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Longmire, C.L. 2012. Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident hook/line angler opinion survey. Report ID# HD-6-12.AMS. Pierre, SD: South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks.

This report summarizes results from the South Dakota GFP's resident hook/line angler opinion survey regarding spearing and bowfishing in SD, which was administered in the Fall of 2012. Survey responses were collected from a random sample of 4,000 resident anglers who purchased a fishing license, but did not hold a Game Fish Spearing Permit in 2011 using both an Internet survey and a mail survey. A total of 1,830 responses were received for an adjusted response rate of 50.4%. Overall, anglers did not perceive any conflicts between hook/line anglers and spearing/bowfishing anglers, or any issues with current safety regulations in place for spearing. In addition, the majority of anglers were neutral toward the potential management options for spearfishing opportunities in SD.

**KEYWORDS:** hook and line anglers, spearing, bowfishing

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### **DISCLAIMER**

The views expressed in survey comments are the views of the commenting respondent(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks or the author(s) of this report. Neither the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks nor the author(s) guarantee the accuracy, completeness or reliability of any opinion or view expressed in respondents' comments. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks reserves the right, but not obligation, to remove at its discretion any language which discloses personally identifiable information about respondents or any other individual, as well as language which is obscene, profane, offensive, malicious, discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise unlawful.

COVER ART: Word cloud generated from survey respondents' additional comments using Wordle.net. The larger the words appear the more frequently they were used in respondents' comments.

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Published by:  
SD GAME, FISH, & PARKS  
PIERRE, SD

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523 E. Capitol Ave  
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December 2012

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## Executive Summary

### Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

HD-6-12.AMS

*Cynthia L. Longmire, Ph.D.*

- A random sample of 4,000 SD resident anglers who purchased a fishing license, but did not hold a Game Fish Spearing Permit in 2011 were invited to participate in a mixed mode survey of spearing and bowfishing in SD. A total of 1,830 responses were received for an adjusted response rate of 50.4%. The majority of responses received (1,473) were via the mail survey and only 357 anglers responded to the Internet survey.
- 85% of anglers participated in hook and line angling from January 1 to December 31, 2011.
- Walleye/Sauger was the most frequently targeted game fish species when hook and line angling with 71%; followed by panfish (49%) and northern pike (31%).
- Overall, anglers were not in favor of removing size restrictions on walleye for spearing when combined with reduced daily limits.
- The majority of anglers did not perceive any conflicts between hook/line anglers and underwater spearers (79%), bowfishing anglers (91%), or darkhouse spearers (89%).
- The majority of anglers either did not perceive issues with current safety regulations in place for spearing or bowfishing activities or indicated they were not sure
- The majority of anglers were neutral toward the following actions: 1) maintaining existing spearing opportunities in SD (53%); 2) adding waters to the list of those currently opened to underwater spearing of game fish (53%); 3) starting the spearing season earlier and running through March 31<sup>st</sup> (57%); and 4) allowing a statewide underwater game fish spearing season (53%).
- 44% of anglers were neutral toward allowing a statewide darkhouse spearing season for pike and rough fish only, while 47% either supported or strongly supported doing this.

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# **Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

**HD-6-12.AMS**

**Cynthia L. Longmire, Ph.D.  
Human Dimensions Specialist  
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks**

## **Introduction**

In addition to hook and line angling opportunities, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GFP) also provides opportunities to engage in spearfishing and bowfishing in a limited number of waters across the state. In the spring of 2012 GFP surveyed all resident anglers who purchased a game fish spearing and archery permit in 2011. The purpose of this study was to collect: 1) basic statistics for this user group; 2) information regarding available opportunity for spearing and bowfishing in SD; and 3) to better understand this user group's perceptions of safety issues, rules and regulations, and conflict with hook/line anglers (Longmire 2012). In addition to this spring survey, a second survey was administered to resident anglers who did not purchase a game fish spearing and archery permit in 2011. The purpose of this second survey was to learn more about hook/line angler attitudes toward spearfishing and bowfishing opportunities available to anglers throughout South Dakota.

This report summarizes results from the GFP's resident hook/line angler opinion survey regarding spearing and bowfishing in SD. Survey responses were collected during the fall of 2012 on rules and regulations, conflicts with spearing and bowfishing anglers, safety issues, and support/opposition for several management options regarding spearing opportunities in South Dakota.

## **Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

### **Methods**

A total of 123,070 resident anglers were identified through the GFP licensing database as having purchased a fishing license in 2011 but not a Game Fish Spearing Permit. Half of this population (61,530) provided an email address. A random sample of 4,000 anglers were drawn from this population and anglers who had provided an email address (1,977) were sent an email inviting them to complete a survey via the internet (appendix A). Email recipients were provided a unique link to the online survey (SurveyMonkey®) designed to not allow repeated access once the survey was complete. In all, three email invitations were sent asking anglers to please complete the online survey. A total of 357 anglers responded to the online survey.

Following the completion of the online survey, all online non-respondents (1,620) and anglers who did not provide a valid email address (2,023) were sent a printed version of the survey through the mail (appendix A). A modified tailored design method (Dillman et al. 2009) involving an initial mailing, a follow-up postcard, a second survey, and a third survey was used to administer the mail survey. A total of 1,473 anglers responded to the mail survey. After adjusting for undeliverable addresses, the overall response rate for the mixed-mode survey was 50.4 percent. There were no significant differences found in responses based on survey mode (online versus mail).

The sample design (resident anglers in 2011) excluded those resident anglers who held a Game Fish Spearing and Archery Permit in 2011, but it did not exclude those who may have purchased one in 2012. A total of 984 anglers who did not hold a spearing permit in 2011 purchased one in 2012. In the random sample drawn for this survey 17 anglers held a spearing permit in 2012. Among the respondents to this survey only 11 anglers held the spearing permit in 2012. These 11 anglers accounted for 0.6 percent of the total responses. Respondents who purchased a spearing permit in 2012 did differ in their responses from anglers who did not purchase the permit (appendix B); however, since they represented less than one percent of the total responses, their differences do not significantly impact the overall analyses. Therefore,



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results presented here represent all responses received regardless of their 2012 licensing status.

### Results

To ensure all respondents had the basic information needed for answering the questionnaire, anglers were given at the beginning of the survey a set of definitions, location information, and season dates pertinent to game fish spearing and archery (figure 1).

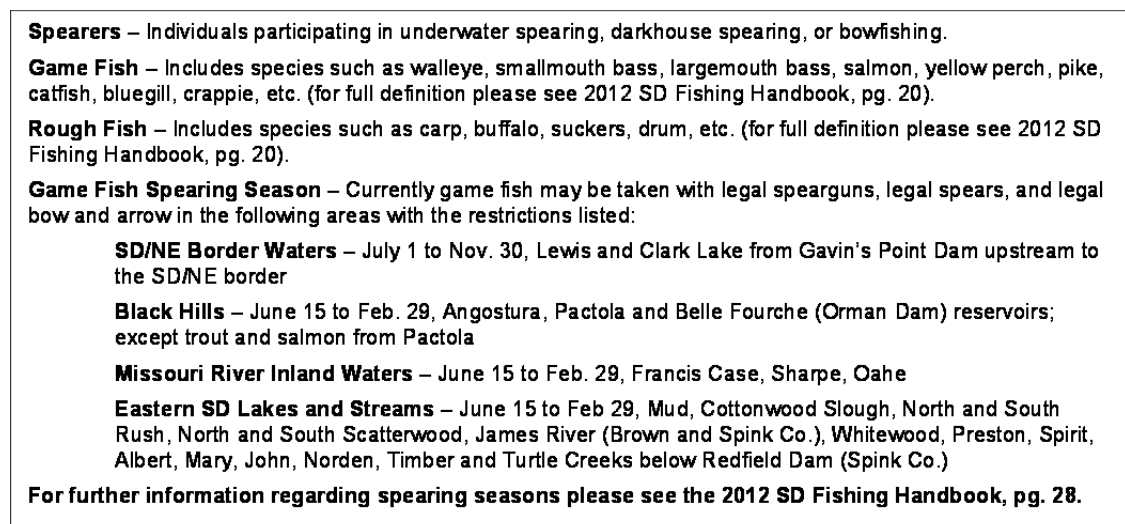


Figure 1: Definitions pertaining to game fish spearing

### Participation and Harvest

Anglers were asked to indicate whether or not they had fished in 2011, and what game fish species they targeted, if any, when fishing. Overall, most of the respondents participated in fishing, and walleye was the most commonly targeted game fish. Eighty-five percent of anglers reported having participated in hook and line angling from January 1 to December 31, 2011 (figure 2). The majority of anglers (71%) indicated they targeted walleye/sauger when they fished; 49 percent targeted panfish (i.e. bluegill, crappie, and perch) and 31 percent targeted northern pike (figure 3). Seventeen percent indicated they did not target a specific species. Five

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

percent indicated they targeted species not listed, and when asked to specify, over three-quarters (77%) indicated they targeted trout species.

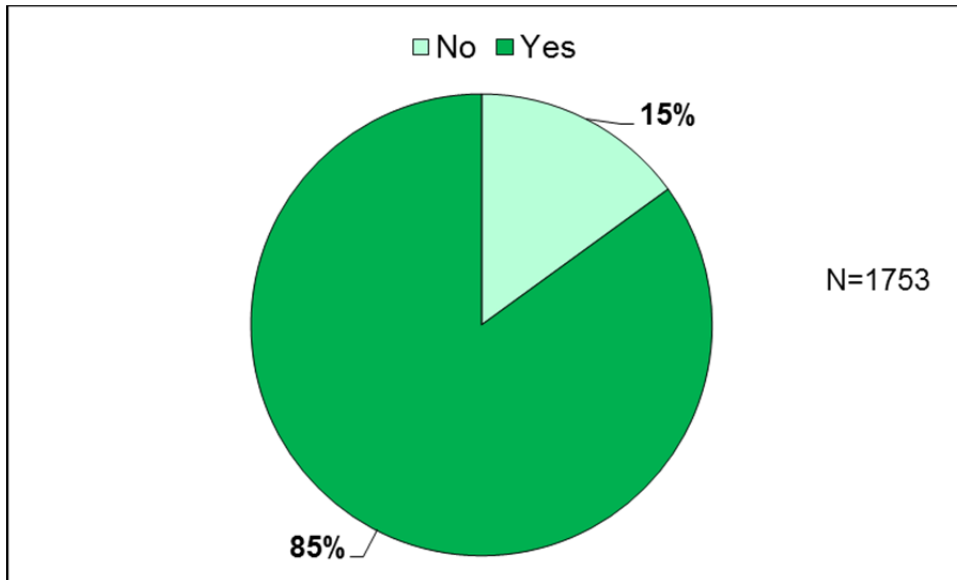


Figure 2: 2011 Hook/line angling participation

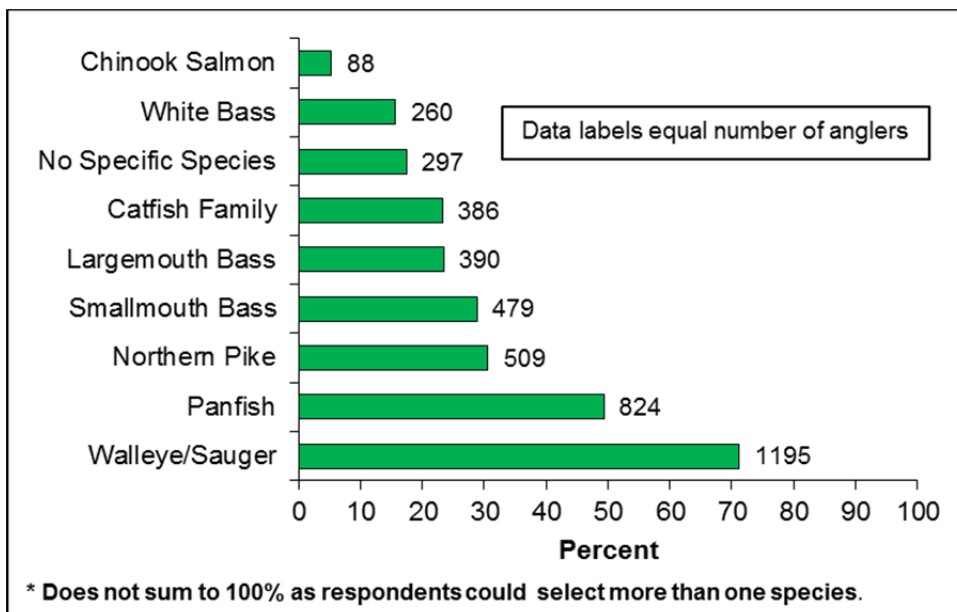


Figure 3: Game fish species targeted when hook/line angling

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

### Size Restrictions

Anglers were asked to indicate whether or not they would be in favor of removing size restrictions on walleye for spearing when combined with reduced daily limits. Overall, anglers were not in favor of removing size restrictions on walleye for spearing. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of anglers were opposed to removing size restrictions when the daily limit was reduced to three walleyes or two walleyes (figure 4). Seventy-two percent of anglers were opposed to this when the daily limit was reduced to one walleye.

