

2025 PADDLEFISH



APPLICATION DEADLINE

- Lake Francis Case Paddlefish February 10, 2025, 8 a.m. CST
- Gavins Point Dam Paddlefish Archery.....April 2, 2025, 8 a.m. CDT
- Gavins Point Dam Paddlefish Snagging..... May 13, 2025, 8 a.m. CDT

NOTE: All applications must be submitted online.

APPLY ONLINE: gfp.sd.gov

Online application is required. Visit gfp.sd.gov, click the “Licenses” link, then “Purchase License.” From there, the system walks you through step by step. If you do not already have an account, you will be required to create one. You will begin by selecting a season and your first-choice unit. Please note that you are required to provide a credit or debit card number to finish the transaction. Upon completion and submission of your application, you are placed directly into the drawing for the unit you selected. Preference points are automatically included if you possess preference points from previous years.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Drawing Statistics Now Available: Applicants may access past drawing results online at gfp.sd.gov. Past drawing information will be available from the 2024 seasons and 2025 information will be available once the drawing is complete.

Residency

To apply for a resident license, a person must:

- Have a domicile (person’s established, fixed, and permanent home in which the person physically leaves and, whenever absent, has the present intention of returning) within South Dakota for at least 90 consecutive days immediately preceding the date of application for, purchasing, or attempting to purchase any hunting, fishing, or trapping license/permit; and
- Make no claim of residency in any other state or foreign country for any purpose; and
- Claim no resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in any other state or foreign country; and
- Prior to any application for any license, transfer to SD the person’s driver’s license and motor vehicle registrations.
- Documentation showing a mailing address, ownership of a property or business, or employment in the state is not sufficient by itself to prove that a person has a domicile in or is a resident of this state.

EXCEPTION: The following persons are eligible for resident licenses:

- Any person who previously had a domicile in SD who is absent due to business of the United States or SD, or is serving in the armed forces of the US or the spouse of an active duty military person;
- Any person who previously had a domicile in SD who is absent due to the person’s regular attendance at a post-high school institution as a full-time student; or is in medical or dental school residency;
- Any person in the active military of the US or that person’s spouse who is continuously stationed in SD;
- Any person who is a patient in any war veterans’ hospital within SD;
- Any person who is an employee of the veterans’ administration or any veterans’ hospital in SD;
- Any person residing on restricted military reservations in SD;
- Any person attending regularly a post-high school institution in SD as a full-time student for 30 days or more immediately preceding the application;
- Any foreign exchange student over 16 years of age attending a public or private high school who has resided in the state for 30 days or more preceding the application;
- Any person who is a minor dependent of a resident of SD.

Termination of Residency

A person (*other than a person who fits into one of the previous EXCEPTIONS*) is deemed to have terminated their South Dakota resident hunting, fishing, and trapping status if the person does any of the following:

- Applies for, purchases, or accepts a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license issued by another state or foreign country;

- Registers to vote in another state or foreign country;
- Accepts a driver’s license issued by another state or foreign country;
- Moves to any other state or foreign country and makes it the person’s domicile or makes any claim of residency for any purpose in the other state or foreign country.
- Resides in any other state, territory, or country for an aggregate of 180 more days in a calendar year.

However, a person who has lawfully acquired a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license and who leaves the state after acquiring the license to take up residency elsewhere may continue to exercise all the privileges granted by the license until the license expires if the person’s respective privileges are not revoked or suspended.

Social Security Number

The last four digits of your Social Security Number are required. The Social Security Number information is required from all U.S. residents before this application will be processed [SDCL 25-7A-56.2]. This information will be kept confidential. The information is required to be in compliance with state law on collection of delinquent child support payments.

South Dakota law prohibits the issuance or renewal of any hunting or fishing license if an individual owes \$1,000 or more in past due child support unless the individual enters into a repayment agreement with the Dept. of Social Services for payment of the delinquent child support [SDCL 25-7A-56; 25-7A-1(28)]. There is a requirement to enter into a repayment agreement with the Dept. of Social Services even if the individual is presently making child support payments, or if child support is being withheld from wages or income. To enter into the required repayment agreement, individuals must contact the Dept. of Social Services, Division of Child Support, 700 Governor’s Drive - Kneip Building, Pierre SD 57501, or call 605-773-6456.

Age Eligibility

There is no age restriction on applicants for paddlefish seasons and no hunter safety requirement.

Fees

Online payment for applications must be made with a valid credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express). Your credit/debit card will not be charged until, and only if you are successful in the drawing or selected to purchase a preference point and unsuccessful. Non-payment in the form of a cancelled/invalid credit/debit card will result in your license being withheld and the blocking of any future license purchases until the unpaid fee, along with any penalties, is paid in full.

Application Rules

- You may submit only one application per season for the first drawing and receive no more than one license. See “Application Deadlines” for rules allowing additional licenses.
- Licenses may not be transferred to another person.

