

2024 FISHERIES PRIORITIES NORTHEAST



DEPARTMENT MISSION

We serve and connect people and families to the outdoors through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries, and wildlife resources.

Northeastern South Dakota is the heart of the glacial lakes and wetlands area of the state. Many waters have increased in size and depth since the 1990s. Excellent fisheries exist for walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, and bluegill, making the area a destination for resident and nonresident anglers.

As part of fisheries planning efforts, priorities for each management area are established. Management issues are identified, and priorities created for work within the management area.

IDENTIFIED ISSUES

1. Survival and optimal stocking strategies for muskies raised in recirculating aquaculture systems need to be determined.
2. Post-stocking survival of walleye produced in recirculating aquaculture systems is unknown.
3. Relative post-stocking survival of walleye fry versus juveniles is unknown.
4. Stocking strategies for community fisheries need to be evaluated.
5. Angler preferences for community fisheries management options is unknown.
6. Post-stocking performance of fish raised in recirculating aquaculture systems in community fisheries is unknown.
7. Limited ice fishing and shore fishing access opportunities exist.
8. Limited fishing access and degraded aquatic habitat exists at Gary Creek.
9. Habitat projects to improve fish passage in the Big Stone Lake watershed are needed.
10. Information on lake sturgeon population dynamics, movement, and reproductive status in Big Stone Lake is needed.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

1. Walleye and Musky Stocking Evaluations
2. Community Fishery Stocking and Management Strategies
3. Habitat Improvement in Gary Creek
4. Shore-Fishing and Ice-Fishing Access
5. Improve Fish Passage within Big Stone Lake Watershed

