

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge**  
**9754 143 1/2 Avenue SE**  
**Cayuga, ND 58013**  
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Tewaukon/>

August 20, 2019

## **Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge Completes Repairs to Dam Damaged by Spring Flooding at Lake Tewaukon**

*Fishing and Boating Opportunities on Lake Tewaukon Continue as Usual*

**Contact:** Jack Heisler, 701-724-3598, x4, [Jack\\_Heisler@fws.gov](mailto:Jack_Heisler@fws.gov)

**Cayuga, ND** – Refuge staff recently assessed damage and completed repairs to Lake Tewaukon’s dam (known as Dam 1 or the North Bay Dam) at the [Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge](#). The dam had been damaged by [spring flooding](#); more specifically, stoplogs used to control water levels were knocked out of the dam by spring ice flow. This issue was first identified by refuge staff in May 2019 and refuge staff actively coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s regional engineering experts to assess and address this situation as quickly as possible. Ensuring the safety of our staff, visitors, and local community is always our top priority, and the refuge’s damaged dam did not endanger critical infrastructure or human safety. Boating and fishing opportunities continue as usual at Lake Tewaukon, and we recommend exercising caution due lower-than-normal water levels.

We anticipate that the water levels in Lake Tewaukon will likely continue to rise in the near future, now that the dam repair work is completed. Based on flows in the Wild Rice River, operating level would be reached in about 40 days. Changes in river flows and precipitation may increase or decrease the amount of time it takes to fill the lake.

Continuous water flow into the lake this summer appears to have prevented a major fish die off. After consulting with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, fish stocking will not occur at Lake Tewaukon in 2019 or until adequate water levels are restored in the future.

Maintaining a recreational fishing program remains a public use goal outlined in the refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan, a document that guides refuge management actions and decisions. Lake Tewaukon is one of two lakes open to fishing on the refuge.

Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1945 as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. Today, the refuge includes over 8,300 acres of grassland and wetland habitat that supports migratory birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, insects, and native wildflowers. The refuge provides visitors near and far with opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating, and wildlife observation. It is one of over 560 refuges in the [National Wildlife Refuge System](#). To learn more about the refuge, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Tewaukon/>

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen in the West, visit [our website](#), connect with us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), watch our [YouTube channel](#), and download public domain photos from [Flickr](#).*

– FWS –