

# 2011

## Game Fish Spearing and Archery in South Dakota: Resident Spearing/Archery Harvest and Angler Opinion Survey

HD-2-12.AMS

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This report summarizes results from the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Spearing/Archery Harvest and Angler Opinion Survey of resident anglers who held a game fish spearing and archery permit in 2011. Information was collected from April through May 2012 on resident anglers' participation, harvest, and perceptions of the 2011 fishing season. Summary tables for underwater spearing, darkhouse spearing, and bowfishing methods of take are included.

**KEY WORDS:** underwater spearing, darkhouse spearing, bowfishing

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**South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks**

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) uses hunter and angler opinion surveys to identify group and individual views, values, wants, and needs regarding fish and wildlife, and incorporates this human dimensions data into the decision-making process within sound biological boundaries. The purpose of this survey of resident game fish spearing and archery anglers was threefold: 1) to gather basic statistics for this user group; 2) to gather information regarding available opportunity for spearing and bowfishing in SD; and 3) to better understand resident spearing and bowfishing anglers' perceptions of safety issues, rules and regulations, as well as perceived conflict with hook/line anglers. This publication summarizes the responses from the anglers who participated in the spearing and archery harvest and angler opinion survey from April to May 2012. The overall response rate for this survey was 64 percent. These data presented here represent the 2011 fishing season, and provide a breakdown of responses by method of take: underwater spearing, darkhouse spearing, and bowfishing.

## KEY DEFINITIONS

**Game Fish Spearing and Archery Fishing Permit** – Allows anglers with a valid fishing license to take game fish with a legal spear, legal speargun, or legal bow and arrow in those waters that are open to the spearing of game fish during established seasons. *For further definition see the 2012 South Dakota Fishing Handbook, pg. 7*

**Game Fish** – Includes all species belonging to the paddlefish, salmon/trout (including lake trout, lake herring, and whitefish), sturgeon, pike, catfish (including bullheads), sunfish (including black bass and crappies), perch (including walleye and sauger), and the bass families. *For further definition see the 2012 South Dakota Fishing Handbook, pg. 20*

**Rough Fish** – All fish species not game fish or baitfish nor otherwise protected are rough fish. *For further definition see the 2012 South Dakota Fishing Handbook, pg. 20*

**For further definitions, regulations, season dates, and waters open to spearing and archery see the 2012 South Dakota Fishing Handbook, pg. 28-29**

### Methods

In 2011, a survey of all South Dakota (SD) resident spearing and archery anglers was conducted in April and May of 2012 (appendix A). A total of 2,061 resident anglers were identified through the GFP licensing database as holding a Game Fish Spearing and Archery permit. Anglers who provided a valid email address when purchasing their license (n=1,604) were sent an email inviting them to complete a survey via the internet. Email recipients were provided a unique link to the online survey (Survey Monkey®). In all, three email invitations were sent (April 6<sup>th</sup> through April 13<sup>th</sup>) asking anglers to please complete the survey online. A total of 571 anglers responded to the online survey. After adjusting for invalid email addresses, the online response rate was 36 percent.

Following the completion of the online portion of the survey, all non-respondents (n=1,033) and spearing and archery anglers who did not provide a valid email address (n=457) were sent a printed version of the survey through the mail. A total of 1,490 mail surveys were sent April 25<sup>th</sup>. The initial mailing was

followed with a reminder postcard, a second survey, and a final reminder postcard. A total of 705 anglers responded to the mail survey. After adjusted for undeliverable addresses, the mail survey response rate was 50 percent. The overall response rate, combining the online and mail surveys, was 64 percent.

Weighted Data – To account for potential differences in survey responses due to survey method (online versus mail), as well as non-response to the online survey, data were weighted with a correction factor. To combine results from the online and mail surveys and generalize to the resident spearing and bowfishing angler population, the following weights were applied:

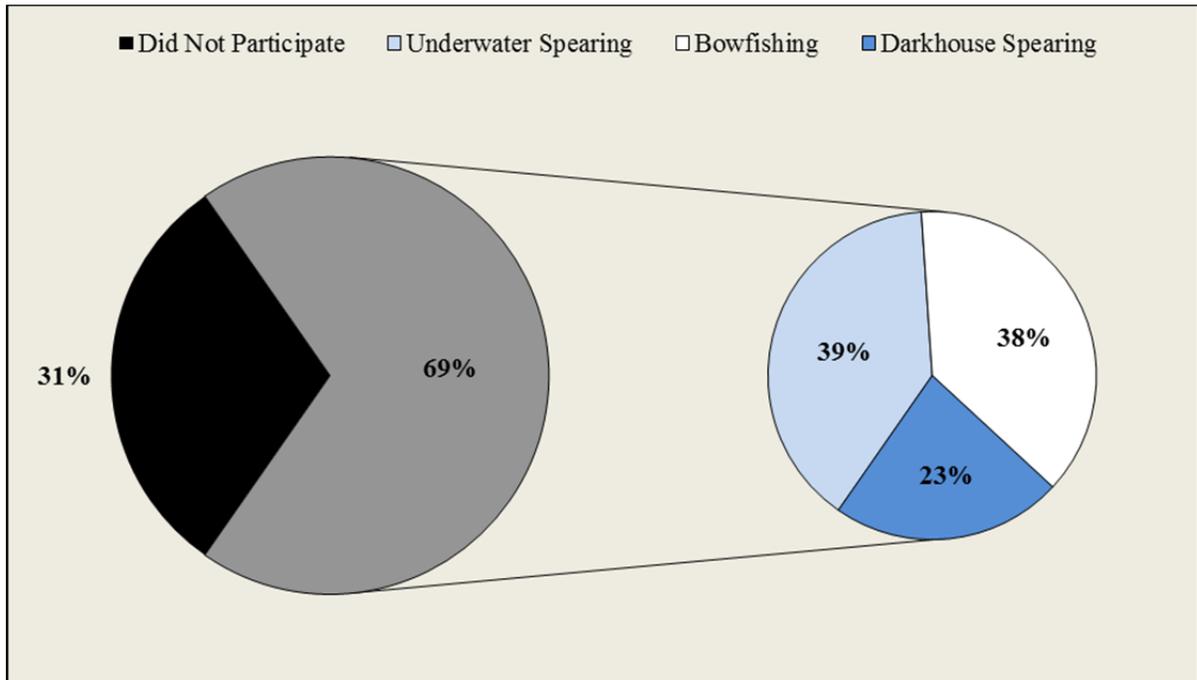
Online Survey Weight	1.000
Mail Survey Weight	2.114
<b>Calculations for weighting data:</b>	
$\text{Weight}(\text{sample } \%) = \frac{\text{population } \%}{\text{sample } \%}$	
$\text{Weight} = \text{population } \% \div \text{sample } \%$	
705 responses collected by mail, which represents	
705/1,490 = 47.3% of the remaining population	
Mail Survey Weight = $1/0.473 = 2.114$	

## Results

Participation – Thirty-one percent of SD anglers who held a game fish spearing and archery permit in 2011 reported not having participated in spearing or bowfishing activities (table 1). Of the 69 percent of resident anglers who reported having participated in spearfishing and bowfishing activities, 39 percent reported participating in underwater spearing most often, followed closely by bowfishing (38%). Only 23 percent of anglers who participated indicated the method of take they most often engaged in was darkhouse spearing (figure 1).

**Table 1 Frequency of anglers who participated in spearing and bowfishing - 2011<sup>1</sup>**

Method	Number of Anglers	Percent of Anglers	Number Estimated	Percent Estimated
Did Not Participate	348	27.3	630	30.6
Underwater Spearing	369	28.9	562	27.2
Bowfishing	361	28.3	543	26.3
Darkhouse Spearing	198	15.5	326	15.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2061</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Figure 1 Estimated level of resident spearing/archery method of take participated in the most often - 2011**

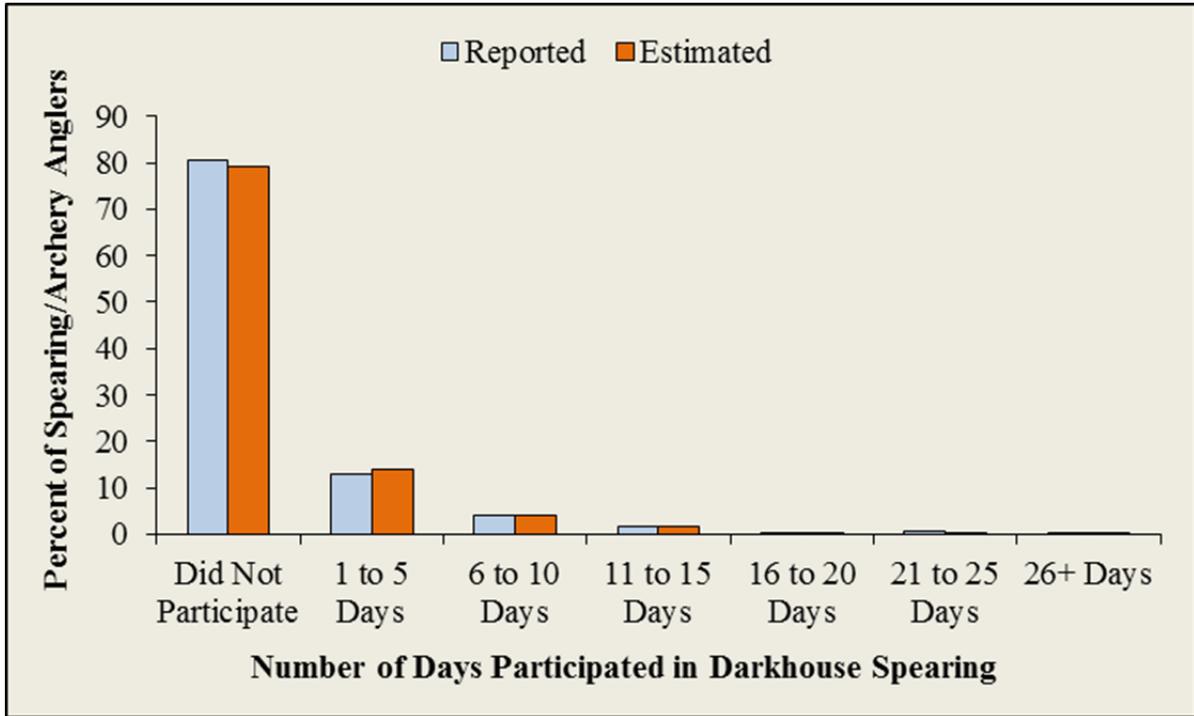
### *Time Spent Spearfishing or Bowfishing*

The vast majority (80%) of active resident spearing archery anglers<sup>2</sup> reported they did not participate in darkhouse spearing (figure 2). For those anglers who did participated in darkhouse spearing in 2011 (active darkhouse

<sup>1</sup> Though out this report, estimated numbers are calculated using the weighting factor for mail and online responses.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this report active resident spearing/archery anglers are defined as those anglers who have South Dakota residency and indicated they participated in underwater spearing, bowfishing, or darkhouse spearing (table 1).

spearers), the median category of number of days spent was 1 to 5 days. The estimated mean number of days engaged in darkhouse spearing by active darkhouse spearers was five days (table 2).<sup>3</sup>



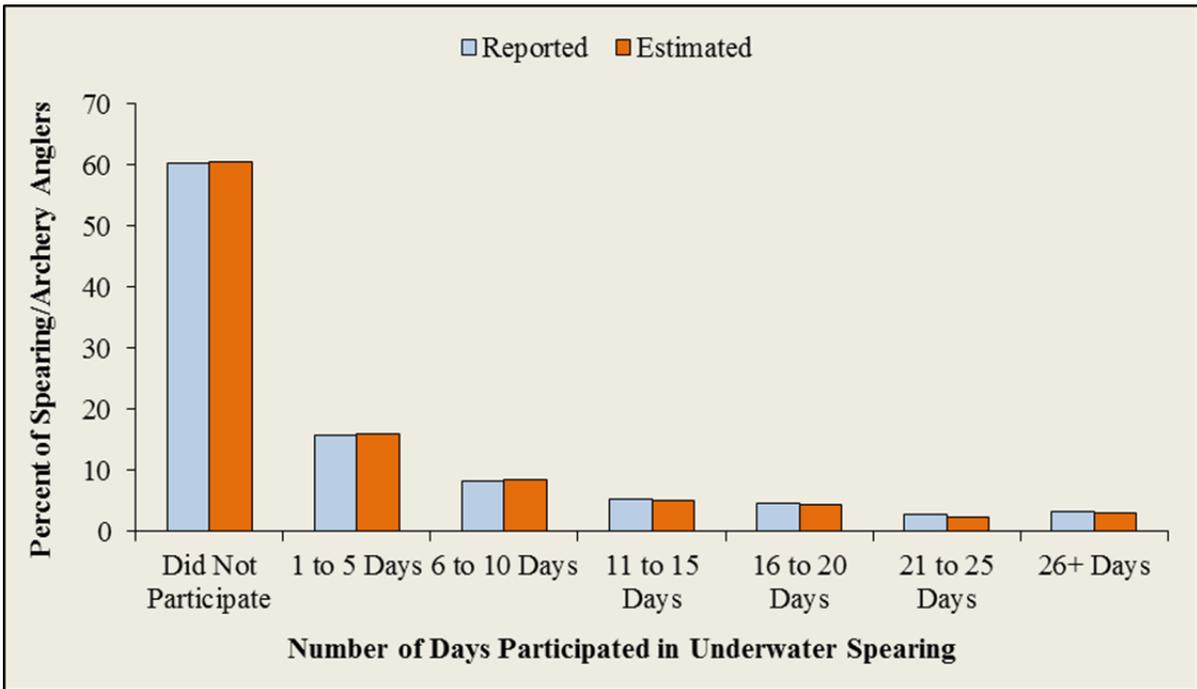
**Figure 2** Number of days resident spearing/archery anglers participated in darkhouse spearing

**Table 2** Distribution of resident spearing/archery anglers by number of days participated in darkhouse spearing

	Did Not Participate	1 to 5 Days	6 to 10 Days	11 to 15 Days	16 to 20 Days	21 to 25 Days	26+ Days
<b>Reported</b>	80.5	13.0	3.9	1.5	0.3	0.5	0.2
<b>Estimated</b>	79.1	14.0	4.1	1.8	0.4	0.4	0.2
<b>Active Darkhouse Spearing Anglers</b>							
Median category	1 to 5 days						
Mean days participated	5 days						

<sup>3</sup> Number of days spent participating in each method of take was recoded from a categorical variable as measured in the questionnaires using the mean of each category. “1-5” days = 2.5 days; “6-10” days = 8.5 days; “11-15” days = 13.5 days; “16-20” days = 18.5 days; “21-25” days = 23.5 days; and “26+” days = 26 days.

Sixty percent of active resident spearing/archery anglers indicated they did not participate in underwater spearing (figure 3). For those anglers who did participate in underwater spearing in 2011, the median category of number of days spent was 6 to 10 days. The estimated mean number of days engaged in underwater spearing by active underwater spearers was 10 days (table 3).

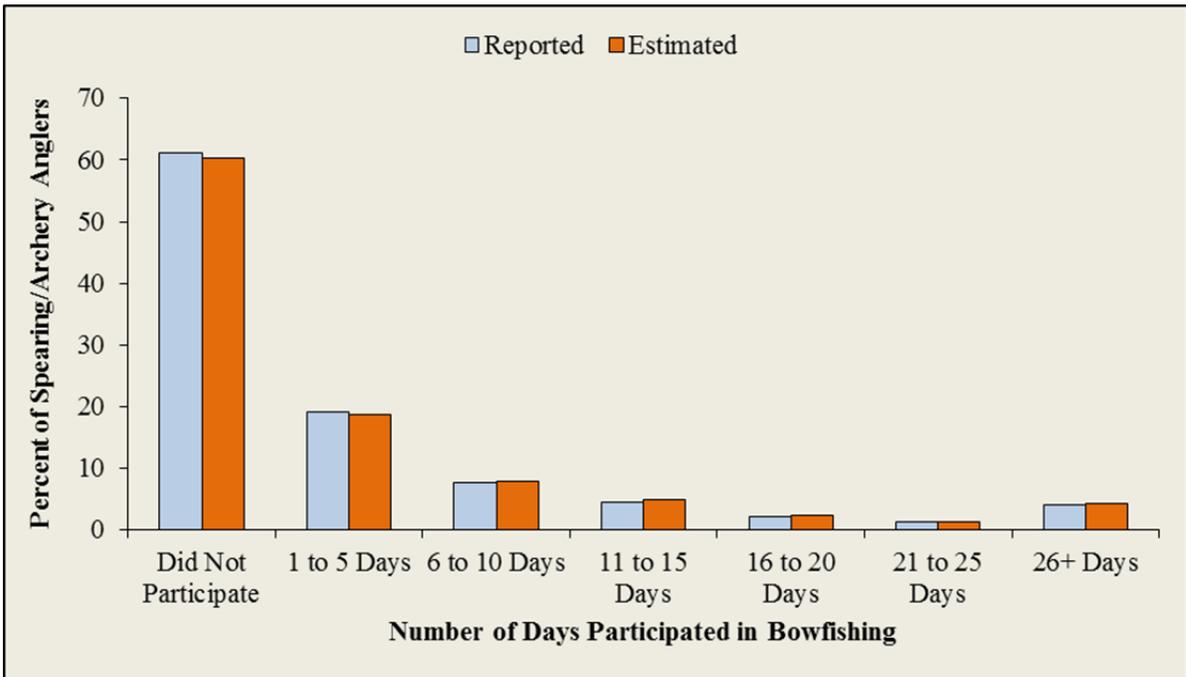


**Figure 3 Number of days resident spearing/archery anglers participated in underwater spearing**

**Table 3 Distribution of resident spearing/archery anglers by number of days participated in underwater spearing**

	Did Not Participate	1 to 5 Days	6 to 10 Days	11 to 15 Days	16 to 20 Days	21 to 25 Days	26+ Days
<b>Reported</b>	60.3	15.7	8.3	5.2	4.6	2.7	3.2
<b>Estimated</b>	60.5	15.9	8.6	5.0	4.5	2.4	3.0
<b>Active Underwater Spearing Anglers</b>							
Median category	6 to 10 days						
Mean days participated	10 days						

The majority (60%) of active resident spearing/archery anglers reported they did not participate in bowfishing (figure 4). For those anglers who did participate in bowfishing in 2011, the median category of number of days spent was 6 to 10 days. The estimated mean number of days spent bowfishing (active bowfishing anglers) was 9 days (table 4).

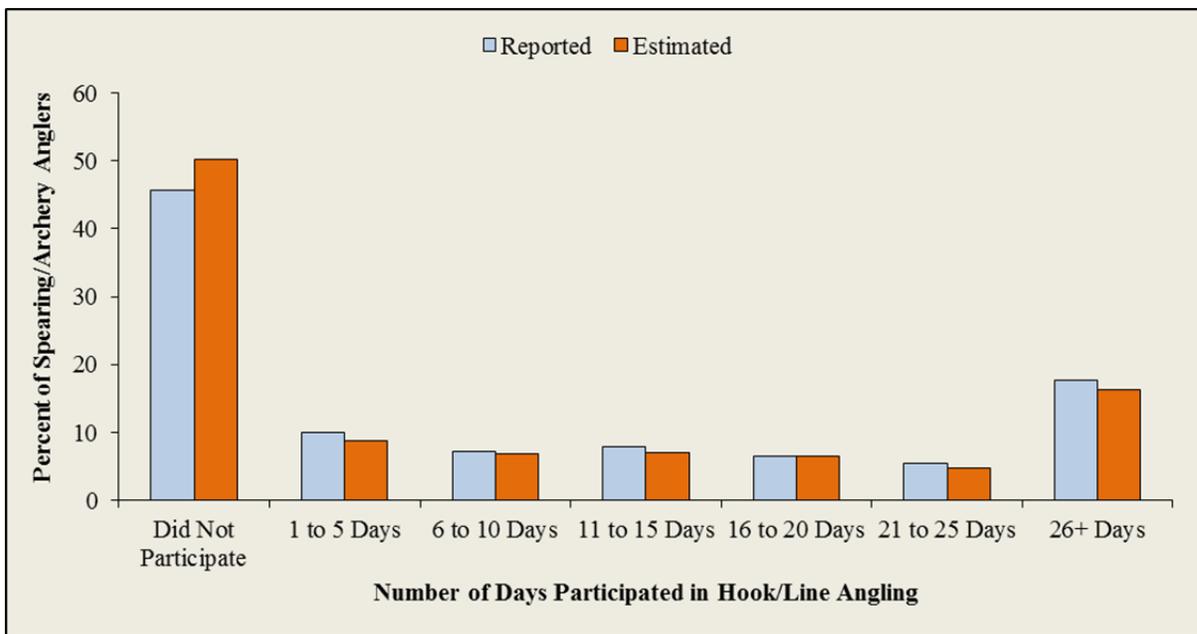


**Figure 4** Number of days resident spearing/archery anglers participated in bowfishing

**Table 4** Distribution of resident spearing/archery anglers by number of days participated in bowfishing

	Did Not Participate	1 to 5 Days	6 to 10 Days	11 to 15 Days	16 to 20 Days	21 to 25 Days	26+ Days
<b>Reported</b>	61.1	19.1	7.7	4.6	2.2	1.3	4.0
<b>Estimated</b>	60.2	18.8	7.8	5.0	2.4	1.4	4.3
<b>Active Bowfishing Anglers</b>							
Median category	6 to 10 days						
Mean days participated	9 days						

An estimated 50 percent of active resident spearing and archery anglers reported they did not participate in hook/line angling (figure 5). On average, active spearfishing and bowfishing anglers spent more days participating in hook/line angling than spearing or bowfishing. For those anglers who did participate in hook/line fishing in 2011, the median category of number of days spent was 16 to 20 days. The estimated mean number of days spent hook/line angling was 17 days (table 5).



**Figure 5 Number of days resident spearing/archery anglers participated in hook/line angling**

**Table 5 Distribution of resident spearing/archery anglers by number of days participated in hook/line angling**

	Did Not Participate	1 to 5 Days	6 to 10 Days	11 to 15 Days	16 to 20 Days	21 to 25 Days	26+ Days
<b>Reported</b>	45.6	9.9	7.1	7.9	6.5	5.3	17.7
<b>Estimated</b>	50.2	8.7	6.8	7.0	6.4	4.6	16.2
<b>Active Hook/Line Anglers</b>							
Median category	16 to 20 days						
Mean days participated	17 dyas						

*Waters Speared or Bowfished*

Respondents were asked to indicate all the bodies of water they speared or bowfished for game fish in 2011. Table 6 shows the distribution of spearing and archery anglers by water bodies fished. Overall, Lake Oahe was the most frequented body of water by active spearing and archery anglers.