Group Applications

- No more than six applications may be submitted in the same group.
- Applicants with preference points should be aware that applying with applicants with fewer preference points gives all applicants the lowest point balance represented in the group.
- Residents and nonresidents may apply together in the same group in seasons where nonresidents are eligible to apply. Either all in the group will be drawn successful or all will be unsuccessful. It should be noted that in most instances, residents who apply with nonresidents will have a diminished chance of drawing a first-choice license.

Submitting Applications

Applications must be submitted online. If you do not have internet access, you can apply by calling 605.233.7660, or by visiting any GFP Wildlife Division office. Mailed-in applications will NOT be accepted.

Successful Applicants

Successful applicants' credit/debit cards will only be charged at the time of the draw. Licenses are selected at random by computer lottery.

Unsuccessful Applicants

Unsuccessful applicants will not be charged a license fee, unless there is a Habitat Stamp required or a preference point purchase.

Preference Points

Seasons with a limited number of licenses have a preference point system for applicants who are unsuccessful on their first choice, in the first drawing (\$5 resident, \$20 nonresident) and select that option during the application process. One preference point may be purchased each year the applicant is unsuccessful. Purchased preference points are automatically credited to an application even if you do not apply the following year. Preference points cannot be transferred to another person. Preference point use is required for the first choice of the first draw. Preference point use is optional in subsequent draws. There is no minimum age to obtain preference points.

If you have any questions about your preference points, please contact the GFP License Office at 605.223.7660.

SEASON APPLICATION INFORMATION

When applying, an applicant must select the season, unit, and license type. These designations apply to both resident and nonresident licenses.

LAKE FRANCIS CASE PADDLEFISH SEASON - SNAGGING AND ARCHERY

Season Dates: May 1-31

Methods: Snagging or Archery

License Eligibility: South Dakota Residents Only

Individual License Quota: Anglers may possess two paddlefish licenses and tags for this season, but the second license/tag may only be obtained in the second drawing, if there is one.

License Fee: \$30

Group Number Maximum: Six Applicants

License Requirement: Successful resident applicants age 18 and over must have a valid 2025 South Dakota fishing license to participate in this season. Those under age 18 who are successful in drawing a paddlefish license do not need a general fishing license.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: _____

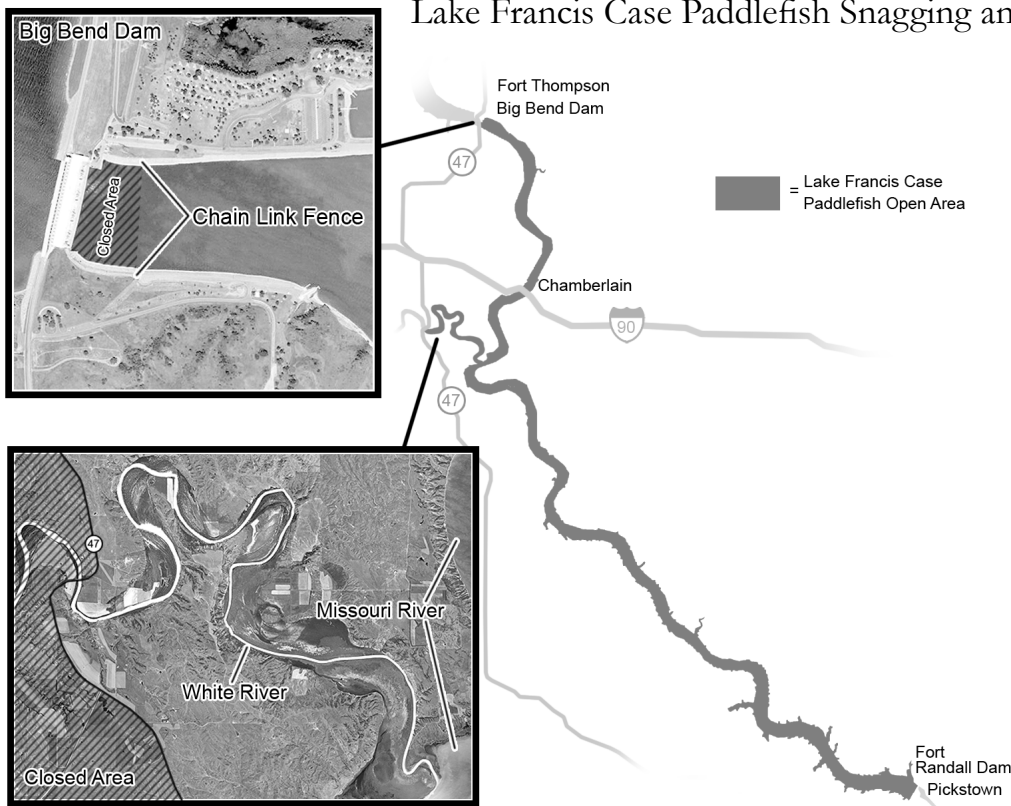
Applications must be submitted online by 8 a.m. Central Time on Monday, Feb. 10. Applicants may submit one application. Results available online by Feb. 21.

