



# SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

DECEMBER 7-8, 2023 | AMERICINN | FORT PIERRE, SD

**Call Meeting to Order (1 pm CST / 12 pm MT)**

## Division of Administration

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### Action Items

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. 2024 Legislative Items Update
5. Commission 2024 Schedule

### Informational Items

6. Go Outdoors Update
7. New Staff Introductions

## Open Forum – 2 pm CST / 1 pm MT

*The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment on petitions, proposals, and other items of interest not on the agenda.*

## Division of Parks and Recreation

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### Action Items

8. BOR Cabin/Trailer Rates for Shadehill and Angostura

### Informational Items

9. CY24 Parks Division Marketing Plan
10. Custer State Park Resort Repair and Maintenance Fund Expenditure Plan
11. Custer State Park Buffalo Sales and Auction Update
12. November Monthly Reports: Camping Units and Revenue

## Division of Wildlife

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### Informational Items

13. Statewide Fish Management Plan Revision
14. Black Hills Beaver Survey
15. River Otter Season Summary
16. Oahe Walleye Fishing Update
17. Aquatic Invasive Species End of Year Report
18. Deer Fall Classification Results
19. Private Lands Habitat Program Year in Review
20. Hunting Season Report & License Sales Update

## Solicitation of Agenda Items

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*Now is the time to submit agenda items for the Commission to consider at a following Commission Meeting.*

## Adjourn

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*Next meeting will be held on January 11-12, 2024, in Pierre, South Dakota.*

# GFP Commission Meeting Minutes

Prairie Shores Resort & Event Center | Madison, SD | November 2, 2023

## Call Meeting to Order

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm CST at the Prairie Shores Resort and Event Center near Madison, South Dakota, on November 2, 2023. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Julie Bartling, Jim White, Robert Whitmyre, Jon Locken, and Bruce Cull were present. With six commission members present, a quorum was established. The public and staff can listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with approximately 58 total participants attending via Zoom or in person.

### 1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure [Action Item]

Chair Rissler requested the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest, but none were brought forward.

### 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes [Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for any additions or corrections to the regular minutes of October 2023 meeting. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY CULL TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2023 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Additional Salary Days [Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for additional salary days from the Commissioners. None brought forward.

### 4. 2024 Commission Meeting Calendar Approval [Action Item]

Secretary Robling brought forth the proposed 2024 commission meeting schedule from the Department.

Discussion was held on adding Yankton to the schedule for the 2024 commission meetings. Secretary Robling offered to bring the schedule back to the Commission at the December meeting with the addition of the Yankton location.

### 5. South Dakota GoOutdoors Update [Info Item]

Keith Fisk, Licensing Program Administrator, gave an update on the South Dakota GoOutdoors licensing system.

### 6. New Staff Introduction [Info Item]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Parks & Recreation Director, and Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Director introduced several new staff throughout the department to the Commissioners.

## Open Forum

Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Director, opened the floor at 2:08 pm CST for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda not as a finalization or may not be on the agenda.

- 2:09 pm: Rosie Smith representing Glacial Lakes and Prairie Tourism testified virtually in opposition to the non-resident one-day fishing license.

Director Kirschenmann closed the Open Forum at 2:11 pm CST.

### 7. Nonresident Archery Deer Whitetail Only [Petition]

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann provided information to the Commission on the petition submitted by Jarred Burleson from Lead, SD requesting nonresident archery licenses to be switched from Any Deer to Any Whitetail Deer in an effort to help bolster mule deer numbers. Kirschenmann discussed conversations the

# GFP Commission Meeting Minutes

Prairie Shores Resort & Event Center | Madison, SD | November 2, 2023

Commission has held over the past few years, the action taken last year to change the nonresident archery license structure, and how this change would only impact a few deer. The department recommendation was to deny as this will be discussed over the next year as the deer management plan is revised.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO DENY PETITION #205 WHICH CHANGE ARCHERY LICENSES FROM ANY DEER TO WHITTAIL DEER ONLY. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-32 WHICH DENIES PETITION #205. Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. Lake Byron Land Exchange** [Action Item]

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, provided a summary of 0.21 acres of Parks Division Land at Lake Byron in Beadle County and 61 acres of Kurkowski property in Day County was shared with the commission. The exchange process of these two properties was also shared and the commission was asked to act and adopt Resolution 23-31.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY WHITE TO APPROVE THE LAKE BYRON LAND EXCHANGE BY ADOPTING RESOLUTION 23-31. Motion carried unanimously.

## **9. LWCF and RTP Final Project List** [Info Item]

Randy Kittle, Grants Coordinator, presented two handouts with the 2024 approved grants. List of local grant recipients and award amounts were provided for each program.