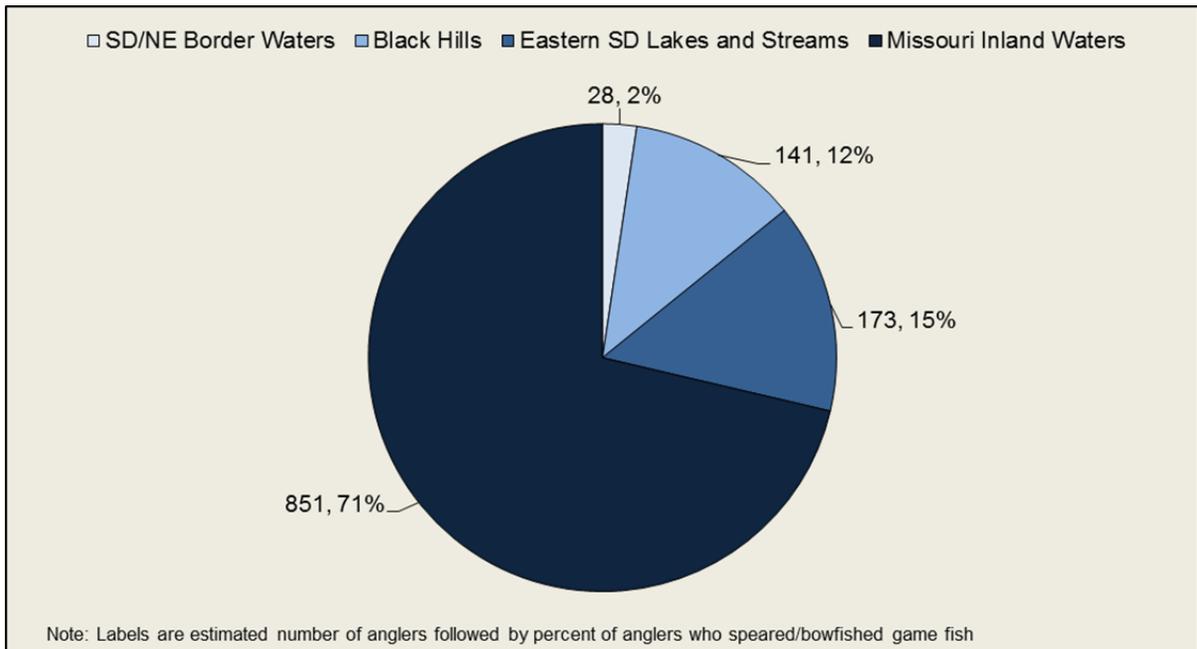
**Table 6 Distribution of spearing/archery anglers by waters fished**

Body of Water	Missouri Inland Waters					
	Total Percent		Underwater % Reported	Darkhouse % Reported	Bowfishing % Reported	
	Reported	Estimated				
Lake Oahe	54.7	56.2	79.9	62.1	25.6	
Lake Sharpe	8.8	8.7	12.2	3.5	8.3	
Lake Francis Case	5.5	5.4	6.0	2.0	6.9	
SD/NE Border Waters						
Lewis & Clark Lake	1.8	2.0	0.5	0.0	4.2	
Black Hills						
Pactola	5.5	5.5	11.4	0.0	2.5	
Angostura	4.8	4.8	7.9	0.0	4.4	
Belle Fourche	2.8	2.6	1.1	0.5	5.8	
Eastern SD Lakes and Streams						
Lake Albert	4.0	4.2	0.8	10.1	3.9	
James River	3.5	4.0	0.8	1.0	7.8	
Rush Lakes	2.4	2.4	0.0	9.6	0.8	
Mary	2.5	2.4	0.3	7.6	1.9	
John	2.0	2.1	0.3	4.5	2.5	
Norden	1.1	1.1	0.0	2.5	1.4	
Lake Whitewood	1.1	0.8	0.3	2.5	1.1	
Spirit Lake	0.9	0.8	0.0	3.5	0.3	
Lake Preston	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.6	
Mud Lake	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.6	
Scatterwood Lakes	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.6	
Cottonwood Slough	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	
Turtle Creek	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	
Timber	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

(note: percentages may not sum to 100 percent as respondents could select more than one body of water)

When examined by region, the Missouri inland waters were the most frequently indicated with an estimated 71 percent of active spearing and archery

fishing these waters (figure 6). The Eastern SD Lakes/Streams was the second most utilized region with 15 percent of active spearing and archery anglers having fished these bodies of water. Significant differences were found among

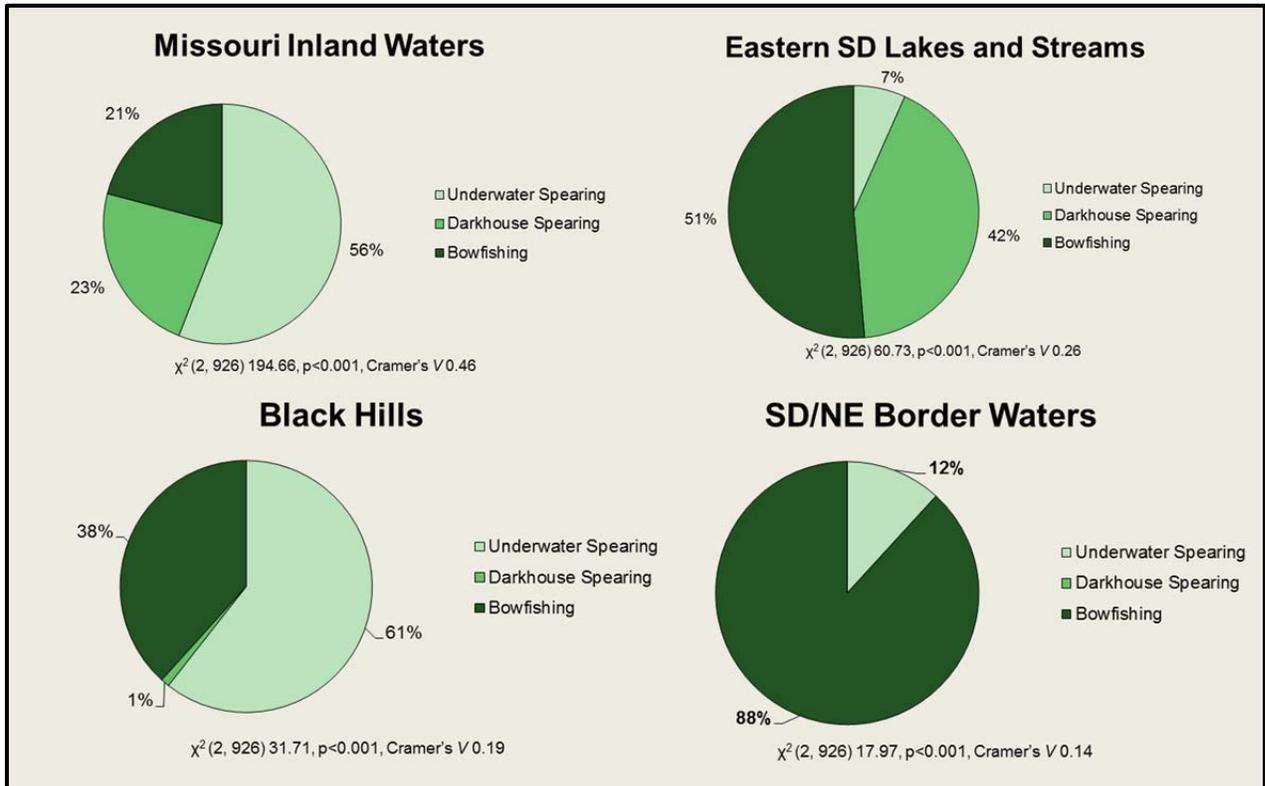


**Figure 6 Distribution of spearing/archery anglers by regional water bodies fished**

methods of take and regional location of spearing and bowfishing participation (figure 7). Underwater spearing anglers were more likely to fish the Missouri inland waters than darkhouse spearing and bowfishing anglers ( $\chi^2 (2, 926) 194.66, p<0.001, \text{Cramer's } V 0.46$ ).<sup>4</sup> Bowfishing and darkhouse spearing anglers were more likely than underwater spearers to fish the eastern SD lakes and streams ( $\chi^2 (2, 926) 60.73, p<0.001, \text{Cramer's } V 0.26$ ). Darkhouse spearers were the least likely to fish waters in the Black Hills region ( $\chi^2 (2, 926) 31.71, p<0.001,$

<sup>4</sup> Chi-square statistics are reported as ( $\chi^2$  (df, N) statistic, significance level, Cramer's V statistic). See Appendix B for an explanation on how these statistics are interpreted.

Cramer's  $V$  0.19), and bowfishing anglers were the most likely to have fished along the SD/NE border waters ( $\chi^2$  (2, 926) 17.97,  $p < 0.001$ , Cramer's  $V$  0.14).



**Figure 7 Distribution of spearing and archery anglers by regional bodies of water and method of take**

Harvest –

*Rough Fish*

Regardless of the spearing/archery activity, the majority of anglers indicated they did not harvest rough fish using spearing or archery methods (figure 8). The median category for anglers who did harvest rough fish using darkhouse spearing was 1 to 25 fish, with an approximate mean of 14 fish.<sup>5</sup> The median category of anglers who harvested rough fish using underwater spearing

<sup>5</sup> Number of rough fish harvested was recoded from a categorical variable as measured in the questionnaires using the mean of each category. “1-25” fish = 12.5 fish; “26-50” fish = 38.5 fish; “51-75” fish = 63.5 fish; “76-100” fish = 88.5 fish; “101-125” fish = 113.5 fish; and “126+” fish = 126 fish.

was 1 to 25 fish, with an approximate mean of 20 fish. Finally, the median category for bowfishing anglers was 1 to 25 fish, with an approximate mean of 37 fish.

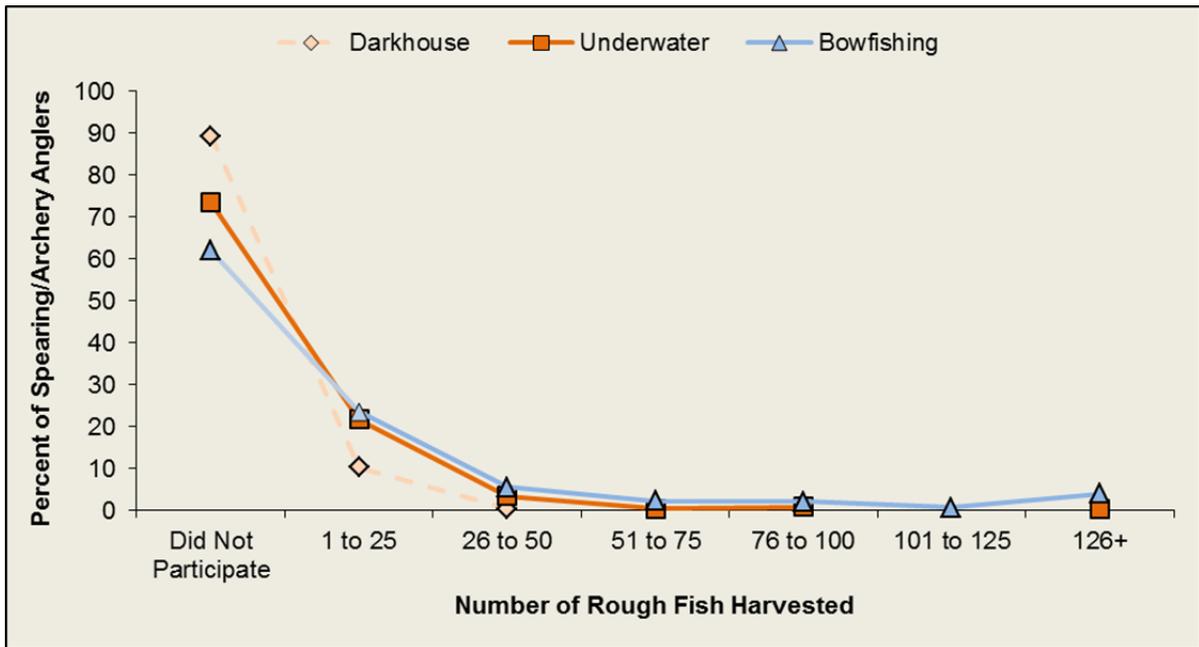


Figure 8 Number of rough fish harvested by spearing/archery activity

### Game Fish

Spearing and bowfishing anglers were asked to indicate all of the game fish species they specifically targeted for harvest, as well as the number of fish harvested. Bowfishing anglers were more likely to not target specific game fish than spearing anglers (figure 9). Forty-one percent of bowfishing anglers indicated they did not target specific game fish for harvest during the 2011 season. On average, bowfishing anglers harvested less than one fish per angler

across the six represented game fish species (table 7).<sup>6</sup> Spearing anglers were more likely than bowfishing anglers to target walleye/sauger, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass. On average, spearing anglers harvested an estimated 8 walleye/sauger, 2 northern pike, 4 smallmouth bass, and 1 largemouth bass (table 8).

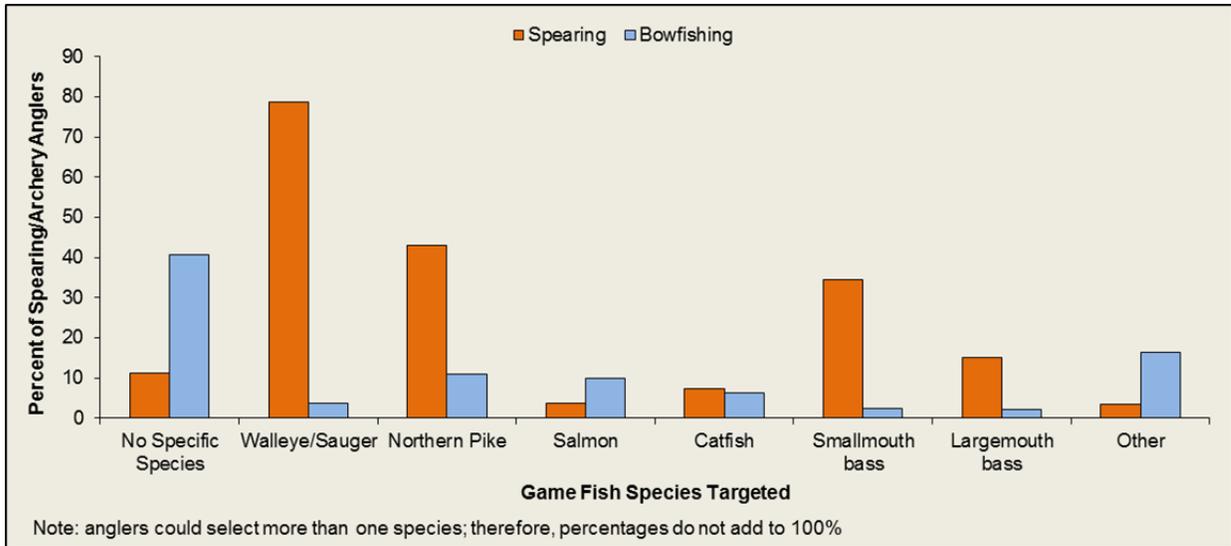


Figure 9 Distribution of game fish species targeted by spearing and archery anglers

Table 7 Number of game fish harvested by percentage of bowfishing anglers

	0	1 to 5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	21 to 25	26+	Mean
Walleye/Sauger	97.8	1.8	0.2	0.2				0.10
Northern Pike	88.7	8.9	1.8	0.5			0.2	0.50
Salmon	91	5.9	1.4	0.9	0.9			0.60
Catfish	90.8	5.7	1.8	0.4		0.5	0.9	0.70
Smallmouth bass	96.6	2.1	0.5	0.5				0.20
Largemouth bass	98.7	1.3						0.03

Note: Shaded cells represent the median category for each species.

<sup>6</sup> Number of game fish harvested was recoded from a categorical variable as measured in the questionnaires using the mean of each category. “1-5” fish = 2.5 fish; “6-10” fish = 8.5 fish; “11-15” fish = 13.5 fish; “16-20” fish = 18.5 fish; “21-25” fish = 23.5 fish; and “26+” fish = 26 fish.

**Table 8 Number of game fish harvested by percentage of spearing anglers**

	<b>0</b>	<b>1 to 5</b>	<b>6 to 10</b>	<b>11 to 15</b>	<b>16 to 20</b>	<b>21 to 25</b>	<b>26+</b>	<b>Mean</b>
<b>Walleye/Sauger</b>	27.6	26.9	15.6	7.6	8.3	4.6	9.4	8.00
<b>Northern Pike</b>	61.1	26.2	6.9	3.1	0.9		1.6	2.00
<b>Salmon</b>	99.5	0.5						0.01
<b>Catfish</b>	89.8	8.4	1.7					0.40
<b>Smallmouth bass</b>	59.8	18.1	10.3	3.4	3.4	0.6	4.3	4.00
<b>Large mouth bass</b>	86.8	7	4.1	1.1	0.3	0.6		1.00

Note: Shaded cells represent the median category for each species.

### *Equipment and Location*

Fifty-four percent of active bowfishing anglers indicated they mostly bowfished from the shore, and just over a quarter mostly bowfished from a boat (figure 10). Fifty-nine percent of underwater spearers mostly used SCUBA equipment and slightly less than one-third used a snorkel when underwater spearing (figure 11). For those anglers who participated in darkhouse spearing during the 2011 season, 41 percent used a permanent shelter, 37 percent used a portable shelter, and the remaining 22 percent used a combination of permanent and portable shelters (figure 12).

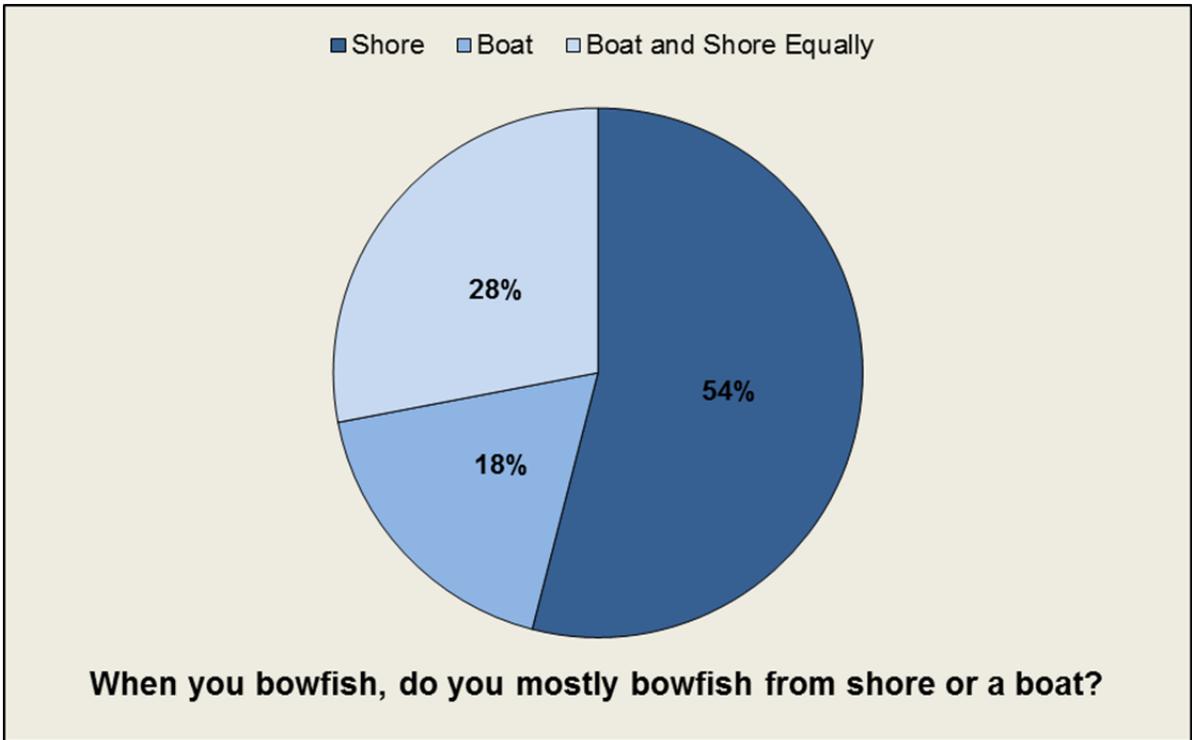


Figure 10 Location of Bowfishing

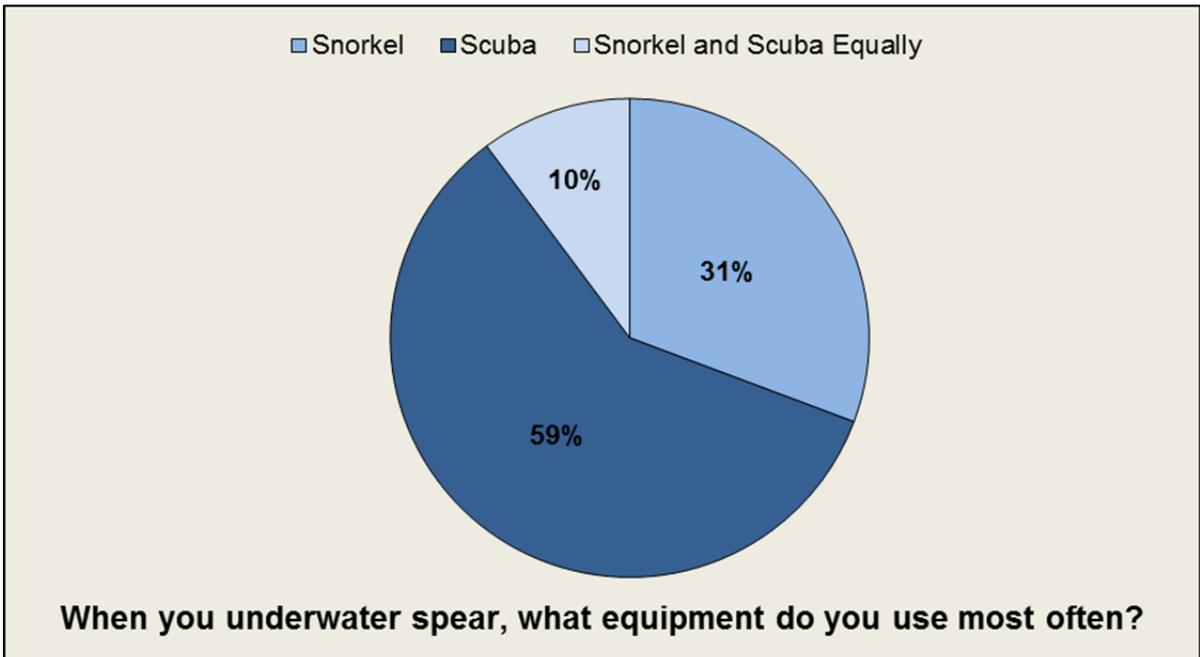


Figure 11 Equipment used for Underwater Spearing

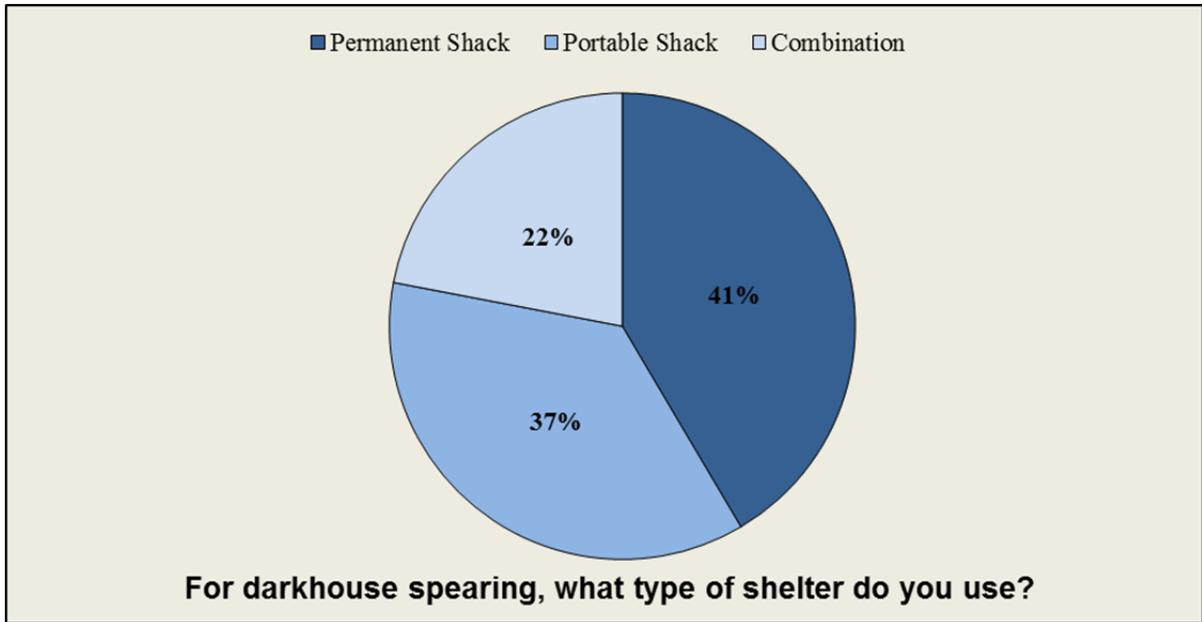
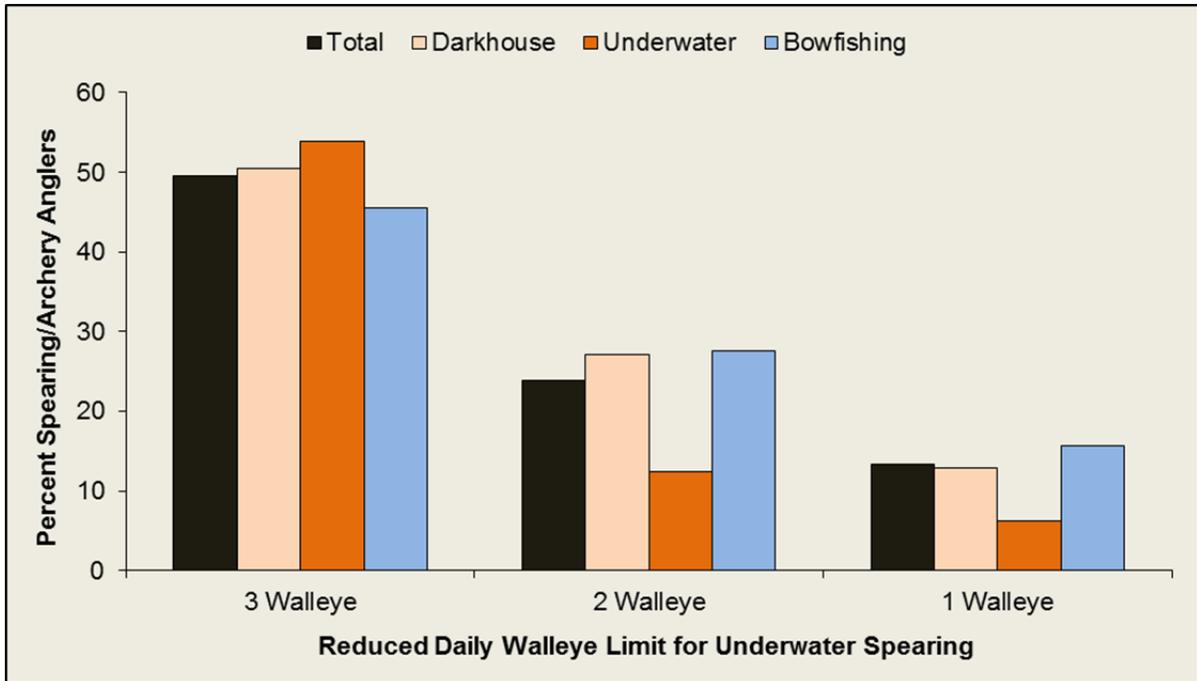


Figure 12 Shelter Used for Darkhouse Spearing

### *Daily Bag Limits for Walleye*

Half of spearing and archery anglers would accept a reduced daily limit of three walleye for underwater spearing if size restrictions were eliminated and more waters were opened to spearing (figure 13). Underwater spearing anglers were more likely than bowfishing anglers to be satisfied with a reduced daily bag limit of 3 walleye under these circumstances ( $\chi^2(2, 1388) 6.15, p=0.047$ , Cramer's  $V 0.066$ ). Underwater spearers were less likely than darkhouse spearers or bowfishing anglers to be satisfied with a reduced daily bag limit of 2 walleye ( $\chi^2(2, 1219) 70.09, p<0.001$ , Cramer's  $V 0.024$ ) or 1 walleye under these circumstances ( $\chi^2(2, 1059) 32.35, p<0.001$ , Cramer's  $V 0.175$ ).