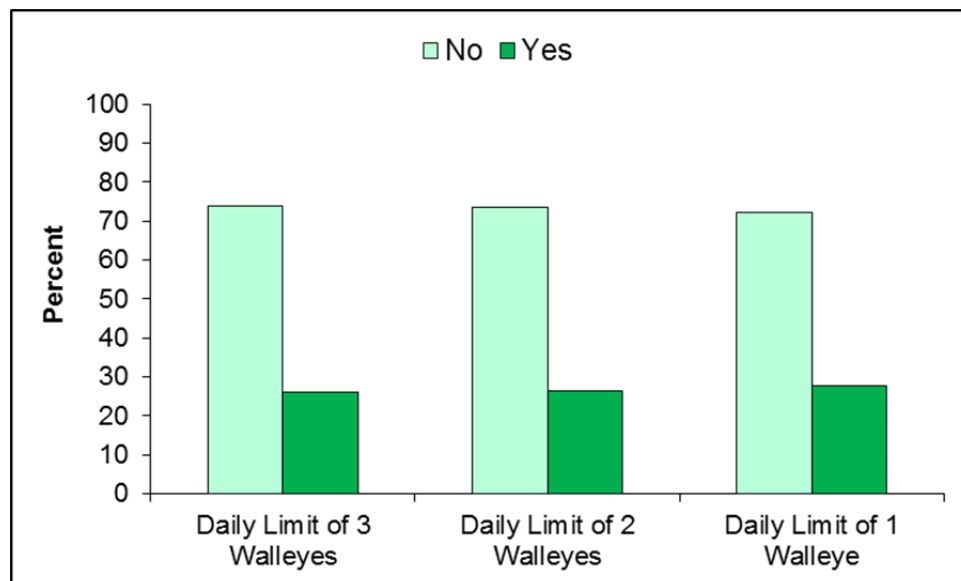


Figure 4: Removal of size restrictions on walleye coupled with reduced daily limit for spearing

### Perceived Conflicts

Respondents were asked whether or not they perceived any conflicts between hook/line anglers and spearing and bowfishing anglers. Overall, the majority of hook/line anglers did not perceive conflicts; however, when they did perceive a conflict, hook/line anglers were more likely to indicate a conflict with spearers than with bowfishing anglers (figure 5). In addition, they were more likely to indicate conflict with underwater spearers than with darkhouse spearers. Twenty-two percent of hook/line anglers perceived a conflict with underwater spearers

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

compared to 11 percent with darkhouse spearmen and 9 percent with bowfishing anglers. These findings are similar to the perception of conflict reported by spearing and bowfishing anglers in the spring of 2012 (Longmire 2012). If respondents indicated there was a perception of conflict, they were asked to provide further explanation as to the nature of the conflict (appendix C). A total of 281 respondents provided further explanation, of which 39 percent (110 comments) indicated conflicts related to location and proximity of the different uses (figure 6). Relating to location, 47 comments referred to spearmen monopolizing a point and forcing hook/line anglers to fish elsewhere. The second most common theme, mentioned in 23 percent of comments, was safety issues and inadequate markings for spearmen.

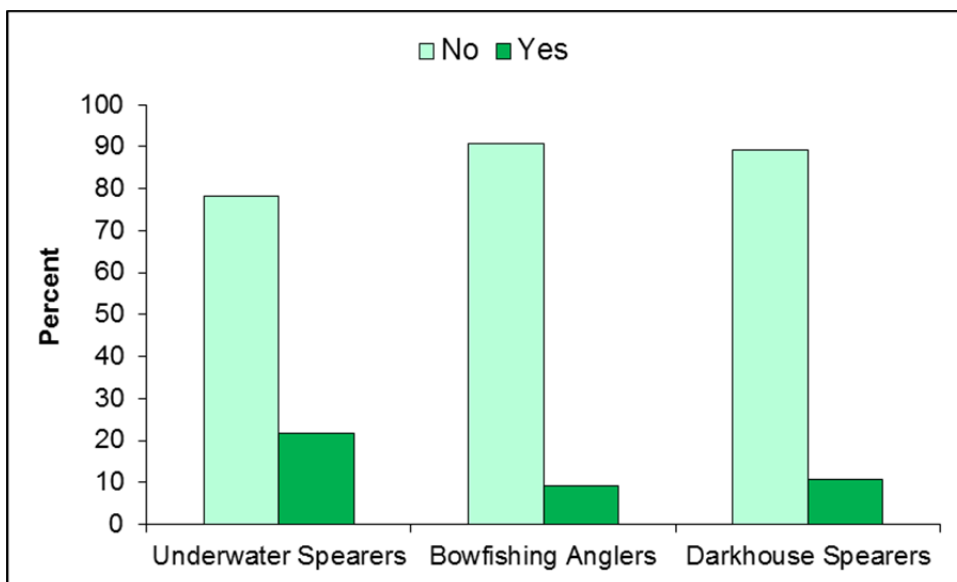


Figure 5: Hook/line anglers' perception of conflicts with spearmen and bowfishing anglers

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

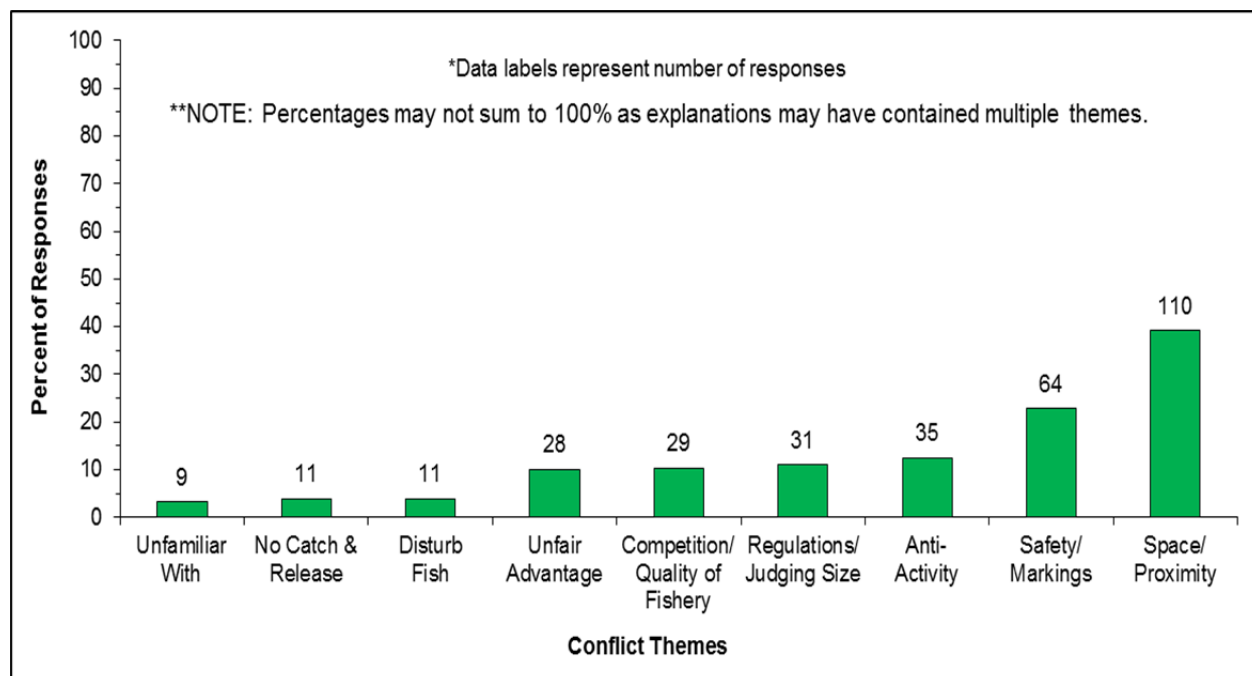


Figure 6: Themes within hook/line anglers' explanations of perceived conflicts

### Perceived Safety Issues

In addition of perceived conflicts, hook/line anglers were asked if they believed there were any issues with current safety regulations in place for spearing activities. The majority of anglers was either not sure or felt there were no issues with the current safety regulations (figure 7). Forty-three percent of hook/line anglers felt there were no issues with the safety regulations in place for underwater spearing, and 53 percent indicated they were not sure. Similarly for darkhouse spearing, 50 percent indicated there were no issues and 48 percent were not sure. Fifty-three percent of hook/line anglers felt there were no issues with current bowfishing safety regulations, and 46 percent indicated they were not sure. Four percent of anglers did feel there were issues with current safety regulations for underwater spearing. Two percent of anglers perceived issues for darkhouse spearing, as well as bowfishing. Respondents who indicated a safety issue for any of the three activities were asked to provide

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further explanation. A total of 52 respondents provided further explanation (figure 8). Twenty-nine percent of these explanations pertained to user conflicts such as the size of area affected by underwater activities. Twenty-seven percent related to concerns over the proximity of spearing and bowfishing activities to others, as well as the visibility and marking of underwater spearing activities. Other themes which also emerged were related to general safety concerns, holes left in the ice when darkhouse spearing, and statements which were anti-spearing and bowfishing activities.

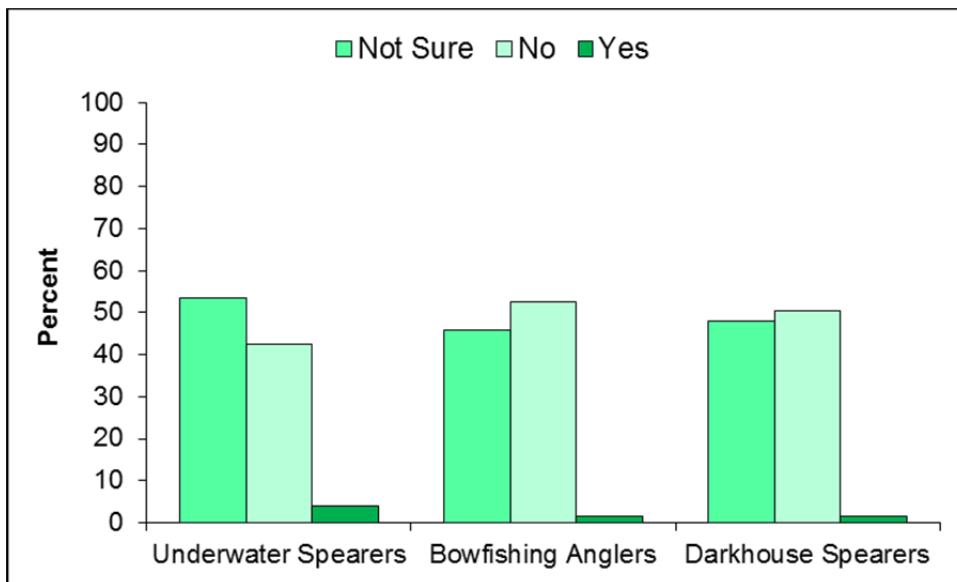


Figure 7: Hook/line anglers' perception of issues with current safety regulations

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

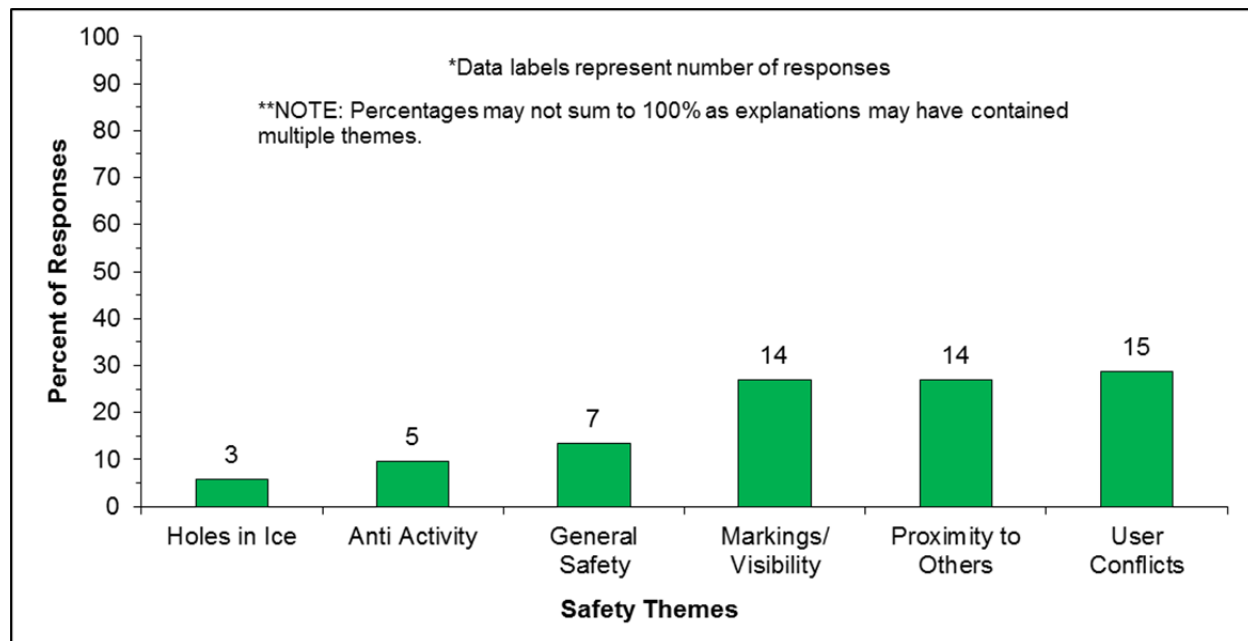


Figure 8: Themes within hook/line anglers' explanations of perceived issues with current safety regulations

### Spearfishing Opportunities

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of support or opposition for five potential options for spearfishing opportunities in South Dakota (figure 9).<sup>1</sup> In general, the majority of hook/line anglers were neutral in their opposition/support for four of the five options: 1) *maintaining the existing spearfishing opportunities in South Dakota*; 2) *adding a limited number of waters to the list of those currently open to underwater spearfishing of game fish*; 3) *starting the spearfishing season earlier (June 1<sup>st</sup>) and running through March 15<sup>th</sup>*; and 4) *allowing a statewide (except trout in the Black Hills trout management area) underwater game fish spearfishing season*. While 44 percent of anglers were neutral on *allowing a statewide darkhouse spearfishing (spearfishing through the ice) season for pike and rough fish only*, 48 percent either supported or strongly supported this option. Thirty-eight percent of hook/line anglers supported or strongly supported maintaining the existing opportunities for spearfishing in South Dakota. Twenty-eight percent of

<sup>1</sup> Anglers' level of support or opposition was measured using a 5-point Likert type scale: 1 = Strongly Oppose; 2 = Oppose; 3 = Neither Oppose nor Support; 4 = Support; and 5 = Strongly Support.