## **10. October Monthly Reports – Parks Camping Units and Revenue** [Info Item]

Parks & Recreation Director Jeff VanMeeteren gave the commission a quick overview of the November reports indicating that YTD PEL sales remain strong at 2% over last year while camping remains slightly down due to the late spring or slow start that most parks could not overcome. A bright spot has been the lodging units with rental use exceeding last year's numbers. Given the freezing temperatures throughout the state park staff are currently winterizing many of the facilities.

## **11. Nonresident One-Day Fishing Licenses** [Action Item]

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann reviewed the background and the on-going conversations around the nonresident one-day fishing license. Kirschenmann described additional comments have been shared by the tourism industry, guiding industry, and individual with many of the expressing the desire to retain a one-day fishing option. After receiving more public comment, including an in-person meeting with a tourism group from Pierre, the one aspect that is of high consideration for retaining a one-day license is for those individuals or families that may be visiting and want to include a day of fishing. Based on all the input, the department suggested to the commission a consideration to table the topic for now and conduct some additional alternatives, in particular the concept of incorporating a limitation on the number of one-day nonresident fishing licenses one person could buy in a given year. The Commission agreed that alternative should be given additional thought and asked the department to conduct additional analysis and bring this back for further discussion in the spring.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

## **12. Bighorn Sheep Action Plan** [Action Item]

Andrew Norton, Senior Big Game Biologist, brought the proposed Bighorn Sheep Action Plan before the commission. The only change to the plan was a reduction in the minimum count of total sheep in a herd from 75 to 50 in order to recommend per hunting season. Hunting season recommendations usually are to harvest 10% of the adult rams, but those recommendations can be adjusted depending on other factors including disease. Respiratory disease resulting in pneumonia death continues to be the biggest threat to

# GFP Commission Meeting Minutes

Prairie Shores Resort & Event Center | Madison, SD | November 2, 2023

bighorn sheep herds, but a capture, test and remove procedure developed in the Black Hills has proven very effective in mitigating the disease.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITE TO ADOPT THE BIGHORN SHEEP ACTION PLAN. Motion carried unanimously.

## **13. Oahe Smallmouth Bass – Walleye Interactions** [Info Item]

Mark Fincel, Fisheries Supervisor, presented virtually the findings of a study aimed at estimating the post-stocking consumption of Walleye eggs (WAE) by Smallmouth Bass (SMB) in Lake Oahe. The need for this investigation arose from the introduction of new WAE stocking in the lake. The study, conducted in 2019 and 2021, involved intensive sampling and modeling efforts to determine the extent to which SMB were consuming the stocked WAE. The results revealed that SMB do indeed consume stocked WAE, and the level of consumption varies, with as many as approximately 27,000 WAE being consumed in a bay during a given summer. The South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) fisheries staff are utilizing these findings to adjust stocking strategies, aiming to enhance the post-stocking survival of WAE in Lake Oahe.

## **14. Antelope Fall Classification Results** [Info Item]

Andrew Norton, Senior Big Game Biologist, provided a virtual summary of antelope fall herd composition survey data was provided. Fawn to doe ratios (i.e., fall fawn recruitment rates) in September 2023 were nearly back to 10-year averages after well below average fawn recruitment rates in 2021 and 2022. The increase in fawn recruitment rates was expected because of good precipitation the preceding winter and spring resulting in an improvement of fawn hiding cover.

## **15. R3 Update** [Info Item]

R3 and Relevancy Manager, Shala Larson, updated the commission on recent R3 successes and current projects. Updates included numerous supported hunts that have taken place statewide including a women-focused pheasant hunt with Pheasants Forever, dove hunts, youth deer hunts, and the ever-flourishing Hunting 101 program. Additionally, Larson shared about the IHEA hunting mentorship program, the fish passport with a target date of January 2025, and R3's role in the "Reeling in Memories" 2024 parks theme. Finally, Larson shared that the first ever R3 training video and newsletter was circulated to staff in late summer.

Maggie Lindsey, Education Services coordinator reported on the 2023 Becoming an outdoor Woman Event: Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) is a national education program that teaches beginning hands on outdoor skills to adult women in a non-threatening environment. South Dakota holds one even a year that is attended by 80 to 100 women and taught by 35-40 instructors. The event is planned and put together by a committee of staff and volunteers. Instructors are also staff and volunteers who are excellent teachers in their field. The event follows the 1/3 rule of 1/3 of the classes being hunting/shooting related, 1/3 fishing related, and 1/3 Other outdoor skills. The event offers four half-day class sessions over the course of two and half days. 47% of participants have a current hunting and/or fishing license.