**Figure 13 Distribution of anglers who would accept reduced walleye daily limit for underwater spearing if size restrictions were removed and more waters were opened**

### *Distance Traveled*

Anglers were asked to indicate the greatest distance they travelled one-way in South Dakota to participate in game fish spearing and bowfishing activities (figure 14). On average, bowfishing anglers' greatest distance traveled was shorter than underwater or darkhouse spearers. The median category for greatest, one-way distance traveled was 41 to 50 miles for both underwater spearing and darkhouse spearing anglers. Bowfishing anglers' median category for greatest, one-way distance traveled was 21 to 30 miles. In addition to the greatest distance, anglers were asked to indicate the average, one-way distance they traveled to participate in game fish spearing and bowfishing activities (figure 15). Bowfishing anglers' average travel distance was less than underwater spearers or darkhouse spearers. The median category for average, one-way

distance traveled for darkhouse and underwater spearers was 21 to 30 miles.

Bowfishing anglers' median category for average, one-way distance was 11 to 20 miles.

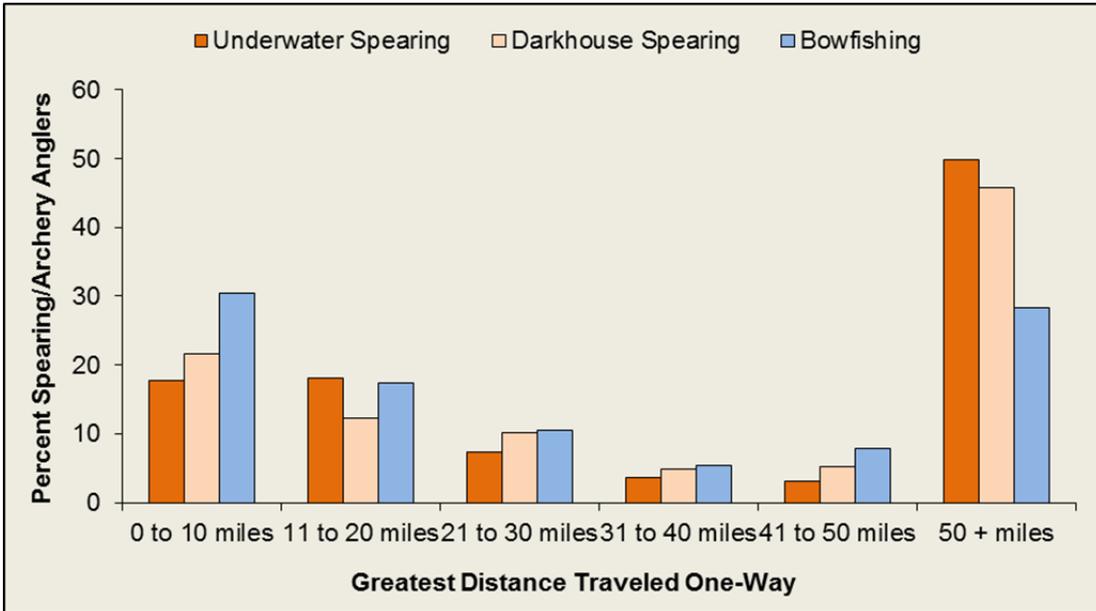


Figure 14 Greatest distance traveled one-way to harvest game fish by spearing or bowfishing

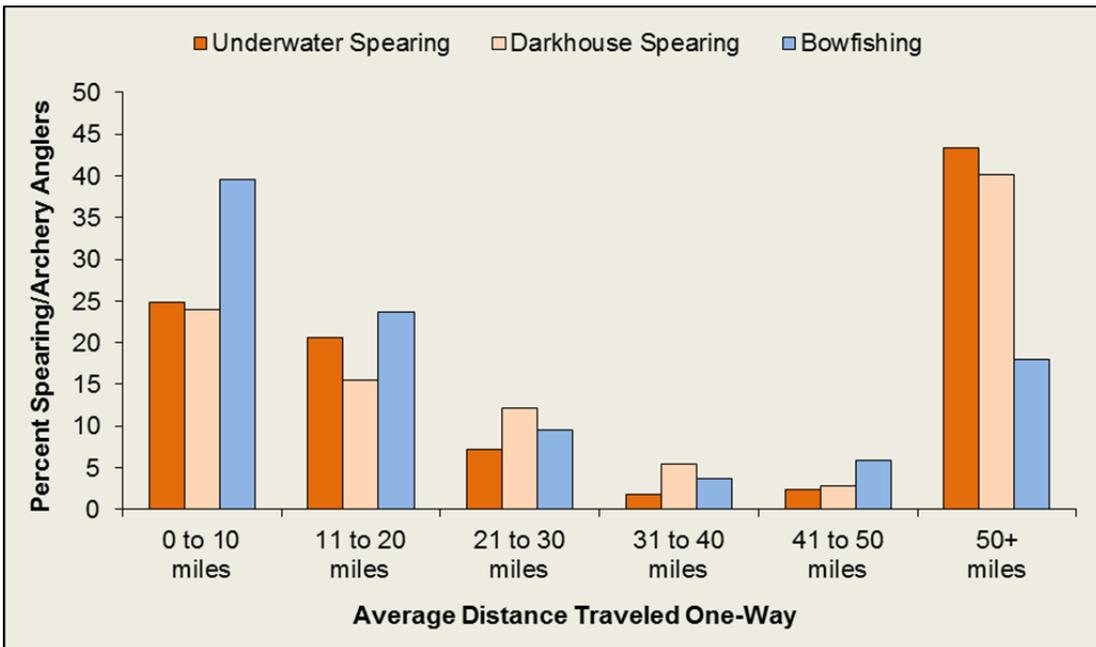


Figure 15 Average distance traveled one-way to harvest game fish by spearing or bowfishing

Attitudes and Perceptions –

When asked if they perceived conflicts between hook/line anglers and spearers, 78 percent of spearing and archery anglers indicated they did not perceive any problems. There was a significant difference between method of takes on the perception of conflict between spearers and hook/line anglers ( $\chi^2$  (2, 1389) 83.830,  $p < 0.001$ , Cramer's  $V$  0.246). Underwater spearing anglers were more likely than darkhouse spearing or bowfishing anglers to perceive a conflict between spearers and hook/line anglers (figure 16).

Of the spearing and archery anglers who perceived conflicts with hook/line anglers, 209 provided explanation on their perception of the conflict (appendix C). Forty percent of these anglers commented on hook/line anglers thinking spearing gave an unfair advantage because it was too easy or allowed spearers to easily pick the big fish (figure 17). Twenty percent indicated conflicts over

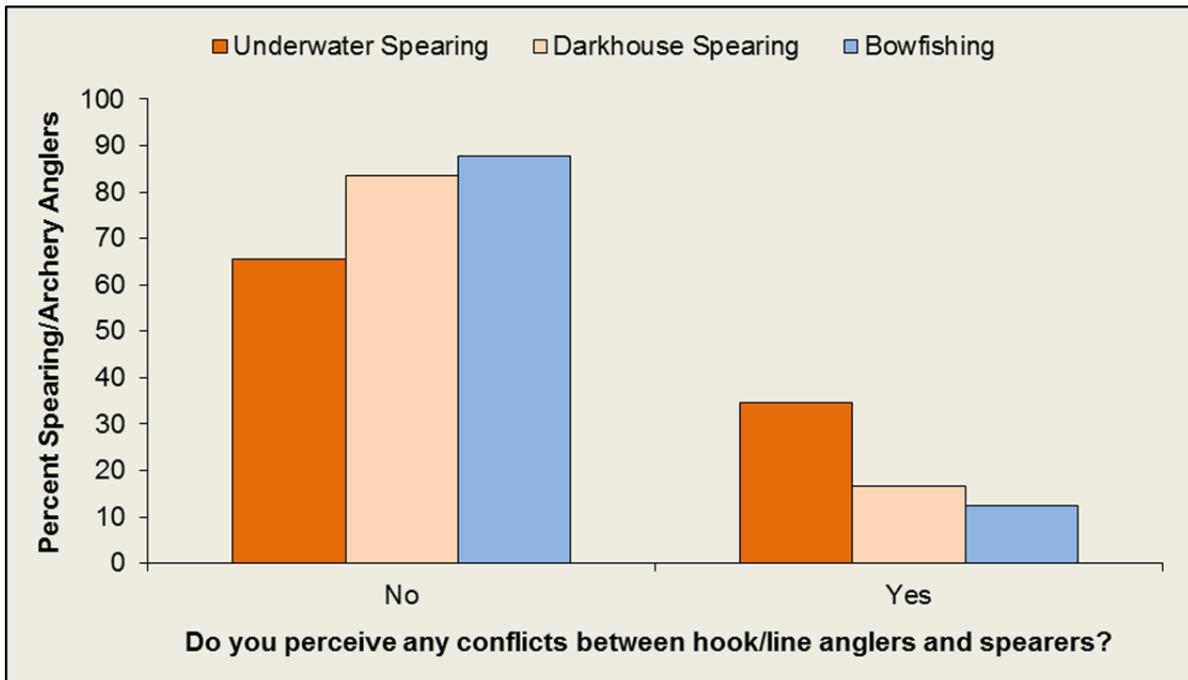


Figure 16 Distribution of spearing/archery anglers by perception of conflicts between hook/line anglers and spearers

fishing locations, and 20 percent indicated issues with boaters not knowing/respecting regulations related to dive flags or divers crowding out hook/line anglers. Conflicts over regulations relating to size limits, ability to judge size, wanton waste, disposal, enforcement, and over fishing the resource were also mentioned.

Overall, only five percent of spearing and archery anglers indicated there were issues with the current safety regulations in place for spearing activities. However, when comparing the three methods of take, underwater spearing anglers were more likely than darkhouse spearing or bowfishing anglers to indicate safety issues existed ( $\chi^2(4, 1387) 88.117, p < 0.001, \text{Cramer's } V 0.178$ ). Nine percent of underwater spearers indicated there was an issue with the safety regulations compared to one percent of darkhouse spearing and bowfishing anglers (figure 18). Of the spearing and archery anglers who felt there were issues with the current safety regulations, 67 anglers provided explanation regarding these issues. These issues predominantly focused on dive flag regulations and safety zone enforcement (appendix C).

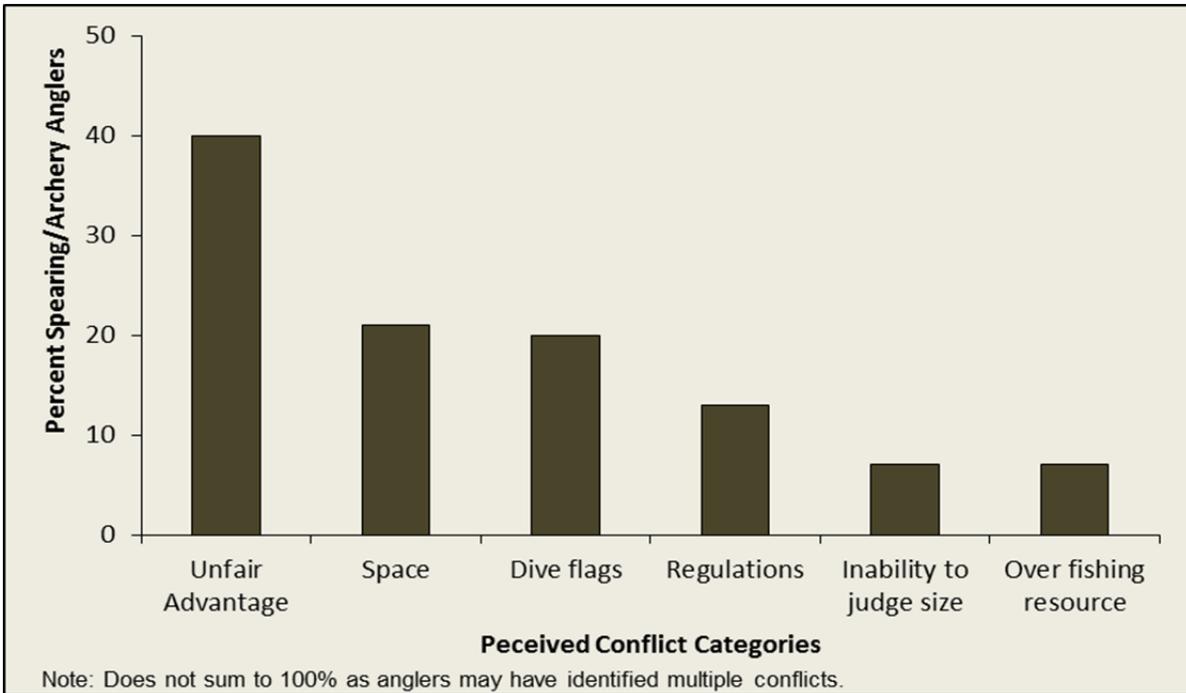


Figure 17 Spearing/Archery anglers' perceptions of conflicts with hook/line anglers

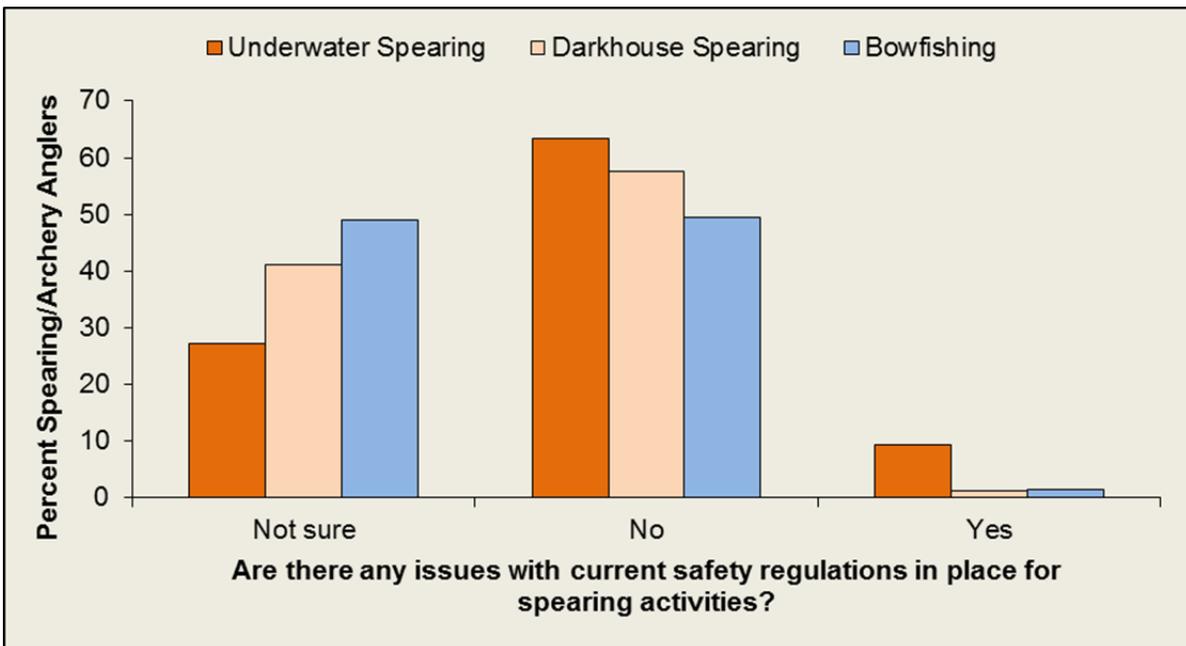


Figure 18 Distribution of spearing/archery anglers by perceive of issues with current safety regulations in place for spearing activities by method

Overall, 49 percent of SD spearing and archery anglers believe the rules governing these activities are not complex. Thirty-four percent of spearing and archery anglers believed the rules were slightly complex, 14 percent believed them to be moderately complex, and 3 percent believed they were very complex. Figure 19 shows the distribution across methods of take and perception of rule complexity. Bowfishing anglers were more likely than darkhouse or underwater spearing anglers to indicate the rules were complex ( $\chi^2(6, 885) 15.878, p=0.014$ , Cramer's  $V 0.095$ ).

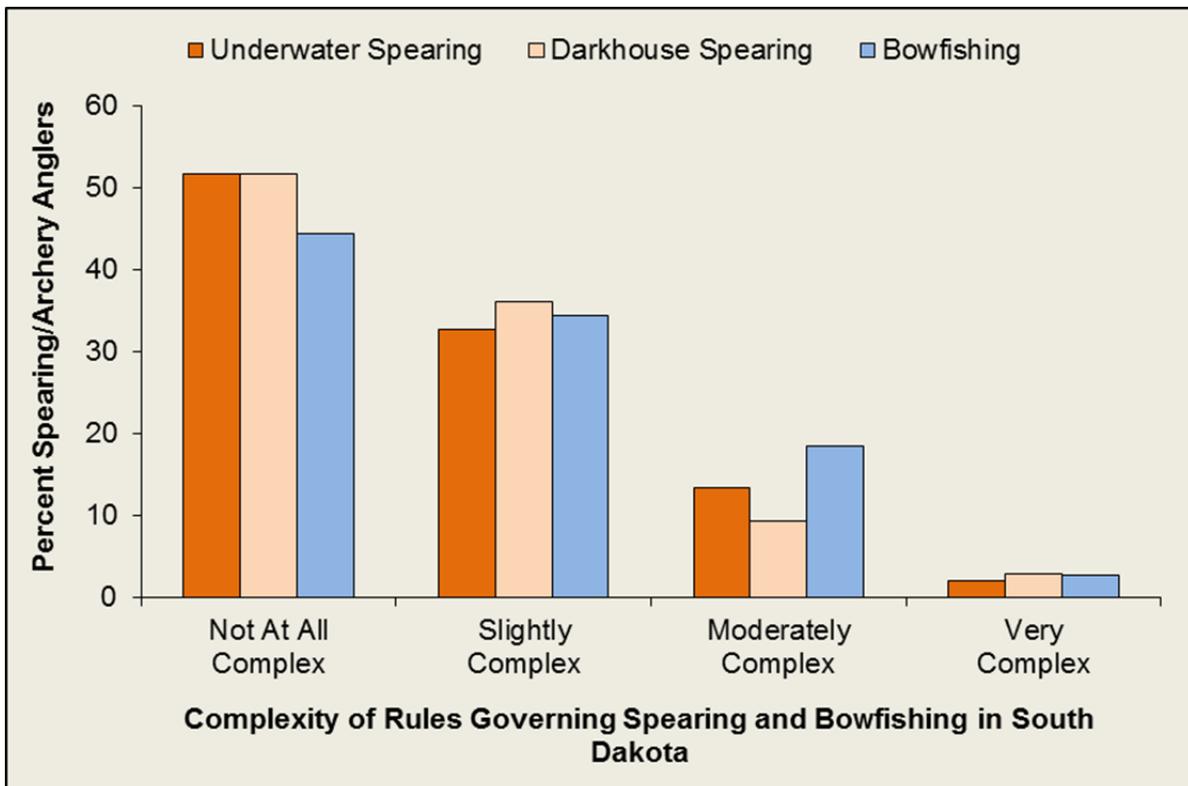


Figure 19 Spearing/Archery anglers perception of complexity of rules governing spearing and bowfishing by method

## Satisfaction

Overall, spearing and archery anglers were satisfied with their game fish spearing and bowfishing experience in 2011. Of the anglers who participated in underwater spearing, 76 percent were satisfied (figure 20). Fifty-one percent of active darkhouse spearing anglers were satisfied, and 62 percent of bowfishing anglers were satisfied with their total game fish spearing/bowfishing experience. Underwater spearers were more likely to indicate they were very satisfied with their spearing experience than darkhouse spearing or bowfishing anglers.

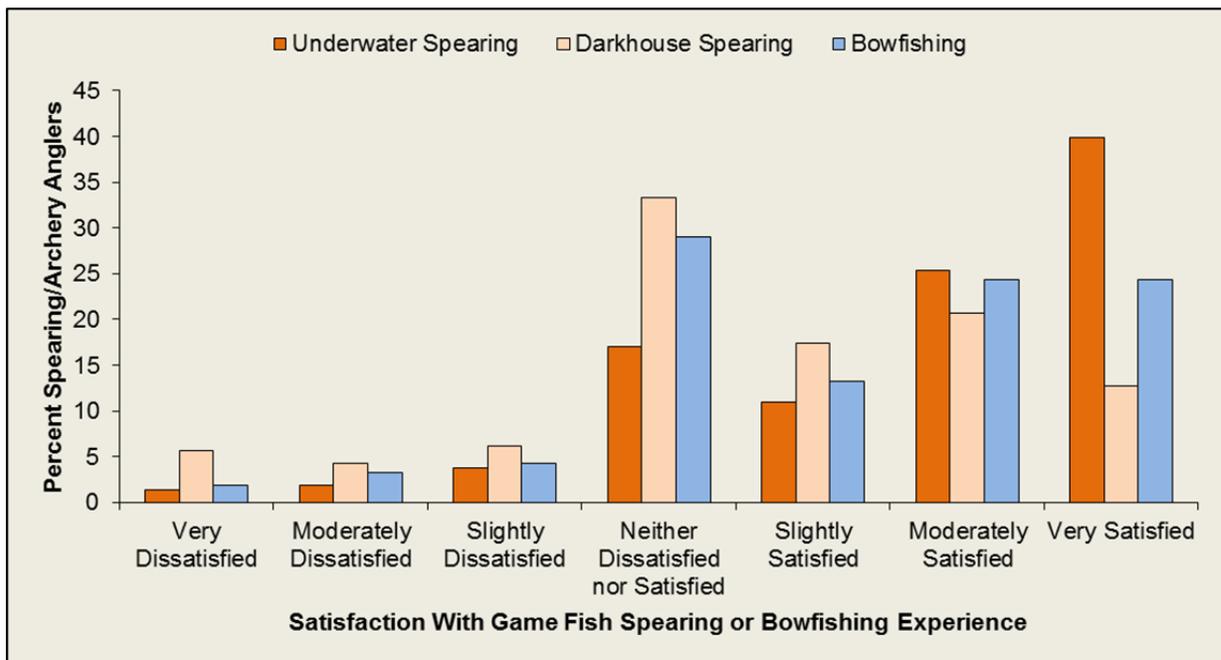


Figure 20 Satisfaction with game fish spearing and bowfishing experience

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A  
Survey Instrument

**Spearing/Archery in South Dakota - 2011**  
**Resident Spearing/Archery Harvest and Angler Opinion Survey**



April 2012

Dear Angler,

Our records indicate you purchased a Game Fish Spearing and Archery Fishing Permit in 2011. The purpose of this survey is to learn more about those pursuing spearfishing and bowfishing opportunities throughout South Dakota. Your responses are important in helping manage the aquatic resources of South Dakota.