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

anglers indicated a level of support for adding limited number of waters to those open to spearing activities. Finally, 21 percent supported starting the spearing season earlier, and 24 percent supported a statewide underwater game fish spearing season.

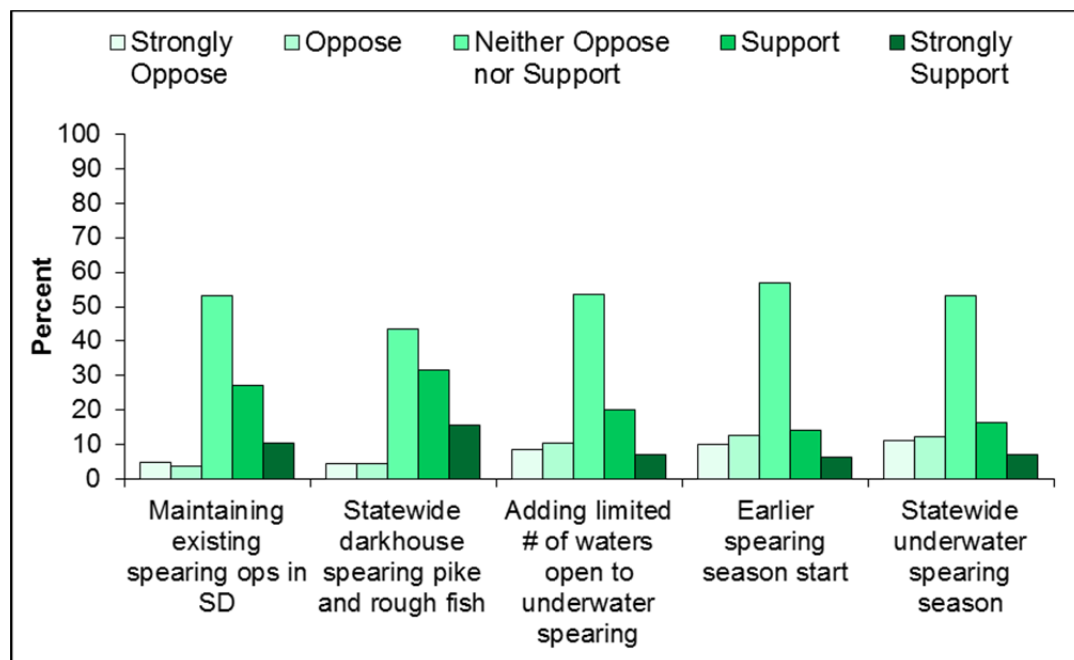


Figure 9: Hook/line anglers' level of support/opposition for potential spearing opportunities in South Dakota

### Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments at the end of the survey. Twelve pages of comments were received from 237 survey respondents (appendix C). These comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the survey, but rather they were free to provide any additional comments they may have. Comments are presented in numerical order of respondent ID number, and are presented here in the letter case they were submitted. Misspellings and grammar are corrected when doing so would not change the intent of the comment.



## **Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

### **Discussion**

In the spring survey, 78 percent of spearing and bowfishing anglers did not perceive any conflicts with hook/line anglers (Longmire 2012). The majority of hook/line anglers, similarly, did not perceive any conflicts with spearing and bowfishing anglers. Results from both the spring and fall surveys indicate when anglers do perceive conflict it is primarily between hook/line anglers and underwater spearers. Forty percent of spearers who perceived a conflict described it as hook/line anglers thinking spearing gave an unfair advantage to spearers (Longmire 2012); however, only 10 percent of hook/line anglers who perceived a conflict described it as such. Forty percent of hook/line anglers who perceived a conflict described conflicts over location/space on the water, while only 20 percent of spearers indicated this as a reason for the conflict.

The majority of both spearing/bowfishing and hook/line anglers (95% and 96% respectively) did not perceive any issues with the current safety regulations for spearing activities. Overall, hook/line anglers tended to indicate a higher degree of uncertainty in whether or not there were issues with the underwater spearing safety regulations than spearers did. In both the spearer survey and the hook/line survey, anglers who perceived safety issues were more likely to indicate issues with underwater spearing activities, and in both cases the issues reported primarily dealt with space/proximity of above and below water activities, as well as safety markings and visibility.

Many of the hook/line anglers indicated they were not familiar with spearing and bowfishing activities. Season restrictions and water conditions suitable for dive operations concentrate underwater spearing activities, making it necessary to take a more localized approach to better understanding the conflicts between hook/line and underwater spearing anglers than statewide surveys can provide. Some ways this might be accomplished are through the use of intercept surveys, drop-off/pick-up surveys, or angler interviews. Future

## **Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

research should seek to incorporate methodologies which will allow for a better understanding of conflicts and safety concerns at a more localized level.

### **References**

Dillman, D.A., J.D. Smyth, and L.M. Christian. 2009. *Internet, mail and mixed-mode surveys: The tailored design method (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Longmire, C.L. 2012. *Game Fish Spearing and Archery in South Dakota – 2011: Resident spearing/archery harvest and angler opinion survey*. Report ID# HD-2-12.AMS. Pierre, SD: South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks.

**APPENDICES**

Appendix A  
Survey Instrument

**Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota**  
**Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**



Dear Angler,

Our records indicate you purchased a South Dakota fishing license for 2011 (Combination, Annual, Senior or Jr. Combination). The purpose of this survey is to learn more about angler attitudes toward spearfishing and bowfishing opportunities available to sportsmen and women in South Dakota. Your responses are important in helping manage the aquatic resources of South Dakota.

Please take a few minutes to answer your questionnaire and return it using the pre-paid envelope provided. Your prompt response will eliminate the need to send you another survey. The ID number on your survey is used to identify anglers who have responded so we can check your name off the mail list when you return your survey. Information from this survey will be available to the public in the form of a written report.

Sincerely,

Cynthia L. Longmire  
Human Dimensions Specialist  
cynthia.longmire@state.sd.us

**Spearers** – Individuals participating in underwater spearing, darkhouse spearing, or bowfishing.

**Game Fish** – Includes species such as walleye, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, salmon, yellow perch, pike, catfish, bluegill, crappie, etc. (for full definition please see 2012 SD Fishing Handbook, pg. 20).

**Rough Fish** – Includes species such as carp, buffalo, suckers, drum, etc. (for full definition please see 2012 SD Fishing Handbook, pg. 20).

**Game Fish Spearing Season** – Currently game fish may be taken with legal spearguns, legal spears, and legal bow and arrow in the following areas with the restrictions listed:

**SD/NE Border Waters** – July 1 to Nov. 30, Lewis and Clark Lake from Gavin's Point Dam upstream to the SD/NE border

**Black Hills** – June 15 to Feb. 29, Angostura, Pactola and Belle Fourche (Orman Dam) reservoirs; except trout and salmon from Pactola

**Missouri River Inland Waters** – June 15 to Feb. 29, Francis Case, Sharpe, Oahe

**Eastern SD Lakes and Streams** – June 15 to Feb 29, Mud, Cottonwood Slough, North and South Rush, North and South Scatterwood, James River (Brown and Spink Co.), Whitewood, Preston, Spirit, Albert, Mary, John, Norden, Timber and Turtle Creeks below Redfield Dam (Spink Co.)

**For further information regarding spearing seasons please see the 2012 SD Fishing Handbook, pg. 28.**

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

### Participation and Harvest

Q1. Did you participate in hook and line angling from January 1 to December 31, 2011?

Please CHECK one:

No     Yes

Q2. What **GAME FISH** species do you target when you go hook and line angling?

Please mark a response for each species, unless you mark response A as yes.

Species	No	Yes
A. Do not target specific species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Walleye/sauger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Northern pike	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Chinook salmon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Smallmouth bass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Largemouth bass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. White bass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Catfish family (including bullheads)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Panfish (including bluegill, crappie, perch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Other, <i>please specify:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____		

### General Questions

Q3. Would you be in favor of removing size restrictions on walleye for spearing when combined with the following daily limits?

Please mark a response for each condition.

Condition	No	Yes
A. When combined with a reduced daily limit of <u>3</u> walleyes for spearers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. When combined with a reduced daily limit of <u>2</u> walleyes for spearers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. When combined with a reduced daily limit of <u>1</u> walleye for spearers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

**Q4a.** Do you perceive any conflicts between hook/line anglers and:

*Please mark a response for each of the following.*

<b>Spearers</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
A. Underwater Spearers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Bowfishing Anglers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Darkhouse Spearers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q4b. IF YES** to any of the above, what is your perception of the current conflicts between spearers and hook/line anglers in terms of fishing regulations?

**Q5a.** Do you perceive any issues with current safety regulations in place for spearing activities?

*Please mark a response for each activity.*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
A. Underwater spearing activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Bowfishing activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Darkhouse spearing activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q5b. IF YES** to any of the above, please explain:

**Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

**Q6.** How strongly do you oppose or support each of the following options regarding spearing opportunities in South Dakota?

- Strongly Oppose = SO
- Oppose = O
- Neither Oppose nor Support = N
- Support = S
- Strongly Support = SS

*Please mark a response for each option.*

<b>Spearfishing Opportunities</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>SS</b>
A. Maintaining the existing spearing opportunities in South Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Allowing a statewide darkhouse spearing (spearing through the ice) season for pike and rough fish only	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Adding a limited number of waters to the list of those currently open to underwater spearing of game fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Starting the spearing season earlier (June 1st) and running through March 15th	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Allowing a statewide (except trout in the Black Hills trout management area) underwater game fish spearing season	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Thank You!**

**Thank you very much for your valuable time completing this survey.**

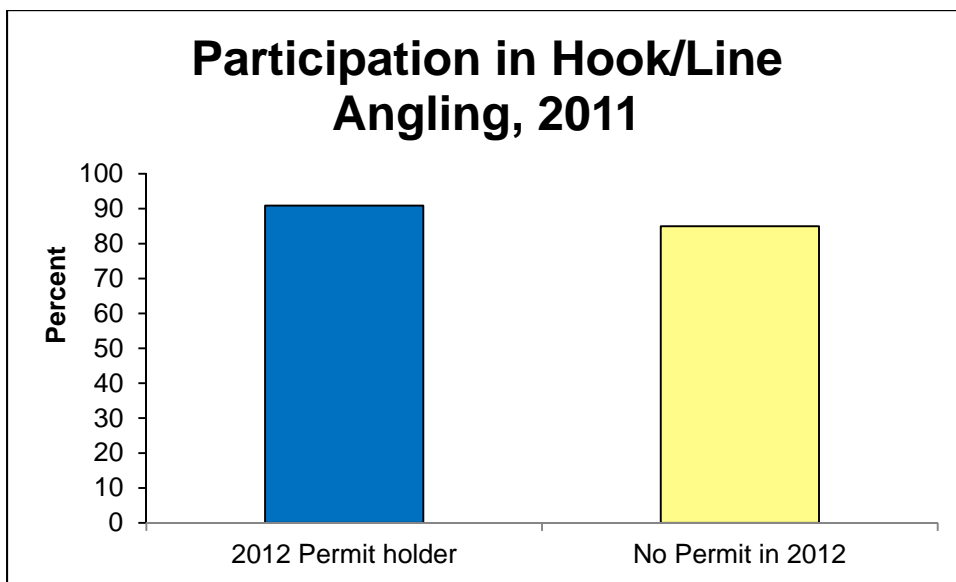
If you have comments you would like to share with us, please use the space below. These comments will be put into a report and given to the Game, Fish & Parks Commissioners, staff biologists and administrators and made available to the public. **Electronic comments may also be sent to [SDGFPINFO@state.sd.us](mailto:SDGFPINFO@state.sd.us)**

**Appendix B  
2012 Game Fish Spearing/Archery Permit Holder Comparisons**

\*Note: All survey respondents did not hold a game fish spearing/archery permit in 2011. The comparisons which follow compare those who purchased the permit in 2012 with those anglers who did not. There were 984 anglers in the GFP licensing database that did not hold the spearing permit in 2011 but bought one in 2012. In the random sample drawn for this survey there were 17 anglers who purchased the permit in 2012; however, only 11 of these anglers responded, accounting for 0.6 percent of the total responses.

Respondents who purchased the permit in 2012 differed in their responses from anglers who did not hold a permit in 2012. Since these respondents represented less than one percent of the total respondents, their differences do not significantly impact the overall analyses. The following figures illustrate the differences between anglers in the sample who purchased the game fish spearing/archery permit in 2012 and those who did not.

