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The North Dakota Game & Fish Department announces the following summary of regulations and changes for the 2024-2026 fishing proclamation.

#### BOW (ARCHERY), SPEAR AND UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING

Bow and spearfishing is legal from Apr. 1 - Mar. 31 of each fishing year. Underwater spearfishing is legal from May 1 - Nov. 30 of each fishing year.

See proclamation for species legal to take.

#### DARKHOUSE SPEAR AND BOW (ARCHERY) FISHING

Darkhouse spear and bow fishing is legal from ice up through Mar. 15 of each fishing year.

See proclamation for species legal to take.

#### PADDLEFISH SNAGGING

Paddlefish snagging is legal May 1 through May 21 of each fishing year, in certain areas of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers. Snaggers must possess a valid tag. Snagging paddlefish shall be legal only from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Central Time) each day. Snaggers must immediately release all paddlefish on Snag and Release Days and immediately tag their one paddlefish on Harvest Days.

#### GENERAL

**Daily limit** is a limit of fish harvested from midnight to midnight. No person may harvest or possess more than North Dakota's daily limit of fish while on the water or on the ice or actively engaged in any manner of fishing.

**Possession limit** is the maximum number of each legally taken fish species that a person may have in their actual possession during any phase of any single fishing trip of more than one day.

**Game fish** are bluegill, burbot, channel catfish, chinook salmon, crappie (black and white), largemouth bass, muskellunge (pure and tiger hybrid), northern pike, paddlefish, sauger, saugeye, smallmouth bass, sturgeon (pallid, shovelnose, and lake), trout (brown, lake, rainbow, cutthroat, and tiger hybrid), walleye, white bass, yellow perch, and zander.

**Non-game fish** are all species not named as game fish or legal live baitfish.

#### SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR 2024-2026

- Use of live aquatic baitfish allowed on nine additional waters across North Dakota. See proclamation for a list.
- Use of bow and spear is now legal to take channel catfish in the Missouri River System.
- Use of bow now legal to take northern pike and non-game fish during winter while in dark houses.
- Individuals who trap their own baitfish must provide ownership information on the trap. Tampering with another's baitfish traps is illegal and now subject to a penalty.
- Channel catfish limit (20 daily, 40 possession) established for west of ND Highway 1.
- Paddlefish tags are available for purchase online and at the Bismarck, Dickinson and Williston offices from 8 am-5 pm., Monday through Friday. Online purchases should accommodate for appropriate delivery time.

**FREE FISHING DAYS**  
Residents of North Dakota may fish without a resident fishing license on Jun. 1-2, 2024, Dec. 28-29, 2024, Jun. 3-4, 2025 and Dec. 27-28, 2025.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Walleye, Sauger, Saugeye, or Combination <sup>a</sup>	5	10
Northern Pike	5	10
Yellow Perch	20	40
White Bass	20	40
Bluegill	10	20
Crappie	10	20
Trout	3	6
Salmon	5	10
Burbot (Ling)	10	20
Channel Catfish	5	5
	20	40
Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass or Combination	5	10
Muskellunge (pure or hybrid)	1	1
Paddlefish (legal snagging only)		See proclamation
Non-game Fish (Other than legal live baitfish)	no limit	no limit
Legal Live Baitfish <sup>b</sup>	150	150
Leeches	300	300
Smelt	5 gallons	5 gallons
Frogs	50	50
Salamanders	50	50
Crayfish	50	50
Snapping Turtle <sup>c</sup>		One annually

<sup>a</sup>-Zander are included as part of the walleye, sauger, saugeye combination in Spiritwood and Aikali lakes (Stutsman Co.).  
<sup>b</sup>-In the Red and Bois de Sioux rivers, the limit is 5 catfish regardless of the number of state or provincial licenses purchased by the angler.  
<sup>c</sup>-Aggregate of all legal species (see Section 4).  
<sup>d</sup>-Only one snapping turtle may be harvested with hook and line equipment between July 1 through November 15 of each fishing year.

#### EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FISHING LIMITS

Red and Bois De Sioux Rivers up to the first vehicular bridge or crossing on any of their tributaries	<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b> - Daily 3, Possession 3 <b>WALLEYE, SAUGER, SAUGEYE, OR COMBINATION</b> - Daily 3, Possession 3
Kraft Slough	<b>YELLOW PERCH</b> - Daily 10, Possession 20
Lightning Lake	<b>TROUT</b> - Catch & release only from Apr 1-June 30.
McDowell Dam	<b>ALL SPECIES</b> - Catch & release only while ice fishing.
OWLS Dam	<b>ALL SPECIES</b> - Catch & release only.
State Fair Pond	<b>ALL SPECIES</b> - Catch & release only from Apr 1-July 31.

A complete 2024-2026 Fishing Proclamation listing all regulations is available from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 North Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095. (701) 328-6300.

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