Please take a few minutes to answer your questionnaire and return it using the pre-paid envelope provided. Your prompt response will eliminate the need to send you another survey. The ID number on your survey is used to identify anglers who have responded so we can check your name off the mail list when you return your survey. Information from this survey will be available to the public in the form of a written report.

Sincerely,

Cynthia L. Longmire  
Human Dimensions Specialist  
cynthia.longmire@state.sd.us

## Participation and Harvest

1. When you have time to bow fish or spearfish for GAME FISH, what method of take do you most often participate in?

- Underwater Spearing
- Darkhouse Spearing
- Bowfishing
- I did not participate in above activities
- Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_



**If you did NOT participate in above activities, please stop here and return this survey to us in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Thank you!**

2. About how many days did you participate in darkhouse spearing, underwater spearing, bowfishing, or hook and line angling from January 1 December 31, 2011?

**Please check the number of days for each activity type.**

	Did Not Participate	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26+
Darkhouse spearing	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Underwater spearing	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Bowfishing	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Hook/Line Angling	<input type="checkbox"/>						

3. Please indicate all of the waters you speared/bowfished **GAME FISH** from January 1 to December 31, 2011.

*Game fish include species such as walleye, northern pike, salmon, smallmouth/largemouth bass, etc. For further definition, see the 2012 South Dakota Fishing Handbook, page 20.*

Please check () **ALL** that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Oahe                                | <input type="checkbox"/> James River (Brown/Spink)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Sharpe                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Whitewood (Kingsbury)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Francis Case                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Preston (Kingsbury)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD/NE Border Waters (Lewis & Clark Lake) | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirit Lake (Kingsbury)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angostura                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Albert                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pactola                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary (Hamlin)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belle Fourche                            | <input type="checkbox"/> John (Hamlin)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mud Lake (Roberts)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Norden (Hamlin)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cottonwood Slough (Roberts)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber (Spink)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rush Lakes (Day)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Turtle Creek (Spink)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scatterwood Lakes                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)_____ |

4. Please list any additional South Dakota waters you would like to see open for spearing and/or bowfishing of **GAME FISH**.

5. How many **ROUGH FISH** did you shoot/harvest using the activities listed below from January 1 - December 31, 2011?

*Rough fish include species such as carp, buffalo, gar, freshwater drum, goldeye, etc. For further definition, see the 2012 South Dakota Fishing Handbook, page 20.*

	Did Not Participate	1-25	26-50	51-75	76-100	101-125	125+
Darkhouse spearing	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Underwater spearing	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Bowfishing	<input type="checkbox"/>						

6. What **GAME FISH** species do you target when you go bowfishing and/or spearing?

	Spearing	Bowfishing
Did not target specific species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walleye/Sauger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Pike	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinook Salmon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Catfish Family (including bullheads)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smallmouth Bass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Largemouth Bass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Please indicate the number of each **GAME FISH** species you shot/harvested by spearing and/or bowfishing from January 1 - December 31, 2011.

	Spearing	Bowfishing
Did not target specific species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walleye/Sauger	[ ]	[ ]
Northern Pike	[ ]	[ ]
Chinook Salmon	[ ]	[ ]
Catfish Family (including bullheads)	[ ]	[ ]
Smallmouth Bass	[ ]	[ ]
Largemouth Bass	[ ]	[ ]
Other (Please Specify) _____	[ ]	[ ]

## General Questions

8. When you bowfish, do you mostly bowfish from shore or boat?

- Shore
- Boat
- Both shore and boat equally
- I do not participate in bowfishing

9. When you underwater spear, what equipment do you use most often?

- Snorkel
- Scuba
- Both snorkel and scuba equally
- I do not participate in underwater spearing
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

10. For darkhouse spearing, what type of shelter do you use?

- Permanent shack (leave shack out overnight)
- Portable shack (remove daily)
- Combination of portable and permanent
- I do not participate in darkhouse spearing

11. If size restrictions on walleye were eliminated for underwater spearing, in exchange for more waters being open to spearing, would you be satisfied with a reduced daily bag limit of **3**?

- Yes
- No

12. If size restrictions on walleye were eliminated for underwater spearing, in exchange for more waters being open to spearing, would you be satisfied with a reduced daily bag limit of **2**?

- Yes
- No

13. If size restrictions on walleye were eliminated for underwater spearing, in exchange for more waters being open to spearing, would you be satisfied with a reduced daily bag limit of **1**?

- Yes
- No

14. What is the GREATEST distance ONE WAY you travelled in South Dakota to harvest **GAME FISH** by spearing or bowfishing?

	Underwater Spearing	Darkhouse Spearing	Bowfishing
Distance traveled (miles)	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

15. What is the AVERAGE distance ONE WAY you travelled in South Dakota to harvest **GAME FISH** by spearing or bowfishing?

	Underwater Spearing	Darkhouse Spearing	Bowfishing
Distance traveled (miles)	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

**Attitudes and Perceptions**

16. Do you perceive any conflicts between hook/line anglers and spearers?

- No
- Yes

17. If yes, what is your perception of the current conflicts between spearers and hook/line anglers in terms of fishing regulations?

18. Are there any issues with current safety regulations in place for spearing activities?  
*For regulations, see 2012 South Dakota Fishing Handbook*

- Not sure
- No
- Yes, please explain

19. How complex do you believe the rules governing spearfishing/bowfishing are in South Dakota?

*Please circle only one response*

- Not At  
All Complex
- Slightly  
Complex
- Moderately  
Complex
- Very  
Complex

20. Overall, how dissatisfied or satisfied were you with your total **GAME FISH** spearing or bowfishing experience in 2011? *Please circle only one response per fishing type.*

- 0 = Did Not Participate (NA)
- 4 = Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied (N)
- 1 = Very Dissatisfied (VD)
- 5 = Slightly Satisfied (SS)
- 2 = Moderately Dissatisfied (MD)
- 6 = Moderately Satisfied (MS)
- 3 = Slightly Dissatisfied (SD)
- 7 = Very Satisfied (VS)

*Please CIRCLE a number for each fishing type:*

	SATISFACTION							
	NA	VD	MD	SD	N	SS	MS	VS
	<i>.....circle one for each fishing type.....</i>							
Underwater Spearing	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Darkhouse Spearing	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bowfishing	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.**  
Results from this survey will be posted on GFP's web-page.

You can use this page for any comments you would like to make. These comments will be typed (provided they are legible) and put into a report that will be given to the Game, Fish & Parks Commissioners, staff biologists and administrators and made available to the public.  
**Electronic comments can also be sent to [SDGFPIINFO@state.sd.us](mailto:SDGFPIINFO@state.sd.us)**



*Please fold your questionnaire in half and return it using the addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided.*

## Appendix B Statistical Definitions

*Chi-Square ( $\chi^2$ )* – probability distribution used to test the independence of two categorical variables. This test is used to determine if two categorical variables are related; for example is method of take associated with body of water where spearing or bowfishing occurred.

*Cramer's V* – is a chi-square based measure of strength of association between two categorical variables. This statistic ranges from 0 to 1; where,

0.00	No Relationship
0.01 to 0.05	Negligible
0.06 to 0.20	Weak
0.21 to 0.25	Moderate
> 0.26	Strong

*Degrees of freedom (df)* – used to select the critical value for determining statistical significance in chi-square tests.

*Mean* – the sum of the measures in a distribution divided by the number of measures (average).

*Median* – the score that splits a sample in two, with half the individuals above and half below.

## Appendix C

### What is your perception of the current conflicts between spearers and hook/line anglers in terms of fishing regulations?

ID: 4

Hook and line fisherman are easy to get along with as long as they are catching fish ( often double their limits). But if the hook and line fishing isn't good and they see the few spearfisherman harvest fish they get jealous and are often rude.

ID: 5

How are spearers supposed to know the size on walleyes when they shoot them? It could take down the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of smaller ones.

ID: 9

Hook & line anglers assume that spear fishermen are over using the resource. Each year we go out of our way to avoid hook and line boat fishermen in determining where we will dive. Each year we have issues with boats operating too close to our diver down flags, boats moving in on top of where we are diving, and issues at the cleaning stations.

ID: 21

Anglers, think we are doing wrong things bow fishing.

ID: 42

Hook/line anglers have a misconception that we do not follow the rules. We are checked more frequently because of this. We have never been ticketed for too many fish. This is not all anglers it is more the guides than anything.

ID: 47

Fisherman thought I was affecting his fishing and was not doing any harm.

ID: 80

Anglers don't respect the dive flags

ID: 82

Many hook and line anglers don't know what is legal. They also have accused me of being "unsporting" while legally bow fishing.

ID: 117

Hook/line automatically assume you are breaking a law when you bowfish any species and confront you about it.

ID: 118

Seems to be a 1<sup>st</sup> of "urban legend" out there that people whole spear fish shoot too many big fish for their limit and just leave them underwater. These people have never spear fished and do not understand how spooky walleyes are to get close to. These perceptions are not based on fact and need to be changed.

ID: 159

that we just shoot anything we see and if it's not big enough then we just let them go

- ID: 160  
People in the boat do not respect your flag/buoy in the water when your diving down.
- ID: 179  
They don't like you spearing near them. They probably think we are getting all the fish.
- ID: 186  
Hook and line anglers don't always respect the space provided by a dive flag.
- ID: 211  
people don't think bowfishing is very proper fishing and the disposal problem is confusing what to do with the game You harvest.
- ID: 220  
Anglers don't know the rules about the flags and how close to them you can be.
- ID: 238  
Hook and line anglers are under the misconception that we as divers are stealing "their" fish. Also tensions arrive when the fisherman wants to fish a point already occupied by a diver. From my own experience, we as divers do what we can to avoid and resolve any and all conflicts.
- ID: 258  
Hook and Line anglers do not know what a diver down flag means.
- ID: 297  
Size restrictions
- ID: 356  
My perception was that anglers felt that spear fishing gave an advantage to watching fish. From the spear fisherman point of view, they are accomplishing the same advantage with modern technology (depth & fish finders). Both have equal advantages and disadvantages.
- ID: 361  
Don't know what the flag is.
- ID: 443  
Hook and line anglers assume spear fishing is easier. They also assume spear fishers over bag or double dip, which we absolutely do not. I guarantee there are many more hook and line anglers who break laws more often than spear fishers.
- ID: 472  
Diver down flag not observed properly "no" boat should be allowed to come close to diver down including electric motor.
- ID: 511  
Spearmen can only fish in certain areas and hook/line anglers don't realize this, forcing spearmen out of fishing areas.
- ID: 535  
Safety distance between divers and boaters

ID: 547

Hook and Line anglers seem to think that spearers are cheating.

ID: 556

It depends on things that appear on the water or fisherman's attitude that spear fishing (scuba) is a real advantage. Fishing regulations are followed to a tee in this scuba family. There are so many arguments against fisherman that scuba. I can answer all of these complaints and assure them that all fishing laws are followed by divers. The good and honest ones anyway, and I would call on divers taking small fish!

ID: 557

Underwater spearing participants seem to park on specific locals for extended times.

ID: 593

They think we have the advantage and kill too many walleye when in fact it is the opposite.

ID: 594

If spearers leave fish on shore

ID: 612

Scuba spearers are difficult to regulate and can easily cheat the system. I feel there needs to be a maximum length limit for scuba spearers due to the ease of spearing too large of game fish. Snorkeling spearers give game fish more of a chance and it is not threat to the overall fisheries.

ID: 632

That spearers can be more efficient at picking out and getting bigger walleyes. Whereas hook/line are at the mercy of the what just happens to bite their hook.

ID: 642

It's obviously easier for spearers to select for larger walleye.

ID: 677

I'm an avid fisherman as well and it seems to me that it is assumed that us spear fisherman are able to target "big fish" and just shoot whatever we want to when in reality all you have to do is look in the handbook and see that we follow the same rules as fisherman do on size and what we can and cannot do. Leave the regulations as they are as it is a challenge to know how big a fish is under water but that's why you put a mark on your gun as a reference to know how big your target is. It's not that difficult. Get rid of the special spearing license as well! We are anglers just like anyone else and should not be charged more for something we want to do when we follow the same rules and regulations as everyone else does.

ID: 678

Hook and Line anglers have an irrational problem with spear fisherman.

ID: 685

Just people needing something to cry about

ID: 686

I have heard fishermen say that the spearfishermen shoot all of the big walleye in Lake Oahe. I have also heard of conflicts between fishermen and spearfishermen at some of the

cleaning stations. It seems that the fisherman have a much larger problem with the spearfisherman than the spearfisherman have with them.

ID: 727

Frustration and anger towards spearers. They may not be able to catch anything that day, but I could always get my fish.

ID: 749

They think it is wrong, some have this idea it's not sporting. They make it clear they don't like spearing. I feel better for are water ways no lead sinks or hooks stuck in fish.

ID: 760

Not respecting the diver down flag, thinking spearing isn't fair or ethical; think spearing eliminates too many big fish.

ID: 775

Anglers main concern is that too many local big fish are all being taken in the winter through dark house spearing...I angle more than spear and see no problem with it...more fish are taken in one day during the summer than an entire season of spearing

ID: 777

Spearers seem to have a lack of knowledge or care about not crowding it on hook and line anglers. They often show no courtesy.

ID: 795

Hook/line anglers think that spearers shoot more than one fish over 20" and leave them lay on the bottom of the river, which majority of spearers if they shoot the big fish first, are more cautious about the next fish they shoot. Also, the anglers stay out all day with 3 people bring in one limit, and spearers spend an hour and have their limit, that cause problems at the cleaning stations.

ID: 800

Hook/line anglers have a mentality that spearers are killing all big fish instead of the good eating sized walleyes.

ID: 805

Hook and line anglers are under the impression that spearers have an unfair advantage over the fish. Hook and line anglers also believe spearfishermen take a disproportionate number of walleyes over 20 inches. There is also a thought among hook and line anglers that spearfishermen stir up the walleyes and make them more skittish and harder to catch.

ID: 828

I think they are spearing more than the one over that's required. That's why I think there should be a fish per spearer.

ID: 844

Hook and line anglers perceive it is easier for spearers.

ID: 874

I feel underwater spearers have a better chance of shooting more fish over twenty by accident or purpose and should have more regulations to prevent it.

ID: 879

No I believe that hook fisherman believe that it is just too easy for spearmen to harvest fish, when that is not the case.

ID: 882

I do both but hook and line anglers generally consider it "cheating"

ID: 906

I do both mostly hook and line fishing. Very tough to tell size of walleye underwater and most times it seems spear fishermen shoot too many over 20 inch fish.

ID: 907

I have the understanding that hooking is not allowed, yet I had some surveyor question me about my fishing (not accusing, but filling out a questionnaire), and I asked him about the kids trying to snag carp, to which he said it was ok. He also said there was no problem with throwing the dead fish back in the river.

ID: 918

Hook and line seem to not like spears being stationed on a point and having to stay a couple hundred feet away.

ID: 919

The game wardens have made it known that they believe spearers are illegally shooting too many fish that are too big. I have spoken to several anglers that believe that spearers are shooting illegal fish. When asked, they have no basis of this information other than game wardens have told them to be on the lookout and to report any spearers, even if they don't suspect anything.

ID: 950

Anglers need to be more aware of the dive flags. They assume trolling is okay around us which it is not!

ID: 975

Some hook and line anglers perceive spearers to shoot only big fish and perceive spearers to harvest large number of walleye when hook and line anglers remove many more walleye from Oahe than scuba spear fishers do. Reducing to 3 fish limit will help that perception but it wouldn't be worth all the work to get geared up to scuba dive if we could only shoot 1 or 2 walleyes.

ID: 988

What I hear most from hook and line anglers is that divers are shooting too many fish over 20 inches, jumping in the water on top of fisherman and forcing them to move, and that they are not using flags. First of all I'm sure all of these things have happened and I would encourage CO's write tickets to anyone that is breaking the law BUT the all of divers I know do not break the rules and go out of their way to accommodate fisherman so it is frustrating me that divers have been given a bad name.

ID: 992

When the fishing is slow the fisherman complaints that divers are shooting all the fish. It's been like that since forever. Ignorance rules the day with those that complain floating

walleye often taken by deep fishing fisherman, fisherman blame spear fishing though. Some divers move in on fishermen and crowd them out. Very rare but it does happen.

ID: 1014

Hook and line only fisherman seem to think it's easy spearing fish underwater. When in fact it's a challenge and I would agree that less walleye (under sized) are killed.

ID: 1018

Hook and Line anglers have been without any fish in an area. Spear fishing is the same; if that happens you move to another location. The conflict is that hook and line anglers think that the fish come to you and jump on the stringer. The conflict is a lack of information that both are sport activities with different equipment.

ID: 1019

Diver flag distance

ID: 1021

Line anglers were very friendly until I was underwater ! On many occasions I would come up to find a couple of line anglers pretty close to where I was diving! I do both diving and line angling love them both!

ID: 1027

Hard to regulate divers on size limits because they can leave fish behind if they have too many "over" 20 + inches

ID: 1028

Don't pay attention to dive flags and distance.

ID: 1036

anglers feel spearing takes too many big fish

ID: 1042

Line anglers do not understand the safety regulations involved in diving or choose to ignore them.

ID: 1044

In my opinion hook and line anglers feel that spear fishing is cheating. This is obviously not true as it is a lot of work. As a spear fisherman I believe the limits should be the same for both types of fishing.

ID: 1065

Hook and Line anglers feel there is no sport in diving for walleyes. They feel divers limit out every time out and shoot all the big walleyes.

ID: 1077

Sometimes they get mad because you have fish and they don't. I try to be courteous and not spear where they are at.

ID: 1080

I think some hook and line anglers see spearfishers as a threat and think they are "cheating" when they participate in underwater spearing. Also, I have seen numerous times when a

hook and line angler does not respect the diver down flag and brings their vessel into the area where the diver is underwater.

ID: 1096

I would support the elimination of spearing all together.

ID: 1111

Please be very careful with any expansion of the spearfishing regulations. There have been some groups of divers and scuba shops that guide divers that have pushed for GFP to dramatically open the restrictions of spearfishing as if they are entitled to be able to harvest game fish. What they fail to realize is that if the fisherman get irritated by spear fisherman, they will see to it that spearfishing is eliminated from SD waters. The spearfishing of game fish is a very rare opportunity. The season was originally developed with specific guidelines to minimize conflict between divers and fisherman. Several boats could fish any given piece of structure, but one diver will disturb the area for the day enough that the fish will either be scattered or no longer willing to bite. A boat with multiple divers could (and has) tie up an entire section of Oahe. The question about adding more waters and eliminating size restrictions if the limit was three implies that there will be more freedoms for divers. Under no circumstances should divers be exempt from size restrictions. As a spearfishing person, if you are not aware of the size of your target, you should not be shooting. Spearfishing is a privilege.

ID: 1136

I think spearing/scuba diving has gotten out of hand. It is like they own the entire body of water whenever we are fishing/hook line angling from a boat.

ID: 1138

ignore safety buoys routinely over/under size for spear should be a range and not a set size since this cannot be measured and released like with hook why can you hook fish year round, but not spear?

ID: 1139

I feel that hook/line anglers feel we limit their ability to fish wherever they like and that we are somehow "cheating".

ID: 1164

Anglers think spear fishing kills big fish and over harvests walleyes. Commercial operators who bring out twenty divers and drop a string of divers on points or flats discourage anglers.

ID: 1166

Hook and line anglers seem to have anger towards under water spearing, majority of them do although not all.

ID: 1169

I just had a guy come up and he was trying to snag salmon and I was shooting them with a bow. He got mad cause I told him what he was doing was illegal.

ID: 1174

When fishing is good and divers are respectful there aren't any conflicts.

- ID: 1175  
Conflict seems to be with lake specific length restricting and diver down flags generally related to underwater spearing folks.
- ID: 1186  
They have an opinion that we just go underwater and shot all the fish. Many times they will not give you your space and fish right on top of you even though you're carrying a dive flag. Spear fishing has no greater advantage then hook/line fishing.
- ID: 1197  
Spearmen are looked down on. People think it is not sporting.
- ID: 1202  
Hook and line fisherman have the perception that spearfisherman break every law in the book. It is unfortunate. People also have the perception that if there is a dive flag on a point that they cannot fish there at all which simply is not true.
- ID: 1203  
Boaters do not know or understand diver's buoys they get way to close to underwater divers at times.
- ID: 1212  
Hook and line anglers don't like spear fishermen (either scuba or snorkel) it's live we're in their way. I look at it like if I was here first I was here first.
- ID: 1219  
Underwater spearmen should be more respectful. I bow fish but do not care for underwater spear fisherman. The brag of their 4 fish, all which are usually overs.
- ID: 1222  
Hook/line perceive we shoot all the fish or scare them away. The reality is that there are millions of fish & most are not biting. We only move 50 feet underwater.
- ID: 1238  
Underwater Spearmen are killing too many overs, there is no way to police them and they are also rude when it comes to the distance restrictions between them and anglers.
- ID: 1241  
Mainly with GFP officers who do not like underwater spearing.
- ID: 1278  
Scuba divers shoot bigger fish.
- ID: 1296  
They believe that they own the river and are not willing to share it.
- ID: 1304  
The first time I went diving with Oahe we came up from a dive and a hook/line fisherman was in a boat nearby and flipped us off. I don't know anyone besides my dive buddy and this gave me a clue of how topside fishermen feel about divers. The last time we dove 2011

there is now another fee for spear fishing we need to pay? Why is that? If they really knew how limited an area we travel there may be better relations.

ID: 1306

Spearing takes too many big fish or that they sit on a hot spot or that spearing takes too many fish and get them unfairly.

ID: 1309

Just like anything, some people oppose it, other are fine with it. I believe if it is done in moderation (we only spear 2-3 days a year) it is just fine.

ID: 1313

Its boaters in general!!!They need to learn and respect what a divers flag is and what it stands for!!!!!!!!!!!!

ID: 1314

There is a perception among hook and line fishermen that spear fishermen are over harvesting the resource. They fail to take into account the far superior numbers of hook and line fishermen in regards to spearfishermen. We took a very open approach last season to talking to anyone that was interested about spearfishing (primarily at the cleaning stations). The response was mostly very positive by visiting anglers. The only negative comments we received were from local guides. I can only assume that they somehow think spearfishermen are taking money from their pockets. I found this quite ironic as the guides that gave us grief were finishing cleaning over 50 walleyes that they had just caught with their clients. Each year we go out of our way to spearfish in areas not regularly used by hook and line fishermen (the submerged trees at Sully Flats for example). Each year we have issues with hook and line fishermen moving in on where we are spearfishing, despite having diver down flags on the water and displayed on our dive boat. Most of the time it is innocent oversight, but occasionally it is done intentionally and illegally, in the perceived attempt to intimidate us. I think most hook and line fishermen could care less about spearfishermen. Unfortunately there are a vocal minority that go out of their way to bash the sport I love. I spend an equal number of days, or greater, as a hook and line fisherman. The dive season in SD is basically a 3 to 4 month window. I fished with hook and line all 12 months last year. There are way fewer spearfishermen than hook and line fishermen. I think that there is an ample supply of fish for everyone to enjoy.

ID: 1322

Some seem to think spearing is unfair and easy. I do both hook and spear. Some days one works really well, some both, some neither. For the amount of effort it takes, spear fishing is not easy, or inexpensive. Most hook and most spear anglers I have met are great. I suppose there are a few bad in each.

ID: 1353

Hook and line anglers staying far enough away from dive down buoys.

ID: 1358

Too many large game fish taken. I only bowfish for rough fish.

ID: 1361

when hook and line fishing is slow anglers get mad if divers harvest fish. they don't seem to complain much when they are catching double or triple their limits and the game wardens are spending most of their time chasing the few dive boats around.

ID: 1362

Overall, I perceive conflicts as rare for how many spearers and anglers are on the waters; I know there are some dishonest/disrespectful spearers and anglers that create tension between the sportsman groups.

ID: 1376

They are jealous of our ability to limit every day

ID: 1377

Scuba divers with the advantage of staying down and harvesting too many fish too often. Similar to deer hunting using a re-curve vs an AK47

ID: 1387

Hook and line gravitate to dive flap and have been rude.

