBOW TROUT

Hooker Lake, Strawberry Lake (Bottineau), Northgate Dam, Lightning Lake, Sheep Creek Dam

WHITE BASS

Devils Lake, Lake Tschida, Lake Ashtabula, Stump Lake, Bowman-Haley Dam

*Based on 2023 Survey Data

RESOURCES

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. Licensing, maps, stocking reports, lake survey data, limits, boat access and regulations: gf.nd.gov/fishing



Ice fishing, Lewis and Clark State Park, near Williston

INVASIVE SPECIES

State law requires that all water is drained from boats and other watercraft when leaving a body of water. Plugs must also remain pulled when transporting boats and other watercraft. Anglers may not transport live bait in water away from any Class I ANS infested waters. Visit gf.nd.gov/ans for details.

CLEAN DRAIN DRY – EVERY SURFACE. EVERY TIME.

FISH SPECIES LIMITS AND RECORDS

SPECIES	DAY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	STATE RECORDS	RECORD LOCATION
WALLEYE	5	10	16 lbs. 6 oz.	Lake Oahe
NORTHERN PIKE	5	10	37 lbs. 8 oz.	Lake Sakakawea
LARGEMOUTH/SMALLMOUTH BASS OR COMBINATION	5	10	Largemouth 8 lbs. 8 oz. Smallmouth 6 lbs. 13oz. White Bass 4 lbs. 10 oz.	Nelson Lake Lake Darling Devils Lake
PERCH	20	40	2 lbs. 15 oz.	Devils Lake
CRAPPIE	10	20	3 lbs. 4 oz.	Jamestown Reservoir
BLUEGILL	10	20	2 lbs. 12 oz.	Strawberry Lake
TROUT	3	6	Brown Trout 31 lbs. 11 oz.	Garrison Dam Tailrace
CATFISH	Limits vary by location. Visit gf.nd.gov/fishing		42 lbs. 1 oz.	Moon Lake
MUSKIE	1	1	46 lbs. 8 oz.	New Johns Lake
PADDLEFISH	Tag required and limited season. Visit gf.nd.gov/fishing		131 lbs. 0 oz.	Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence

SHORE FISHING

Shore fishing in North Dakota offers a rewarding and accessible way to enjoy the state's natural beauty and abundant fish populations. Popular shore fishing locations include:

