

## WHAT MAKES LAKE FRANCIS CASE FISHERIES SPECIAL

Lake Francis Case is a 107-mile long, 41,278 ha mainstem Missouri River reservoir, located in south-central South Dakota extending from Big Bend Dam to Fort Randall Dam. The White River is a major tributary to the reservoir and contributes much sediment to the lake. Walleyes are the most popular species pursued by anglers. The lake also supports one of only two paddlefish snagging seasons in the state. Snake Creek and North Point Recreation areas are located on the lake. From 2005-2015, Lake Francis Case supported between 84,575 and 150,650 angler days annually and generated between \$8.6 and 13.2 million in direct economic input to the local and regional economies (based on an average value of \$77 per angler trip). Lake Francis Case is an important resource in South Dakota and its habitat and fish community must be managed to enhance its value to various user groups.

To obtain more information visit: [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov)

You can also speak directly to fisheries managers at the Chamberlain GFP Office:  
1550 E. King Ave.  
Chamberlain, South Dakota  
Phone: 605.734.4530  
Email: [WildInfo@state.sd.us](mailto:WildInfo@state.sd.us)

Plans can be found at:  
[gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/tacklebox](http://gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/tacklebox)

Learn about aquatic invasive species at:  
[SDLeastWanted.com](http://SDLeastWanted.com)



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# FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LAKE FRANCIS CASE 2017 - 2021

This is a summary of the Fisheries Management Plan for Lake Francis Case. This plan is part of the overall Missouri River Fisheries Strategic Management Plan. The intention of this plan is to move toward more on the ground activities and projects. These plans were developed through staff, commission and public input with the intent of managing the Missouri River Reservoirs for the enjoyment of all anglers. The four components of this plan include; Introduction, Management, Issues and Opportunities and Goals, and Objectives and Strategies.

### MAJOR ISSUES IDENTIFIED FOR LAKE FRANCIS CASE:

- Shoreline and boat access on Lake Francis Case can be limited due to a variety of factors.
- Habitat quantity and quality can negatively impact fish populations and fishing opportunity.
- Many knowledge gaps exist for fish population dynamics in Lake Francis Case.
- User group conflicts exist.
- New and established aquatic invasive species could potentially impact the fishery and recreation on Lake Francis Case and long term impacts are not well understood.
- Challenges of public and government interactions.

### OBJECTIVES ADDRESSING SOME OF THESE ISSUES INCLUDE:

- Identify major factors that influence walleye recruitment.
- Maintain and enhance shore fishing and boat access along Lake Francis Case at three locations.
- Evaluate paddlefish sport fishery on Lake Francis Case and develop management recommendations.
- Determine potential threat of AIS species to Lake Francis Case.
- Evaluate efficacy of fisheries surveys conducted on Lake Francis Case.
- Increase public and government interaction.

### STRATEGIES TO ACCOMPLISH THESE OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

- Implement management recommendations, including any focused on modifications to the annual operating plan for water management by the Corps of Engineers.
- Evaluate paddlefish stocking on Lake Francis Case to determine optimal use of hatchery products.
- Work with cooperating agencies to develop strategies to inform and mediate user conflicts.
- Work with state AIS biologists to create and implement AIS outreach program that specifically addresses needs for Lake Francis Case.
- Develop a random sampling design for implementation of American Fisheries Society standard gillnet survey methodologies.
- Continue to conduct informational meetings, open houses, and guide/resort owner meetings to discuss Lake Francis Case issues.