ID: 1390

Mostly the perception of an angler is that we only shoot all the big fish. This I feel is the biggest problem. I was an avid angler before I became a diver. I still enjoy both. However the fact that I can compare diving to fishing helps. I still have to find the fish, I still have expensive equipment to do that. The biggest difference is that if the fishing is bad or turned off, it doesn't affect us divers as much....as long as we can still find them. (and that's the challenge that I really enjoy) I have alot of anglers that still ask me what depth they are in, are you seeing alot of fish....are you seeing alot of baitfish? So I would have to say the majority of them are inquiring fisherman, trying to better themselves at fishing, and I used to be one of those anglers who asked these questions also. I spearfish in the ocean as well. I make two trips a year to shoot big fish. I have witnessed anglers not understanding our sport first hand and have had a few bad apples voice their opinion towards us. But I believe they are just frustrated fisherman that might not have had a good few days of fishing. No one in my club intentionally drops in where fisherman are. We have so many other spots to go to that we don't have to hit the hot fishing spots that tend to bring alot of fisherman on top of each other. I do think our biggest challenge is the one fish over 20" It is difficult to determine a 19 3/4 to a 20 1/8....What do you do? Wanton waste ticket? or To many over 20? or take the chance of a fisherman seeing you throw one large fish over?. Normally like many fisherman there is more than one fishing and with a few extras you can still be legal. If they are participating. Let's be honest, I can guarantee that if there are 4 guys fishing in a boat and one guy is catching all the fish.....they keep putting them in the live well until they reach their limit..It's a group effort...If we are required to pay more for our sport, then what do we get in return? Mostly harassment from upset anglers....

ID: 1398

Hook/line anglers don't think bow fishing is right.

ID: 1404

Hook and line anglers think spearers are taking all the big fish

ID: 1407

Hook and line anglers do not recognize diver down flags and are not knowledgeable of regulations/restrictions for approaching.

ID: 1408

Misconception that we can see everything and just pick whichever fish we want. I have been fishing Lake Oahe both hook and line and spear fishing, spear fishing far more and yet I have caught 2 eights. Trust me spear fishing is work.

ID: 1410

Hook/line anglers think they own the lakes, and they don't know the boating laws. When it comes to diving and dive flags.

ID: 1424

I do not have any problems with hook/lone anglers, but if you survey hook/line anglers, perhaps they can answer the questions of why there are conflicts.

ID: 1425

They think we are cheating. I personally catch more fish then I shot.

ID: 1432

When the bite is slow, it seems t anger anglers when we come to shore with fish. However, as a rule the anglers almost always do better than we do.

ID: 1437

Very tense. Problems at cleaning stations on the water. Allegations by hook and liners about over fishing, killing and throwing back small ones is for the most part, Bull. They really need to get over it. Mistakes are made by everyone. Few do these things on purpose. We are mostly all adults. The hook and liners do not own the lakes and need to quit acting like they do. It is open for all with a legal right.

ID: 1439

Just to sum it up i believe it is just another method to take fish and should be done at the persons choice

ID: 1457

Many hook/line fishermen who have never spear fished have expressed suspicion that people who spearfish particularly scuba divers, kill too many over 20" fish (walleye) and just stick them in the mud or don't bring them up. Obviously, this is totally untrue and based on un-education and fear.

ID: 1464

Underwater divers not respecting the buffer that the hook and line boaters have to maintain between the boat and their dive flag, boaters have to give way so as not to hurt someone diving...but I have personally seen on many occasions divers come up close to a boat(hook and line guys), and dump divers in the water, so now the boater/angler is to close. Also have seen on many occasions 1 diver in a boat with 2 or more people in it, and the diver shoots not only his/her limit, but the other persons/peoples as well. And in closing it is very difficult to judge the size of a fish while in the water, or even (while in darkhouse) spearing, and I believe there are many instances which occur where the maximum number of over the slot

limit size fish are harvested, intentionally or not I believe it is something that needs to be addressed, as it is being abused with great frequency.

ID: 1467

Why do spearers get penalized \$5 and where does this money go to promote the sport?

ID: 1484

As a long-time spearfisherman I see the problem with some of the newer divers entering the sport. We try and get a long distance from fisherman and try to dive at times when the fisherman are not as active(early mornings, late day/early evenings). We also do not make a big production of our success at boat ramps and fish cleaning stations. To generalize it's the guys from Sioux Falls and Rapid City that come to Pierre that probably cause the most trouble. Big dive boats with lots of divers with big dive flags and pirate flags flying from their boats. They drop one guy on a series of points instead of a couple guys diving a point tying up a lot of water and force the fisherman to go somewhere else.

ID: 1485

Many hook and line fishermen think that scuba divers limit out every time. I can only spear 4 fish, but they can catch 50 or more and throw them back. I catch way more fish than I spear. A few divers that break the rules and go over the limit or size limits give a bad name to all divers. But there are way more hook and line fisherman that break the rules than divers.

ID: 1492

Proximity to each other

ID: 1498

Anglers perceive spearfishing as an unfair advantage. I can tell you first hand that is not true. Usually the guy attending the boat has just as good of luck. I usually wait until later in the day when the fishermen are off the water. I love to fish. I don't want to tie up an entire point SCUBA diving. Common sense is to stay away from the fishermen. They have a lot more voting power than the SCUBA diver. For me I fish until later in the summer, when it get too hot to sit in a boat and enjoy the outdoors. That is when I go underwater. I usually go midafternoon or during the evening hours.

ID: 1501

Hook & liners think that spearing is to easy.

ID: 1504

People think you take all the large fish away.

ID: 1509

Some hook/line anglers do not follow the distance law with an underwater diver.

ID: 1510

Anglers were hostile and showed no respect for the boating laws in re: scuba divers.

ID: 1511

Hook & Liners think that it is "too easy" to spear fish. They have no idea. They also think that spear fisherman take to many fish from the area waters. My answer to that is this, "spear fishermen do not harvest a FRACTION of the walleyes that hook & liners do. In the late summer & early fall of 2011 the fisherman hammered walleye on Lake Sharpe & Lake

Oahe. The number of walleye taken was absolutely amazing. The bad thing is that these fishermen were doing it day after day. Now, it's the spring of 2012 & the same thing is still happening. The same boats are on the water day after day. The number of fish being caught by hook & line is so far above what spearfisherman can harvest. I enjoy hook & line fishing also, however, I am one of those sportsman that stand up for all sportsman that obey the law. When the fishing gets going at West Bend recreational area, the fish cleaning station needs to be emptied a couple of times per week. You will never see a spearfisherman in that area!!! I have enjoyed fishing Lake Sharpe & Lake Oahe for 30 years. I can honestly tell you from experience that sportsmen who spear will never harvest the number of fish that hook & liner do. It's not possible. The current harvest limits in place are very fair to both groups. I think that GF&P conservation officers should respect both groups of sportsman & treat each group fairly. There is nothing worse than having sportsman having conflict with other sportsman. That is exactly what the "anti-hunting" organizations want. I also think that the GF&P should insert more information in the Hunting & Fishing handbook about the rules & regulations for spearfishing, so that hook & liners completely understand. Thank you

ID: 1529

Stay within your limits and regulations of each to their own.

ID: 1534

Not for spearing through the ice. For boat anglers I could see a conflict if there gets to be a time when the diver down flags are spotted around all the hot spots.

ID: 1538

Anglers fish all day trying to catch a limit trying to figure out depth and what to use. Spear guys just go down into the water and flooded trees and shoot their limit within ½ an hour. I personally know guys that spear and they just laugh at us with our boats and gear!

ID: 1541

Only time there is conflicts if a diver pulls in on a point people are fishing.

ID: 1544

Bad attitudes about diving from anglers. Then again you have a commercial dive boat guide taking 15-20 divers out and dropping them on every point for long stretches.

ID: 1569

Angst towards spearers elevates when the bite is off for anglers but spearers continue to be successful even though spearers are only taking the legal limit. When the bite is on for anglers the same tension does not seem to exist or is significantly muted.

ID: 1572

Line anglers perceive that they own the entire water ways in SD

ID: 1586

People underwater spearing take too many larger walleyes, I know some of these people who do take many walleye 8 pounds or bigger. I would like to see the dark house spearers season go longer with use of portable shelter.

ID: 1590

Lack of knowledge of rules when it comes to diver down flags. I've seen boats drive/troll right around diver down flags. Same goes for divers, I've seen people fishing from a boat and a diver will come up and throw his flag down. Also the rules book is very vague on the spearing. The book list that you can't even dive or spear around your own private dock.

ID: 1591

Anglers don't like that your dive flag is in "their" special areas they like to go on Oahe. They think it is easier spearing when in reality I often spear nothing and they catch their limit.

ID: 1592

Lack of respect by both parties. As an avid angler and spearfisherman, I am on both sides of this issue. As a spearfisherman, I work very hard to seek out areas that anglers are not utilizing. On at least 5 occasions last year, motorized boats with fisherman encroached within 50 feet of my flagged vessel while I was diving. Most of these folks were simply unaware that they were breaking the law. In one instance, a conservation officer even came too close to our vessel (under power) to do a safety check. Spearfisherman develop a poor reputation by beginning dives too close to anglers. This is bad form, and surely leads to increased tension between the two groups. This is not unlike encroaching on another group of hunters in a walk-in area. I am concerned that this issue will become more significant as the water drops and the submerged trees become too shallow to hold fish. That habitat, difficult to fish, is a prime scuba opportunity. As it disappears, more angling and diving will come closer together, leading, perhaps, to more conflict.

ID: 1612

Anglers do not like spear fishers as they appear to feel that we are cheating as we can see the fish.

ID: 1616

Spears have an unfare advantage over hook and line.

ID: 1623

some spearers do not respect where people are hook and line fishing while some anglers feel that any diver within 500 yards of them are encroaching, yet we often see boats race up right next to each other and start fishing. Oahe is a huge body of water, and I think we can all respect each other and utilize it without conflict

ID: 1624

Divers on points make anglers mad

ID: 1636

One fisherman seemed to be upset because we had harvested more than he had. He has the same opportunities as we do to go spearing.

ID: 1642

You can't measure them and then shoot them or spear them.

ID: 1650

People that don't dive think spearing a target fish is easy and that we shoot all the big fish.

ID: 1659

The hook/line anglers think we will kill many large and many fish. They think it's so easy! They think we hunt all day every day, that there is no challenge and it's not a sport, and it's way too easy. They don't understand that it is similar to tree stand deer hunting. The fish are weary and spook very easily. I only have one take of air and can only stay down for 1 hour or maybe 1 ½ hours. I will spend anywhere from 4 to 6 hours to get out and back by the time I load and unload all of my equipment. Even if I have more tanks I have to be on the surface for hours to off gas nitrogen. There are a lot of misconceptions.

ID: 1662

ANGLERS PERCEIVE, INCORRECTLY, THAT SPEARING IS EASY AND THAT TOO MANY GAME FISH ARE TAKEN BY SPEAR WHEN IN REALITY SPEARING CONSTITUTES A SMALL FRACTION OF THE TOTAL FISH TAKEN. IT IS NOT EASY AND SHOOTING A LIMIT OF GAME FISH IS NOT A GIVEN EVEN WITH THE CONDITIONS AS GOOD AS THEY HAVE BEEN THE PAST COUPLE YEARS. FOUR YEARS AGO YOU WOULD BE HAPPY JUST TO SEE A WALLEYE CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHOOT BUT YET ANGLERS STILL CONTINUED TO CATCH FISH. LIKE ANY PERCEIVED CONFLICT, THERE ARE A MINORITY ON EACH SIDE OF THE ISSUE THAT PUTS EACH SIDE IN A BAD LIGHT. I HAVE RECENTLY WITNESSED A FEW OF MY FRIENDS THAT ARE DIE HARD FISHERMAN GIVE SPEARING A TRY ONLY TO FIND THEY GAINED A NEW APPRECIATION OF THE SPORT AND HOW CHALLENGING IT IS AND ALSO HOW MUCH IT TAUGHT THEM ABOUT THE FISH THEY ARE TARGETING.

ID: 1664

Ability to measure length/size of fish while underwater to take fish in proper slot lengths for size. Boaters not recognize dive flag.

ID: 1676

Hook/line anglers tend to be upset when fishing is tough and the fish are not biting and spearers come in with fish.

ID: 1685

I feel it is perceived by hook/line anglers that spearing is easy! I feel spearing is less stressful than catch & release. Spearing is a release & catch practice, if the fish is not a "keeper" I don't shoot! The number of fish harvested by spearing is such a small percentage of the number of fish taken by hook & line. Spearers have the same rules that hook/line, plus the limits of scuba added to the sport.

ID: 1693

fisherman being too close to diver down flags.. they think we get more fish... fisherman think they own all the points I as a diver think the flag rule needs to be changed and the flag should be required to be on the diver at all times... not on the boat... I have seen this abused too many times...

ID: 1696

Both sides can be at fault. However, I have personally been hustled when I have went to a point with no one on it to have hook and line fishermen come up and complain. I believe a small portion of them want conflict t to put pressure on us.

- ID: 1730  
Anglers seem to think it's so easy but don't take into account shortened season, boundary restriction and just the very few areas that water visibility allows quality spearfishing.
- ID: 1754  
Some people who boat fish think that the spearfish people are taking all the huge fish
- ID: 1758  
Anglers think we kill all the big fish. that speafishing is too easy.
- ID: 1759  
Underwater fishing has to have a later start than hook and line so it gives the perception of a problem
- ID: 1766  
Just being very new to this sport it seems that the hook/line fishermen are very threatened by the divers. Thinking they are taking away their "spot" to fish when in reality the river is full of places to dive and fish from boat. I do not get the reasoning behind this. I have friends that I fish from boat with that cannot stand divers and I am now learning the sport so we will see what happens.
- ID: 1775  
Hook/line – don't realize spearers need to abide by the same size and # of fish taken rules and regulations.
- ID: 1796  
That we do not abide by the same rules they do as for size and number of fish caught. I also think a lot of them do not realize we have a shorter season and can't fish all the lakes.
- ID: 1802  
Rules-wise I perceive are no conflicts. However, I have experienced unhappy hook and line fishermen that think spearing is somehow cheating. 90% of them are OK but some, particularly professional guides, are what I would call mildly to moderately antagonistic to divers.
- ID: 1804  
I did see a boat fisherman help an underwater spear fisherman when high waves prevented his boat to get back to him.
- ID: 1815  
When people are allowed to commercially guide with spearfisher people, They tend to crowd both fishers on points and create conflict.
- ID: 1818  
Anglers don't know what a dive flag is and routinely run over them or get too close.
- ID: 1820  
If they are traveling areas and find us they do not stay an adequate distance from our flags.

- ID: 1828  
Hook/line anglers feel that spearers are intrusive and/or anchor on points for extended periods of time. Plus underwater spearers are taking more overs.
- ID: 1850  
Spearers (SCUBA) have the ability to monopolize hot walleye habitat and crowd out hook and line anglers.
- ID: 1879  
It seems to be a perception that spear fishing is easy from an angler's perspective. Anglers sometimes are a little disrespectful towards divers and sharing the Missouri River waters.
- ID: 1888  
They think we have an advantage
- ID: 1899  
In the regulation don't see any problems. The hook/line fisherman that I talk with seem too think we have an advantage, that it's easy you just go down and shoot a fish . I have caught more fish then speared. The new sonar might give them the advantage
- ID: 1908  
Anglers don't respect the dive buoy we carry
- ID: 1927  
They think spearers have an advantage. They often don't respect dive flags. We have limits and can't sort or upgrade it's what you get.
- ID: 1935  
I think the anglers believe that spearers take too many fish. I also see a conflict where tip-up fishermen routinely encroach on the space needed to effectively darkhouse spear. It is more than annoying when I spend a good deal of time setting up to spear (not physically easy!) and a group of tip up fishermen come in a short time later and surround my shack with multiple holes drilled a short distance away. Poor etiquette and ruins the experience. I regularly spear in Minnesota and So. Dak. and find that this is much more of a problem in So. Dak.
- ID: 1959  
Size Limits
- ID: 1968  
Pay the price and do what you want, and don't worry so much about the other persons, we all pay fees.
- ID: 1975  
They think spearing is easy, that all you have to do is pick which one you want to shoot. Also that visibility is 100's of feet and spearguns shoot about the same distance.
- ID: 1977  
There has been a growing animosity against the scuba divers and spear fishing in South Dakota. I have been diving for 35 years and believe challenges and sportsmanship for spear fishing is equal to and some circumstances far exceed the sportsmanship of fellow

anglers. We should not be held to more restrictions on waters or limit. Regulations should be equal.

ID: 1991

I have heard that some line fishermen think we scare the fish this is definitely not the case. Also I have heard some line fisherman think we trophy hunt. I personally have had no conflicts with line fisherman.

ID: 1994

Underwater spearers target the big walleyes

ID: 1995

Hook and line anglers claim spear fishermen target bigger fish.

ID: 1999

Mostly misinformation about the diver down flag. I think the information in the rule book last year that is bold and noticeable helped a lot. Some divers are not as courteous as they should be, so we all get a bad rap. There are bad apples in most hunting and fishing activities. Fishermen need to understand they do not have to leave the area when a diver shows up.

ID: 2016

As it relates to conflicts there is a perception that underwater spearing is taking all of the large walleye and that it is very easy to take a limit. That is not true. There are many times a person goes spearfishing underwater and doesn't take any fish at all. When I go spearfishing for a day, I may only visit two to four points or sites in the area I am at during that day. A hook/line fisherman will fish miles of shoreline. Also, there is a conflict with the hook/line fishing as it relates to the dive flag rules. There is a perception that the underwater spearfishing (divers) are taking up all of the good fishing spots or they are moving in on other fisherman and dropping flags out to take over a particular spot. A true sportsman will not move in on another person and will respect others. Part of the dive flag problem is the difference between the rules in SD and other states. ie: Iowa = proceed with caution vs SD stay away. In all outdoor activities there are those that take advantage of the rules and create problems for others. These folks are not true sportsmen. It's is the same old thing. There are those that use a particular rule to their advantage. To me if you would change the dive flag rule, you will stop some of the abuse or perception of abuse but may increase the risk of injury. Would a fisherman troll right by or over a dive flag? I doubt it but who knows. I believe a fisherman trolling right next to a flag would be liable for injury to a diver with or without a dive flag rule. To summarize: I am a SD sportsman who loves to hook/line fish and who loves to dive and sometimes spearfish. I understand the issues maybe better than some. I believe if we all stop and think about being a true sportsman and not use the system to our benefit we wouldn't need more rules to get along. I believe that I do not have a right to utilize the resources that are there, they are a gift. So are the opportunities for me in the great outdoors in SD.

ID: 2029

Hook and line anglers perceive scuba divers having an unfair advantage taking game fish. Good hook and line fishermen catch as well as good scuba divers can spear fish.

ID: 2037

Spearing can over fish a body of water

ID: 2043

I had a shot at a good size walleye (20") that came off my spear before I could put it on my stringer. He wasn't dead yet. I was low on air and could not follow and look for him for long. When I got back to the boat we looked around for a while for it to surface. We needed to get back on time (tournament). Some anglers out in the lake, found the floating dead walleye, saw the hole in it, and the size and they called in the DNR rangers on it. They assumed the divers threw it back because it was over 20" yet it simply slipped off my spear that had not penetrated the fish enough. Those anglers did not like spear fishing by scuba divers. Frankly I don't think the DNR guys did either. They tried to make a real big deal out of it.

ID: 2045

You just need to be a responsible fisherman with spearing or hook/line.

ID: 2053

Fishing regulations should spell out that a spearer while tethered to a flag cannot see a hook/line angler who may have (moved in) on a point or area. I believe the hook/line angler should keep a 50 to 100 ft buffer from the spearer's flag. Hook/line anglers are much more mobile than a spearer, and safety of the spearer should be priority.

ID: 2062

fishing the same popular spots

ID: 2073

Hook/line anglers do not pay attention to diver flags and markers where they are diving.

ID: 2080

The misunderstanding about the numbers of big walleye spear fishermen take. Some fishermen believe divers have an unfair advantage. Very few divers spear multiple times per week, but there are many fishermen that fish regularly. I think the conflicts are emotional and not supported by the facts. The only way to address this is through education.

ID: 2081

1. Hook and line anglers believe that spearfishers shoot all of the big fish. 2. Spearfishers are littering the bottom with dead fish that come off of their spears 3. Spearfishing isn't fair 4. Spearfishers pull up to a point that anglers are fishing and drop a flag in and push the anglers off the point. Biggest challenge is that the guides think that they own the river and all the points that are on the river. They believe that if they are drifting down the river past a point or an area that when they are 1/4 of a mile away or even more that they are still "fishing" that point or area and no one should pull in there and dive. It is OK if seven other anglers pull in there with their boats and start fishing the area but not a diver. For the most part - it isn't the everyday hook and line fisherman that has a problem with the divers - actually, they are very curious and always want to talk and ask questions about what we do and what we see. The problem is with several of the guides - they are the ones with a chip on their shoulder and have to deal with their "ownership" of the river.

ID: 2095

Hook and liners do not think spearfishers should be allowed in the same water - no matter the location - as hook and line fishers as spearers have a perceived advantage.

ID: 2109

Fishermen think spearing is easy. They have no idea how hard it is. I would like to see the regulations stay the same for both fishing & spearing.

ID: 2123

only conflict I see is the lack of education on the hook and line guys about spearing , maybe a paragraph in the hand out would help

ID: 2151

Hook/line, especially the guides feel that they own stretches of the river. Produce a report that shows the number of fish taken & the size of fish for the big tournaments on Oahe for both Spear and hook/line then the misconception of who kills more and larger fish will be answered.

ID: 2152

Hook and line anglers believe it is easier us to spear our limit than it really is. I don't think they realize the amount of work that we put in to use scuba to spear our limit. Also they have the advantage of catch and release if they happen to catch a walleye that is out of their size limit. We have to be very careful when all the fish we see are close to the 20 inch or greater limit.

ID: 2153

a large number of line fisherman think that all divers are slob and spear more fish than there limit and bury under rocks and such and this is a large misconception, line fisherman kill and release more injured fish than all the divers combined. also the line fisherman think they own the whole river system and if they were to read the regulations would find that they can fish the same water that the divers are in as long as they do not run their gas motors. also the sportsman clubs need to realize that not all of their membership is against diving as a large number of them are actually divers. the game department needs to be more aggressive on the line fisherman as the ones that are on the river every day are over-bagging so much it's not even funny

ID: 2165

Size limits. Main conflict. Difficult to measure fish before spearing and catch and release not an option.

ID: 2170

Being ok to spear walleyes and other game fish, most anglers don't like spearing walleyes, or other fish other than Northern Pike.

ID: 2173

Divers with spears have an advantage on size selection for sure. They have the option picking out the size of their catch. Hook and line have to go through many more fish IF they want to be size selective.

ID: 2177

Sportsmen's courtesies.....spearfishermen dropping on a point where fishermen are already fishing and the opposite.....fishermen moving in on spearfishermen

ID: 2194

Competition for anchorage while fishing

ID: 2249

None, most bow hunters only shoot carp or rough fish.

ID: 2268

Although we take far less fish than anglers some of the anglers perceive us as taking more. My personal guess is altogether we take less than 10% of the fish taking and if you factor in high grading by anglers probably less than 5%.

ID: 2284

Most hook and line fisherman do not like divers unless they have dived before.

ID: 2313

I believe that most conflicts would be because of territorial issues. Some spearers will just move in to any given spot without regard to the fact that there are hook and line anglers already in that spot. And then some hook and line anglers will just troll right into the area where a diver is down and they have a dive flag above them. I am not sure what the answer is to resolve this issue except for common courtesy, patience and education. I would say to either party, find another spot or wait until the other party leaves. Be the better person and don't create conflict. I also don't think that more "rules" would be helpful or necessary.

ID: 2315

For a majority of fishermen in boats do not know they need to stay back from a divers flag.

ID: 2329

Spearing of northern pike only would eliminate a lot of perceived conflict.

ID: 2335

Hook/line anglers do not understand divers are not harming the resource.

ID: 2348

The only objection I have heard is from guides that do not have a commercial/winter operation.

### Are there issues with current safety regulations in place for spearing activities?

ID: 118

Don't like non dives with non-motorized boats to be able to fish over top of a diver.

ID: 179

Don't need dive flag because when you spear isn't deep enough for boats.

ID: 211

the disposal issue

ID: 238

Heavier enforcement is needed for boats getting too close to diver down flags. Too many horror stories of divers being caught by plugs. And I myself have been pulled off the bottom and to the surface by my flag. Had I been in deeper water that could have been life threatening.