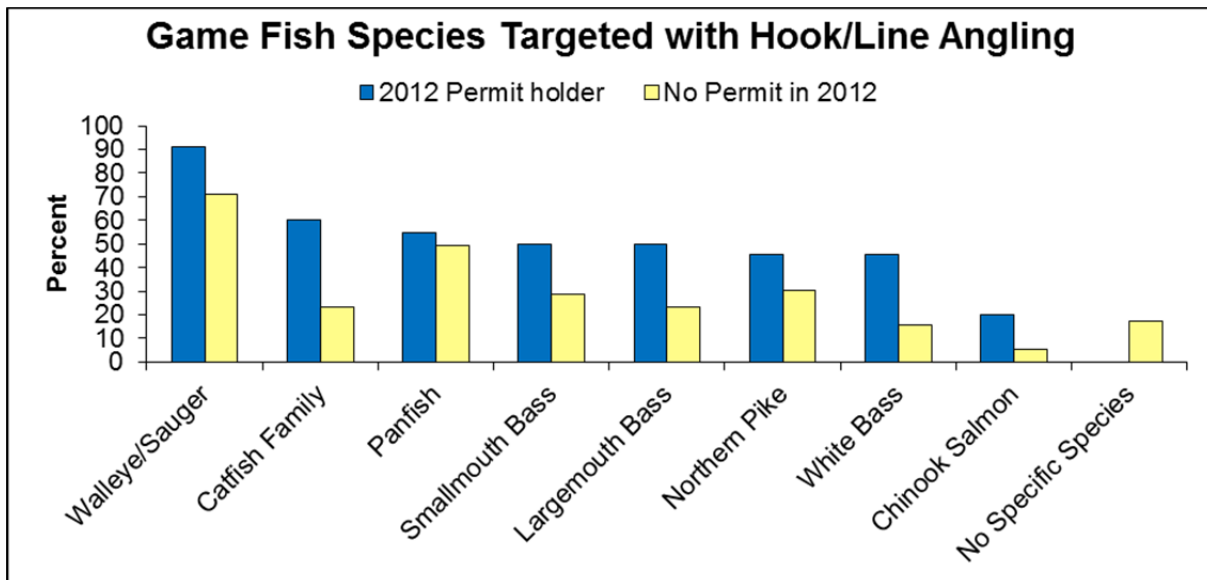
Participation in hook/line angling in 2011:



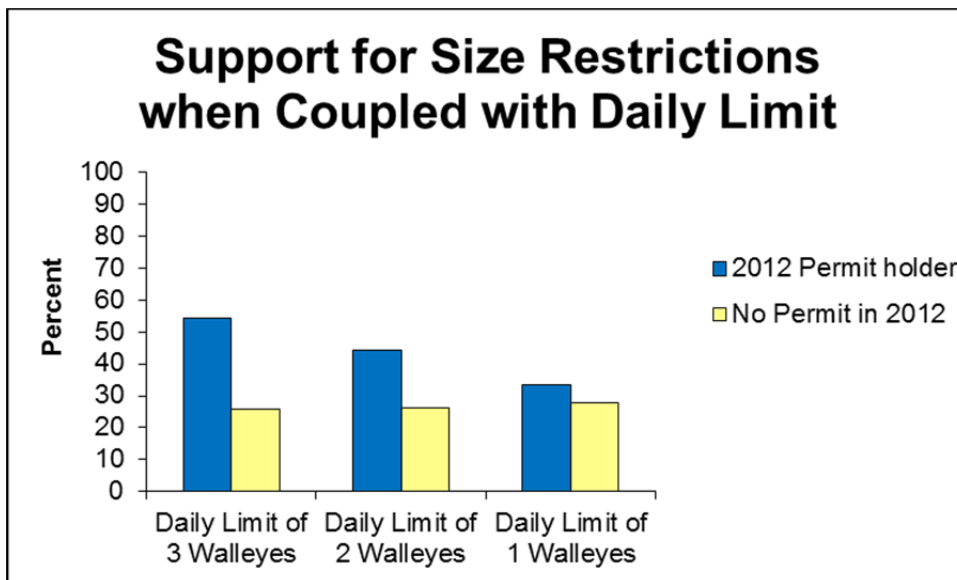


**Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

Game fish species targeted when hook/line angling:

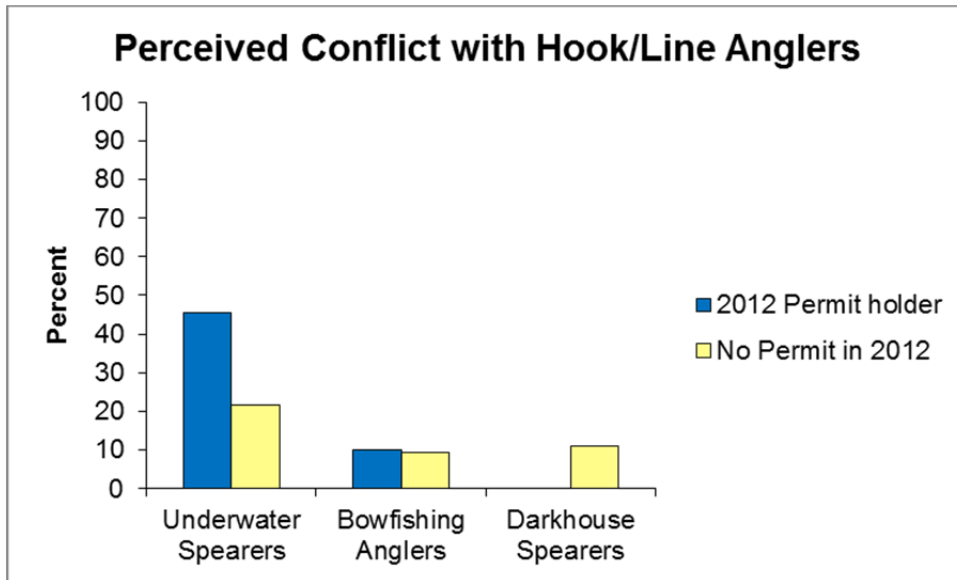


Removal of size restrictions on walleye for spearing combined with daily limits:

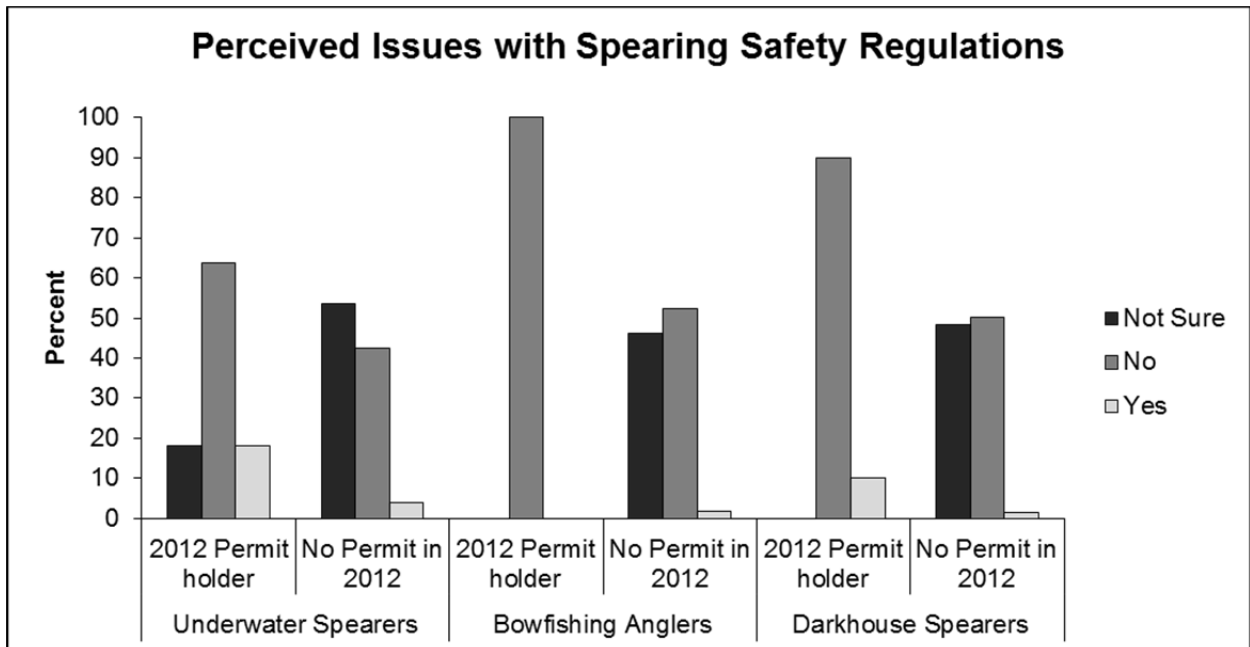


**Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

Perception of conflicts between hook/line anglers and:

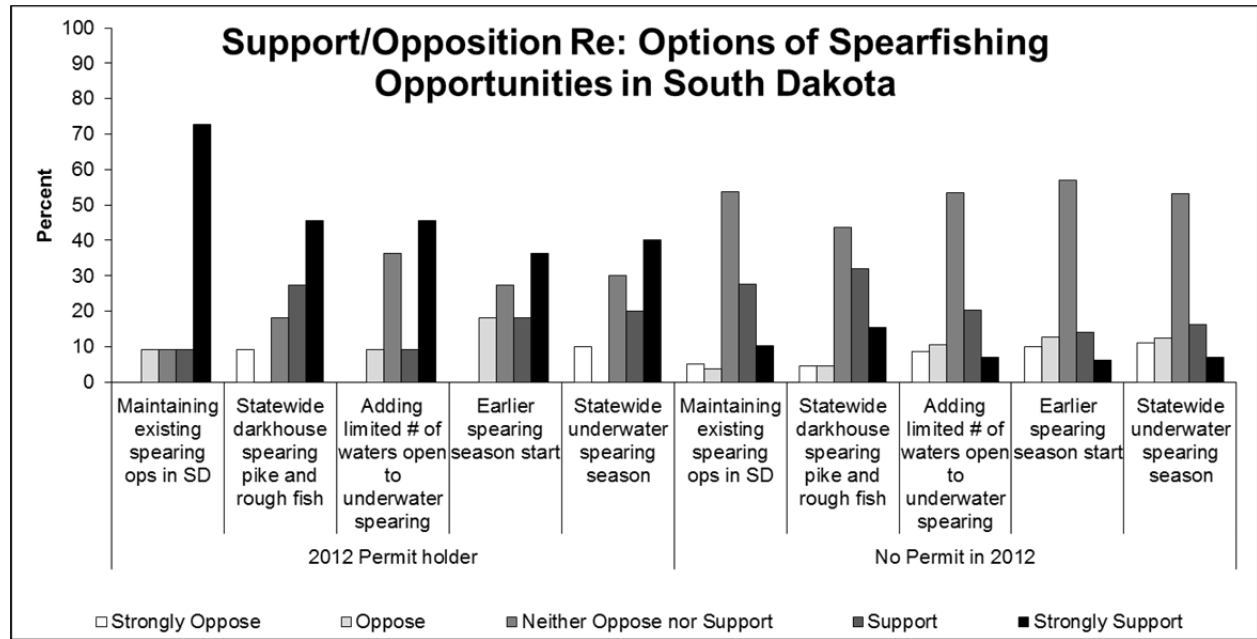


Perceived issues with current safety regulations for spearfishing:



**Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

Support/opposition for options regarding spearing opportunities in South Dakota:



## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

### Appendix C Comments

*The views expressed in survey comments are the views of the commenting respondent(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks or the author(s) of this report. Neither the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks nor the author(s) guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of any opinion or view expressed in respondents' comments. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks reserves the right, but not obligation, to remove at its discretion any language which discloses personally identifiable information about respondents or any other individual, as well as language which is obscene, profane, offensive, malicious, discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise unlawful.*

#### Perception of the current conflicts between spearers and hook/line anglers

NOTE: Q4b open-ended responses are included here as they were received with only minor edits for spelling correction.

- 6 fishing in a boat around spearers
- 12 Area that must be avoided around divers
- 38 Seems to be an issue of shared territory with the spearer having visual advantage
- 44 spearing where people are fishing
- 51 A few years ago - one diving marker and several "spearers" - some away from the marker - I almost snagged one
- 76 dangerous while boating. Leave large dangerous holes in ice
- 80 They maintain spots and you can't fish there
- 110 I believe the underwater spearers could become entangled with my hook and line. Messes up my fishing and could hurt the spearer.
- 127 We do not need spearers for game fish at all!!!
- 130 Competition for large walleyes
- 145 People would get in each other's way
- 156 safety issues - inability to monitor spearers - no possibility for catch and release with spearing
- 185 Why would you spear a fish if you can catch them with a hook and line. To visualize the size of a fish to spear is got to be difficult and mistakes would be made and there is no catch and release when speared.

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 212 They could be difficult to see from a boat while on the water. Last thing I would want to happen is hit someone with my boat in low light conditions while they were spearing.
- 227 They harvest too many fish
- 229 Not in favor of any method of fishing that potentially removes trophy fish from hook/line anglers
- 271 too large of area closed due to people diving
- 277 I feel they would be fishing right out where I would be casting my lure. Possibly scaring the fish out of the area.
- 280 Don't know about it much.
- 285 Need to have stiff restrictions on underwater spearing because it becomes unsafe without spotters or flagger etc.
- 310 YOU ARE MUCH LESS LIKELY TO FOLLOW REGULATIONS IF YOU ARE "FISHING" UNDERWATER, OUT OF VIEW OF COs.
- 315 Being underwater same time hook line could be a snag.
- 345 never had any conflict. Have heard about them not being marked well. Or they tend to be unaware of hooks and lines
- 364 Conflicts with anglers are usually the result of anglers (BOATERS) not obeying the law while boating next to or over the diver's flag. A mandatory education program for ALL boaters would help this as well as the myriad of other boater (personal water craft) issues, such as the massive DUI problem
- 391 Do not remove size limits as a management tool. Boaters will not be aware of those underwater spearers.
- 413 make underwater spearers use a buoy where spearing. i.e. no fishermen around so many feet of buoy
- 461 get the first opportunity to get the fish that hook/line anglers wait for with bait, while bow and spearers just kill with no bait
- 466 I think fishing is dangerous
- 486 spearers can target trophy walleyes
- 509 I don't feel like it is fair at all to the hook/line fisherman. Not much of a fishing sport in my opinion
- 513 They interrupted hook and line fishing in some areas. They should be limited to rough fish only.

