



NEWS RELEASE

North Dakota State Water Commission

900 EAST BOULEVARD AVE. • BISMARCK, ND 58505-0850 • 701-328-2782 • www.swc.nd.gov

May 8, 2014

For more information:

SWC Planning and Education Division

Jessie Wald (701) 328-2782

Office of the State Engineer ramping up efforts to reduce littering and glass container violations

The Office of the State Engineer is ramping up efforts to reduce littering and glass container violations on the Missouri River. New signs have been posted at several access points along the Missouri River making the public aware that littering and the possession of glass containers on the river's beaches and sandbars is prohibited.

"The Missouri River and its sandy beaches are a tremendous resource and asset to our state and particularly the local area for recreationists of all types," said State Engineer Todd Sando.

"Unfortunately with the increasing popularity of the river, we're also seeing an increase in the amount of litter being left behind and the presence of glass containers."

Littering and glass container use are both prohibited on Missouri River sandbars, but continue to be a problem and concern. The fine for littering on beaches and sandbars carries a maximum penalty of \$250 and the possession of glass containers carries a fine of \$100.

Sando also stressed, "Bare feet and broken glass on beaches makes for a serious health hazard, which is why glass containers are almost always prohibited on public beaches. For North Dakota's major waterways, it's no different – because once there's broken glass on a beach, it can be a danger for anyone using that area for years to come."

People using Missouri River beaches and sandbars are being asked to clean up after themselves and avoid the use of glass containers. Anyone witnessing littering or glass container violations are encouraged to call the Report All Poachers line at (800) 472-2121 or to inform violators that those acts are finable offenses.