ID: 258

Diver down flags should not be required for snorkeling. It is done near shore and you are on the surface.

ID: 374

Many of the boaters & recreational water craft users do not read the regulations for spearing regarding diver down flags and avoidance rules for engines and being under power for diver down and alpha flags being displayed. Some blatantly disregard them even if reminded of the laws.

ID: 423

I would like to be able to use lights and spear into the night. Sounds fun.

ID: 472

Diver down flag not observed properly "no" boat should be allowed to come close to diver down including electric motor.

ID: 593

Having to have a dive flag for snorkeling is a bunch of crap.

ID: 680

Each boat needs to understand what a dive flag means. The regs are in the book, but nobody abides by the rules when it comes to keeping your distance from a dive flag.

ID: 730

It would be nice for more boaters to be aware of what a diver down flag is.

ID: 829

South Dakota Needs to implement better safety guides to inform boater of USCG "Rules of the Road"

ID: 1035

Spearing/Bowfishing season should be open all year or open earlier in the spring.

ID: 1042

A ½ page of general safety instructions for divers in the fishing handbook might help divers and fishermen alike. One table, safety stops, courtesy reminders for both fishermen and divers.

ID: 1044

I am not sure that all boaters are familiar with what a dive flag is or that regulations involved with them. Several times I have personally had watercraft come very close to my dive flag.

ID: 1080

The buffer between diver down flags and other boats needs to be expanded.

ID: 1108

Yes cannot use lights for shooting carp below Gavin's Point Dam!

- ID: 1138  
no plenty/enforcement of safety zone. GFP officers have a "you're on your own attitude" and will not enforce safety zone.
- ID: 1153  
It is more work for spearing. There should be a larger limit, and because I only do it 1-2 times a year and have to drive 300 miles one way.
- ID: 1164  
I've seen both angler and spearfish abuse the diver down flag safe area of 150 feet.
- ID: 1166  
Distance from diver's flag to boat should be at least 150 feet, not 75 feet. Also this rule needs to be enforced much more!
- ID: 1172  
I always mark my darkhouse spear hole with native vegetation to warn others that there is a large hole in the ice in that spot following the removal of my portable ice shack.
- ID: 1250  
i think many states allow fairly liberal spearing and I seldom hear of any real issues. it's generally done in more shallow water than angling.....for the most part.
- ID: 1322  
Rules provide for a very good activity
- ID: 1337  
Due to the safety of possibly falling in the hole or having someone fall through unused hole that hasn't been properly recovered I don't feel anyone under the age of 16 should be allowed to spearfish. It can be very dangerous if not care and handles in a respectful manner.
- ID: 1362  
Boat drove "over" me, through "safe" zone; claimed it was legal because was electric motor.
- ID: 1407  
Hook and line anglers do not recognize diver down flags and are not knowledgeable of regulations/restrictions for approaching.
- ID: 1432  
In the "fishing handbook" please dedicate one page to inform people what a dive flag looks like and to stay away. Can't count how many boats have gone right over the top of us.
- ID: 1457  
I'd like to see at least a short window of time each year to allow nighttime spear fishing of game fish for a unique experience (with lights obviously). I am somewhat concerned about allowing non-internal combustion motors to "fish" over divers. The potential is there for an aggressive non-diver to fish over top of a diver to be a jerk.

ID: 1467

I think a dive flag should be more relaxed. If you're in a boat, only a dive flag from the boat should be necessary.

ID: 1485

I understand the purpose of having a dive flag attached to the diver or to stay within 75 feet of a flag. But with all the trees that are under the water right now, the biggest safety hazard a diver has is their dive flag. I spent a lot of time untangling myself from trees and lost a flag when a branch of a tree ripped the flag from the float. I usually ended up just securing my flag to a tree and tried to stay within 75 feet, but can't at all times. Would like the rule adjusted to 200 feet or educate the wardens to ease up on the enforcement of the 75' rule.

ID: 1498

I think bringing a dive flag with you can be dangerous. Too many entanglements with sunken trees. I prefer to have the boat attendant stay within range of my bubbles and float the flag on the outside of the boat.

ID: 1508

I don't like the idea that someone can legally drag fish hooks over a diver as long as only an electric motor is used. New electrics allow people to pull cranks.

ID: 1510

Game & Fish need to enforce the boating laws as well as the harassment laws!

ID: 1542

the only safety issue is getting the line fishermen to know and abide by the rules of not getting too close to dive boats/buoys.

ID: 1563

State law states that the spear fisherman must be within 25 yards of the dive flag. State law also states that motorized boats must stay 25 yards and further. This legally puts both the guy in the water and the guy driving the boat at 25 yards. I have nearly been killed multiple times by boats. Boats should have to remain 100 yards from any dive flag; all boats motorized or not as I have also had people in canoes come right up to my flag. The possibility of knocking yourself out exists while surfacing. The lanyard being no longer than 20' is a safety hazard. Spearguns only shoot so far under water, most shot are inside 10'-15'; water visibility is normally less than 20' in most SD lakes and if you can't see it you can't shoot it. The longer lanyard assists you in surfacing or bringing a fish in while on the surface getting air.

ID: 1586

People spearing to far from their flags and boat, it's a law but to many people break this law, then get mad at boaters.

ID: 1590

As a private dock owner it seems silly that you cannot spear within so many feet of your own dock. There must be an exemption from private docks. Not complex enough

ID: 1613

Should be explained better to boat fisherman a-what dive flags means - if don't have motor running can be closer than 75 feet I think that's is biggest conflict between spearers n

boaters is that boaters think we are covering all the points n they can't get at them. But they can as long as motor isn't running, the way I understand it. Doesn't bother me to have a boat over me while I'm diving. I'm on the bottom they aren't going to hit me. And when I'm coming up is common sense for me to be watching my overhead, so shouldn't get in way then either.

ID: 1616

the spears think they own the water and can go where ever they want.

ID: 1624

Flags should be required on diver, not on the boat.

ID: 1650

Boaters should be more aware of distance from flag.

ID: 1659

The way the regulations are. Anyone can use electronic trolling motors and troll many sharp treble hooks directly over me and my flag. With the new super lines that many anglers are now using this could be a very dangerous and maybe fatal situation.

ID: 1660

Boaters still disregard dive buoys. Better on river.

ID: 1676

better education of boaters and diving flags.

ID: 1682

if you are snorkeling, is a diver down flag needed. it's not safe, could get hooked on something making it hard surface.

ID: 1685

I feel that practice of trolling over a diver even with an electric motor is questionable.

ID: 1693

as a diver I think the flag needs to be on the diver at all times instead of allowing it to be on the boat. I have seen many divers abuse this rule.. for safety the flag and diver should be together

ID: 1710

The boats need to stay 150 feet from dive flags.

ID: 1743

As it now state while diving I can be trolled over. Boats using internal combustion engines may not be operated within 75' of a diver down flag. So boats using an electric trolling motor can pass right over me causing harm with their lures and plugs. I don't feel safe and there is not good reason that rule does not still apply to electric motors.

ID: 1808

Boaters need a better understanding of distance limitations around dive flags when divers are below.

ID: 1877

I've had boaters stop alongside my dive flag and wait for me to come up and ask if I'd seen anything.

ID: 1899

most people know what a dive flag is

ID: 1977

The diver down flag creates a greater safety hazard and risk, than actually protects the diver. Some divers attach the dive flag to their gear which could result in entanglement with boats, underwater habitat etc. Enforcement of boaters to remain clear is not enforced. It actually attracts the attention of other boaters creating a higher risk.

ID: 2016

Dive flag rule could be looked into and researched as to what other states are doing and the what the tradeoffs would be to making a change. What is Iowa doing with their rule? Do they have more accidents as a result of maybe having a less strict rule?

ID: 2042

Boaters should be educated about dive flag buoys and what it means.

ID: 2072

My anglers do not know what a dive flag is and do not maintain a safe distance

ID: 2080

It's not safe for the diver if an angler using an electric trolling motor pulls a plug within 75 feet of the flag. The trolling motor isn't the problem. It's the lure that can get you.

ID: 2081

Should have better signage at the boat ramp areas showing a dive flag and explaining the regulations to boaters & watercraft operators. Better info in the regulations book describing how close a boaters can get to a dive flag. Resolve the discrepancy between a gas powered motor and an electric powered boat as it pertains to a dive flag. It appears that a gas powered boat must stay 75' from a dive flag but a boat using its electric motor can go directly over top of the diver and dive flag.

ID: 2095

The current low speed setback is adequate. The lack of enough dive flags when multiple divers are in the water is an issue that is prevalent by irresponsible divers but the laws have adequate penalties for that violation.

ID: 2105

I have had several discussions with divers and boaters about safety issues and the use of dive flags to warn boaters of submerged divers. Most often boaters do not understand the dive flag regulations and think that just because there is a dive flag in the area that they have to leave. Not realizing that they only need to stay 75' from the flag. Divers as a rule do not mind boaters in the area but do not want them to be directly overhead. An addition to the wording of the dive flag regulations should be that when approaching an area where a dive flag is displayed, boaters should slow down to no wake speed and proceed with caution. The other problem that I have heard complaints from boaters is when a diver anchors a flag and then swims more than 75' from the flag. The diver is breaking the law

and is subjecting themselves to possible boat injury. However most divers realize that to be hit by a boat means that you have to be at the surface and they will not surface when hearing a high speed boat moving in the area.

ID: 2151

Fix law about going over a diver with electric trolling motor. Educate boats about dive flag rules.

ID: 2164

Boat captains should have full experienced crews.

ID: 2268

Except for charging extra

ID: 2329

Daily limits on species

ID: 2334

Last year we were fishing from a boat on the river trolling up and back about 100 yards or so. Then a scuba diver came in and went under water. His boat driver said we had to leave as we are required to by law to stay a distance from diver. My feeling this guy saw us catching fish with hook and line so he just pulled in and forced us out. Think something needs to be done about that.

ID: 9001

Should not have

### Additional Comments

ID: 3

They could not charge first time fisherman so much, but you're doing a good job in my opinion!

ID: 4

Game officers checked us and one was very rude and was telling us how he can't stand spearfishermen and was going to do everything he can to bust us (all spearfisherman) and run us off. I was only 15

ID: 19

Didn't bow fish game fish only (carp).

ID: 21

This is a great program. Please keep it going and try to educate people about it.

ID: 27

The flood made a bad year for bow fishing in Lake Oahe but was still good in the early spring.

ID: 74

Quit sending me surveys.

ID: 79

I enjoy regular fishing

ID: 81

I would like to be able to bow fish at bridges more.

ID: 82

The biggest problem I encounter while bow fishing is how to dispose of rough fish. Living in Sioux Falls there is virtually no legal way to dispose of carp. Disposal stations or even landfill passes would make bow fishing much easier for me and I would likely remove more rough fish.

ID: 117

That flood made those carp go CRAZY and my girlfriend and I shot easily 300+ carp over the summer months, I think they should flood the plains more often :) Best season I have ever had, and it leaves a lot to be desired next season, almost a letdown looking forward to it.

ID: 118

Leave the limits the same as hoot and line. Spear fishing is not as easy as the uneducated masses believe it to be. I believe more fish are killed indirectly by hook and line fisherman who release deeply hooked fish that are too small for their egos. We see them floating all around the lake on the weekends. There should be no reason to punish spear fisherman with a reduced bag. Whether the fish were caught or shot, it all ends up in the frying pan and brings revenue to the river communities. Thanks!

ID: 159

wish you could spear game fish by the dam in lake sharp

ID: 190

I wish more lakes near to Watertown would be open to dark house spearing. I am from Watertown so if lakes that are near to Watertown would be open to dark house spearing I would participate more.

ID: 239

Sorry my survey was not much help. I only target rough fish when bow fishing. That being said I am very disappointed that I am required to pay even more money to bow fish nuisance rough fish. I have seen improvements to my bow fishing experience for doing what I would consider a service to the Game, Fish, and Parks (eliminating evasive, nuisance, rough fish).

ID: 252

Open more lakes for spearing

ID: 253

I didn't fish; hopefully I will get time to this year. I get the license just in case.

ID: 254

Underwater spearfishing is getting very popular. I have been doing this for more than 20 years. I am seeing greater competition from other divers and I worry about conflicts between boat fisherman and divers. Divers must respect boat fisherman and try not to

interfere. Also boat fisherman need to be educated about divers. We don't shoot all the big fish! It is a difficult sport to master and quite frankly I feel it is easier to fish from a boat than to do underwater spearing. If divers did not have a length limit the same as boat fishermen, I feel it would lead to greater misunderstandings and misconceptions about divers taking all the big fish.

ID: 258

The removal of the walleye length limit and the reduction of a bag limit to 3 would be wonderful. Also the law that requires skin divers to use a diver down flag is unnecessary and useless. Also the diver down flag needs to be better published. I have had fisherman pulling on my diver down flag.

ID: 328

Extend the dark house spearing season.

ID: 334

Bow fishing year around for rough fish

ID: 338

I bow fish the county and there is nothing like coming to South Dakota and having the ability to shoot dinner! I can't wait for the day that other states will follow and allow shooting game fish with the same tag limits as regular fisherman.

ID: 351

Although I didn't participate in any fishing activities listed in this survey, I plan on making time for such activities in the coming year.

ID: 356

Impressive Lake Oahe is very diverse fish habitats, from flooded trees to sandy/silty bottoms. The visibility was pretty good for that section of the lake, 8 – 10 feet. The flooding last year may have affected the visibility and I am anxious to see what this year brings.

ID: 372

I think South Dakota is great for the fact of scuba spearing and I would like to see South Dakota encourage scuba spear fishing more. I believe it is great for your travel economy.

ID: 374

For West River/Black Hills, it is undefined where the regions are separated making it difficult to know which locations are in which areas as well as which are legal for underwater spearing of game fish for West River area lakes.

ID: 402

Need to open up a lot more SE & NE lakes to bowfishing game fish

ID: 425

I am very dissatisfied with the darkhouse spearing in this state again this year. I keep hoping that we will have more lakes and rivers open to us in the SE part of the state, even if it were just for northerns. Would be nice to not have to plan to drive so far to take part in this very enjoyable sport.

ID: 436

Drove from Wisconsin to try bowfishing salmon. No salmon, few carp. I would try again.

ID: 440

I bow fish carp and mainly target bigger ones as I've seen what they can do to a lake or river, I only have one problem I don't eat them. There needs to be a place you could take them even on the river. Then I would go out more. A lot more people would do it then and we could get the numbers in check.

ID: 443

It disturbs me we have to pay extra to spear fish on top of the original fishing license. I communicate with many spear fisherman and hook and line anglers alike. Spear fisherman overall are much more responsible and moral and ethical sportsman than any other. We already know we have a target on our back so we practice safety first and we are always conservative with length and quantity limits. Try to send a survey to hook and line anglers and see how many of them fess up to clubbing northern pike by the dozens and throwing them back. I practice catch and release when hook and line fishing which I do more than spear fishing.

ID: 453

Like to see all walleye darkhouse spearing eliminated. Pike only on all SD waters.

ID: 498

Spear fishing is a great sport for all the enjoy. People that see it as "cheating" do not understand what a true challenge it is. Like all sports some people abuse the practice of fair chase. Thanks for the privilege to spear fish in SD.

ID: 512

Shot over 800 carp total in our group 2 years ago between Hayti and Poinsett and at Pelican Lake. The carp are way over populated.

ID: 518

I wish the carp were larger!

ID: 545

I am new at this. So I am still learning.

ID: 556

I filled this out for my son, hope that is okay. Every time he went spear fishing I was with him.

ID: 600

I like to bow fish for carp. I bought the spearing/archery license for the just in case moment that a game fish might swim by me, so I would be legal to harvest it.

ID: 605

Restrict scuba divers more than primitive snorkels. Open Sharpe Tailrace to primitive spear fisherman, snorkels and hand drawn spears. I don't think scuba divers need any more rights and its length limits removed limits should be cut.

ID: 629

As stated earlier I would like to see any and all waters open to spear/bowfishing. The state does not restrict 99% of its waters to hook/line anglers. I'm also curious as to how these particular bodies of waters were deemed "okay" for spearing and bowfishing game fish.

ID: 630

Never even heard of dark house spearing before so I looked it up and it looks like fun. I just might give it a shot next year.

ID: 661

I did not target any game fish only carp.

ID: 663

Stop changing the size and limit of fish. I realize it is the only way you can catch people with too much.

ID: 678

Game fish spearing should be open year round. What does it matter if I get four walleyes with my fishing pole or with my pole spear? This isn't Minnesota, why do we have a fishing season? We pay an extra \$5 to spear; we should get something in return!

ID: 686

I would really like to have underwater spearing open before the middle of June or better yet, open year round. It doesn't make sense to me to have the season closed. What difference does it make if I am taking a walleye with a hook or a spear as long as I am following the daily bag limit and length regulations??? There are many, many perfect days to be out spearing in the spring that are missed opportunities because of the season being closed. One thing I feel VERY strongly about is, if the spearfisherman are required to pay an EXTRA fee for their spearing permit, then they should get something in return.

ID: 687

I would like to see Upper Lake Sharp opened up to spearers. Maybe using non-trigger mechanism spears. I would be willing to do a 3 walleye limit in this area.

ID: 703

Never got the chance to game fish with my bow, but removed many carp, gar, buffalo and what not. They are everywhere and need to be removed! Need to have more people interested in bow fishing just for that purpose. And the Asian carp numbers are only growing and spreading. I don't know what you are doing to stop this but something more needs to be done. I have personally seen them in the James River, they will not get passed the dams but if they thrive in the James they can go anywhere from there through streams and creeks. Stop them!

ID: 715

I would like to see all lakes open to spearing beings I now have to pay extra to participate in spearing. I would like to be able to do it closer to home. Some lakes would benefit as Louise for example more people may be willing to go there and target the pike that are there and get rid of some of them. As far as the size limit on walleye it should be the first 4 fish you catch or spear, I think there would be more fish survive than having to release a 14 inch fish with it having its air sack hanging out its mouth and dying anyway.

ID: 718

I think Lake Poinsett is over populated with Northern Pike and would benefit to open spearing there to help decrease the population. Many lines have been broke because of the pike are getting so big, and no one want to keep them Now that the lake is down it would be a great lake to add.

ID: 735

It seems strange so many lakes are closed to spearing yet hundreds of anglers can flood the lakes with pickups and

ID: 749

On Lake Sharpe, it would be nice if we could take game fish above the bridge by the power house.

ID: 753

Whit \$4.00 fuel it would be really nice to not have to spend the bank to go spearing. Also it's a nice way to get out of the house and do something different.

ID: 760

Keep the slot limits the same for spearing just like the hook and line anglers. Open a few more waters up to spearing. Keep the limit the same as the hook and line anglers for each location. I feel more fish are killed by deer books reeling up to fast and catch and release than all the fish speared in a year in South Dakota. Charge more for a spearing license if the state needs too. I have never killed a fish spearing that I didn't harvest.

ID: 764

Do not eliminate Darkhouse Spearing.

ID: 771

I live in Huron. The only lakes available and have consistent water clarity to spear are over 50 miles away. I would like to see more water open to spearing, giving spearers a wider variety and locations. Travel is the worst part, and the economy might be the deciding factor if I continue to darkhouse spear or not.

ID: 791

I did not see as many fish underwater spearing this past year. saw only about 1/3 as many fish as in years past, and saw hardly any big fish. SAD

ID: 800

You are charging me a fee to spearfish, so that should mean you are charging me for a separate limit of fish. You don't pay extra money to shoot a deer with your bow on a rifle tag, you pay extra money to shoot ANOTHER deer with your bow separate from the rifle tag. If you need a way to track how many people spear, let it be a mandatory but free permit like the crane license used to be. Spearers kill a very small fraction of the total harvested population of fish out there. On any given day there will be 200 boats at Bush's and maybe 10 spearers in the area. I do think that there should be a state guiding fee for all fishing and spearing guides. It's illegal to guide hunters on public land, so why can they guide on public waters. Even a 100 dollar guide fee would be some sort of a start. Other states raise nonresident hunting and fishing licenses every year, South Dakota seems to stay the same or very small increases.

ID: 805

The first issue I have is the spearing season. Why does the season exist? What's the difference if I harvest the daily limit of four walleyes with a spear or hook and line? The next issue is the conflict between spearfishermen and anglers. I am an avid angler as well as a spearfisherman. I also have lots of friends and acquaintances who use hook and line. I think I have a pretty good "feel" for the situation. Outdoorsmen seem to have a problem with other outdoorsmen who chose to use a different method of take than themselves. This is the case with hunting as well. I think this is the root cause to any and all angler/spearer conflicts. On the subject of opportunity. I think the closed area from the Oahe Dam to the Pierre/Fort Pierre bridge should be opened to the spearing of game fish. I would support different regulations in this area. Some ideas include decreased daily limit, the use of spears lacking a trigger mechanism, and no use of an underwater breathing apparatus. Now that spearfishermen are required to purchase a spearing permit in addition to the basic fishing license they should receive an increased benefit. They are paying more than the hook and line fishermen but can still only harvest 4 walleyes. They also have stricter regulations controlling them. The spearing season results in many missed opportunities. This goes against the theory of trying to increase outdoor participation.

ID:808

The only lake that you can really spear west river is Pactola, it's the only lake that you are able to see in, it seems that spearing is getting really popular so there is a lot of people doing it at one lake, which means less fish, if you could open up Sheridan lake it would spread people out more

ID: 817

I would like to see slight changes in underwater spearing on size limits. It is just difficult to accurately size the fish underwater sometimes. However for the most part it is easy to follow the limits. I didn't know that we ever could bow fish game fish.

ID: 855

I think the game fish regulations are kind of useless because a person can only take them in just a few areas so I don't even bother buying the extra stamp because I don't want to chance taking the wrong fish in the lake.

ID: 864

Please open more lakes up to underwater spearing especially Sheridan lake in the Black Hills.

ID: 889

I would like to see the spearing season open about one month sooner.

ID: 906

I don't think spear fishermen should be allowed to shoot the same amount of fish as hook and line fisherman max amount 2, but probably 1 fish would be great.

ID: 907

Just that it should be monitored more with people trying to snag any fish. Not so much that they take away any carp that I may have shot with my bow, but when the hooks come flying out of the water when the fish lets go. There is some extreme safety issues with that.

ID: 909

Instead of sending out surveys why not require people to fill the survey out when they apply for the license. It would save you time and money.

ID: 919

The spearing was absolutely fabulous in 2011 and I had a great time. I don't really shoot many fish but have a great time doing it. However, the game wardens did everything in their power to make it known that it is not an acceptable sport. In fact, one angler told me he was personally told by a game warden that GFP is trying to get rid of spearing so if more people complain and they try to catch the spearers doing something wrong then the sooner the better. I had another angler friend tell me a game warden stopped him and told him he was told by his supervisor to "get" as many spearers as possible so we can get rid of them. It was a direct order from his supervisor. In both cases, I did not report anything because it was hearsay. I have had them drive up to me while I'm bobbing in the water and check me, which is perfectly fine, except they were extremely rude and accusatory until they saw it was me and then tried to be nicer. It was completely inappropriate. I have absolutely no problem following the rules and being checked each time by a game warden, but I do not deserve to be treated like a criminal each time. It seemed even more ridiculous when they realized who I was and started being much nicer so I wouldn't report anything to their superiors. That actually infuriated me more. I honestly do think it is a few people giving a bad name to all game wardens. I believe they have the power to check anyone at any time, but I also believe that every person should be treated respectfully. If anglers were being treated this way at least 2 game wardens would have been fired a long time ago.

ID:921

I attempted to dark house spear once this year but saw nothing. Ice wasn't good enough on Lake Oahe to go out again.

ID: 946

I only use bow fishing to take rough fish.

ID: 955

More oligotrophic water needs to be opened for underwater game fish spearing. By early summer visibility in entropic lakes (Lake Albert, Lake John) is diminished to the point where it is not worth the time and money.

ID: 983

Bow fishing/Spearing isn't as easy as you may think!!! Open it up to all Missouri and keep it the same as fishing!!! We're paying you an extra \$5 as well. Happy you opened it up game fish though...

