

# 2019-2023 GFP FISHERIES WEST RIVER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

## 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 West River Fisheries Management Plan is a dynamic tool addressing the issues, challenges, and opportunities in managing fisheries and aquatic resources in western South Dakota.

This plan begins with an Inventory section, which describes the resources present in this management area and is divided into three categories: People, Fish and Habitat.

Following the Inventory section is an Issues section, which lists the current issues involving fisheries management for the area.

Lastly, the plan contains a number of measurable objectives and strategies for staff to implement. Actions to accomplish the priorities of both the Department plan and numerous Aquatics plans are incorporated into annual work plans.

## 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.*

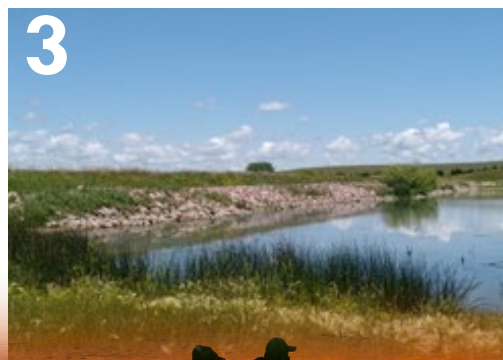
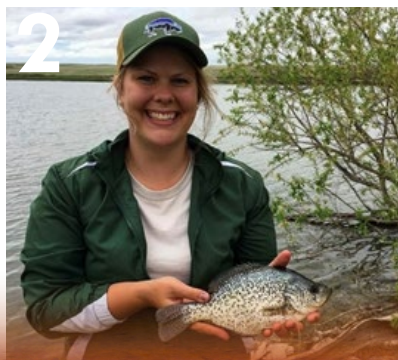
## ISSUE EXAMPLES

1. Aging impoundments have a decreased ability to consistently support fisheries.
2. Remote locations mean habitat projects may be a low statewide priority.
3. A lack of information on angler use and management preferences hinder management.
4. Angler access to large western Missouri R.tributaries is insufficient.

## HIGHEST PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

1. Improve angling access on small dams.
2. Completely renovate one small dam.
3. Keep angler satisfaction rates high.
4. Complete research projects on prey and sport fish to improve fishing.

1. RABBIT CREEK DAM IN HARDING COUNTY
2. ANGLER WITH BLACK CRAPPIE ON WESTERN DAM.
3. SMALL DAM ON THE BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLANDS



# 2019-2023 GFP FISHERIES NORTHEAST FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

## WHY IS A FISHERIES PLAN NEEDED?

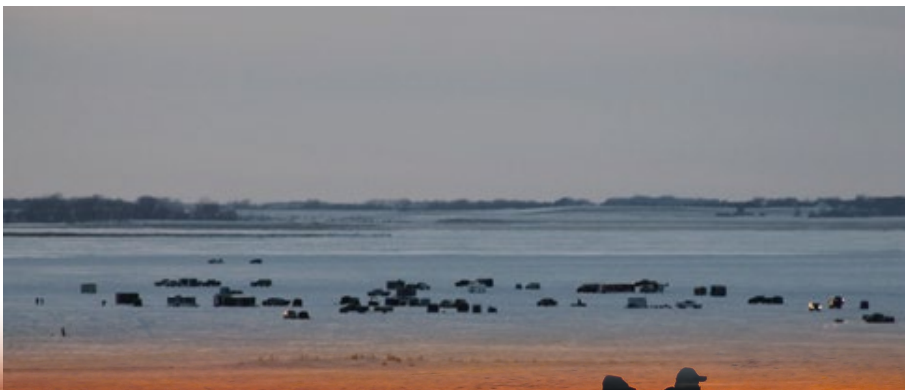
Outlining management priorities with a strategic plan is a way to optimize use of limited resources (staff, money, facilities and equipment) by prioritizing how these resources are used to best meet fisheries management needs.

Management issues and objectives identified for the northern portion of the East River Fisheries Management Area will guide staff working with fisheries and aquatic resources in that part of the state during 2019 to 2023. The plan is a dynamic tool with a goal of maintaining and improving fisheries in northeast South Dakota to provide anglers with quality fishing experiences.

The plan is important because in excess of 150,000 surface acres of water are actively managed for sport fish in northeast South Dakota. These waters provide anglers with a diversity of angling opportunities. Angler use of aquatic resources within the region generates a substantial economic impact.

In the plan an Inventory section provides an overview of aquatic habitat (available and habitat projects), fish (species, stocking, surveys, research, aquatic invasive species, fish consumption advisories) and people (demographics, regulations, preferences, access, other management entities) in northeast South Dakota.

Management issues that currently affect northeast South Dakota aquatic resources are identified. A series of objectives along with strategies for moving towards measurable outcomes are provided in the plan.



