

Jerry Weigel

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Hello fisheries enthusiasts. My name is Jerry Weigel. I was born and raised in Linton. As a kid I spent most of my time fishing, trapping and exploring Beaver and Spring creeks in the Linton area. Some of my first fisheries experience was cleaning catfish for a local commercial fisherman. After graduating from Linton High, I attend NDSU-Bottineau Branch acquiring an Associated Degree in Fish and Wildlife Management. I then attended the University of North Dakota where I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fish and Wildlife Biology.

During my college years I got my first start with the Department working several summers as a fisheries seasonal aid in Riverdale. The Division was small back then and I was fortunate to work with or at least meet many of the “old timers” of the early Fisheries Division. After finishing college I volunteered at Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery one winter to stay in the fish business. In the spring of 1986, I started fulltime with the Fisheries Division as a Fisheries Technician at Riverdale. Less than a year later I was transferred to Spiritwood to supervise and help coordinate fish production activities and assist with boating access projects around the state.

In the spring of 1992, I transferred to Bismarck where I began working in the position I hold today as the Fisheries Production and Development Section Leader. A significant portion of my time is spent addressing fish production needs for statewide fisheries. With no state hatcheries we rely exclusively on the two federal hatcheries (Garrison Dam and Valley City). Work can range from trading fish with other states, working on capital expenditures at GDNFH, to delivering fish to waters statewide. I assist the division with several other tasks including: information technology support, database management of fisheries data, and procurement agent for fisheries equipment.

With the diverse work I get to be a part of, even after 20 years I still look forward to Mondays as much as the weekend. It’s been an enjoyable ride!