ID: 988

I started diving in 2008 and for the first year or so I was just happy to see a walleye let alone shoot one and in the last few years I have gotten better and it has become one of my favorite things to do so I would hate to see anything happen to it. I am assuming because I am filling out this survey GFP has been receiving complaints and are trying to figure out way to make things better so here is what I would recommend. 1. Increase the days that CO's are on the water and have them write tickets to anyone that is breaking the law. Every fisherman I talk to thinks ALL divers are out there breaking the law and they could not be more wrong. I live in Pierre and know a lot of the people that dive on Oahe and I have not heard of anyone getting a ticket and I know they have been check. This brush that divers

have been painted with is the biggest problem we have right now and the majority of the fisherman that I know that don't like divers have actually never had a bad run in with them so I don't get what the problem is? 2. Leave the rules the same for everyone. Removing size limits I think would cause more harm than good. Every diver I have ever met has there gun marked so when they shoot a fish 20 inches or bigger they KNOW and there should be NO excuses to shoot another one. 3. Put together an divers etiquette guide and encourage dive shops to distribute them. I think most people know what is right or wrong but someone new might need a little help. 4. Tell Fisherman they don't own the lake and there is enough room for everyone

ID: 992

Reducing the limit of walleye for size restrictions, will upset fisherman even more. Please don't do that. It's simply counterproductive.

ID: 1009

Pertaining to ice fishing in the Beadle County area, I do hear of a particular game warden to be abusing his power. Although I have personally never been a recipient of this abuse I do feel that some limitations should be set such as, the power to pull a vehicle over without substantial suspicions of illegal hunting or fishing several claims have been made in the area that traffic stops were made in the evening hours at locations in city limits where no hunting or fishing laws could be broken. Even if they were the suspects should be handled by city police!

ID: 1011

Wish you could bowfish within city limits as long as you have your fishing license and spearing and archery permit

ID: 1018

First I would like to thank SD Fish and Game for allowing this type of event. I travel 500 miles (from Kansas) to SD. I buy the license, food, fuel, and pay for 3 days motel. I enjoy this with friends and am looking forward to taking one more in the group this next year. As travelers we are only in SD for a few days but support the local economy. I have the t-shirt and have enjoyed the days I have spent in SD with pictures that are great. This is what I ask for. What SD as a state gets is moneys spent to local towns and taxes for the event. I do not mind paying an extra license fee. But lowering the creel limit to a lower level and most likely buying an extra license would make me look else were to other states that are more willing to want my economic support.

ID: 1033

I would like the findings from this survey available to the public so people can see the effect game fish spearing has on the resource.

ID: 1034

Not a lot of people seem to know what a dive flag is and what it means. I think some signs put around boat ramps would help with this. I would feel safer.

ID: 1035

Open bowfishing/spearing earlier in the spring!!!!!!!

ID: 1042

One comment on the size limit to limit questions. If you start changing things you then need to regulate them. There are plenty of places to spear fish. The rules and regulations have been the same as long as I can remember the same as fishing. Leave it that way, and then there will be no confusion for ignorant people.

ID: 1065

I would like to see spearing for game fish allowed in the tailrace. Even for a limited time.

ID: 1073

The number of ice fishermen who spear is almost nonexistent. Why aren't more or even all lakes open to spearing at least in the winter time? There are very few fishermen who are willing to put that effort into it. The amount of fish harvest is extremely minimal in the winter time especially compared to hook and line fishermen. I would like to see more lakes open to ice spearing. GFP is taking away opportunities for sportsmen where there is plenty of opportunity for darkhouse spearing. That happens way too much of the time. You are regulating out a legitimate method of harvesting fish and killing the sport for no good reason.

ID: 1075

I enjoy underwater spearing and feel fortunate that we are privileged to be able to participate in the sport. Everyone that I know wants to protect this privilege by being respectful and by following the game laws.

ID: 1106

Thanks for protecting our right to dive and spear game fish in a legal manner! One of the best reasons to live in South Dakota!

ID: 1108

Below Gavins Point Dam the Big Head Carp are 0-50 pounds and are lots of fun to shoot. But it's hard to do, because we were told that you can't use light. People throughout the state need to know what to do with the Carp when doing fishing and bow fishing. Over 3 days I and 2 guys shot over 660 pounds of big head carp at night below Gavin's Point Dam in 2008 and lots in 2009.

ID: 1136

I think spearing needs to be more regulated and monitored. The limits should be less and the rules of engagement should be more restrictive.

ID: 1143

If season dates could be extended, even with species restrictions in some waters, that might be nice to see.

ID: 1151

No just getting started scuba diving so hope to have more fun this year and in the future

ID: 1153

This is more than likely the last year for spearing for me. The up keep and fishing license are getting too expensive and having to drive to a lake that is clear enough is so far away. Spearing should have a larger limit because it is a warm season and a physical way of fishing and not for everyone.

- ID: 1164  
Charging another fee for a license is just another way for GF&P to have more money and power. I already paid for a fishing license or combo license, don't you get enough revenue?
- ID: 1169  
Would like to see a lower limit on underwater spearfishing.
- ID: 1172  
The main reason that I was very dissatisfied is because of the limited number of lakes and that they are concentrated in the NE corner of the state. Need more lakes open to darkhouse spearing throughout the state. Because of the high water and increase in northern pike production, I did see plenty of fish in 2011 with an average of 1 fish/hour.
- ID: 1192  
I would like to see more lakes opened up to dark house spearing. General public are curious and are amazed when they look down a spear hole.
- ID: 1202  
I appreciate the opportunity and enjoy the sport of spearfishing.
- ID: 1207  
Did not see any salmon this past year while bow fishing lake Oahe.
- ID: 1212  
I have always enjoyed scuba/snorkeling activities. I sometimes go down without speargun. It is beautiful and helps me appreciate the underwater environment and the fish/aquatic animals that live there. We should strive to keep SD waterways clean and safe. Thanks GF&P.
- ID: 1219  
Underwater spearing is getting out of control on Oahe.
- ID: 1222  
We do not take (harvest) a significant amount of fish relative to the number populating the lakes. We drive from Lincoln, NE each year for a long weekend and spend a lot of money with SD businesses. If our bag limit is reduced we will go to a different state.
- ID: 1225  
I only bow fish for rough fish.
- ID: 1238  
Raise the limit of northern pike. Police underwater spearing somehow, and eliminate underwater spearing tournaments
- ID: 1239  
I was bow fishing for the first time and did not harvest any fish. I love fishing in South Dakota, and try to return each spring as soon as school dismisses (I'm a high school principal) with my father in law and sons. Thanks for the opportunities and the memories!

ID: 1271

I love darkhouse spearing and bowfishing. It is a great outdoors activity. I have been doing this for 5 years and it is much more difficult in practice than in theory. I do not perceive it has much impact on fish populations where I fish. I consider myself an above average angler, and at best, I'll get one game fish for each outing. It's frustrating at times, but addicting because of the sport of seeing the game you're after. I would someday like to do underwater spearing. Please keep regulations simple whenever possible.

ID: 1273

They need to make more available on more lakes (dark house spearing) don't care about under water spearing

ID: 1274

From my experience as a scuba diver/spear fisherman, the other divers I've come in contact with are outstanding people due to the time and money commitment it takes to be a diver. I think as more lakes are opened up to underwater spear fishing we will have the opportunity to visit with and educate non divers on what it's like to dive and spear, the neat habitat fish live in, and the misconception that we just go down, pick a fish and shoot them. Not the case at all. They are skittish and have much better visibility than us. I've seen lots and lots of tails.

ID: 1278

Don't know why I need a stamp to sit in an ice house staring at nothing for hours or days on end. Spearing can be very, very slow. Seems dumb I have to buy a stamp.

ID: 1281

I enjoy bow fishing carp out of small creeks and rivers. Have not had a chance to harvest any game fish yet, but hope to do so in the future.

ID: 1283

Stop wasting money on surveys at .93 cents per mailing. Use on line survey only.

ID: 1284

Would just like to thank the SDGF&P for showing us the spawning ladders and salmon that come up. They were very friendly and answered all of our questions about bow fishing for salmon on Lake Oahe. Great job to SD on their bow fishing rules and regulations.

ID: 1285

My comments are on underwater spearfishing. I have questions about the question regarding the daily limit reduction versus more waters open to spearing. Why would we reduce the daily limit for only spearfishing? I could be convinced, but would need more information. The number of fish taken by underwater spearfishing is quite small compared to hook and line. As has been indicated by GF&P, the over 20 inch limit is a social rule versus a spawning/hatchery well-being rule. Per GF&P, size of the fish is a minor factor in spawning numbers compared to other factors such as water level, temp, and other factors. For the majority of the year, spearfishing is significantly more difficult than hook and line due to factors such as visibility, water temperature, water levels. I have never personally had any concerns with the interaction with hook and line anglers which I and my family also are. I have heard some fisherman concerns about divers dropping in on fisherman area. I do not condone this. I do believe most fisherman are not aware of the regulations that allow divers and hook and line to be in the same area safely or diving regulations as a whole. I would be

happy to discuss these as I want to continue to enjoy the sport of diving within the regulations while not having rules in place to make it difficult to comply.

ID: 1286

Again, Open up the lakes in the NE part of the state. I have visited with the local GFP fish supervisor and have expressed that there is no need to spear walleyes, or any other game fish other than Pike. The only lake open to pike in Day county, produced little to no success this past winter, the mass majority of the pike taken were from hook & line, not spearing. I have visited with several other Darkhouse Spearers and they also had a low success rate, and have no intention on spearing anything other than pike. Would it work to make Regs for the NE, that would allow spearing on all public bodies of water open for taking Rough Fish and Pike only? This would allow a natural flow of Darkhouse Spearing individuals to take pike on lakes that are more populated than other. The fact is there are very few that spear in the area, the majority of the darkhouse users are from out of state; this would allow for another avenue of income with a Non-Res Lic for spearing.

ID: 1287

I bought the license for trying to shoot a salmon at the river.

ID: 1292

I apologize for not doing this online. I did not participate even though I bought the license next time I will do it online.

ID: 1304

The apparent strained relations between divers and line fishermen are a concern. I feel we as divers are not welcome. The fishing is amazing however due to the amount of distance we travel we will not continue to use South Dakota if the limit is reduced for spear fishing because the expenses will out do the benefit. I don't know what education of top side fisherman as to the very small area traveled when you dive and spear fish each dive but I hear comments that we scare the fish. I truly wish they would know how wrong their assumptions are. There are plenty of fish for all of us and we respected the game just as they do.

ID: 1306

Spearing seems to be growing as a sport and just hope that opportunities we have don't go away. Eliminating size limit may help as it obviously is hard to judge size underwater even if the limit was reduced by one.

ID: 1308

Be nice to be able to bowfish the whole James River or even the whole state

ID: 1309

Very slow spearing last year. I only speared 2 fish in two days of spearing.

ID: 1313

Teach boaters to watch out for divers

ID: 1316

Paddlefish season needs to open to tail waters on Frances Case. Bow Fishing gear: should be able to have the arrow line connected from arrow to big game float system, that at the end of the line it detaches a buoy that is held to the side of the archers bow. So as to not

have a paddlefish tear away from the bow fish arrow. Due to the size and fast current, see A.M.S. bow fishing big game float system.

ID: 1322

My biggest concern with spearing is access to water. I have to travel far to do it. Smaller inlet lakes can occasionally have doable visibility. It would be nice to try these if conditions are right. I have speared carp in a couple. Size limits aren't much of a problem but some border line fish need to be passed on. Hook and spear both were good in 2011. I just couldn't go much, good fish out there though.

ID: 1329

Yes, I would like more lakes open in NE SD

ID: 1330

Why don't you want information on non-game fish?

ID: 1361

I spend a lot of money to come from Nebraska to enjoy your lakes and feel that your officers treat me and my children as criminals for participating in a sport we love.

ID: 1362

Why additional \$5 charge to spearfisherman.

ID: 1376

Last year was my first year to spearfish and I absolutely love it.

ID: 1380

Over one year I might harvest 30 walleye. Most people hook and line fishing harvest that in one good month. Not to mention all the released fish that die after being caught. The only problem I see is in July some boat are having trouble finding fish. July and August most Spearfish is great. When the spearfish groups come to the cleaning station some hook and line fishermen get angry because they had little luck. It's not because the fish are gone it's because they're not biting. On a good day in August we see schools of fifty walleye all the time on lake Oahe. When fishing is poor we try to clean our fish at less used cleaning stations by people fishing. No one likes being showed they can't fish. On lake Oahe most spearing happens in July and August. Water is too cold for most people in other months to enjoy it. I see hook and line people not happy with divers. Game Fish and Parks needs to do add to help two get along. Leave fishing and spearing rules the same. Both groups are out fishing. When I get older I will be hook and line fishing again.

ID: 1384

I have been spearing for over 15 years in the MO river and have dove/snorkeled above and below all dams in SD and ND. I am familiar with the spearing community and the perceived impact on fish is overestimated. It is a great sport which kids also enjoy. There is a very limited time of year for this activity along with many days in which there is poor to no visibility or bad weather. There is a bit of work involved and the yield is not always great contrary to what some believe. I see no harm in opening all waters in the state to spearing as only a few are suitable for visibility most of the year. It would provide those who do not live near Oahe to get in a few days during the summer when there is some clarity in the other waters. This is a great sport which provides an opportunity to see what is under the vast amount of water in our river system and lakes. I have taught several kids and friends about the sport

and they all enjoy it and have a different perspective of the water once they have spent some time below the surface. We would all appreciate increased opportunities to spear in the upcoming years. I anticipate reviewing the results of your survey as I suspect the number of fish harvested is a very small percentage of what is taken by hook and line and likely has a negligible impact on the fish populations in our state.

ID: 1390

I would like to see some other lakes open up to this sport. I believe the window would be very small in the spring and fall. I can't see us jumping in Lake Madison in the middle of summer and having any visibility. I would ask that we be treated fairly and I think that this survey is awesome!! At least you get our comments as well. If you want to read a great book....The Walleye Warrior.... About the Indians from the lac flam de Wisconsin. Amazing what they went through to maintain spearing and the opposition against them on local lakes. Thank god this sport isn't as bad as that conflict. I think with some explanations of the rules to the anglers so they don't think we are above the slot limits would help educate them....We have the same challenges as the fisherman...finding the fish

ID: 1398

Because the exact size of a fish is sometimes hard to distinguish due to the mirror effect of water. I think there should be no length limit on fish even if the limit is 2 fish. Also, all waters should be open to bow fishing for game fish and rough fish. Except where heavy recreation use is common in the summer. I think this is a great move to advance the sport.

ID: 1401

Decreasing the daily limit is not the answer. NO one wants to drive 215 miles one way to Pierre to have a chance at 3, 2, or 1 walleye. Size restrictions are fine with me.

ID: 1405

Too much flooding in 2011.

ID: 1408

Look taking of game is taking of game. There should be one price limit and season for everyone to enjoy the South Dakota outdoors. The extra fees, the limitations on waters available to use and season limitation perpetrates the myth that spearing is an unfair advantage. Scuba spearing has limits on how long you can be underwater. Visibility last year was a nightmare for the most part. When you have 200 boats in one hook and line tournament leaving Spring Creek alone do you really think those 20 spearfishing boats are creating an undue fishing pressure? My feeling is let everyone enjoy the South Dakota outdoors.

ID: 1419

This sport is excellent for kids. It should be open year round with a limit on walleyes of 4 with one over 20. This should be for hook/line also. Please simplify things. There are plenty of fish and a simplified system will not change this.

ID: 1430

I have only done it once and it was a guided trip on Lake Oahe. It was fun and yet pretty boring at the same time. Give me an ice fishing or open water boat fishing trip any day. I will probably never do it again, I speared one walleye in two days. It was a twelve pound trophy walleye that I had to put on my wall. When I speared it i thought I was spearing a carp it

looked so big. Once it was speared there was no option of releasing it. so I will probably never darkhouse spear again.

ID: 1432

Walleye are typically very skittish and you have a very brief window of opportunity to take a shot. Therefore, it is very difficult to accurately size a fish between 18-22 inches. As spearing is not a "catch and release" sport, it would be extremely helpful to reduce the bag limit to 3 for spearing and do away with the size limit. This would eliminate a great deal of stress for the spear fisherman yet still be fair to the anglers. However, if the limit was dropped to 2 fish, it wouldn't be worth it for me, considering the expense of the trip. Also, please educate the public about "dive flag." This will save lives.

ID: 1433

In a dark house sometimes judging the size of the fish is a problem because of water clarity.

ID: 1435

I disagree with the spearing/archery stamp. If you (GFP) are having issues with underwater spearing the address them and leave the bow fisherman out of it. This "stamp" feels like just another way for the GF&P to nickel and dime the sportsman out of more money. What's next, an artificial lure stamp for walleye or a bobber stamp for pan fish? The excuse of having the \$5.00 fee to "track" the bow fishing activity is bs that's what surveys like this is for.

ID:1436

Great spearing. Hope your state always has spearfishing. You could even raise the rates a little and we would still come.

ID: 1437

Only dissatisfied with problems with hook and liners.

ID: 1439

I highly believe bowfishing is just another way to take fish and we should be able to bowfish for game fish anywhere in the state(with some exemptions) 24hrs a day just like hook and line anglers. Same rules except I choose to take them by bowfishing methods, personally I would prefer a 2 fish limit vs. a 3 fish limit

ID: 1451

I would like to see Underwater Spearing opened to more bodies of water throughout South Dakota. this would not only take the pressure off the Missouri river areas, by spreading out the current Underwater Spearfishing sportsman across a greater area, but would also make it more available for new sportsman wanting to start this sport.

ID: 1457

I am definitely opposed to any restrictions in the daily bag limit. There really are very few, if any, additional waters worth opening to underwater spearing because in SD most lakes do not have adequate visibility. There is no catch and release with spear fishing. We take our four walleyes and we're done. I do not support a reduction in daily bag for spearing because I believe we kill fewer fish overall than a boatful of hook/line anglers who each take their 4 fish home, but release several more fish (to die) that were hooked to deep and were too small for either their egos or our minimum size limits. Please leave the regs as they are.

ID: 1464

Nobody's fault, but just didn't have much safe ice to spear on.

ID: 1467

Why does it seem like you are penalizing spear fisherman? Where does the extra \$5 towards a spear license going to? Why are trying to reduce the number of fish a spear fisherman can take? Waters should be managed by the size and number of fish available. Spearing is difficult. You do not have the option of moving from point to point like a boater does.

ID: 1471

We presently travel 200 miles to spear fish, I would like to see local lakes open to underwater spearfishing such as Lake Brandt (Lake County) and Lake Madison (Lake County) and even Lake Thompson. Thank you

ID: 1474

To be honest, I was not very well informed about this topic when I purchased the license. I really did not need to purchase it, as I only bow fish for carp a couple times per year. My mistake, should have read further before clicking on the add on button. I could see myself getting more involved in this type of fishing in the future and purchasing a license.

ID: 1482

I only participate in rough fish bowfishing, however if more east river lakes were open for bowfishing game fish, I would participate. Had the best year spearfishing in 2011. I have only been spearfishing for about 5 years and am looking forward to another great year. Thanks

ID: 1483

My son & I plan a spear fishing trip to SD every year. It's the "most looked forward to" trip we make all year. Thank you! Reducing our bag limit would affect us coming back to SD. We have 2 fish fry's a year and our current limit is perfect. Just because we don't "fish" doesn't mean we should be more limited than fishermen.

ID: 1484

Spearfishing has been a very neat opportunity on Lake Oahe for over 30 years and I hope to get back into diving a little more this summer. The flood of 2011 took a good part of my summer so I didn't get to participate but plan on being under the water more this year. Size limits have been a good thing for the fisherman vs. spearfisherman conflicts of the 1990's since there's no incentive to shoot only big fish. It's good to see more people getting involved in scuba diving and more areas opening up to the sport. The \_\_\_ family has brought a lot of younger people into the sport and that is fun to see.

ID: 1485

The Oahe fishery is great. But Lake Sharpe has really been declining the past few years. Used to always go to Pickstown to spear, but there aren't near as many fish and what I do see are all small. Worth the drive to Lake Oahe. I did dive in Lake Madison in the early spring. All I see are carp and bullheads. Would like to see the GF&P to do something to remove those and put more game fish in there. Family has a house on Lake Madison and didn't catch many fish other than bullheads all of last year.

ID: 1488

I believe there is a issue with some divers that are harvesting fish for those that cant dive. To me that is poaching. I believe in order to take a limit or harvest fish in underwater spearfishing you must provide your certification certificate which proves that you are capable of diving. Just because a individual has a spearfishing license doesn't mean they are entitled to take a limit of fish if not capable of engaging in the activity, be no different the a person with a hunting license and sits in the vehicle not engaged in activity and his limit is taken. You have to provide your certification certificate in order to fill your air tanks so should be the same to harvest fish as well.

ID: 1492

Mutual respect would solve most conflicts

ID: 1498

I feel that the GFP is harassing scuba divers in the Oahe area. I heard reports of some divers getting check multiples time in one day. I have never had this happen while fishing. Why is spearing charged extra for the license? Is the GFP applying the money to directly benefit the sport or are they penalizing the spearing sport. I suspect we are being penalized. I have not seen where that monies was applied to directly benefit the spearing sport. Please publish how the monies is being used. I have gave up pheasant hunting and mostly big game hunting after I took up the sport of spearing for walleyes. I find it much more enjoyable. Please fight to keep spear fishing a sport that I as a South Dakotan can enjoy.

ID: 1504

It would be nice to have a restricted spearing season on some eastern SD lakes similar to what MN has.

ID: 1508

I assume a game warden would have some tolerance considering it is difficult judging the exact length of fish.

ID: 1520

No size limits – it's hard enough to spear a fish and you can't release a fish if it is not in the slot.

ID: 1525

Too many rules - taking the fun and sport out of it.

ID: 1527

Poor ice conditions in 2011-2012 cause lack of participation in dark house spearing. Dark house spearing season should not end when "hard shacks" need to come off the lakes. Winters with good late ice could be speared using portable shacks in March.

ID: 1529

I do like the optional season. Please do not increase the fee! The paddle fishing fee is too high for 1 fish! It's not like they are endangered!

ID: 1534

I would like the ice spearing (dark house) season changed to "ice out" rather than the last day in Feb. if there's still ice on the lakes. Most years it's only a matter of an additional week or two.

ID: 1542

I understand that the waters on Lake Oahe near the Mobridge area are off limits to spearfishing. if so, can that be lifted?

ID: 1545

Earlier season opener

ID: 1551

There's room for both hook and line fisherman and spearfisherman on the same waters. Each needs to practice "COMMON COURTESY."

ID: 1563

These 3 activities are all different and should be treated differently at least in regards to the season. You make us pay \$5.00 more; whatever, but then you restrict us to certain lakes and seasons. When you dive underwater, the air temp and water temp kind of set the season. I don't know too many people wiping out the walleye population in February and to make us wait until June 15 doesn't add up. To restrict lakes is odd as well. The spearfish you need visibility. There are only a few lakes that afford enough visibility to see fish and most of them turn by early to mid-July making the season June 15 to the day you can't see. Pikes in Pactola should be allowed year around due to the fact they eat your precious trout and are not supposed to be there in the first place. In three seasons I have killed 650 pounds of Pike legally by limit and in season. If it were allowed I would be in there right now killing the females spawning.

ID: 1569

I believe anglers feel spearers have an unfair advantage over them only because spearing is a more efficient method of taking game. Comparatively riflemen have a more efficient method of taking deer over an archer. Both sportsmen taking their legal limit according to the rules and regulations of the SDGF&P. However, because spearing is more consistent producer there seems to be a perception that there is something unfair or illegal taking place. As a person who enjoys both angling and spear fishing I feel restricting the limits on spearers based on the chosen method of take would be inconsistent with the R&R's of the state of SD regarding other game species i.e. deer, birds, etc. Anglers choose to pursue game fish through more traditional methods albeit less efficient, only to complain when they aren't as successful as their fellow sportsmen. I have also personally witnessed abrasive and negative sportsmen. I have also personally witnessed abrasive and negative comments and attitude from SDGF&P officers in the field who boarded our boat in the course of their duties directed specifically at spear fishing/spearers. There's nothing stopping anglers from getting scuba certified, buy/renting the gear, and getting efficient. They might actually like it.

ID: 1571

I would like to see more waters open to spear fishing. I would also like to see the season start June 1<sup>st</sup>. I would also like to see trout and salmon restriction listed for Pactola.

ID: 1575

I don't know why the state feels they need to tax me if I want to go spear a fish? Do I shoot over my limit, my fair share? What? I don't get it. I think people forget what limit means. Come on people enjoy what South Dakota has to offer. We have a lot of water, let's all get along and stop pointing fingers. Let's have fun and eat some fish!

ID: 1584

I recommend you make the big fish for spearing 24" and over with 2 less, but if they shoot the over first, they must stop.

ID: 1586

People cannot measure fish by eye sight. Killing too many big fish or we have a lot of violators or a lot of dead floating fish. Some people take others with them and do not spear, but they use their licenses which is also wrong.

ID: 1590

You need a separate handbook and need to educate fisherman better about diver down flags.

