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Conservation Notes

Current topics and issues affecting hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation in our North Dakota.

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Aquatic Nuisance Species

North Dakota's aquatic resources: lakes, rivers, important fisheries, and aquatic recreation are seriously threatened by the invasions of aquatic nuisance species (ANS). Presently eight non-native species; three plant species, four fish species, and zebra mussels are found in North Dakota lakes and rivers.

Zebra mussel impacts to water supply systems, intakes and pipes and other water-based infrastructure are estimated to be over \$3 billion nationally in the next 10 years.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has developed an ANS Management Plan designed to prevent the introduction and spread of these and other invasive species within the State. But if people do not know about the presence and problems and about the State's ANS Plan, or fail to follow those guidelines, then ANS will pose serious threats to our fisheries, water-based recreation, and other water-based needs and industries.

First, people must be made aware of the risks posed by ANS. Second, we must educate ourselves on the measures to prevent and limit further introductions and the spread of these species. Third, we must all follow the guidelines developed by NDGFD when using our water resources. Fourth, we need strong Legislative support for implementing and publicizing the ANS threat and Management Plan. Get the word out to all your friends and colleagues about ANS and the measures to protect our lakes and rivers.

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: John Bradley, Executive Director, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, (jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com), Mike McEnroe, Past President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation(memcenroe@midco.net) or Rick Nelson, Past President, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, (bluebill@bis.midco.net). For a complete list of Conservation Notes visit (ndctws.org)-library