

2024 FISHERIES PRIORITIES SOUTHEAST



DEPARTMENT MISSION

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

Southeastern South Dakota contains a mix of glacial lakes, small impoundments, and the James, Vermillion, and Big Sioux Rivers. With the highest population of any management area, there are also numerous urban and community fisheries and a great demand for fisheries resources. Fisheries management can be challenging because of sediment and nutrient loading in lakes and impoundments and the need to provide quality fisheries close to population centers.

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. There is an ever-increasing need for fish for stocking.
2. Information on the best stocking and management strategies for community fisheries is lacking.
3. There are declining sport fish populations and dam safety concerns with aging impoundments.
4. Changing angler and boater demands drive improved access needs for lakes and rivers.
5. Changing user demographics, including increasing urbanization and population growth, fuel demand for nearby quality fishing opportunities.
6. The spread of silver and bighead carp to new waters during high stream flows is a concern.



MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

1. Increase Fish Available for Stocking
2. Evaluate Management Strategies for Community Fisheries
3. Intensively Manage Aging Small Impoundments
4. Improve River and Lake Access
5. Minimize the Spread and Impact of Invasive Carp