DEVILS LAKE

Grahams Island State Park, Six Mile Bay and the Channel A area

LAKE SAKAKAWEA

Three state parks and various wildlife management areas

MISSOURI RIVER

Near Bismarck-Mandan and the Garrison Dam Tailrace

JAMESTOWN RESERVOIR

Around Jamestown Marina and Five Mile Corner

LAKE METIGOSHE

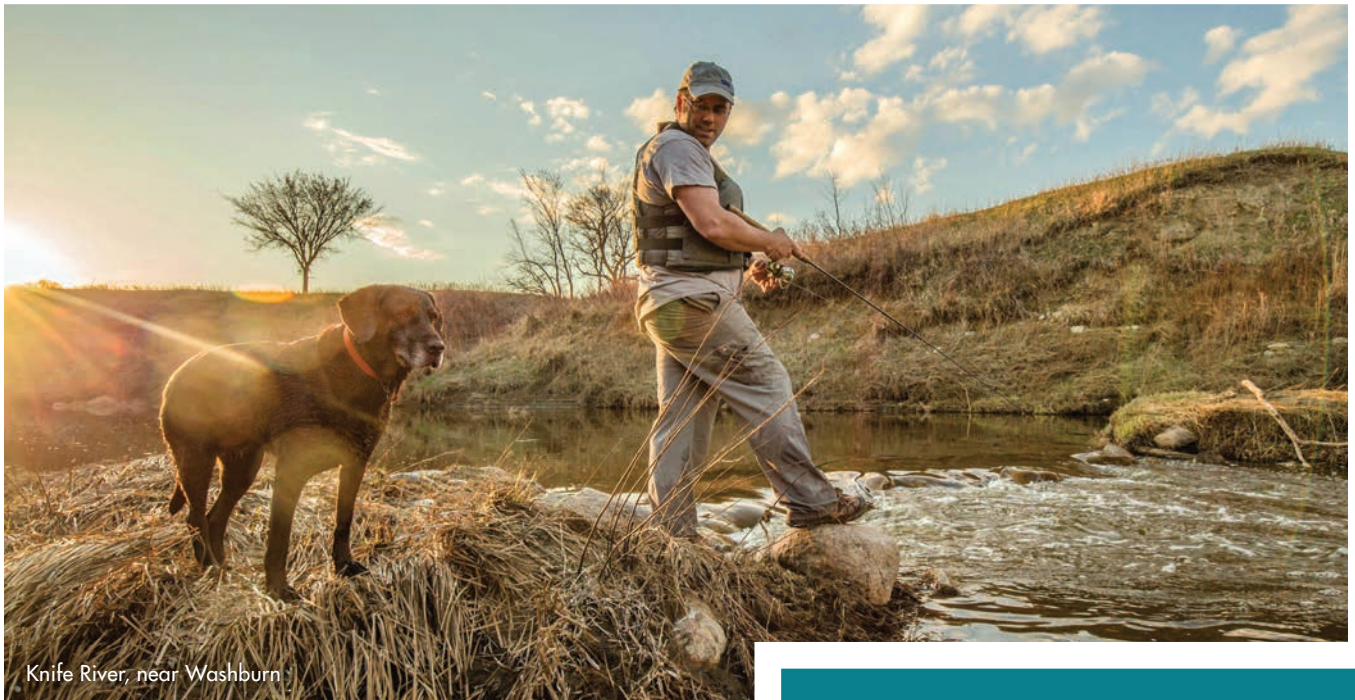
Various access points including Lake Metigoshe State Park

WESTERN ND LAKES

Sweet Briar Lake, Patterson Lake, Arroda Lakes, Belfield Dam, Danzig Dam



Missouri River, near Bismarck



Knife River, near Washburn



Sky Chief Park, near Belcourt

Other great locations with fishing piers and easy shore access

Red River	Fish Creek Dam
Chain of Lakes	Crown Butte Dam
Lake Ashtabula	Northgate Dam
Sheyenne River	Coldwater Lake
Souris River	Pheasant Lake
Larimore Dam	Lake Darling
Lake Tschida	Hoskins Lake
Blacktail Dam	Josephine Lake

GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS

City	Name	Website	Phone	City	Name	Website	Phone
BISMARCK	Absolute Gun Dogs	absolute Gundogs.com	701-258-5001	LUVERNE	Baldhill Creek Adventures	baldhillcreek.net	701-840-8409
	Brown Pheasant Hunting		701-866-8397	MCKENZIE	Rolling Plains Adventures	rollingplainsadventures.com	701-367-3737
	Mike Peluso Outdoors	mikepelusooutdoors.com	701-471-8649	MEDINA	Big Gun Property		662-417-2412
	Reel Fishing Guides, LLC	reelfishingguides.com	701-391-8264		Dakota Sunset Resort	dakotasunsetresort.com	701-381-6087
BROCKET	Backroad Adventures	brhunting.com	701-739-0920		Devils Eyez Guide Service LLC		701-238-1221
DENBIGH	Spring Lake Outfitters	springlakeoutfittersnd.com	701-340-5968		Keena's Cabin Rentals		701-226-0686
DEVILS LAKE	A & H Guide Service	facebook.com/ahguideservice	701-381-8118	MINNEWAUKAN	McQuoid Outdoors & Lodging	mcquoidguides.com	701-351-6058
	Ancil's Guide Service	ancilsguideservice.com	701-230-0367		Nick's Devils Lake Guide Service		701-739-3346
	Big John's Guide Service	fishingguidedevislake.com	701-381-2599		Perch Eyes Guide Service	percheyes.com	701-351-1294
	Bry's Guide Service	brysguideservice.com	701-739-0161		Spirit Water Inn Resort		701-473-2587
	Devils Lake Sportsman's Lodge	dlsportsmanslodge.com	701-662-4927	MINOT	Latendresse Guide Service	latendresseguideservice.com	701-720-6510
	Eye Hangers Guide Service		701-208-0516	NEW ENGLAND	Double JJ Outfitters and Lodge	doublejjoutfitters.com	701-940-6661
	Haybale Heights	haybaleheights.com	701-351-3130	NEW ROCKFORD	K&M Bison Lodge and Outfitters	kmbisonlodge.com	701-947-5947
	Hooked Up Guide Service	hookedupguide.com	570-251-0476		Lake Washington Lodge and Outfitters		701-302-0418
	Johnnie Candle Guide Service	johnniedandle.com	701-371-9431	NEW TOWN	Corbin's Guide Service	corbinsguideservice.com	507-829-8722
	Lake Country Guide Services	lakecountryguideservices.com	701-230-2280	PETTIBONE	Grand Slam Swan Lodge	grandslamswanlodge.com	740-441-7070
	Lakeview Lodge	lakeview-lodge.org	701-665-5060	PINGREE	Bison Ranch Lodge and Outfitters	bisonranchlodge.com	701-269-1558
	Northern Flight Guide Service	take-em.com	701-739-9616		Freddy's Flyers Pheasant Hunting Outfitters	freddysflyers.com	701-650-0131
	Perch Patrol Guide Service	perchpatrol.com	701-351-3474	RAY	Lund's Landing Marina & Lodge	lundslanding.net	701-568-3474
	Rush Valley Guide Service & Lodging	rushvalleyguideservice.com	701-740-3868	REEDER	RoosterVille Outfitters	roostervilleoutfitters.com	701-853-2942
	Tim's Guide Service		701-230-1063		Cannonball Company	cannonballcompany.com	701-563-4411
	Woodland Resort	woodlandresort.com	701-662-5996	RECENT	Kelly's Limit Guide Service	kellyslimit.com	701-471-0635
DICKINSON	Veterans Outfitters		701-495-1172		Pheasants Dakota		701-590-4828
FARGO	Dirty Bird Outfitters	dirtybirdoutfitters.com	701-290-6582	RIVERDALE	Big Lake Guide Service	biglakeguideservicend.com	701-799-0213
FORT RANSOM	SG Outfitters		701-866-5456		Sakakawea Sunset Lodge	garrisondam.weebly.com	701-654-7600
FULLERTON	Hay's Lodge	hayslodge.com	701-709-0285	ROCK LAKE	Northern Limits Outfitters		701-351-4431
	Prairie Pothole Lodge	prairiepotholelodge.com	701-783-4545	RYDER	Nakota Outfitters		701-898-8774
GARRISON	Bloemendaal Guide Service LLC	bloemendaalfishing.com	641-420-3214	SCRANTON	Dakota Winds Lodge	dakotawindshunting.com	701-275-8808
	Indian Hills Resort and Campground	fishindianhills.com	701-743-4122	SPIRITWOOD	Open Country Outfitters	opencountryoutfitters.com	701-490-1428
GRAND FORKS	Brad Durick Outdoors LLC	redrivercatfish.com	701-739-5808	TOWNER	Heart J Outfitters	heartjoufitters.com	701-537-8007
	Nodak Charters	nodakcharters.com	701-740-0863		Spring Lake Outfitters, LLC	springlakeoutfittersnd.com	701-340-5968
HURDSFIELD	AA Wingmasters		701-220-7288	VALLEY CITY	Fin-Hunters Guide Service, LLC	finhunters.com	701-840-5407
KRAMER	Mouse River Outfitters	ndhunting.com	701-441-3920	WARWICK	Eastbay Guide Service & The Loft on Eastbay	theloftoneastbay.com	218-779-2728
LARIMORE	Last Cast Guides		218-791-6868	WILLISTON	Liebel's Guide Service	liebelsguideservice.com	701-770-6746
LISBON	Dragon Creek Ranch	dragoncreekwhitetails.com	701-308-0157				
LUDDEN	Drop Time Lodge		701-680-9680				