SEASON/UNIT/TYPE CHOICES: _____

SFC-RG1-75: Fishing Area: Lake Francis Case and White River east of the Highway 47 bridge. Exception: No paddlefish snagging or archery from the face of Big Bend Dam to the chain link fence approximately 350 yards from the face of the dam.

500 Resident licenses (\$30)

Lake Francis Case Paddlefish Snagging and Archery Open Area



GAVINS POINT DAM - ARCHERY

Season Dates: June 1-June 30.

License Eligibility: Residents and nonresidents can apply.

Individual License Quota: Anglers may possess two Gavins Point Dam archery paddlefish licenses and tags, but the second license may only be obtained in the second drawing, if there is one.

License Fee: Resident: \$30, Nonresident: \$50

Group Number Maximum: Six Applicants

License Requirement: Successful resident applicants age 18 and over, and successful nonresident applicants age 18 and over, must have a valid 2025 South Dakota fishing license to participate in this season. However, Nebraska residents who have a valid Nebraska fishing license or who are legally exempt from a fishing license do not need to purchase a nonresident SD fishing license. Fishing licenses can be obtained from GFP's online licensing system or license agents. Applicants do not need to complete the hunter or bowhunter certification to apply for this season.

Boats launched from any Nebraska boat ramp, including the North Tailrace ramp below Gavins Dam, need to have a Nebraska Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) stamp affixed to the starboard (right) rearward side of the boat. Boats launched from South Dakota boat ramps do not need the AIS stamp to access SD/NE border waters. For more information visit: outdoornebraska.gov/permits/fishing-permits/ais-stamp

APPLICATION DEADLINE: _____

Applications must be submitted online by 8 a.m. Central Time on Wednesday, April 2. Applicants may submit one application. Results available online by Thursday, April 17.

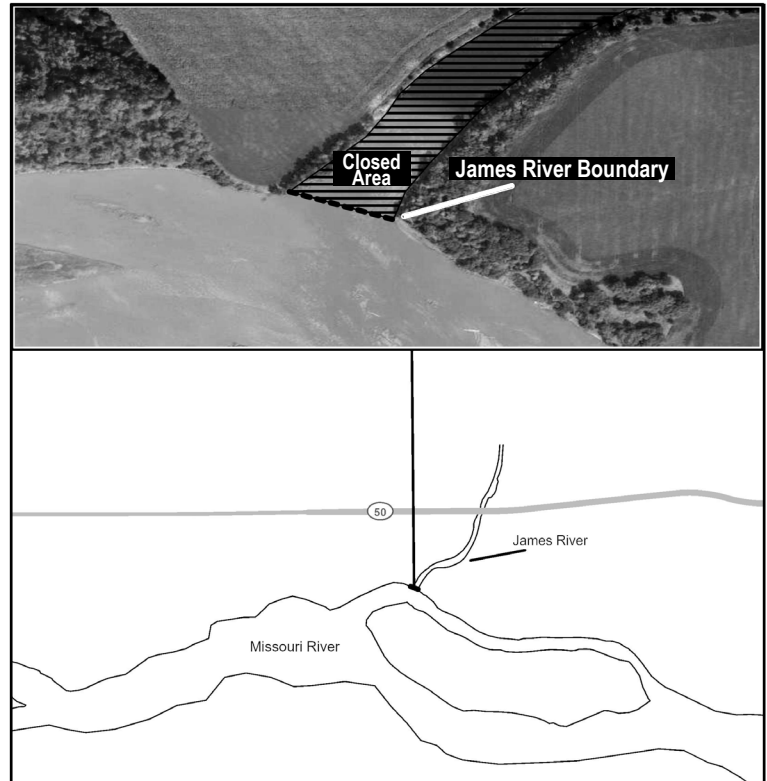
SEASON-UNIT-TYPE CHOICES: _____

APF-RG2- Fishing Area: The Missouri River from Gavins Point Dam downstream to the mouth of the Big Sioux River and on the Big Sioux River from the I-29 bridge to the confluence of the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers. All other tributaries are not included. Closed area extends downstream from Gavins Point Dam to a line that extends from the east end of the south bank cement wall of the discharge channel northwest to the east end of the chalk point. Additionally, Paddlefish archery off the north wall of the stilling basin is prohibited. *Additional area may be closed to boating by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers based on operation of the spillway.*

NOTE: Nonresidents wishing to archery fish paddlefish in the Missouri River within the area from the Gavins Point Dam to approximately 0.6 miles downstream must have a nonresident paddlefish license/tag issued by the state of Nebraska. South Dakota nonresident tags are only valid for the Missouri River downstream from the point approximately 0.6 miles below Gavins Point Dam to the mouth of the Big Sioux River (mile marker 734) and on the Big Sioux River from the I-29 bridge to the confluence of the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers.