## DEPARTMENT MISSION

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## ISSUE EXAMPLES

1. An understanding of bluegill population dynamics is lacking.
2. Information on stream and river fisheries is scarce.
3. Walleye recruitment and growth have declined in many lakes.
4. Effective stocking strategies are needed for community-based fisheries.
5. Shoreline habitat is continually being lost due to development.
6. There is a high likelihood of an unwanted AIS introduction.
7. Fishing access and amenities are limited on a number of waters.
8. Shore fishing opportunities are limited.

## HIGHEST PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

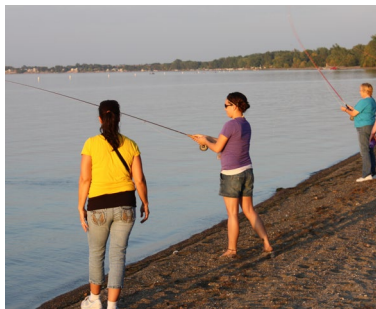
1. Evaluate alternative methods to assess walleye recruitment.
2. Evaluate bluegill population dynamics to refine current management strategies.
3. Conduct angler use and harvest surveys at community-based fisheries.
4. Enhance shore fishing opportunities.
5. Implement habitat projects to protect and enhance aquatic habitats.
6. Conduct research directed at improving walleye growth and recruitment.

# 2019-2023 GFP FISHERIES

## SOUTHEAST FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

### WHY IS A FISHERIES PLAN NEEDED?

This strategic plan, based on the missions of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and the Division of Wildlife, will address the issues and opportunities of fisheries management in the Southern portion of the East River Fisheries Management Area. This plan contains an Inventory section which describes the available aquatic resources, an Issues section where current fisheries issues are listed and a Goals, Objectives and Strategies section that outlines how the issues will be addressed over the next five years.



### DEPARTMENT MISSION

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### ISSUE EXAMPLES

1. Degraded aquatic habitat limits fishing opportunity in lakes and small impoundments.
2. Inconsistent natural reproduction and recruitment of yellow perch is insufficient to meet angler needs.
3. Inadequate information to adequately manage river fisheries exists.

### HIGHEST PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

1. The completion of one major aquatic habitat improvement project.
2. The chemical renovation of at least one area water.
3. An evaluation of yellow perch stocking strategies in natural lakes.
4. An evaluation of yellow perch and walleye stocking strategies in degraded small impoundments.
5. Finish the collection of information about fish populations on the James River.
6. Conduct research on fish loss over the spillways of small impoundments.



# 2019-2023 GFP FISHERIES

## MISSOURI RIVER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

### 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 Department of Game, Fish and Parks. This Missouri River Fisheries Management Plan is a dynamic tool addressing the issues, challenges, and opportunities in managing fisheries and aquatic resources along the Missouri River corridor and in the four mainstem Missouri River Reservoirs in South Dakota.

This plan begins with an Inventory section, which describes the resources present in this management area and is divided into three categories: People, Fish and Habitat. Following the Inventory section are the four reservoir/reach specific plans. Each of these sub-plans includes an Issues section, which lists the current fisheries management issues for that reservoir or reach.

Lastly, each of the four sub-plans contains a number of measurable objectives and strategies for staff to implement. Actions to accomplish the priorities of both the Department plan and numerous Aquatics plans are incorporated into annual work plans.

1. LOW LAKE ELEVATION AND SEDIMENTATION AT BUSH'S LANDING ON LAKE OAHE
2. ANNUAL PADDLEFISH STOCKINGS OCCUR ON LAKES SHARPE AND FRANCIS CASE
3. WALLEYE JAW TAG IN USE ON LAKES OAHE AND SHARPE FOR RESEARCH
4. ZEBRA MUSSELS MAY COMPLICATE FISH MANAGEMENT IN LEWIS & CLARK LAKE.



### DEPARTMENT MISSION

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### ISSUE EXAMPLES

1. **Oahe:** Shore fishing and ADA access areas are limited.
2. **Oahe:** Walleye reproduction and recruitment may be negatively impacted by many factors.
3. **Sharpe:** Sedimentation and high use necessitate boat ramp improvements and maintenance.
4. **Sharpe:** A better understanding of walleye population dynamics and movement is needed.
5. **Francis Case:** The effects of walleye regulations on the population need to be investigated.
6. **Francis Case:** Annual fall drawdown may be impacting vegetation and invertebrate production.
7. **Randall/Lewis & Clark/Lower Missouri:** The influence of runoff and river flows on factors affecting walleye recruitment is unknown.
8. **Randall/Lewis & Clark/Lower Missouri:** Habitat use and movement patterns of walleye are unknown and may be impacting management.

### HIGHEST PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

1. Evaluation of new creel survey methodologies.
2. Evaluation of walleye stockings and recruitment (*Lake Oahe and Lewis and Clark Lake*).
3. Enhancement of access sites near population centers.
4. Complete research projects on prey and sport fish.
5. Quantification of walleye movement and entrainment.