FOR MORE INFORMATION: NDtourism.com/guides-outfitters



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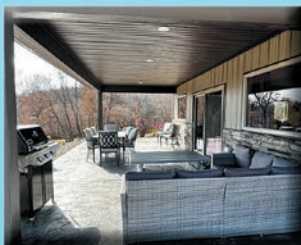
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Weekly Fishing Report



WELCOME TO GAME TIME

Here's an invitation for you. It's time to find out why hunting is a favorite tradition in North Dakota. From our wetlands that are prime waterfowl habitat to the hills and prairies that are home to deer, pheasant and grouse, you'll find the very best hunting in North Dakota.





Waterfowl hunting, near Lidgerwood

WATERFOWL

North Dakota is home to the Central Flyway, a waterfowl superhighway for millions of migrating ducks and geese. Our rivers, lakes and wetlands stretch far and wide, offering premier waterfowl habitat.

WATERFOWL SEASONS

Ducks may be hunted during the waterfowl season, usually opening early October. An early resident waterfowl season opens late September. Canada geese can be hunted during waterfowl season or in the early August season. Spring snow goose season runs from mid-February to mid-May, peaking in late March.



Waterfowl hunting, near Kenmare

DUCKS

Duck species are diverse in North Dakota. Altogether, hunters have a total daily limit of 6 ducks with specific limits on mallards, scaup, wood ducks, redheads, pintails, canvasbacks, blue-winged teal and mergansers. Possession limits are three times the daily limits. Other species for hunting may include coots, wigeon, buffleheads, goldeneye, gadwalls, green-winged teal, northern shovelers, ring-necked ducks and ruddy ducks.

CANADA GOOSE

The Canada goose is common during migration and nesting seasons in North Dakota. Some geese will winter along river systems where open water is available providing more opportunities to hunt waterfowl later in the season.

SNOW GOOSE (SPRING LIGHT GOOSE)

Snows and blues are medium-sized geese 25-31", weighing 4-6.5 lbs., and different color phases. There is no daily limit nor is there a possession limit for snow geese in the spring season.

SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

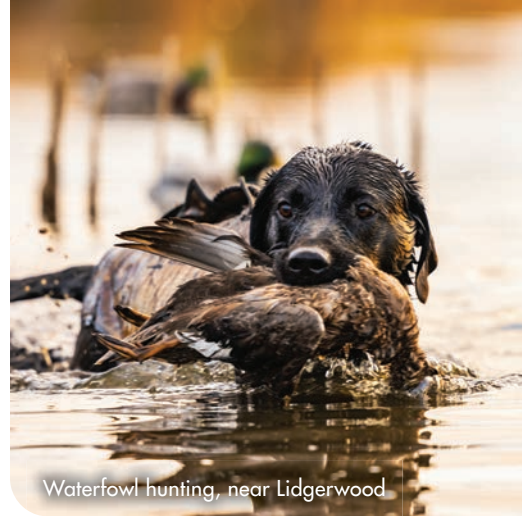
North Dakota Game and Fish offers wheelchair accessible boat ramps and shooting ranges, special hunting permits and a tracked wheelchair available by reservation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: gf.nd.gov/disabled-services

WATERFOWL LICENSES

All hunters must possess a certificate, a general game and habitat license, a federal waterfowl stamp and HIP registration as a prerequisite.

NONRESIDENT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS (HUNTERS AGES 16+)	
FISHING, HUNTING AND FURBEARER CERTIFICATE	\$2
GENERAL GAME AND HABITAT LICENSE	\$20
FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP	\$29
HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP) REGISTRATION (All hunters regardless of age must obtain a new Harvest Information Program registration number each year for each state in which they hunt ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, cranes, snipe, doves and woodcock.)	FREE
EITHER: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STATEWIDE LICENSE - allows hunting statewide for two 7-day periods or one 14-day period • ZONE-RESTRICTED LICENSE - requires selection of hunting zones 	\$153
	\$103
NONRESIDENT SPRING LIGHT GOOSE LICENSE	\$50



Waterfowl hunting, near Lidgerwood

ZONE RESTRICTED LICENSE

There are three zones for nonresident waterfowlers to choose from. See Game and Fish for more details.

