

2019-2023 GFP FISHERIES

MISSOURI RIVER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

WHY IS A FISHERIES PLAN NEEDED?

Outlining management priorities with a strategic plan is a way to optimize use of limited resources (staff, money, facilities and equipment) by prioritizing how these resources are used to best meet fisheries management needs.

The purpose of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Adaptive Management System is to guide fisheries and aquatic resource management based on the mission of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. This Missouri River Fisheries Management Plan is a dynamic tool addressing the issues, challenges, and opportunities in managing fisheries and aquatic resources along the Missouri River corridor and in the four mainstem Missouri River Reservoirs in South Dakota.

This plan begins with an Inventory section, which describes the resources present in this management area and is divided into three categories: People, Fish and Habitat. Following the Inventory section are the four reservoir/reach specific plans. Each of these sub-plans includes an Issues section, which lists the current fisheries management issues for that reservoir or reach.

Lastly, each of the four sub-plans contains a number of measurable objectives and strategies for staff to implement. Actions to accomplish the priorities of both the Department plan and numerous Aquatics plans are incorporated into annual work plans.

1. LOW LAKE ELEVATION AND SEDIMENTATION AT BUSH'S LANDING ON LAKE OAHE
2. ANNUAL PADDLEFISH STOCKINGS OCCUR ON LAKES SHARPE AND FRANCIS CASE
3. WALLEYE JAW TAG IN USE ON LAKES OAHE AND SHARPE FOR RESEARCH
4. ZEBRA MUSSELS MAY COMPLICATE FISH MANAGEMENT IN LEWIS & CLARK LAKE.



DEPARTMENT MISSION

We provide sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries, and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardship, and safely connecting people with the outdoors.

ISSUE EXAMPLES

1. **Oahe:** Shore fishing and ADA access areas are limited.
2. **Oahe:** Walleye reproduction and recruitment may be negatively impacted by many factors.
3. **Sharpe:** Sedimentation and high use necessitate boat ramp improvements and maintenance.
4. **Sharpe:** A better understanding of walleye population dynamics and movement is needed.
5. **Francis Case:** The effects of walleye regulations on the population need to be investigated.
6. **Francis Case:** Annual fall drawdown may be impacting vegetation and invertebrate production.
7. **Randall/Lewis & Clark/Lower Missouri:** The influence of runoff and river flows on factors affecting walleye recruitment is unknown.
8. **Randall/Lewis & Clark/Lower Missouri:** Habitat use and movement patterns of walleye are unknown and may be impacting management.

HIGHEST PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

1. Evaluation of new creel survey methodologies.
2. Evaluation of walleye stockings and recruitment (*Lake Oahe and Lewis and Clark Lake*).
3. Enhancement of access sites near population centers.
4. Complete research projects on prey and sport fish.
5. Quantification of walleye movement and entrainment.

