



# North Dakota

## SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress  
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**ND Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee**  
**Hearing for HB 1470**  
**March 14<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Chairman Dale Patten, Vice Chairman Greg Kessel and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Richard Brueckner, I serve as President of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC). The NDSFC is a statewide organization dedicated to preserving, promoting and improving the quality of sport fishing in North Dakota. As sportsmen, sportswomen and outdoor recreationists, we support the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's thorough review of its license fees. After reviewing the testimony and supporting material, including those submitted by Director Jeb Williams, we fully support the recommended fee adjustments.

However, we believe that an **Industrial Inspection and Decontamination Fee** should be included in this legislation. The cost associated with **Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)** inspections of industrial equipment, conducted by the North Dakota Game and Fish Departments, ANS division should not be borne by sportsmen and sportswomen through license fees.

According to available data, in 2024 alone the department inspected approximately **125 pieces of large industrial equipment** -- including, barges, tugboats, spuds, spud wells -- originating from states such as Idaho, Utah, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Missouri. These inspections were associated with projects like the **BNSF railroad bridge in Bismarck, the Snake Creek pumping plant maintenance, and water supply project near Williston**, none of which are directly related to recreational activities in North Dakota.

To address this issue, we respectfully request that the committee consider implementing a **\$500 fee per industrial inspection and a \$5000 fee for inspections requiring decontamination**. While these fees may seem significant, they are necessary to account for the time and resources involved, including employee labor, travel and specialized decontamination equipment. Given North Dakota's short summer season, the department's commitment of up to 125 days inspecting industrial equipment must be properly compensated – **without placing the financial burden on sportsmen and women**.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your support in securing the future of sport fishing and outdoor recreation for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Richard Brueckner  
President  
North Dakota Sportfishing Congress

"To Preserve, Promote and Improve the Quality of Sport Fishing in North Dakota."