

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 20 of section 20.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

20. ~~Adopt rules and issue~~ Issue permits for conducting fishing contests involving public waters of the state in accordance with section 2 of this Act. ~~The director by rule shall define the term "fishing contest" and shall set criteria for which a fishing contest permit is required.~~ The director may deny permits. ~~No~~ A person may not conduct a fishing contest on public waters without first receiving a permit issued by the director.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 20.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Fishing contests.

1. A "fishing contest" means an event at which a prize or cash is given to a contestant for catching fish from waters open to the public. The term includes high-value tag contests, fishing tournaments, biggest fish contests, contests providing a prize for the largest number or weight of fish, and fishing leagues and tournaments comprised of multiple fishing events which have a cumulative fee of fifty dollars or more per event. The term does not include:
 - a. A fishing event for which an entry or participation fee of less than fifty dollars is charged.
 - b. A fishing event with fewer than fifty participants and fewer than fifteen boats.
 - c. An individual big fish promotion for which an entry or participation fee is not charged.
 - d. An organized youth fishing event if participants are under the age of nineteen or enrolled in a high school.

- e. An online contest not held on a single body of water.
2. A fishing contest may not include a conservation fee if it is held by: A a nonprofit veterans organization, charitable organization, educational organization, religious organization, fraternal organization, civic and service organization, and or public-spirited organization, as those organizations are defined in chapter 53-06.1, may retain one hundred percent of the proceeds of a fishing contest. A membership fee for a club or organization may not be classified as an entry fee or proceeds.
 3. An organization desiring to hold a fishing contest shall submit an application to the director at least thirty days before the start of the contest. A conservation fee of ten percent of gross proceeds from entry and participation fees, not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars, shall be paid to the North Dakota game and fish department for an event. A permit application fee may not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars for an event held on a single body of water. A permit application fee may not exceed seventy-five dollars for a nonprofit organization listed in subsection 2 or a youth event held on a single body of water.
 4. The director may deny or revoke a permit if:
 - a. The director believes the fishing contest does not or will not comply with the rules of the department or could be harmful to the fishing resource;

- b. An agency with jurisdiction deems the public use facilities such as a boat ramp, parking area, campground, or related facilities are inadequate to support the contest; or
 - c. The committee or sponsors have failed to submit timely reports.
- 5. A permittee shall submit a report to the director within thirty days after completion of the fishing contest. The report must include the number of contest participants, the quantity and species of fish taken in the contest, the gross and net proceeds for the tournament, and the percentage of the entry fees awarded to the participants as prizes. Failure to submit this report is justification for denial of future fishing contest permits.
- 6. The director may adopt rules to administer this section.