BIG GAME & VARMINTS

Nonresidents may purchase white-tailed deer archery tags online. Bighorn sheep, deer gun and any deer archery tags are drawn by lottery open to nonresidents. Prairie dogs and coyotes may be hunted year-round with purchased nonresident tags.

gf.nd.gov/hunting



Pheasant hunting, near Geneseo

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

North Dakota offers extensive hunting opportunities on PLOTS, wildlife management areas, and waterfowl production areas. Nonresidents can hunt PLOTS and wildlife areas one week after the pheasant season opens. Hunting on private land requires the landowner's permission if the land is posted (physically or electronically). Unposted private land may be hunted without permission unless otherwise restricted by law.

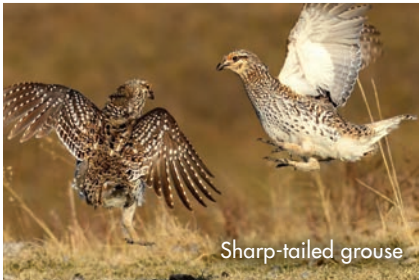
MAPS, APPS & GUIDES

Find electronically posted land, PLOTS and public land in the PLOTS Guide, and your hunting apps.





Pheasant hunting, near Lidgerwood



Sharp-tailed grouse



Partridge hunting, near Garrison

UPLAND GAME

The grass-covered rolling hills and agricultural land of North Dakota provide extraordinary habitat for abundant pheasant, grouse and partridge populations. If you’ve never experienced upland game hunting here, you are in for a treat.

PHEASANT

Pheasant can be found statewide in North Dakota. Traditionally the highest concentration of birds have been found in the southwestern part of the state.



SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Sharp-tailed grouse can be found statewide. Higher populations of grouse are found in the far western part of the state including the badlands.

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE

Hungarian partridge’s primary range is across western and central North Dakota.

UPLAND GAME SEASONS

The seasons for sharp-tailed grouse and Hungarian partridge open in early September, with pheasant opening in early October. All three species’ seasons run to approximately the beginning of the new year.

FEES AND LIMITS

NONRESIDENT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS (HUNTERS AGES 16+)	
FISHING, HUNTING AND FURBEARER CERTIFICATE	\$2
GENERAL GAME AND HABITAT LICENSE	\$20
NONRESIDENT SMALL GAME LICENSE (Good for two 7-day periods or a single 14 consecutive day period and multiple licenses can be purchased within a season.)	\$100
DAILY HARVEST LIMITS	
UPLAND DAILY BAG LIMIT (PER SPECIES)	3
UPLAND POSSESSION LIMIT (PER SPECIES)	12
SHOOTING TIME	30 mins before sunrise to sunset

DETAILS AND ONLINE LICENSING: gf.nd.gov/hunting

Help Keep Forests Healthy

Don't Move Firewood

Pests hitchhike in firewood - don't move it, buy it where you burn it!

Larva



Adult



Emerald Ash Borer

- Signs and symptoms include: thinning in the canopy, D-shaped exit holes, bark splits revealing tunneling and heavy woodpecker activity
- Has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees
- EAB was detected in LaMoure County, ND in Aug. 2024 and has also been found in Manitoba, MN and SD.

Larva



Adult



Spongy Moth

- Caterpillars are heavy feeders on a wide range of tree and shrub species
- Yearly defoliation can be detrimental to tree health
- Egg masses are laid on many surfaces so can easily be moved by humans
- Caught in traps rarely in North Dakota

Spongy Moth



Emerald Ash Borer



REPORT SUSPECT TREES OR PESTS



Agriculture Commissioner
Doug Goehring

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