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 519 Spearers may have an unfair advantage in that they can "shoot" the fish but hook/line anglers have to wait for the fish to bite. I don't care if people spear/bowfish for rough fish but spearing/bowfishing for walleyes, northerns, etc. is not something I am excited to see happening.
- 521 reducing breeding fish numbers for the spring spawn
- 528 could be unsafe for underwater spearers.
- 529 Always take big fish
- 539 feel it is cheating, no sport
- 548 underwater spearer location in correlation with hook & line angler
- 555 getting tangled in lines
- 578 If you're in a good spot spearers will pull right up next to you and throw out there buoy so you have to leave.
- 611 spearers unable to accurately determine legal size before killing fish
- 629 People are not responsible when they do this. I think there should be a season that is not at the same time it is best for hook/line, especially underwater spearers and darkhouse spearers.
- 630 Safety!!!
- 643 Dangerous around boats
- 646 not sure
- 668 fishing in same spot
- 677 Fishing same areas
- 691 accidents
- 705 When they set out a long string of buoys stretching for up to 1/2 a mile!
- 728 Many Hook/line anglers believe that spearers take a spot on the lake or several spots and those hook/line anglers have to honor the safety zone of the spearers. The current size of the spearer buoys should probably be bigger, as they can be difficult to see when boating.
- 745 Who has the right of way to fish an area?
- 765 Spearers completely mess with fish feeding habits. Once a spearer shows up, you might as well pack up and go home.

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 786 I have had boats move in right on top of me after they see me removing a fish from the spear. I only snorkel so I'm on top of the water most of the time. I do use a diver down flag; which is not respected by boat anglers on occasion.
- 793 There would have to be notification that underwater spearers were present
- 805 underwater spearers can deploy anywhere they want, and because of mandatory distance restrictions, can lock up an area even if hook & line anglers were there first.
- 837 Too many are taken (northerns)
- 872 I believe they kill and cripple more fish than what it's worth. (That is the fish gets away and dies)
- 882 Hard to determine where everyone is at and line.
- 889 they swim with their buoys attached to their bodies so fishermen have to keep out their way. They get choicest fish as they can see them and select the best
- 904 My question is how well do speargun fishermen follow size limits? That is my main concern. They cannot ethically release fish that are over 20".
- 906 When they come into an area where you are trolling or pulling cranks and you can't be within so many meters of them.
- 916 The safety of the spearers
- 926 unfair!
- 946 unfair Advantage
- 947 Taking Large walleye
- 950 Underwater should not be allowed. Bowfishing in some areas could be allowed.
- 952 Destruction of potential trophy fish that could otherwise be preserved through catch and release. Particularly true for nothern and muskie
- 956 Can't see them if underwater make noise when shooting scares fish if they get close to you.
- 965 The spearer takes any size and once a fish is speared it will die.
- 969 wounding them!
- 987 Mainly size of fish. Dark house spearers generally are trophy fishing. They tend to spear the largest fish possible. Same way with underwater spearers, they tend to harvest large fish. That is my only issue with them.
- 1007 unknown

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 1023 I don't like to see people spearing any fish.
- 1031 oh I'm just sure someone will complain
- 1053 hook and line
- 1055 if you don't see a marker could hook or snag someone you can't see
- 1071 possibility of not seeing them while in a boat and possibly injuring them
- 1084 spearers should stay out of hook and line areas. Hook and line fishermen should have priority
- 1087 I don't like spearing!!
- 1095 in some cases spearing fish is too easy!
- 1122 Don't like spearfishing they have unfair advantage to big fish.
- 1129 Hook/Line anglers who are shore fishing must stop fishing and wait for a dive flag to pass by even when the shore fishers were there first. Hook/Line anglers would also have to move their boat to the legal distance from a dive flag even if the boat fishers were there first and divers swam by.
- 1144 they think they own the river
- 1150 Spearfishing really isn't fishing. It not fair to the fish really it's cheating. It just doesn't seem right to me.
- 1164 underwater spearer has control over 1 point along the Missouri = to 4 or 5 boats or 8-10 hook & line fishermen. 1 pontoon with 4 divers = 4 points or 36 to 40 hook & line fishermen.
- 1182 I would not want to fish anywhere near underwater spearers or bowfishing anglers. I would be afraid of hitting or snagging the underwater spearers. The bowfishing anglers are using deadly weapons. I would not want to be near them.
- 1193 not to spear walleyes in dark house
- 1207 Underwater spearing should be for rough (nongame) fish such as carp, suckers, catfish etc. Most fishermen are catch and release for the majority of their catches, to maintain a quality fishery. It is not right to allow spear fishing for easy species such as bass and walleye. Especially when we
- 1210 It doesn't matter to me if a fish is taken by spear, bow, or hook & Line, as long as the daily/possession limits are the same dead is dead.
- 1214 Selective large fish
- 1228 fast water they can go wherever



## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 1242 Underwater spearers control too much water.
- 1299 spear fishing could target large ones of species
- 1337 Supervision, game production
- 1345 OVER BAGGING
- 1355 Spear fishermen often move into hook/line fishermen area. Party boats drop off spear fisherman and leave them with inadequate marking and in travel lanes (mouth of creeks).
- 1356 Many conflicts arose over the last few years. The sheer number of spear fisherman has jumped up dramatically. I think it should be illegal to spearfish game fish.
- 1357 I have no conflict with spearers but I do hear other hook/line anglers complain since they think spearfishing gives the spear guys unfair advantage. I don't hear them complain about darkhouse spearers or bow fishers.
- 1372 in the past we have had spear fishermen stop and drop where we were hook & line angling
- 1396 I have been fishing on Missouri River working a gravel bar for walleyes when a boat of spearers come scooting in and drop anchor and flag. When I tell them I am working this section of a point - they say tough \_\_\_\_\_ - stay clear of flag or they'll report me. I have no time for speargun fishing.
- 1420 you can't have spearers anywhere near hook/line anglers. Spearers have an unfair advantage over hook/line anglers. Spearers could spoil the entire fishing experience for hook/line anglers.
- 1515 prefer fishing be limited to hook & line EXCEPT rough fish
- 1519 Can't see underwater spearers
- 1520 just trying to use same spot at same time
- 1540 Hook & Line is the only way to practice catch and release
- 1546 no underwater spearing of game fish
- 1578 safety aspect for casting and retrieving
- 1597 I don't think spearing or shooting walleyes should be allowed in any form.
- 1616 Underwater spearers come into areas boats are already fishing put out a flag and others have to move or change to accommodate them. Can't determine accurate size before spearing underwater
- 1635 underwater spearing can overlap and spook fish for shore anglers

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 1638 Underwater spearers not staying within the designated distance of their diver down flags
- 1651 80% all
- 1656 Q3 Spearing would be done when they are spawning? Not when they are spawning. No spearing any game fish.
- 1657 not sure what a "dark house spearers" are but not being sure if a "spearer" is in the area seems to be an issue
- 1661 safety when sharing waters in close proximity
- 1730 depending where the underwater spearer is fishing, they could get hit by a boat
- 1740 if they are spearing the same area boats fish. A boat can't go through of fish the structure because you need to stay away from their marker.
- 1768 I don't know enough about the current regulations
- 1773 AREAS THAT ARE USED BY BOATS.
- 1786 LACK OF COURTESY
- 1831 Sometimes anglers have been fishing a point and spearers moved in. Anglers were told they had to move.
- 1847 too hard to control
- 1867 I don't have current perceptions, but I feel that underwater spearing gives the fisher the advantage over the shore/boat fisher. I imagine other people feel that way and there might be conflict.
- 1961 I have no issue with spearers in anyway, except I don't believe spearers should be able to target any limited fish (walleye, perch, etc.). I feel this way because spearers have a tendency to ruin the body parts of a fish which makes it unable to eat in most cases. Also I feel the risk of injury
- 1967 Underwater spearers are taking up too big of an area on Lake Oahe. If I am fishing a spot and the spearers come in and drop their flags, I have to recognize their space and they don't have to recognize the fact that I was trolling up to that area.
- 1972 presently, few, if any conflicts with a large number of fishermen in the future and limited parking, boating, and docking facilities, conflicts certainly will arise.
- 1973 My own conflict was trying to drift fish Oahe Tailrace. Spearers set their bones behind drifting boats then they (the spearers) swim behind there markers making them very vulnerable to be snagged by drifting fishermen.
- 1993 Snagging spearers in fast water.
- 2004 danger of proximity to other anglers

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 2014 The only issues I see are related to the spear fisherman and them targeting only the larger fish in prime time periods. Some of us just don't think we should allow spear fishing "at All" Thanks for asking
- 2015 People swimming under water while fishing in small lakes.
- 2085 hook and line anglers will always complain the spearers are harvesting all the large fish
- 2090 Spearing should not be allowed on game fish spearing rough fish only
- 2107 hook fishermen do not think spearers or bow fishers are fair
- 2119 Lots of spearers on Oahe. Several times I could not fish a favorite areas due to groups of spearers all set up on any area. Boaters are required to stay a set distance from spearers due to safety issues if forces me out of the popular spearing/fishing sports.
- 2127 I feel hook/line fishing is the best way for the sport. You can't see the fish you are trying to catch. A person doesn't choose what's going to be on their hook. Spearfishing lets the person choose what kind and size of fish they want.
- 2155 Don't believe you should be able to catch fish by any method but hook & line.
- 2161 underwater spearers can be spearing where boat and shore fisherman may want to fish
- 2173 disturb areas where fish stay
- 2174 my concern is there could become a "space" problem - making the enjoyment of hook/line fishing less so
- 2177 Don't know what dark house spearers are.
- 2187 I have not experienced any conflicts since I don't see any divers where I fish. I have however heard of conflicts close to dams due to divers spearing fish.
- 2215 I would anticipate that fishing areas on lake or rivers by hook/line anglers would be restricted to protect underwater spearers from getting hooked or run over by a boat.
- 2259 The divers put up markers you have to stay away from. Could keep you out of a good area
- 2263 They limit where boaters may fish
- 2264 Underwater spearers, at times, "take over" a fishing spot since once the dive buoy is out, other boats must stay clear, regardless of who was there first.
- 2280 I think the perception is that spearing is like cheating when it comes to catching walleyes. Maybe because I don't do it I think they have an unfair advantage when it comes to size selection of the walleye harvested.
- 2292 competition for fishing spots and for fish

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 2302 take too many large fish
- 2305 when divers are in an area, boat and shore fishermen have to give a large area for safety of divers
- 2345 People in boats target same areas as divers.
- 2381 proximity of spear [fishermen] to normal fishermen
- 2396 arrogant I own this water get out of here not polite sportsmen
- 2412 IF THEY WOULD BE NEAR OUR LINES I COULD SEE A POSSIBLE PROBLEM OF GETTING TANGLED IN OUR LINES
- 2419 I don't believe in spearing fish
- 2441 scaring off other fish
- 2453 Q3. Don't measure anyway. Q4. Moving in on points not using flags
- 2480 Fishing be only hook/line
- 2481 Not sure but do underwater spearers make it impossible for anglers to fish an area?
- 2482 they will get in our way!
- 2484 underwater spearers could get tangled in lines fairly easily and boats are not generally respectful of underwater divers of any kind. Personal experience
- 2502 hooking them while they are underwater
- 2503 they interfere with shore fishermen
- 2512 fish should come to us on a line. Not shoot them.
- 2517 Afraid they won't follow all the laws
- 2530 space conflict. Don't know what dark house spearing is. Not educated enough to answer Q3.
- 2536 area of fishing
- 2541 What if I snag a diver? Don't really know the current regulation though.
- 2549 Spearing has an unfair advantage of harvesting many large fish. The location of underwater spearers makes a dangerous situation for both the spearer and the above water angler.
- 2555 A boater or fisherman has to stay away from a diver leaving less area for regular fisherman. I was down rigging shoreline 100 yards stretch diver comes along and sets up dead center, leaving me soll!!!

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 2591 These groups of spears will go out and drop divers off on 10 points in a row which basically makes all boaters leave each point. Essentially they can take up an entire section of Lake Oahe.
- 2613 the anglers will not see the people underwater
- 2616 The underwater spearers do not respect others when they are in the water near traditional fisherman. They seem to think they can do as they please, because the boats have to respect the legal distance that is required.
- 2633 for underwater spearers to be safe boats and other anglers would not be able to fish same area. which would not be fair to them.
- 2639 Spearers diving near boat and shore fishing areas. Interfering with hook and line fishing. Bowfishing anglers shooting near boats and shore. Fisherman recklessly, if you allow bowfishing you might as well allow shotguns to be used for fishing.
- 2648 DANGERS!
- 2651 fishing a point and catching fish and a spear boat pull up and drops their flags. We have had multiple incidents of this. Most I've talked to act like they own the water.
- 2676 Don't Know
- 2688 knowing their proximity, safety, have not heard of the conflicts
- 2690 spearers should not be able to take over a fishing area if hook/line anglers are already fishing there. Not right!!
- 2709 Spearing cuts into the spawning walleye population.
- 2739 Big holes in lakes during ice fishing that could be dangerous for driving on lakes especially after dark.
- 2751 Interruption habitual development.
- 2757 spearers injuring too many fish
- 2763 Q3. Should not allow spearing. Q4 They hurt the population of larger fish.
- 2768 Q3 don't care, spear fisher persons take over good locations, making it impossible for boat fisherpersons to fish certain areas!
- 2769 Not knowing where they are when underwater
- 2808 They can be physically too close in proximity to each other.
- 2821 I don't like how you can be fishing a spot and the spearers will come up and take over that spot by putting out markers and you have to keep the distance. also it is very hard to judge a under 20 inch walleye under water that is why I say one fish a day.

