

# SOUTH DAKOTA TROPHY FISH AWARD APPLICATION

The goal of the South Dakota Trophy Fish Award is to recognize anglers who are fortunate enough to catch a trophy fish. Fish rarely survive long enough to become a trophy, and anglers preferring to practice catch and release are especially encouraged to participate in this program. These large fish are biologically important in healthy fish populations. Anglers are encouraged to consider applying for a catch-and-release award so more anglers can share in the opportunity to catch a trophy.

Fisheries management benefits from this program. Special fishing regulations have been implemented across South Dakota to provide larger fish for anglers to catch. The Trophy Fish Award is one tool biologists have to help measure success or failure of a regulation's ability to improve a fishery over time. Providing accurate information is key to use of the data for biological purposes.

## LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

To qualify by length for the Trophy Fish Award, a fish must be quickly measured and released unharmed. To correctly measure a fish, lay the fish on its side, with mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together. Measure length from tip of snout to end of tail to nearest 1/8 inch. If a fish qualifies, the angler will receive a Trophy Fish certificate.

## WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS

To qualify by weight for the Trophy Fish Award, a participating tackle shop representative must weigh a fish. Fish that qualify must meet the minimum weight requirements. If a fish qualifies, the angler will receive a Trophy Fish certificate in the mail.

- Only one award will be given to each angler per species per year.
- All fish must be caught from South Dakota waters.

## STATE RECORD

If you believe a fish qualifies for a state record, a State Record fish form must be filled out. A potential state record fish should be cared for in the following manner:

- Keep the fish cool, preferably on ice.
- Weigh the fish on a state-certified scale (found in grocery, hardware and some bait shops) with a witness present.
- Take the fish to a SD GFP office for positive identification and State Record fish form.
- Fish weighed on a certified scale and identified by the GFP may be released.

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

	Weight	Length	Record
	(released fish only) (weight in pounds and ounces)		
<u>Bass</u>			
Largemouth	5 lb.	20 in.	9-3
Smallmouth	3 lb.	18 in.	6-2
Rock	1 lb.	10 in.	2-0
White	2 ¾ lb.	17 in.	4-6
Bluegill	1 lb.	10 in.	3-4
<u>Bullhead</u>			
Black	2 lb.	15 in.	3-8
Brown	2 lb.	15 in.	3-11
Yellow	2 lb.	15 in.	2-11
<u>Catfish</u>			
Blue	15 lb.	30 in.	97-0
Channel	15 lb.	30 in.	55-0
Flathead	15 lb.	30 in.	56-8
Chinook Salmon	12 lb.	30 in.	20-4
<u>Crappie</u>			
Black	2 lb.	15 in.	3-4
White	2 lb.	15 in.	3-9
Lake Herring	1 ½ lb.	15 in.	4-3
Muskellunge	20 lb.	40 in.	40-0
Northern Pike	15 lb.	38 in.	36-3
Tiger Muskie	15 lb.	38 in.	35-0
Paddlefish**	50 lb.	45 in.	120-12
Sauger	4 lb.	22 in.	7-7
<u>Trout</u>			
Lake	5 lb.	24 in.	20-10
Splake	4 lb.	20 in.	10-8
Brook	1 lb.	14 in.	8-4
Brown	5 lb.	20 in.	24-8
Rainbow	5 lb.	20 in.	19-4
Kokanee	2 lb.	14 in.	2-11
Walleye	8 lb.	27 in.	15-3
Whitefish	4 lb.	16 in.	7-9
Yellow Perch	1 ¾ lb.	14 in.	2-9

\*\* Only legal size paddlefish taken during season are eligible for award

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This application is for: Weight  Length (Released fish only)  Species Caught: \_\_\_\_\_

Released  Kept  Certified Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ lb. \_\_\_\_\_ oz. Length \_\_\_\_\_ in. (to nearest 1/8 inch)  
Fish must be released alive to qualify

Where Caught: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Caught: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lake or Stream (name nearest bay, stream or landmark on Missouri River reservoirs)

Caught By: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

Released Fish Witness \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Game, Fish & Parks, Tackle/Bait Shop or Store Representative: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

**Send Trophy Fish Award Application To:**

Trophy Fish  
Game, Fish and Parks  
20641 SD HWY 1806  
Ft. Pierre, SD 57532