

2026 PADDLEFISH



| Draw | Application Opens | Application Closes | Results Available |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Lake Francis Case | 01/13/2026 | 02/10/2026, 08:00 AM CDT | 02/13/2026 |
| Gavins Point Dam - Archery | 02/12/2026 | 03/05/2026, 08:00 AM CDT | 03/06/2026 |
| Gavins Point Dam - Snagging | 04/13/2026 | 05/12/2026, 08:00 AM CDT | 05/14/2026 |

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

| Unit | Type | Season Dates | Resident | Nonresident |
|---|------|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| RG1 <i>Lake Francis Case Paddlefish</i> | 75 | May 1-31, 2026 | 500 | 0 |
| RG2 <i>Gavins Point Dam Paddlefish - Archery</i> | 75 | June 1-30, 2026 | 255 | 20 |
| RG3 <i>Gavins Point Dam Paddlefish - Snagging</i> | 75 | October 1-31, 2026 | 1,550 | 50 |

DRAW GUIDELINES

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

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.

Group Number Maximum: Six (6) applicants

License Requirement: Successful applicants age 18 and over must have a valid 2026 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. Applicants do not need to complete the hunter or bowhunter certification to apply for these seasons.

Gavins Point Dam only - 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. 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:

outdoornebraska.gov/aisstamp

FEE SCHEDULE

| License Types | Resident | Nonresident |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|
| 75 - one paddlefish | \$30 | \$50 |

RETURN POLICY (NEW FOR 2026)

Francis Case and Archery Deadline: April 01, 2026

Gavins Point Deadline: August 01, 2026

Fee: \$10 - Residents | \$30 - Nonresidents

A fee will be assessed if a customer returns their license and they are not eligible for subsequent draws for that respective season.

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

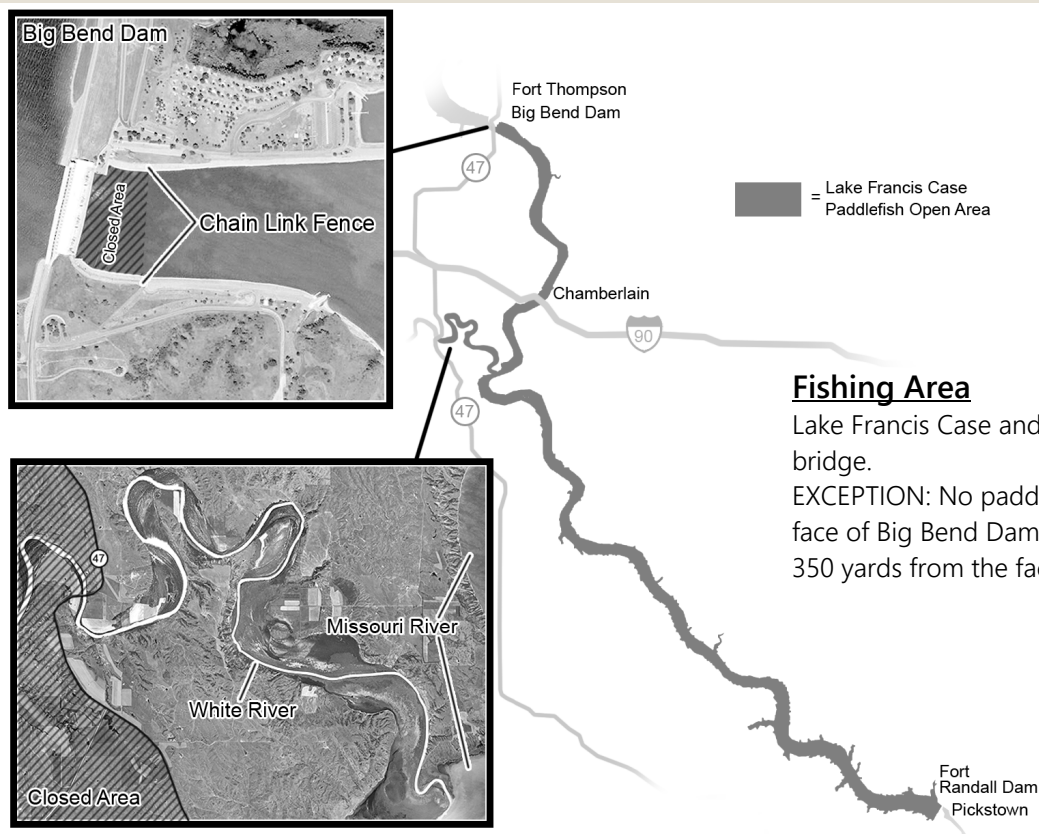
Visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/hunt-fish-license/> to view application information, residency and age requirements, landowner preference, preference points, and license fee explanations.

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.

NOTE: All applications must be submitted [online](#).

LAKE FRANCIS CASE - SNAGGING AND ARCHERY



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.

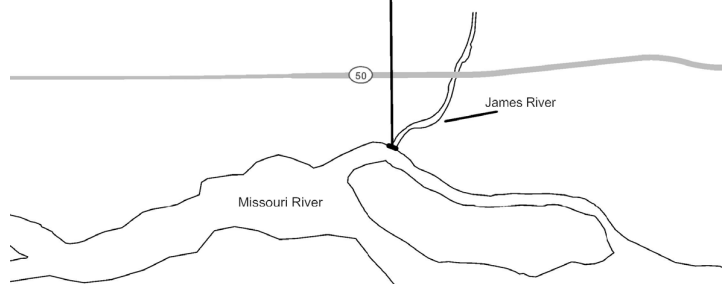
GAVINS POINT DAM - SNAGGING AND ARCHERY



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 or 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.



James River - Closed Area