## **Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

- 2859 darkhouse spearkers leave too big of holes in the ice. They are a danger to everyone on the ice!
- 2861 No shoot and release, shooting the biggest fish, keeping boat anglers from fishing areas with underwater divers present.
- 2878 do not favor any spearing of fish
- 2910 They watch you catch fish and throw their flag out and expect you to move. It has happened several times on Oahe.
- 2918 Danger to spearkers while boaters are pulling ropes, downriggers, etc.
- 2922 unknown location of underwater fisherman
- 2927 In some instances, I think that spearkers can take large, trophy-sized fish more easily than anglers.
- 2929 Avoiding one another
- 2953 when you are already in an area trolling been there for hours they move in drop there flags so you have to move not right
- 2977 too many tangles in the lines
- 3017 A) take over areas that being fished. Large groups are the worst. One or two not so bad, but when there are pontoons going out with large groups it just plain sucks! B & C) not quite so bad as there don't seem to be as many doing this, but can be a deterrent.
- 3039 Unsportsmanlike method of fishing.
- 3040 Spearing fishing from underwater can cause problems for anglers by not knowing where they are, could hook someone or they could score fish and ruin chances for anglers.
- 3046 Not able to visually see if the angler is following regulations.
- 3051 some of the divers have an attitude that they own the water especially some from the Pierre and Sioux Falls areas.
- 3093 spearing is unsportsmanlike. Natives spear spanning fish
- 3103 Safety of underwater spearkers.
- 3118 I don't know how spearkers can tell the length of a fish before killing it. Should all play by the same rules
- 3141 they get fish when they are cold and easy to get.
- 3175 Spearing should be for non-game fish
- 3195 They should follow the same regs as a hook and line anglers.

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 3206 Always feared the possibility of hooking a diver while trolling!
- 3218 I suspect dark house spearers over-bag
- 3248 Spearers assume preference for an area.
- 3268 Q3. Spearing of walleye should not be allowed. Q4. Spearing is not sport and should not be classified as sport.
- 3271 Should not be able to bowfish or spearfish game fish such as walleyes.
- 3280 THEY WILL BE TOO CLOSE TO EACHOTHER AND NOT KNOW IT
- 3297 Do not want to be responsible for running into someone under water when I'm in a boat. Do not know if it would happen but...
- 3302 Keep limits and size limits the same
- 3319 underwater spearers chase what to catch like deer hunters
- 3331 I would think it to be dangerous with boat movement in the waters where bother underwater spearers and hook/line anglers are participating. Very dangerous for underwater spearers coming in contact with propellers and other fishermen's lines.
- 3332 limited number of reproductive fish particularly walleyes.
- 3347 divers and anglers fighting over spots
- 3350 I don't feel that spearing walleye should be legal, it reduces the challenge of the sport & interferes with hook & line anglers
- 3367 don't like the concept. not necessary
- 3397 not in favor of underwater spearing in SD.
- 3404 I do a lot of trolling for walleyes. I shouldn't have to worry about hooking a diver or having to go around or reeling my line in due to divers in the area.
- 3419 No Body spearing not even Native Americans
- 3428 underwater spearers once their marker is out control the area! Not like drifting or sharing an area.
- 3430 The danger of hurting someone under water
- 3439 When underwater spear fisherman jump in and swim towards us when we were already fishing the area which forces us to move for fear of being too close even though they are the ones at fault. Avoiding a conflict is most often better than standing your ground.

## **Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

- 3446 hook/line fishing is more fitted for family fishing. With too much fishing other than hook/line fishing it will ruin the family sport because there will be fewer species left for the family sport
- 3486 underwater spearing will cause problems with boundaries of line fishing
- 3525 low numbers of fish
- 3529 they shouldn't be in same areas at the same time
- 3530 If I am fishing and a boat pulls up and a diver goes in the water suddenly I am illegal. It has happened to me at cow creek while shore fishing.
- 3554 I've had divers swim over my lines while fishing from the shore at Pactola.
- 3556 just not knowing where each angler is
- 3570 They do not have to spear any game fish
- 3581 major safety issues involved in underwater spearing
- 3585 I don't think the spearers and bowfishing anglers should be mixed
- 3611 Don't want to hook someone.
- 3614 spearfishing and bowfishing for carp is fine but not game fish
- 3615 inability to police size limit on spearers. Too many bad stories about fish put under a rock because they exceeded their "overs".
- 3635 Q3. I don't spear. Human Contact
- 3640 hook line anglers cannot see the people under water
- 3655 Don't like the idea of underwater spearers. Don't like spearfishing.
- 3677 They always move in on place I been fishing
- 3683 I think they should only spear the same size as me.
- 3685 Don't like the added pressure on fish numbers that spearing would cause.
- 3700 possible boaters drifting over underwater spearers
- 3711 if in the boat could I catch the person?
- 3713 safety issues
- 3714 need size restriction for underwater spearing
- 3724 I think darkhouse spearers have an advantage and will only take larger fish.



## **Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

- 3730 when fish are not biting the spearers still take fish
- 3732 fishing below and above at same time could raise issues.
- 3747 Lack of education about spearfishing to hook/line fishers. Also, both parties need to respect each other's boundaries. Problems arise when spearers take too many fishing points away from the boat people. One diver can tie up an entire point for all of the trollers. Since divers are only able to
- 3756 Bowfishing from boats and interfering with shore fishermen.
- 3764 Boaters have enough log & rocks than have people in the water spearing for fish.
- 3775 SAFETY OF DIVERS
- 3777 I do not spear
- 3778 underwater spearers would have better chance of harvesting fish than hook/line anglers
- 3784 Obvious reasons
- 3803 Their safety, scaring off fish
- 3842 I don't like that they can find and spear the big fish.
- 3846 possibly spook fish from the area.
- 3855 too strict
- 3879 I think under water spearing should not be allowed. They are allowed to take very large walleye for example without any regard to size limits. This hurts the fishing for the rest of us.
- 3880 Hook/line anglers upset with spearers removing/sorting larger fish.
- 3898 who is checking what they are taking??
- 3899 hook and line angling involves getting the fish to accept your lure-baits. Spearing is just hunting - beware!
- 3904 spearers take too many large fish already
- 3920 Spearers would be competing with hook/line anglers for limited number of game fish. Spearing should be allowed for rough fish only.
- 3933 Having to keep boat a distance away from them which already exist, but if the number of spear fisherman increases. It may be hard to avoid all of them and fish safely.
- 3943 they hunt fish while on shore your luck is few and in far between on certain days
- 3958 Have an unfair advantage

## **Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey**

- 3966 if someone is underwater going after fish they can chase the fish away from my boat
- 3969 Not sure it's a conflict, but when fish are in the shallows it seems too easy to bowfish and pick out the nicest of fish you can see. Darkhouse spearing seems to take more strategy to get the fish you are looking for.
- 3992 Underwater no opportunity to release and no way to measure prior to the taking. Too many spear fisherman are not cautious enough of the size limit in my opinion. Darkhouse same as underwater.
- 9003 Hook/line anglers will have problems with underwater spearers.

### Perception of issues with current safety regulations for spearing activities

\*NOTE: Q5b open-ended responses are included here as they were received with only minor edits for spelling correction. Where the respondent referenced a previous survey answer, that answer is included here as the italicized text within the brackets.

- 156 safety issues - inability to monitor spearers - no possibility for catch and release with spearing
- 271 too large of area closed to other boats due to people diving in the area
- 277 same as above [*I feel they would be fishing right out where I would be casting my lure. Possibly scaring the fish out of the area*]
- 345 I'm not familiar with them
- 489 They shouldn't be able to do any of these
- 610 I do not fish should have specified locations
- 611 near other boat activity
- 630 Underwater spearing should NOT be allowed
- 728 underwater spearer's buoys marking their location are difficult to see.
- 860 Could get caught in my line
- 889 because of moving buoys and their disregard of fishermen in the area
- 916 Boaters not paying attention to their markers
- 1084 mostly with visibility - on what spearers can see when underwater
- 1106 Spearing there is always a safety risk and bowfishing should have restrictions on how close they can be to other fisherman and the public as well.

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 1207 Too many spear fishermen keep anglers away from some structures because of the distance regulations.
- 1323 Think some recreational boats need more signs or something so they are more cautious!
- 1345 OVERBAGGING COULD POSSIBLY COME INTO EFFECT
- 1355 Divers' boats should be near divers at all times.
- 1356 Most of the divers don't use flags and if they do they are far away from them. They should only be allowed to spear rough fish.
- 1400 Similar safety issues as would be expected with any weapon
- 1523 shouldn't be allowed
- 1616 see above [*Underwater spearers come into areas boats are already fishing put out a flag and others have to move or change to accommodate them. Can't determine accurate size before spearing underwater*]
- 1638 See above [*Underwater spearers not staying within the designated distance of their diver down flags*]
- 1656 No spearing or bow fishing for game fish.
- 1675 To make sure there is no one fishing from the banks in case of missed throws.
- 1726 don't support spearing of game fish.
- 1973 please refer to my above statement [*My own conflict was trying to drift fish Oahe Tailrace. Spearers set their bones behind drifting boats then they (the spearers) swim behind there markers making them very vulnerable to be snagged by drifting fishermen.*]
- 2085 a bow and arrow - yes safety is a concern
- 2215 Same answer as number 4 question above. [*I would anticipate that fishing areas on lake or rivers by hook/line anglers would be restricted to protect underwater spearers from getting hooked or ran over by a boat.*]
- 2503 spearfishing is not monitored close enough by officials
- 2512 Dangerous enough with flying hooks when casting. Do not need spears.
- 2549 The area that an underwater angler may use is a much larger area than the above water boater uses creating a very dangerous collision with traffic around dams.
- 2555 Underwater spearing is the most dangerous for serious accidents
- 2751 Underwater activities may interrupt top water angling abilities.

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- 3017 I am not positive but are there any restrictions to the number of people in an area and one time, such as with hunting parties no larger than 20?
- 3268 Spearing should be limited to trash fish and not allowed in or from right of ways.
- 3353 hook and line anglers could potentially hook an underwater spearman.
- 3428 The more people you get under water the more chance for trouble.
- 3486 boundary problems!
- 3524 An available warning signal a fishing boat intruded their fishing area like a wake up signal!
- 3525 I think spearing is for non-game species.
- 3530 See above [*If I am fishing and a boat pulls up and a diver goes in the water suddenly I am illegal. It has happened to me at cow creek while shore fishing.*]
- 3571 Not enough room for fishing/boating and diving at Oahe tailraces to bridges. Divers don't know where there are at when there in the current and make it unsafe for themselves and other boaters.
- 3581 I just feel it's very dangerous and should not be allowed (underwater spearing)
- 3605 the spear holes should have to be marked w/ flag or replace the block of ice back in the open hole for safety. Or maybe have restriction on size of spear hole or even locate holes away from foot traffic on ice. The rules are far too short on spearing. It is ridiculous.
- 3615 mobile spearers traveling quite a ways from their boat or shore don't have large enough flags. I am afraid a boat traveling at high speed will not see the flag
- 3784 Obvious reasons
- 3912 Bad Ice over bagging
- 3920 THROUGH THE ICE SPEARING LEAVES LARGE CHUNKS OF ICE ON THE SURFACE OF LAKES. DANGEROUS FOR VEHICLE, ATV OR SNOWMOBILE TRAVEL
- 3933 See Q4b comments [*Having to keep boat a distance away from them which already exist, but if the number of spear fishermen increases. It may be hard to avoid all of them and fish safely.*]
- 9000 too many big walleye speared on Missouri River, darkhouses have abused this, I am not a spear fisherman but I know this happens and I DO NOT agree with this!
- 9004 May be in an area with boat anglers

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### Additional Comments

\*NOTE: Respondents' additional comments to the survey are included here as they were received with only minor edits for spelling correction.

