

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

SPEARING 41:07:06

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 8 – 9, 2021	Virtual
	Public Hearing	September 1, 2021	Virtual
	Finalization	September 1 – 2, 2021	Virtual

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Open all inland waters, including the Missouri River system within SD, to game fish spearing, May 1 - March 31 annually. Exceptions would include take of sturgeon statewide, paddlefish statewide, musky in current musky fisheries closed to spearing, walleye in managed walleye fisheries where harvest is limited to a single fish daily, and salmonids in the Black Hills. (PETITION)

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. Game, Fish and Parks expanded spearfishing opportunity in 2017 by allowing harvest of game fish species on select inland waters May through March. While many anglers and even some staff believed the additional opportunity for spearfishing in Eastern South Dakota would create conflicts between anglers, there have been few, if any, issues that can be related to the change in spearfishing regulations. Water temperature and water clarity are limiting factors in most South Dakota lakes. Water temperatures are cold in the spring, only allowing those with specialized equipment the ability to dive, thus, limiting participation at that time. As waters warm, water clarity in many lakes decreases, minimizing spearing opportunity. During winter darkhouse spearing, the behavior of many sportfish limits their accessibility by to spearers due to water depths they reside in.

GFP data collected in 2011 and 2017 indicates fishermen targeting game fish via spearfishing account for only 1.1% of all fishermen statewide. Low participation in this sport means the biological impact is minimal.

With restrictions on take of salmonids in the Black Hills, sturgeon and paddlefish statewide, musky fisheries and walleye lakes managed with trophy regulations, there will likely be minimal issues associated with the proposed additional spearfishing opportunity.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate?

No

2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?

Yes, allowing increased spearfishing opportunity will allow anglers wishing to spearfish a wider variety of lakes to participate. These additional waters will likely make it easier and less expensive to participate, as travel time and distance would be decreased.

APPROVE

MODIFY

REJECT

NO ACTION

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3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?

Negligible impact

4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?

Yes, for those interested in spearfishing.