

WHAT MAKES LEWIS AND CLARK LAKE AND THE MISSOURI RIVER FISHERIES SPECIAL

This section of the Missouri River and Lake Lewis and Clark has a rich diversity of habitats, sport fish and native riverine species. This diversity makes the area one of the last places on the Missouri River where vestiges of the historical habitat remain. This area also is the hot bed of AIS infestations in the state, with Asian carp thriving below Gavins Point Dam and zebra mussels infesting Lewis and Clark Lake. We are challenged to prevent the spread of these species and to find ways to mitigate their impacts to native fauna. Lewis and Clark Lake also is home to South Dakota's busiest state park and is a hub for water recreation activities. South Dakota shares management responsibilities of the area downstream of the Nebraska state-line to the confluence with the Big Sioux River with the State of Nebraska, the National Parks Service and The US Army Corp of Engineers.

To obtain more information visit: 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

Plans can be found at: gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/tacklebox
Learn about aquatic invasive species at: SDLeastWanted.com



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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LEWIS AND CLARK LAKE AND THE MISSOURI RIVER UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM OF THE RESERVOIR 2017 - 2021

This is a summary of the Fisheries Management Plan for Lewis and Clark Lake and the Missouri River Upstream and Downstream of the Reservoir (Lewis and Clark Study Area). It is part of the overall Missouri River Fisheries Strategic Management Plan.

MAJOR ISSUES IDENTIFIED FOR LEWIS AND CLARK LAKE AND THE MISSOURI RIVER UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM OF THE RESERVOIR:

- Shoreline and boat access can be limited due to a variety of factors.
- Habitat quantity and quality negatively impact fish populations and fishing opportunity.
- Many knowledge gaps exist for fish population dynamics.
- New and established aquatic invasive species could potentially impact the fishery and recreation.
- Government and public interactions related to management can be challenging.

OBJECTIVES ADDRESSING SOME OF THESE ISSUES INCLUDE:

- Identify factors that influence walleye/sauger recruitment and abundance in Lewis and Clark Lake.
- Determine the effects of Fort Randall Dam hydroelectric peaking on fish reproduction and recruitment in the Randall reach.
- Evaluate efficacy of fish community surveys conducted on Lewis and Clark Lake.
- Determine potential threats from AIS in Lewis and Clark Lake.
- Investigate walleye distribution and movement in Lewis and Clark Lake and the Randall reach.
- Evaluate entrainment of walleye and sauger through Gavins Point Dam.
- Annually collaborate with all agencies involved in the management of Lewis and Clark Lake and the Randall reach.
- Develop or improve three access areas in the lower portion of the Missouri River.
- Develop an annual sportfish monitoring survey of the Missouri River.

STRATEGIES TO ACCOMPLISH THESE OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

- Compile walleye/sauger population, productivity, and Fort Randall and Gavins Point Dams water release data for walleye/sauger recruitment and abundance analysis.
- Analyze the relationship between water releases and walleye abundance.
- Make water management recommendations to USACE and the Missouri River Natural Resources Committee (MRNRC).
- Adopt and implement an improved design for annual surveys.
- Use historic water productivity data and data acquired to determine possible impacts of zebra mussels on water quality that cannot be attributed to other causes.
- Surgically implant transmitters to track movements in adult walleye.
- Work with NPS, GFP Parks Division and USACE to determine the feasibility of creating shoreline access along the lower Missouri River.