- 3 I would like to see more game fish perch, northern walleye etc. stocked in Marindahl Lake. I've heard about fish being stocked into lakes "slough" that winter kill and are restocked again. Marindahl don't winter kill and is a beautiful fishery for us in SE SD. I know the quality of water probably isn't the best but I'm sure there are other lakes that share the same thing. Lake Henry at Scotland is another small dry lake that could use some other species of fish. I like to ice fish also but it's hard sitting all day for a few small bluegill or crappies. I know you can't please us all. I don't travel for great distance to fish at 78 I stay close to the house.
- 29 This is of no interest to me. I never plan on spearfishing or bowfishing and I don't know of anyone who does this.
- 50 got a permit but never went fishing
- 55 Not opposed to spearfishing underwater, but concerned about safety on most lakes.
- 65 Not sure what darkhouse spearing is. It would have been helpful to know what laws and limits are for spearing and bowfishing. I don't follow them and don't do them.
- 114 Regarding hook & line angling there are too many fish that are wasted because of the size limit. Most of them die after being caught and thrown back. A lot of these walleyes are 14 1/2 and 14 3/4 or a hair under 15 inches. We all feel this is a waste and shame. Maybe the size limit should be on fish over 18-20 inches buy not on fish under this length.
- 130 Strongly approve starting the spearing season earlier.
- 177 I am a recreational diver and would greatly support this opportunity for fishing. Due to water conditions visibility etc. it would be somewhat self-regulating times and locations.
- 212 Stock more crappies in the east central lakes, and stop stocking so many bass. The bass are taking away far too many panfishing opportunities in general in many of the lakes that were once great for all panfish.
- 215 Thank You, I will support the game, fish & parks Department in their decisions
- 250 I have no knowledge of this type of fishing.
- 277 I feel that it is hard enough as a hook and line angler to catch walleye and perch over fifteen inches on our local lakes. I would like to see our fish grow as well as the population. It is very tough to catch big walleye in our local lakes.
- 285 I believe that the damage on the walleye population could be very much helped, if we simply put a restriction on out of state fishermen, coming here when their season is closed. So if the season is closed in Minnesota and you're from Minnesota your season is closed in SD.
- 313 If underwater spearing is allowed, is it going to danger to fishing out of a boat as far as fishing above them?
- 347 no opinion

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- 358 Don't know much about the different types of fishing. Only go for the peace and quiet once in a great while (&for fun!) Sorry I was not much help on this.
- 364 WE SHOULD GIVE SPORTSMAN THE OPTION OF BUYING THE ANNUAL PARKS STICKER, OR BUYING A SPORTSMANS LICENSE PLATE THAT RENEWS ANNUALLY AUTOMATICALLY. THAT WAY I DON'T HAVE TO PROVE EVERY DAMN YEAR THAT I HAVE A RIGHT TO PURCHASE MORE THAN JUST TWO STICKERS... Which was just a plain stupid idea to begin with that I have to bring in my registrations to prove to an office that has the ability to just look on the computer and see what I have registered... This could be a huge revenue source as it would surely become the next "I gotta get me one of those" and we could have several different scenes on the plates... Deer, Elk, Pheasant, Ducks, Geese, how about an NRA
- 379 Tailor a statewide spearing law for darkhouse spearing of northern pike like MN's law. The spearing license would generate substantial income for the state with little effect on the preferred game fish, such as walleye, bass, etc. MN out of state is quite high fee. SD could pick up a lot of business.
- 385 have the black powder season earlier maybe before rifle season
- 389 I did not know about spearfishing was legal in South Dakota, therefor I answered the best I could
- 391 Being very honest, I know little to nothing about spearing and bow fishing. My perception is that it should be limited to a particular season limited to rough fish only and/or limits combined with hook & line daily limits.
- 401 I don't have any significant knowledge of spearing practices and am not qualified to give an opinion.
- 452 Don't spearfish and know little about it.
- 457 Please stock more walleye and crappie. Mina Lake and Richmond Lake poaching: walleyes and crappie.
- 458 I have no opinion regarding spearfishing opportunities in SD
- 475 I don't spear fish. I know nothing about it, so I cannot give you any advice. Thanks, I just fish for catfish
- 508 No opinion. Are you sure I bought a fishing license? I don't remember that at all. I know nothing about spearfishing, although I am from Spearfish.
- 509 There needs to be a law that any boat can only come within a certain zone to shore. Example: we fish regularly at Gavin's Point on the rocks and boats ALL SUMMER would be so close to us on shore, our lines from our fishing rods (from shore) would end up by their boat if not farther. Boats have the entire river. Shore fishermen ONLY have the shore. There needs to be boundaries for boats vs. people fishing on shore. (I am also a boat owner). Could easily become a safety issue.
- 513 I feel we need to come up with a better system to control the rough fish. Mainly grass carp
- 515 Have no opinion. If I did, I wonder what good it would do.
- 519 how about getting rid of some cormorants or setting up a hunting season for them?
- 532 thank you for allowing public input.
- 594 I feel spearfishing will not be a conflict with hook & line anglers.

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- 607 Have no experience with underwater spearers bowfishing. Have not fished where these activities occur.
- 646 I feel all types of spearing should not be allowed
- 687 I am a VERY seldom angler, thus I have no opinions on your questions
- 703 Would like to not receive any more surveys!!!
- 727 Do not fish at all no opinion
- 733 Did not fish.
- 749 Yes the perch should have stayed at 10 please stick to 15 inch minimum & daily 4 on walleye
- 783 We bought a license to fish with grandchildren; we don't fish as a sport or even recreation. We fished 2 times with our grandchildren. Please do not send any more surveys. We are ignorant about fishing.
- 837 Hard to fill out if all you do is angle fish. I don't know all the laws for bow and spearing.
- 844 Remove size limits on regular fishing - too confusing!
- 903 No opinion
- 904 My concern again is allowing speargun fisherman to harvest big fish. I believe they should have the same restrictions hook & line fishermen have.
- 926 Spearfishing should only be allowed when low oxygen levels are present and fishing would be liberalized anyway.
- 945 I don't know why they cannot spear fish anywhere they like. What's the difference? There is not really many lakes (I would think) that they could see in to spearfish.
- 949 Would like to have more spots for shore fishing for senior citizens. Thank you.
- 987 I think we need to protect fish from spearers, during the spawning season. From my experience with them, they tend to shoot the biggest fish possible. If we let them spear earlier, that means females will be harvested. Anglers have the option to release big fish, and most (not all) do release them. Same way with dark house spearers. They tend to strictly hunt trophies.
- 1023 I don't know much about spearing fish. Please regulate it the best way you can!
- 1027 I bought a fishing license but didn't ever use it. I just donated to the cause I guess.
- 1084 I'm more against underwater spearing than anything else - even somewhat for rough fish - how concentrated are the spearers in that area? Mostly safety reasons
- 1086 I go fishing once a year on Mothers' Day. This year I caught one trout and my thumb. I am 78 yrs. old.
- 1089 I don't participate in any of this! Thank you
- 1101 close all walleye fishing during spawn
- 1102 I don't have an opinion. I don't care

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- 1165 it is becoming more difficult to get access to streams in the Black Hills. Only recently did Pete Line Company place no trespass signs up near Rochford.
- 1195 against all spearfishing and bow fishing
- 1206 I would rather spear 1 northern than catch 10 fish---I think it's intriguing.
- 1207 Bass show little fear of divers, and should not be allowed. Northern pike are much more wary, and at least sporting. In a lake like Pactola, people fish hard for long hours to catch 1 or 2 bass, that most anglers enjoy and release. This fishery would be much better if spear fishermen were not killing so many. It is time for South Dakota to join the other states that only allow underwater spearfishing for rough fish.
- 1213 Hope to fish more this next year.
- 1217 I have not speared I just hook and line fish my fish.
- 1248 I completed this online once.
- 1262 I only pond fish for bass, so I have no knowledge or opinion on the other questions
- 1270 I know 2 men in Watertown who underwater spear, and really enjoy it. They are avid sportsmen and would never abuse the privilege. Also, I see numerous young people spearing and bowfishing carp. I say more power to them - one more carp gone is good. But - DONT LEAVE them on the river bank.
- 1335 I am not aware of spearing activity or regulations so I cannot answer above questions
- 1345 IF POSSIBLE INCREASE THE FISH POPULATION ON LAKE OLIVER OF DEUEL COUNTY.
- 1352 I do not spear, so I don't know any of the regulations.
- 1355 I have personally had a fish shot while I was fighting it on hook/line. The line was cut and the fish taken. We could not catch up to the boat after realizing what happened.
- 1370 I only purchased to go fishing with kids & only did one time. I do not have any thoughts on the info
- 1372 we have never spearfished and I am unaware of current regulations. I would like to try spear fishing through the ice someday. I feel the same about bowfishing. Thank you for your efforts.
- 1396 I strongly oppose letting out-of-staters come to catch walleyes when the season is closed in their state. If I can't go to MN to catch walleyes in the spring - they should not be allowed to come to SD and catch ours.
- 1410 why are you putting Muskie in lakes. Let people have more fish because most anglers do not have equipment to handle Muskie anyway
- 1415 Need to put back 15 to 18 to the smallmouth bass on our river and don't let fishermen take the walleye before they spawn there too many leave our water just because they can't take out of the own watch.
- 1420 please allow us to run dogs on mountain lions.
- 1431 do not participate in these sports
- 1442 I am a handicapped fisherman when I cast my line it is in the water



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- 1444 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this survey; however, I don't feel that I am in any way qualified to do this. I have never spearfished or bowfished and have no intention of doing so. I know nothing about the rules or regulations of some. Please send to someone else who may be more qualified and knowledgeable regarding this.
- 1446 In my opinion if spearing game fish is legal, snagging game fish should be legal. Next thing you know some hillbilly will be using dynamite to catch fish.
- 1508 SPEARFISHING AND BOWFISHING LIMITS SHOULD BE THE SAME AS HOOK/LINE FISHING.
- 1519 Do not live in SD anymore and don't intend to fish there anymore.
- 1523 Spearing, bow hunting, and dark house spearing shouldn't be allowed
- 1530 it is OK for spearing and bowfishing
- 1541 I am not an underwater spear fisher but do believe SD should make fishing and hunting as easy and enjoyable for all outdoor enthusiasts.
- 1548 I'm a 79 years old boat fisherman.
- 1557 I hate to disappoint you, but I've only fished maybe 5-6 times in 2011. I never caught a fish! I only fish off shore and whatever would bite my hook, would be fine. I do not know the names of the fish. So I can't answer your questions.
- 1571 I have no idea what you are talking about and I don't do surveys so please stop sending me your junk mail.
- 1597 I don't believe in spearing on shooting game fish.
- 1627 I don't spear, bow or dark house spearing & never had any bad experiences with anyone that does
- 1635 I grew up in northern Minnesota and was able to darkhouse spear through the ice for northerns and rough fish. Very fun and able to let small ones be and only take decent fish without having to catch and release and possibly injure fish in the process. I was just recently talking about why not able to spear pike through the ice. hope it goes through!
- 1696 fishing here is great when I can get out there. Rules are good too.
- 1699 archery fishing for rough fish such as carp, sucker fish, skip jack, and other unknown
- 1709 Spearfishing and Bowfishing should be limited to rough fish only
- 1726 no walleye. I have spent hours on the water hook & line fishing for walleye & have come to shore with small fish or no fish and then I do observe spearers with limits of large fish. Needless to say I do not support spearing for game fish.
- 1778 Allowing for spearfishing and bowfishing helps foster the belief that these animals are not to be respected. Be they carp, walleye or any other animal, regulation lays the foundation for total public perception of the "worth" of the animal. These harvest methods, while probably not detrimental from a population standpoint, are detrimental from a psychological stand point and in terms of fostering an environment of respectful sporting. While not immediately, eliminating these methods as acceptable harvest methods would slowly help erode the misperceptions of 'roughfish' that allow an otherwise respectful outdoors-person to feel good about slitting their belly

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- and returning them to the water. Bowfishing and spearfishing perpetuate the concept that killing as many of these animals as possible in whatever way possible is an appropriate action.
- 1808 I tube spearfish creek from the fish hatchery in spearfish to the wyatts campground outside of Belle Fourche several times a year. This year garbage (tires, metal, beer cans, etc.) and (17) dead deer have littered the creek banks. 17 dead deer on a 9 hour tube ride?? check the water for Ph balance and please find what is killing the Deer!! Also higher litter penalties
- 1852 I just got a license to fish with my son. I have no ideas for changing anything I just do it for fun.
- 1857 I despise surveys
- 1859 I am concerned that underwater spearing laws may be very difficult to enforce. I am a certified advanced scuba diver and I know a lot of things can happen under the water that conservation officers would not know about such as killing fish and leaving them in search of a larger fish. true sportsmen wouldn't do that but many people would and I think there needs to be some accountability and enforcement measures in place.
- 1867 spell "available" right (above sentence)
- 1892 I do not spear or archery fish. Why is there an additional \$5 license fee for those who do? Do they not already have a fishing license and aren't they subject to all other rules and limits? Does this \$5 raise any real money? Are there extra costs to the SDGFP for having spearing and archery seasons? I don't understand the need for this extra license. Thank you.
- 1897 I may have gone once in 2011. Take me off your list.
- 1938 Didn't do any fishing for many years have permit in case I want to go.
- 1973 I think SDGFP have done a wonderful job on the managing fish limits & regulations for all species. I believe South Dakota have the best fishing and hunting in the USA.
- 1975 I think you have greatly underestimated the amount of mountain lions in Western SD. I believe the limit should be increased more than 100 for this coming year. I recently went camping in the hills. During the night a mountain lion walked in front of the tent. Leaving behind a tuft of hair and his huge paw prints. Lucky he was full.
- 2000 SDGF&P=South Dakota "Gun's, Fees, & Politics" Restrict our guns-increase our fees and play politics with everything!
- 2014 I guess if it where up to me we wouldn't have anything other than hook and line fishing period!
- 2043 Never got to go fishing once. Please send my money back for the license.
- 2048 I do very little fishing and no spear fishing
- 2053 I do like the one fish over 20" rule. I would like to see a big fish tag or maybe 3 per year. Some kinds of tag that will limit the number of fish maybe over 24". A person can take per year. Maybe more lake like Reetz with a one fish over 28" only. I love to catch big fish and that is what I fish for.
- 2076 The regulations are very complicated and game wardens do not know the rules and explained in different way.
- 2088 I don't care

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- 2106 Would like to see the use of snowmobiles as a legal way to harvest predators.
- 2119 I do not necessarily oppose spearfishing. Would just rather see it stay limited the way it is.
- 2139 I've never been spearfishing or bowfishing before, but would love the opportunity to try it.
- 2174 Q3: there was no "not sure" option so I marked no - I really have no clear understanding of what benefit to the species the large size fish makes in keeping the population healthy physically and in numbers
- 2182 I don't support ice house spearing on the Oahe Missouri River there are way too many large fish speared in these houses and there is no way they are under 20 inch slot this needs to be watched closely.
- 2208 Am wondering if there are any plans to lower the daily walleye limit on Bitter Lake, as there's a tremendous amount of pressure on this lake. It could get fished out like Waubay did.
- 2215 It would be nice that when fishing for more than 2 days away from home. That one could transport more than a 2 days limit back home. Could it be arranged to have daily limits verified by a game warden so that all laws could still be followed when fishing for more than 2 days?
- 2217 I know nothing about spearfishing
- 2250 Consider removing size limit from 15" back to 14" on Elm Lake in Brown County. Cannot understand why it was increased unless Elm Lake was grouped with a package of other lakes
- 2252 I do not fish
- 2264 Pike are an awesome game fish. If you treat them like rough fish through regulations, they will be perceived as such.
- 2265 DON'T DO
- 2278 I NEVER HAD TIME TO GO FISHING BUT IF I WOULD HAVE I WOULD HAVE HAD MY HUSBAND PUT THE WORM ON AND HOPE FOR ANYTHING TO HOOK ITSELF!
- 2283 I feel the size limit should be changed to 13 to 20 inches as some 13" fish are actually larger body wise than some of the 15" fish I now catch!
- 2285 If the fishing stays where it is then the fishing will stay alright. But if they go to spearing the fishing may become poorer and people will have no fishing in time to come. The only thing I see with the fishing right now is that they should leave the limit the same below the dam or above the demand size the same.
- 2295 Please do not send me anymore comment forms.
- 2315 raise the price high for out of state fishermen. Too many out of state fishermen!
- 2334 Believe it is great to have an opportunity to spear and believe you have to keep it to certain area so you can monitor over limit. Give them an inch and they'll take a mile. Let them take as many Silver Bass as they want. They've screwed up Waubay Lake.
- 2340 personally I would not be interested in any spearing although I did bowfish 35-40 years ago. My only concern would be underwater spearfishers getting into areas where others would or could be involved in regular hook and line fishing.

