

# 2019 – 2023 GFP FISHERIES STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY



## DEPARTMENT MISSION

*We provide sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries, and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardship, and safely connecting people with the outdoors.*

## WHY IS A FISHERIES PLAN NEEDED?

*Outlining management priorities with a strategic plan is a way to optimize use of limited resources (staff, money, facilities and equipment) by prioritizing how these resources are used to best meet fisheries management needs.*

The purpose of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Adaptive Management System is to guide fisheries and aquatic resource management based on the mission of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP). This Statewide Strategic Plan is a dynamic tool addressing the issues, challenges, and opportunities in managing fisheries and aquatic resources in South Dakota.

This plan begins with an inventory section containing a brief review of the five fisheries management areas (FMA), Aquatics Section staffing and organization, funding and expenditures, and existing infrastructure. Plans with issues and objectives specific to the nine statewide fisheries programs follow the inventory section.

The nine statewide programs are surveys, research, habitat, access, nongame, fish production, bait and private aquaculture, fish health and contaminants, and aquatic invasive species. In addition to this statewide plan, each FMA has its own strategic plan.

Lastly, the Department strategic plan includes a number of measurable outcomes and strategies for aquatics staff. Actions to accomplish the priorities of both the Department plan and numerous Aquatics Section plans are incorporated into Aquatics Section annual work plans.

## ISSUE EXAMPLES

1. Standardization of data collection and sampling methodologies.
2. Archival of Aquatics Section authored publications.
3. Prioritization of access funding.
4. Biological information lacking to aid in prevention of species listings.
5. Infrastructure maintenance and improvement as hatchery facilities age.
6. Limiting disease and AIS issues associated with the bait and aquaculture industry
7. Timing of fish health testing associated with spawning efforts.

## HIGHEST PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

1. Standardize statewide fish survey protocols for both game and nongame fish species.
2. Annually complete at least five research projects.
3. Utilize updated demographic information to prioritize future access projects.
4. Identify hatchery infrastructure and maintenance needs.
5. Increase production capabilities and post stocking survival of fish raised in hatcheries.
6. Develop a fish habitat plan.
7. Maintain an up-to-date statewide fish health procedural manual.

