

2019-2023 GFP FISHERIES NORTHEAST FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

WHY IS A FISHERIES PLAN NEEDED?

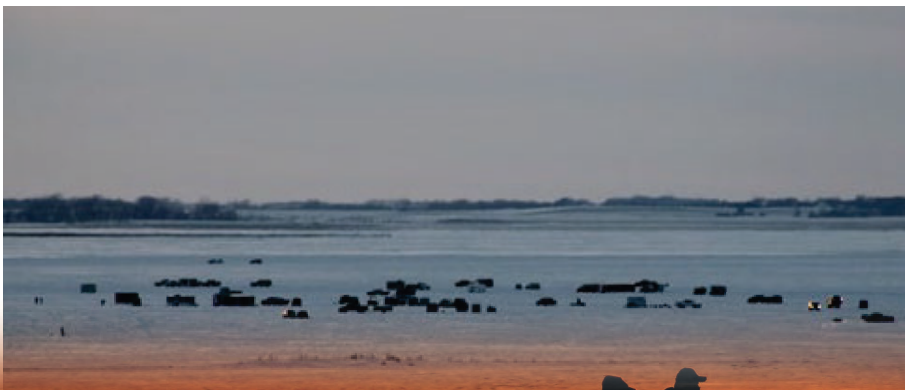
Outlining management priorities with a strategic plan is a way to optimize use of limited resources (staff, money, facilities and equipment) by prioritizing how these resources are used to best meet fisheries management needs.

Management issues and objectives identified for the northern portion of the East River Fisheries Management Area will guide staff working with fisheries and aquatic resources in that part of the state during 2019 to 2023. The plan is a dynamic tool with a goal of maintaining and improving fisheries in northeast South Dakota to provide anglers with quality fishing experiences.

The plan is important because in excess of 150,000 surface acres of water are actively managed for sport fish in northeast South Dakota. These waters provide anglers with a diversity of angling opportunities. Angler use of aquatic resources within the region generates a substantial economic impact.

In the plan an Inventory section provides an overview of aquatic habitat (available and habitat projects), fish (species, stocking, surveys, research, aquatic invasive species, fish consumption advisories) and people (demographics, regulations, preferences, access, other management entities) in northeast South Dakota.

Management issues that currently affect northeast South Dakota aquatic resources are identified. A series of objectives along with strategies for moving towards measurable outcomes are provided in the plan.



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. An understanding of bluegill population dynamics is lacking.
2. Information on stream and river fisheries is scarce.
3. Walleye recruitment and growth have declined in many lakes.
4. Effective stocking strategies are needed for community-based fisheries.
5. Shoreline habitat is continually being lost due to development.
6. There is a high likelihood of an unwanted AIS introduction.
7. Fishing access and amenities are limited on a number of waters.
8. Shore fishing opportunities are limited.

HIGHEST PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

1. Evaluate alternative methods to assess walleye recruitment.
2. Evaluate bluegill population dynamics to refine current management strategies.
3. Conduct angler use and harvest surveys at community-based fisheries.
4. Enhance shore fishing opportunities.
5. Implement habitat projects to protect and enhance aquatic habitats.
6. Conduct research directed at improving walleye growth and recruitment.