

2024 GFP FISHERIES STATEWIDE PRIORITIES



DEPARTMENT MISSION

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

Fisheries management planning in South Dakota involves directing the staff, infrastructure, and financial resources of GFP towards achieving the priorities that have been identified by gathering input from GFP, other management agencies, and the public. All priorities identified for fisheries management efforts are intended to accomplish the department mission and satisfy department priorities of habitat and access, asset management, customer service, and operational excellence.

Statewide Programs – To ensure a consistent, coordinated approach and to continually improve how we do things, nine statewide programs exist within the fisheries program, those being: surveys, research and evaluations, nongame management, aquatic habitat, aquatic access, fish production, bait and private aquaculture, fish health and contaminants, and aquatic invasive species.

Fisheries Management Areas – In addition to statewide priorities, priorities for the various fisheries management areas are also established. Those priorities are provided as separate fact sheets.

SELECTED STATEWIDE FISHERIES PROGRAM ISSUES

- Traditional surveys of fish populations and their users are often expensive and time consuming, and sampling bias can make interpretation and comparison of collected data difficult.
- Evaluations of stocking strategies, fish harvest regulations, aquatic habitat and access improvements, and urban fisheries are continually needed to improve management.
- Inadequate fishing access and amenities reduce use of fisheries and information on access can be difficult to locate.
- Management of nongame species and SGCN alongside sportfish populations can be challenging.
- Information on the distribution, biology, and population dynamics of many nongame species is insufficient for determining species status.
- Hatchery production cannot meet fisheries managers' requests.
- AIS and fish health concerns can impact pond rearing and trap-and-transfer.
- Fish stocking needs continue to increase and hatchery infrastructure

TOP FISHERIES PRIORITIES

Within the mission, vision, goals, and priorities of GFP, the top management issues and priorities for fisheries and aquatic management are:

1. Habitat and Access
2. Consistently Meeting Stocking Requests
3. Urban and Community Fisheries
4. Evaluating stockings, surveys, regulations, and habitat and access improvements

SELECTED STATEWIDE FISHERIES PROGRAM PRIORITIES

1. Improve survey data management and information sharing.
2. Improve survey design and better understand biases.
3. Address aging (dam integrity, sediment, nutrients) of impoundments
4. Increase fish rearing capacities, especially for warmwater species.
5. Expand management opportunities for nongame species.
6. Address fishing access limitations that reduce angler use
7. Evaluate fish stockings to maximize return to anglers.
8. Evaluate urban and community fishery management strategies.
9. Implement online bait and private aquaculture licensing and fish importation permitting.