75: 255 Resident licenses (\$30); 20 Nonresident licenses (\$50)

James River - Closed Area



GAVINS POINT DAM - SNAGGING

Season Dates: Oct. 1-31.

License Eligibility: Residents and nonresidents can apply.

Individual License Quota: Anglers may possess two Gavins Point Dam paddlefish snagging licenses and tags, but the second license may only be obtained in the second drawing, if there is one.

License Fee: Resident: \$30, Nonresident: \$50

Group Number Maximum: Six Applicants

License Requirement: Successful resident applicants age 18 and over, and successful nonresident applicants age 18 and over, must have a valid 2025 South Dakota fishing license to participate in this season. However, Nebraska residents who have a valid Nebraska fishing license or who are legally exempt from a fishing license do not need to purchase a nonresident SD fishing license. Fishing licenses can be obtained from GFP's online licensing system (license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com) or license agents.

Boats launched from any Nebraska boat ramp, including the North Tailrace ramp below Gavins Dam, need to have a Nebraska Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) stamp affixed to the starboard (right) rearward side of the boat. Boats launched from South Dakota boat ramps do not need the AIS stamp to access SD/NE border waters. For more information visit: outdoornebraska.gov/permits/fishing-permits/aix-stamp

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Applications must be submitted online by 8 a.m. Central Time on Tuesday, May 13. Applicants may submit one application. Results available online by Tuesday, May 27.

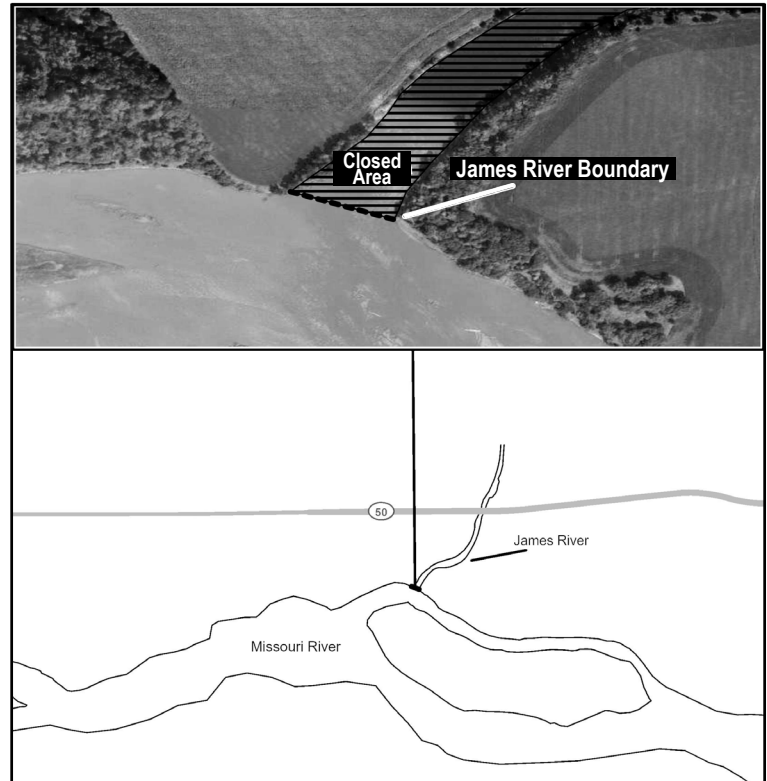
SEASON - UNIT - TYPE CHOICES:

SPF-RG3- Fishing Area: The Missouri River from the Gavins Point Dam downstream to the mouth of the Big Sioux River and on the Big Sioux River from the I-29 bridge to the confluence of the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers. All other tributaries are not included. *Additional area may be closed to boating by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers based on operation of the spillway.*

NOTE: Nonresidents wishing to snag paddlefish in the Missouri River within the area from the Gavins Point Dam to approximately 0.6 miles downstream must have a nonresident paddlefish license/tag issued by the state of Nebraska. South Dakota nonresident tags are only valid for the Missouri River downstream from the point approximately 0.6 miles below Gavins Point Dam to the mouth of the Big Sioux River (mile marker 734) and on the Big Sioux River from the I-29 bridge to the confluence of the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers.

75: 1,550 Resident licenses (\$30); 50 Nonresident licenses (\$50)

James River - Closed Area



CONTACT US

GFP LICENSING OFFICE

20641 SD Hwy 1806

Fort Pierre, SD 57532

605.223.7660 | TTY: 605.223.7684

Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

gfp.sd.gov