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- 2391 remind boaters to be more courteous to land fishermen who don't have boats. They come in so close a person can't even throw a line out without landing in their boats...
- 2400 I have no opinion and did not realize it was an issue! I do not think that spearfishing impacts the lakes that I frequent.
- 2438 I believe whether hook & line or spearing, only ONE walleye over 20" should be taken. There should not be a minimum length on walleyes in any lake
- 2472 In college, do not fish
- 2480 Just have hook/line by boat or shore.
- 2482 Quit walleye @all! Stupid SOBs take all anyway. No one checks!
- 2529 I think the catch and release method is poor. If a small fish is hooked bad it will die anyway the size limit should be done away with.
- 2549 Liberalize the fishing limits on the James River and many lakes this winter before the fish all die.
- 2555 Fishermen catch only hungry fish or aggressive fish. Spearers kill all fish (large dominant fish non aggressive fish) slowly killing off large fish pop. Spearing is not a sport; they kill all large fish (mainly large fish not eaters) in time. How can they control spearing when the game & fish have enough problems screwing up with the lions/cannot count deer #. Need to solve these problems first.
- 2558 I did not fishing or angling this past year or any kind. Hopefully next year will be better. I did no fishing this past year too busy with the drought. I am not qualified to answer of these since I did no fishing last year.
- 2581 keep up the good work. Very happy with the way things are now!
- 2595 Don't know anything about spearing or bow fishing so can't be of much help.
- 2634 Since I don't spearfish or bowfish or dark house fish I don't feel comfortable to answer the questions pertaining to them as these people have to abide by the laws and spend money to do this sport.
- 2637 don't let them let water out on Lake Kampeska like they have in 2012. "3 feet low is too low. Lower state park stickers you will make up in new sales.
- 2651 All of my experience with dive boats in less than favorable and at times has ruined our day. The walleye seem to be starving!
- 2747 Do you think an 83 year old woman cares if you can spearfish underwater?
- 2763 I think this is a bad idea and allows people to target just trophy fish that are a valuable resource.
- 2768 I don't consider spearfishing and darkhouse or bowfishing even in the same category and should be handled separately.
- 2773 This is a waste of the state's money/ I don't know anything about spearfishing
- 2782 I haven't done this year.

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- 2823 keep stocking CSP with trout. It sure keeps us coming back for family vacations. Thanks SD GF&P is best
- 2827 I don't do any bow or spearfishing, but I see no problem with it
- 2854 Not related to fishing, but it is incredibly ridiculous that you cannot track a dead or wounded deer with a K9
- 2857 We need to raise the out of state fees! If out of state people camp it should cost them \$5 per night extra park stickers should cost them more also!
- 2889 I don't know enough about spearing regulations or know anyone who spears to feel knowledgeable enough to answer.
- 2895 I like Darkhouse Spearing for pike (and or) rough fish during ice season maybe December 1 or 15 to March 15 or such. Don't understand regulations at present.
- 2902 In many lakes I fish, the 1 fish over 20 inch limit is tough to manage. I would think it may be considered to go to one fish over 22 or 24.
- 2903 Can we get the Pike out of Pactola? The quality of trout and bass have gone down significantly in the last 5 years and the Pike have been taking over the lake.
- 2929 keep spearing open year around on rough fish.
- 2935 Cynthia, what law requires me to answer this?
- 2983 I would like to see a fishing dock at Lake Poinsett.
- 3001 I see using a bow and arrow or a spear as sporting as a fishing pole. We should give everyone that chooses to fish in that manner every opportunity and chance just like you would with a rod and reel. I'm sure that there is that percentage of people that would only take up fishing if they could do archery or use a spear and the season was open Jan 1 - Dec 31... state wide.....With the crazy weather patterns and seasons it should be all year long, common sense would dictate not to harvest fish that are going to spawn.....I think maybe they should also add seining as a means of catching fish....because then two people would have to purchase a fishing license just to use the seining net.....
- 3002 we have not encountered any spear fishermen. But fishing is fishing and I think they should have the same daily limit as all anglers both #s and size
- 3079 we do not spear or bowfish and know nothing about it or the regulations
- 3093 I strongly oppose any fish spearing in SD. Natives who spear all spanning fish in my area sell the fish and throw many fish away. It is a complete waste of game. No one controls it.
- 3129 I do not know anything about spearing so I do not feel I can answer those questions
- 3134 I just want to say bowfishing was great and all the people out there who work for GFP do great work
- 3147 all these regulations is just another way to extort money from hard working people.
- 3175 Spearing in my opinion should be allowed for pike and rough fish only.
- 3187 had dementia; please remove her from your survey list.

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- 3188 sorry but have no opinions on the blank questions.
- 3195 I do not spear or bow fish so I'm pretty neutral.
- 3203 with spearing you lose all the bigger fish
- 3229 We have plenty of water and land in our great state to let all outdoors people enjoy. Please look at turning Deerfield Lake into a trout fishery again! Raise the fine to \$10,000 if caught stocking fish in public lakes. Thanks, Good Job Game-Fish Dept.
- 3243 Just started line and hook fishing, have not fished in 25 years, have a lot to learn
- 3294 People who owe child support should still be able to fish. This is a really goofy law.
- 3295 I speared carp as a kid; otherwise have not done any spearing. This was over 50 yrs. ago.
- 3308 Do something about Jet Ski enthusiasts who feel they have to run over your bobbers while fishing from shore or in a boat! Seems the only place they all (most) run is on top of your fishing spot even though the rest (75%) of the lake is unoccupied!
- 3336 don't know why I got this survey. I don't even spear
- 3337 I don't spear for fish. Sorry
- 3346 I didn't go fishing last year. I am 73 years old and I am lucky if someone will take me.
- 3348 I think the GFP does a great job all around. I would like to see more stocking of fish in Spink County. It's nice to travel a few miles out of town and catch nice fish. I have taken several old people out that can't take but only a few hours of fishing. Thanks.
- 3359 A. Make more. C. All waters. Why not trout? It blows me away how the GF&P try to influence our opinions.
- 3392 referring to question #1: I did fish in 2012 but didn't make it in 2011
- 3397 Quit micro-managing lakes and streams. Don't make smaller limits and larger fish lengths for each lake or stream. I realize that you're trying to justify a huge staff of biologists. Low water and hard freezes will take care of our abundance of fish. We had more fishermen and fish before the limits were cut and license fees increased. We spend more money on surveys and regulations.
- 3404 I think it would be totally wrong to allow spearers to have no length limit on walleye/sauger. All other anglers have to follow a 15 inch min. I think what is good for one is good for all no matter the situation.
- 3419 Only Support spearing for Northerns and rough fish there are no fish up in Pollock area right now!
- 3421 I live in Huron, I heard that people got some paddlefish I myself didn't see but due to James River going down I think that them fish should be able to harvest is just one of the things that makes me sad. Thanks.
- 3439 I have seen a huge increase in the number of underwater fishermen. It is something to watch as it will change how it is managed.
- 3461 DUE TO POOR HEALTH I NO LONGER FISH.
- 3468 I am a catch and release fisherman. I only fish for Both Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

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- 3471 Keep spearing on rough fish only.
- 3486 spearfishing they will TAKE the good breeders that need to be left to spawn. Hook and line fishing most fish can be released. Spear fishing you can't throw it BACK!!!
- 3491 Have a nice day! :o)
- 3514 Please educate me on all avenues
- 3541 Dark House fishing on ice is great
- 3547 I bought a fishing license and used it once. No opinion on this survey. Sorry!
- 3554 Underwater spearfishing put the game at an unfair advantage.
- 3559 Game, Fish & Parks are doing a great job. God Bless every one of you.
- 3571 Thanks for the great year!
- 3605 I think the entire state of South Dakota should be open to dark house spearing, not certain areas.
- 3610 how do they know how long a walleye is before they spear it? I don't think they know. That's why I voted for one to make it reasonable let them shoot all the carp and buffalo they want anywhere
- 3611 I don't spearfish or darkhouse so I don't really know the rules that apply to anything other than a fishing pole.
- 3614 spear and bow fishing carp is fine and fun. But not game fish. You can't manage a speared fish.
- 3617 please consider adding Black Hills Lakes to dark house spearing for pike and rough fish.
- 3619 Make a CLEAR distinction that you can legally darkhouse spear for Pike in Pactola and Sheridan during the winter.
- 3635 I am not that avid of a walleye fisherman, but that is all I target.
- 3666 I actually feel that bowfishing and spearing should be only for rough fish, not game fish.
- 3683 I was very disappointed in paddlefish snagging.
- 3703 find a way to bring back salmon numbers in Oahe
- 3710 I don't like a different size/number regulation placed on fish in the various lakes in NE SD. Can't they all be the same? I'm almost afraid to fish - thinking that I'll get the wrong size or number caught wrong.
- 3717 Neutral & No experience with q3-q6
- 3747 I believe that dark house spearing should be allowed statewide (except for special reasons). The biggest problem I see is how to keep recently vacated holes safe.
- 3759 Anyone who opposes spearing or bowfishing is a whiner! GROW UP!
- 3765 Be good to open some in the counties of Day, Grant, and Roberts to spearing like Bullhead Lake, One Road, Hurricane Lake. Thank You.

## Spearfishing and Bowfishing in South Dakota: Resident Hook/Line Angler Opinion Survey

- 3777 I do not spear
- 3780 I strongly feel that spearfishing and bowfishing should be confined to non-game fish species: carp, gar, catfish, etc. Spearfishing selectively takes the larger gamefish which help control the non-gamefish species
- 3841 keep size limits on year around.
- 3842 Fishing at Orman Dam has too much pressure.
- 3851 Kill all the mountain lions in the Black Hills
- 3854 I honestly have never seen a spear fishing person in the areas I fish.
- 3878 In my opinion size restrictions should remain the same whether hook/line or spearing. A special thanks to all Game, Fish and Parks employees. Without you all we would not have nice places to teach our young ones about nature. Thank You
- 3904 not in favor of increasing size or limits to any form of spearfishing that already has an advantage
- 3914 I did not answer this survey because I have no idea what all this means and I don't want any "guess" answers to skew your survey. I only went fishing once this summer and rarely go. Thanks
- 3941 The only fishing I have ever done is hook and worm. I do not know anything about spearfishing and bowfishing. I do not know how to answer the question. I am a very simple fisherman.
- 3943 not sure as to answering, never spear, bow shoot fish only use fishing hooks, (plugs if in boat) not much fishing around here. No water in lakes, ponds around Hartford SD
- 3944 I think spearfishing should be regulated as little as possible in this state and should be legal in all waters statewide.
- 3950 I don't currently agree with the decision to not allow the taking of bait fish below the Gavin's Point Dam I am an avid cat fisherman and use gizzard shad as my main choice of bait. With these current restriction placed on certain waters it is hard to use them as bait I always used frozen or dead ones when fishing so would like to see the rules changed to if you net them and use them below the dam that should be allowed as long as you don't transport live ones out of the river that you catch them in you should be allowed to net them and use them.
- 3958 I have caught less and less walleyes each year of the last decade. I don't think we need another means of harvesting them.
- 3961 Personally I would like to see other fish species being stocked in our Black Hills Lakes. Those consisting of walleye, perch, largemouth & smallmouth bass, catfish, and other panfish species. To allow anglers to have varieties of fish to fish for in the Black Hills Lakes. Thank you!
- 3962 not enough information on spearing provided. Such a small thing to me, not sure what spearing requirements, regulations are now so making changes would be hard to comment on.
- 3973 I HAVE NEVER BEEN AROUND OR INVOLVED WITH ANY OF 3 ACTIVITIES. SO I CAN'T BE MUCH HELP. THANK YOU.
- 3990 I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ALL THE GUIDES ON THE MISSOURI RIVER ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE A GUIDE LICENSE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A 250.00 SET FEE FOR ALL GUIDES ON THE MISSOURI RIVER AS THEY ARE USING PUBLIC WATERS TO MAKE A VERY GOOD LIVING. I WOULD APPRECIATE A RETURN REPLY.THANK YOU.



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9000 I DO NOT think spearing walleyes through the ice should happen, especially on the Missouri River in darkhouses. I know there are WAY too many large fish taken.