ID: 1592

Rules are rules. We need to have them in place to avoid misuse of the public resource. That said, the size limit can produce some challenges for the spearfisherman. During times when a particular year class of fish is hanging in that 18-22 inch area, it is very difficult to get a four-fish limit without risking two fish over 20 inches. On many occasions, we have had to abstain from harvesting a limit simply because we didn't dare take a chance shooting more than one fish. Believe it or not, this is not an uncommon occurrence on the "flats" areas in lower Oahe. I realize that the intent of this law is to protect trophy fish....not these 22 inchers. It would be nice to know that there was an inch or two lee-way to protect a diver from prosecution. As you probably know, under water objects (including fish) appear 25% larger and 33% closer to the human eye.....and those walleyes just won't hold still for me to measure them. This is really complicated by the very poor visibility in Lake Oahe.....you only get a fleeting glimpse at a fish to decide to shoot or not, on many occasions. Perhaps this is what you are thinking with the 3 fish limit idea. I can really see (would embrace) 3 fish without size limit or four with only one over (a choice of either option). That way, the regs would not need to change as the population of the Lake changes its average size.

ID: 1600

I am very happy with the opening of salmon fishing with a bow, because late in the season they don't bit anymore because they're in spawning stage. There are a lot of good salmon left to harvest and it's a shame that they die and go to waste. With bow fishing it provides a lot of good fishing late in the season. Thanks for the season.

ID: 1606

I did not understand the tag when I purchased it and did not participate in spearing or darkhouse spearing any game fish.

ID: 1607

Underwater scuba spearing is by far my favorite "fishing" method. The opportunities on Lake Oahe are fantastic. I look forward to my trips to South Dakota each year to shoot some fish. I think you have it right on the regs, limits, etc.

ID: 1613

I like the no size limit 3 harvest idea. The guys that spear all the time aren't going to shoot all pigs. The pigs aren't all that good to eat. I wish there were more 14-20 inch walleye in Oahe, but not seeing a whole bunch last year. Really had to hunt around for the under 20 s a lot of the time. Do you guys know how many over 20 s there are in the Oahe right now? I had a couple of dives last year saw 40 -50 walleye but shot one fish, because everyone I saw was 20 n over. Fun to see, but kind of frustrating too. I guess we'll see what it looks like this year.

ID: 1635

I very much enjoy the sport. I am very happy to be checked by GFP. There is some abuse of system by spearfishers from Sioux Falls, Rapid City, etc. GFP needs to have a presence to make sure system is not abused and that we ALL can continue to enjoy our water activities. Thank you.

ID: 1636

It would be very nice to see more lakes with spearing availability.

ID: 1638

Why the added license? We only spear during the summer months and our harvest for the year is far less than the anglers, but we are the ones that have to have the extra license? Who came up with that brilliant idea?

ID: 1650

Open a short season in the Oahe Tailrace. Adding an extra \$5 for spearing is BS.

ID: 1659

Why are spear fishing men singled out? There is not one other single group that is required to buy an additional license, and get nothing for it. We don't get an additional limit. We don't get a more liberal size variance. Any device that is used, that can be deemed an advantage should be made to buy an additional permit, if you want to be fair. If you use a spinning reel, or bait caster \$5.00, if you use electronics \$5.00, underwater camera \$5.00, boats \$5.00, contours maps \$5.00, GPS \$5.00 – why are spear fishermen singled out? If I want to shoot a deer with my bow, and I have a rifle tag I'm good to go. I don't have to buy a bow permit to have the right to do that. If I buy a bow tag I get an additional big game animal tag. Black powder rifles, bow and arrow hunters buy a license to use these weapons, they get an additional big game tag they don't have to use. Big game rifle tag, they get an additional tag. What do spear fishermen get for their \$5.00 permit? One day limit is one day limit. If I catch 3 walleyes hook/line, I can only get an additional 1 fish by spearing. One daily limit that requires me to buy two licenses. What is GF&P perception of spear fishermen? Who has influenced how you perceive us? What constitutes an additional permit, yet they get nothing in return?

ID: 1660

Saw smaller and fewer walleyes up at little bend this year late in summer.

ID: 1661

The size limit rule is somewhat complex. I don't necessarily look to spear the big game fish, but under water distance and size is distorted so a lot of time is spent and air is burned up trying not to break the rules and is nerve racking.

ID: 1662

I WOULD ENCOURAGE THE GAME AND FISH TO TAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH TOWARDS SPEARING ACTIVITIES AS A GROWING AND POPULAR OUTDOOR ACTIVITY ON OUR LAKES AND RIVERS. TREAT THE ACTIVITY AS ANOTHER FORM OF FISHING. I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY A CONSERVATION OFFICER THAT DIVERS WERE TARGETED LAST YEAR TO FIND VIOLATORS TO CAST THE ACTIVITY IN A BAD LIGHT. BUT YET ANGLERS CONTINUE TO BREAK GAME LAWS AND THERE IS NO OUTCRY TO IMPOSE MORE REGULATIONS ON ANGLERS. PROSECUTE THOSE THAT ARE BREAKING THE LAWS FOR ALL FISHING AND TAKE A FAIR AND POSITIVE APPROACH FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IN FISHING ACTIVITIES. THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY FROM EXPERIENCE IS THAT TRYING TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN A 19" AND A 20" FISH WHILE UNDER WATER IS VERY DIFFICULT. BUT WITH ALL ACTIVITIES, THERE WILL BE THOSE THAT WILL ERR ON THE CONSERVATIVE SIDE AND THOSE THAT WILL PUSH THE ENVELOPE. REMOVING SIZE RESTRICTIONS WOULD RESOLVE THIS BUT COULD ALSO LEAD TO MORE DIVIDE BETWEEN ANGLERS AND DIVERS. I THINK IT MAKES MORE SENSE TO TREAT SPEARING AS A FISHING ACTIVITY AND KEEP REGULATIONS CONSISTENT.

ID: 1664

Why am I charged an additional fee for a spear license? I don't take more fish than the hook/line guys, GFP can just as easily check my creel. What gives?

ID: 1682

i would like to have all of South Dakota lakes open spearing, it's not as easy as most people think to hunt fish, clarity of the water dictates the hunt.

ID: 1684

I am convinced boats with a dive flag visible are singled out/checked more often than those with hook and line anglers. Enforcement is handled professionally but needs to be equally administered. I don't like having to explain to young kids why a GFP boat just drove past four other fishing boats to check a dive boat. I hook and line an equal amount as diving and feel I'm unbiased in my statement.

ID: 1685

I feel there are such a finite number of spearers that by opening more waters to the sport, there would be fewer concentrations of spearers in one or two locations. Also possibly the numbers of spearers statewide would increase, as more local waters would be less expensive to travel to. I would travel to Wall Lake for instance, for a chance at a reduced limit more often and more economically, than traveling all the way to Lake Oahe once or twice a summer. Gas prices make it too expensive to go every weekend.

ID: 1688

If you could clarify exactly which fish are rough fish that would make understanding the rules easier. Also, for example if you could have a map for reference when there are boundaries on a particular lake such as Francis Case,

ID: 1708

Redfield is designated by the State of South Dakota as "pheasant capital of the world" yet we do not have our own pheasant count. Spink County had the first pheasant hunt in the state yet we do not have our own pheasant count. Pheasant hunting revenue is even more

important to drive overall economy than Aberdeen and Huron, yet they get to use ½ of our county to bolster their pheasant count. Redfield needs its own pheasant count.

ID: 1724

I don't quite understand what the extra fee is for. No additional limit is allowed. The extra fee allows me to take game fish legally – just like it was 5 years ago – now I need to pay a fee?

ID: 1738

The additional permit to bow fish is ridiculous just because we use slightly different equipment than most anglers we shouldn't have to pay more.

ID: 1753

My spearing last year was very good. Usually you see more rough fish this year I seen way more walleye, not big ones but a lot of them whoever is or was running the show is doing a good job. Thanks for the fisheries.

ID: 1757

I bought the extra license in case I would spear fish while scuba diving . I did not do any speargun fishing last year . I think there should NOT be any extra charge to this . I already bought the fishing license and see no reason to pay more money . Does the GF&P need more money?

ID: 1758

There is a very limited number of waters that spearfishing divers can really use. It is getting more difficult to find waters where divers have not already been that day. Lake Oahe is getting more popular each year for scuba diving and spearing. This is not a bad thing, it just makes it more difficult.

ID: 1759

Hope to do lost this year and would like to see more waters open to spearing.

ID: 1766

I am very excited to be able to spear this summer as I am going through my scuba certification now.

ID: 1776

I like the idea of eliminating the size limits for underwater spearing and reducing the possession limit to 3. those walleye won't hold still to measure them prior to spearing them.

ID: 1795

THIS WAS GOING TO BE MY FIRST TIME AND DUE TO WEATHER DIDN'T GET TO GO

ID: 1804

It was my second time every spear fishing underwater, the first time was the year before in the same place, we had such a great time in 2010. This was the reason we came back in 2011.

ID: 1805

If the opportunity arose I would harvest a large northern or walleye but I mainly harvest rough fish.

ID: 1811

I only shoot rough fish (carp) with my bow when there is an overabundance. I don't bow fish for game fish.

ID: 1815

Don't allow commercial guiding for game fish and underwater spearing.

ID: 1820

It should be a requirement of all fisheries biologist to scuba dive or snorkel dive. A blind deer biologist can't see the habitat deer live in. Nor can fisheries when the lake is low & no habitat for the fish to live in!

ID: 1822

I enjoy things the way they are.

ID: 1862

I realize it's a privilege to spear fish and I appreciate the opportunity. It's one of the most gratifying hobbies I have. I respect hook and line fisherman since I am one myself. Spearfishing is an incredible way to hang out with walleye in their underwater environment. I enjoy exploring the structure and their habits. Many hook and line fishermen ask me about what it's like down there. I enjoy sharing stories with them at the cleaning station. I like the idea of only spearing one big fish per day. It's more challenging and strategic.

ID: 1863

Spearfishing is a lot of fun and we enjoy goofing around spending time near the water....

ID: 1879

Regulations should be kept the same for everybody. There certainly is an increase in the number of people getting involved in diving & spear fishing, but after all the fishing has been good. It will level off when fishing returns to normal. There is lots water up and down the Missouri to fish & dive. You are not always successful but you should at least be able to enjoy it.

ID: 1899

It's a lot of fun even if you don't get a fish

ID: 1908

Last year was my first year. I'm sure with this year I'll have a better opinion of what's going on. Thanks

ID: 1910

Minnesota and Montana have the right idea when it comes to spearing. South Dakota seems to just want the extra money. Open up everything and not just the mud holes.

ID: 1911

I thought I had to buy a license to bow hunt carp. So I bought one only to find out later I didn't need to.

ID: 1935

I think you are doing a good job managing this. Better then MN who over-regulate practically everything related to hunting and fishing. Keep up the good work.

ID: 1968

Walleye fishermen do not give out their secrets or fish results as easily as spear-fishermen do. Based on the fact that I have done both and walleye tournaments also, this seems to hit a sore spot with a few fishermen in SD.

ID: 1971

The more people who are involved in outdoor activities the better, the better it is for you and for us. Let's keep the rules as simple as possible.

ID: 1976

Better lakes for spear fishing needed.

ID: 1977

As stated in question 18, I think the diver down flag creates a higher risk for the diver than safety. Recreation and fishing boats do not remain clear of dive flags and rules are not enforced to protect the diver. Entanglement in dive flag lines, with divers, boats and underwater obstructions creates a hazard. Seasons, water, location, fees, restrictions and privileges should apply equally to all SD fishermen regardless to spear fishing or hook and line anglers.

ID: 1980

I bought a license just to be safe when shooting carp from my boat. I thought that GF&P added this for shooting all fish including rough fish.

ID: 1991

Why not make the limit  $\frac{1}{2}$  of hook & line on all game fish? Increase the odd number halves example: 5 fish/ $\frac{1}{2}$  = 21/ $\frac{1}{2}$  = limit 3.

ID: 1998

I am an underwater hunter. This sport is extremely challenging; much more than any other hunting option in the state. We divers are well trained and understand conservation issues on all levels. It is a plus to be able to spear(or not spear) the fish of your choice within the law as written, whereas a fisherman simply hauls in whatever fish takes the lure. Make no mistake, fishing is my number one pastime in South Dakota, but I do feel that the two sports can coexist with the correct regulations. Watching those wonderful game fish circle you underwater is just as rare and exciting as the flush of a rooster, or geese flaring and ready to land.... On behalf of my fellow divers, please work out some sort of opportunity for us underwater hunters. We love the river system, but a regulated season for inland and border lakes would be a dream come true.

ID: 1999

There are some commercial operators that show up with 12-15 divers on a boat. I can see where this is making fishermen upset. I think this needs to be looked at.

ID: 2000

Need to extend the dark house spearing season a couple more weeks.

ID: 2010

I think the fee for bow fishing should be part of your sportsman's license. I don't believe the gfp should charge extra for bowfishing permits.

- ID: 2011  
More lakes opened up for spearing.
- ID: 2015  
I have good intentions to go bow fishing, but just don't seem to make it. I buy the license each year just in case I do get the time.
- ID: 2042  
Need a longer season, educate boaters as to the rules/what a dive flag means.
- ID: 2049  
South Dakota has a fabulous fishing and spear fishing program. I hope it continues and SD is able to sustain it. Thanks.
- ID: 2053  
It is my hope that the Game & Fish should/will continue to allow underwater spearfishing, Darkhouse Spearing and bowfishing. I have been informed that a local conservation (officer) has stated (last summer-11) that there should not be any underwater spearfishing allowed. In my opinion this CO should be reminded that we users/taxpayers should not be subject to law enforcement's personal views on matters such as these. Just a thought.
- ID: 2063  
Just happy to bow fish in my home state of South Dakota.
- ID: 2070  
Scuba Spearfishing is a great sport. From what I have experienced there isn't much deference in total fish taken per person per day between those who hook and line fish and spear fish. I haven't seen any conflict between hook and line fishermen and scuba fishermen. At the docks we talk openly about the quality of fishing for the day. This is a great way to understand the quality of the water system and the ecology in general. Thanks for a great sport and a great bunch of people at the G,F & P.
- ID: 2075  
Spear fishing from a dark house is great fun and I hope that it will continue for a long time in South Dakota waters.
- ID: 2080  
Thank you for putting out this survey. Hopefully, the information will help spearfishing remain a viable sport in our state. Spearing is more like hunting than it is fishing. People not realizing that causes some of the misunderstanding.
- ID: 2081  
There have been numerous surveys conducted and will be conducted again this year and in the future. There is one (1) spearfishing tournament a year. Every single fish is counted and weighed and the info is published. It would be beneficial if that information along with the information from the other fishing tournaments was published. I would like to know how many tournaments are registered with the state. How many boats are in the tournament? How many game fish are taken in each of those tournaments? In those tournaments what 'big' fish are taken? If the information described above were available - then when the discussion came up between the angler and spearfisher that the spearfisher in killing all of the big fish - the facts could be examined. Finally, you know exactly how many spearfishing

permits were sold last year. With this survey you should have a sampling of the number of fish that were taken by spearfishers. Publish that number! Along with publishing that number - right alongside of it, publish the total number of walleyes that were taken. Next to that number - do the math equation and show what percentage of the total number of walleyes taken in 2011 were taken by divers. Then, have one of the state fish biologist that studies the walleyes in the state's lakes and rivers write a conclusion to the survey - "Does taking of walleyes by divers have or does not have an effect on the fish population in the lakes and rivers of SD".

ID: 2095

Angler confrontations on a repeated basis were intolerable and I just quit.

ID: 2105

Going back to question 16, the regulations would be much easier if all waters were open to spearing so we did not have to figure where the boundaries lay. Or if the season was open or closed. Question 17, I love to go SCUBA diving so any chance I have to go diving is very rewarding. Adding the excitement of spearing just makes the outing much more rewarding. Two weeks ago I drove from Sioux Falls to DeSmet for Easter. While there we went fishing on Lake Henry and looked at Thompson but the boat ramp was destroyed and could not launch. Lake Thompson had clear enough water for me to go diving but I did not bother because I could not spearfish. So we fished Lake Henry and had a nice outing, but it sure would have been fun to go spearing on the cleaner Lake Thompson. There have been many days in the field where the water was clear enough to go diving and spearing but I did not bother taking my diving equipment because there was no open spearing season. There are many lakes, gravel quarries and ponds along the I-29 corridor that would be minutes away from where divers live but they do not dive these spots because they cannot spear. I know for a fact more persons would dive locally and spear if the season was expanded. But instead we have to drive 150-260 miles one way just to go spearing (you need to change your question about miles to drive to participate in spearing because there is nothing open in eastern SD worth diving!!! All of the lakes that were offered for spearing in eastern SD.....SUCK....they are dirty mud bottom farm ponds that will never have clear water) Also the economic impact to persons wanting to dive locally but cannot is costing allot of extra money in gas expenses. This is evident with the addition of the FAMILY LAKE in western Sioux Falls and the FISHING AREA in Hudson. People are using these areas heavily because they are close and they cannot afford to drive 500 miles to catch a fish!! I am glad that this second survey is being offered and I have had many divers call and stop in to our SCUBA store to talk about these issues. This is a step in the right direction and I look forward to helping with the new positive changes to be made in the spearfishing regulations. Here are some of the comments that were also not addressed; how far should a diver spearing stay away from a lake home dock? Why not change to flag law so boaters just need to slow down and proceed with caution around a dive flag and take off the 75' distance so fishing boats could keep fishing. Another interesting thought about limits of fish relating to the issue of length of fish (walleye in particular). With a 4-fish limit and many of the fish on OAHE in the 20" size, several of the divers that I have talked to said they would be willing to go to a point type limit like we used to have on mallard ducks. Where you could shoot 5-ducks but if you shot a hen mallard you were done. Some have said they would be ok with a 4-fish limit (limits could be 4-slots or 1-over 20 with 3-slots but if they shot 2-walleye over 20 they would be done for the day). This way they are not being penalized just because they want to spearfish. And let's face it guessing a 20" fish is tough. I'm looking forward to seeing where these questions lead us in building a stronger spearing season and more diving opportunities in South Dakota.

ID: 2109

I would like to see the winter season extended as long as you remove the shack every day. In a normal winter we could easily spear into mid-march.

ID: 2118

I enjoyed the spear fishing but the walleyes were not moving. I didn't get any fish and only saw one walleye in 2 ½ days.

ID: 2123

why not charge the plug pullers a \$5.00 extra fee or the live baiters, I think it terrible that you single out one group that uses the same rules and charge them extra especially when because of mother nature our time to do it is way less than the others.

ID: 2127

Very concerned about the dock at Bush's landing and the road leading to it.

ID: 2130

I've heard that line fishermen think that spearfishing is unfair, I do both. It's hard to get your limit spearfishing. It's like bow hunting, you get busted when you move. Just because you see them doesn't mean you'll get them. Good survey

ID: 2135

The hook and line fishing was too good this year to spend time inside a dark house. So we did very little spearing. Think it was bull that SDGF&P thought they needed another \$5.00 added to an already overpriced fishing & hunting permits.

ID: 2141

Thank you for all your hard work.

ID: 2151

Post the number of violations and identify what they were doing- DWI, too many fish, too many big fish, over possession, wrong packaging, license violations – have a PSA about divers & dive flags and run it on TV.

ID: 2170

Spearing on all lakes, Northern Pike only. Whatever limit you decide. No size limit.

ID: 2177

I have been spearfishing the Missouri river for almost 30 years and have thoroughly enjoyed it [I am also an avid line fisherman]. In the last 5-7 years the popularity has increased unbelievably due to the ease high water structure has made the hunt along with the promotion of this sport through guided lessons etc. Along with the increased popularity comes, the increased problems.....good luck!

ID: 2184

Your neighboring states Minnesota and North Dakota offer Northern Pike spearing on most lakes. Please consider doing the same. Walleye is the preferred angler species so don't allow them to be speared. Allowing Northern Pike spearing on most lakes will open up a whole new opportunity for your sport of fishing and the people that participated will really enjoy it.

ID: 2189

Open all lakes

ID: 2196

I think it's a rip that you charge \$5 extra to spear fish. We are all doing the same thing, granted in different ways, but it's still getting fish. It's just grossly unfair to charge one person more than the other to do the sport.

ID: 2206

I speared 3 Northern Pike in Mud Lake with my grandfather's spear that he used in the late twenties and early thirties. Laws between SD & MN CO officers and Law books were very confusing.

ID: 2218

Although I purchased a license to bow fish I did not get out this past year.

ID: 2232

The length limit is hard underwater.

ID: 2233

First time to dark house spear, and it was extremely enjoyable.

ID: 2235

Every South Dakota outdoors enthusiast should take time to dark house spear sport fishing, walleye or northern pike. The total experience is thrilling, the ice ride, the shack, cooking out on the ice and the waiting for the approach of game fish. Truly a unique South Dakota outdoor experience. Thanks and keep up the great GF&P work.

ID: 2268

I think charging extra to bow fish or spear is obscene. Especially after buying a fishing license. I truly don't understand a reduction in limit for underwater spearing or bow fishing. Nearly everyone knows that a walleye larger than 18-20" is not nearly as good to eat. It is simply to judge the size of the fish so the size restriction is less of a problem for us as spear fisherman than for high grading angler and or catch and release anglers. So, please stop with all the nonsense. Have your wardens stop trying to be cops and be Conservation Officers. Check the fish cleaning stations 24/7 and watch for double dippers.

ID: 2269

The limits on pan fish are too low with the price of gas a trip from Sioux Falls to a Lake where it might be possible to catch a limit will cost over \$20 with the real price closer to \$50 for what? 1 ½ lbs. of fish fillets.

ID: 2275

GF&P needs to open more area to game fish spearing, bow fishing and dark house spearing. The price of gas makes it hard to travel long distances to participate in these activities. I believe the numbers of game fish taken by these activities are small and wouldn't have much impact on the fish population.

ID: 2279

As the fish population and fish grow it would be nice to see a change in slot numbers, walleyes 24" or 26" with one over. The state does a great job with managing the facilities.

ID: 2286

If I didn't participate in underwater spearing or darkhouse spearing why the hell do i need to answer those questions?

ID: 2295

We would like to see more areas open to spearing....Lake Byron and lower James River. Poor ice conditions limited our access this past season. We do love to spear.

ID: 2299

Most of the fishermen I know who participate in dark house spearing also are avid boat fishermen as well. There are more fish taken by boat fishermen then are taken by all types of spearing. The key here is outdoor recreation and a renewable resource. Keep up the great work.

ID: 2311

There was thin ice everywhere I wanted to fish.

ID: 2312

would like to see March 5 as an ending date again seasons to short.

ID: 2313

I want to keep spearing as long as I am able and certainly wish that SDGFP keeps the season in place.

ID: 2315

I was unable to dive last year because of my disability but maybe this year!

ID: 2328

Ice was not really thick, it was honest -20 below but had a great time.

ID: 2329

Dark house spearing of northern pike only vs other game fish would satisfy most spearers with a limit of the daily fishing limit.

ID: 2334

Was fun doing spearing out of the darkhouse 1st time I ever did it will look forward to do it again this year. but ice was not real good this past year

ID: 2348

I have speared (mostly dark house) for 42 years. I enjoy spearing for the sport because angling is generally more productive. I do not understand any objection by anglers because in 42 years of spearing there have only been about 4 good years for walleye spearing so it is not like spearing depletes the natural resource. Most years the fish are too deep (16'-20") and the visibility is too poor to see them. When the water cleared up in 2011 we could see many fish in 20-22 feet but try to spear them. At this depth they ahe time to react to avoid the spear if it is on target. By the time your skill level at 20 feet improves enough to him fish the season is over.

ID: 2359

I love South Dakota, Lake Oahe, the people and spearing rough fish. You guys are great also.

ID: 2363

From the effects of the flood that happened, Lake Oahe was not good; I believe lots of salmon were washed down into the Missouri River below the dam. Walleye fishing was great as in past years. No trouble getting my limit up near the dam in the tail waters. Look forward to coming out this September or October to bird hunt and fish. Best fishing anywhere.

ID: 2372

Too many regs. Each year game laws increase.

ID: 2374

I started bow fishing in 1980 for rough fish. Mostly carp and buffalo. In 1987 I began bow fishing for salmon. Since that time I mostly concentrated on salmon fishing. I really couldn't see the need for a separate permit to bow fish for game fish. I never figured I could bow fish and hook and line fish at the same time. Fishing is fishing and the limits apply whichever way I fish.

ID: 2376

Open some lakes near the SD & MN border.