## **16. Avian Influenza Update** [Info Item]

Chad Switzer, Deputy Wildlife Director, provided an avian influenza update. Disease overview, history, public health and safety, and detections in wild birds and backyard/commercial flocks was presented. Reports and confirmations of wild birds this fall have been limited, with several confirmations of the disease detected in commercial turkey operations. GFP is working closely with South Dakota Animal Industry Board, commercial turkey operators, and USDA Wildlife Services in disease surveillance and harassment of migrating birds near commercial facilities.

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## **17. Pheasant Season Report and License Sales Update**

[Info Item]

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann provided a quick update on license sales with a focus on nonresident small game licenses. Sales are strong through the opening weekend; up about 14% compared to opening weekend of 2022. Considering 30 days prior to opening weekend to date sales are also up about the same. Should weather conditions remain favorable it is anticipated that license sales will remain strong.

## **Adjourn**

[Action Item]

Next meeting is scheduled for December 7-8, 2023, at the AmericInn in Fort Pierre, South Dakota.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY WHITE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT XXXX PM CST. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary



# COMMISSION MEETINGS 2024

**JAN**    **PIERRE**  
**11 - 12**    MATTHEWS TRAINING CENTER

**JUL**    **ST. LOUIS**  
**11 - 12**    GOOD EARTH STATE PARK

**FEB**    **NO MEETING**

**AUG**    **STATEWIDE TOURS**

**MAR**    **PIERRE**  
**7 - 8**    MISSOURI AVENUE EVENTS CENTER

**SEPT**    **HURON**  
**5 - 6**    HURON EVENT CENTER

**APR**    **PIERRE**  
**4 - 5**    MATTHEWS TRAINING CENTER

**OCT**    **RAPID CITY**  
**3 - 4**    OUTDOOR CAMPUS WEST

**MAY**    **CUSTER STATE PARK**  
**2 - 3**    EVENT BARN

**NOV**    **PIERRE**  
**7 - 8**    CAPITOL BUILDING - ROOM 414

**JUN**    **YANKTON**  
**6 - 7**    NFAA EASTON YANKTON ARCHERY CENTER

**DEC**    **PIERRE**  
**5 - 6**    CAPITOL BUILDING - ROOM 414

**For more details or previous meeting archives,  
visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/>**

*\*All dates and locations subject to change with 30 days prior notice.*

## Proposed 2024 Rate Schedule Angostura and Shadehill Cabins and Trailers

Adjusted in accordance with the Bureau of Reclamation Construction  
 Cost Trends - South Dakota Land Index  
 5-Year Average (5.4%)

Angostura			
Number of Units	32		
2023 rate		\$	2,670.00
	Revenue	\$	85,440.00
<b>2024 rate (5.4%)</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>2,815.00</b>
	Revenue	\$	90,080.00
<b>2025 rate (5.4%)</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>2,970.00</b>
	Revenue	\$	95,040.00

Shadehill			
Number of Units	47		
2023 rate		\$	2,335.00
	Revenue	\$	109,745.00
<b>2024 rate (5.4%)</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>2,465.00</b>
	Revenue	\$	115,855.00
<b>2025 rate (5.4%)</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>2,600.00</b>
	Revenue	\$	122,200.00
<b>2026 rate (5.4%)</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>2,740.00</b>
	Revenue	\$	128,780.00
<b>2027 rate (5.4%)</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>2,890.00</b>
	Revenue	\$	135,830.00



# SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

November 28, 2023

[Redacted address block]

Dear [Redacted],

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is requiring the permit fee for your Cabin permit for Lot [Redacted] at Angostura Recreation Area to be adjusted in accordance with the Bureau of Reclamation Construction Cost Trends Land Index for South Dakota. The Index indicates an increase of 17% from 2023, which would result in a 2024 permit fee of \$3,125.00 if implemented as requested by BOR.

To stabilize the fee structure for the permittees, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) proposes to adjust the rate for the remainder of the current permit term based on the current 5-year index average of 5.4%. Although required by the BOR, this change requires the GFP Commission's approval. Below is the proposed rate schedule being considered at their next meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Fort Pierre.

2023 rate	\$	2,670.00
2024 rate (5.4%)	\$	2,815.00
2025 rate (5.4%)	\$	2,970.00

A new rate schedule will be established by the BOR at the beginning of the following 5-year permit term.

If you would like to provide comment to the GFP Commission on this matter, you can do so in person or by remote attendance at the meeting. Comments can also be provided online at the following page on the GFP website: <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>.

Sincerely,

Sean Blanchette  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD, 57501  
605.773.3391 | [Sean.Blanchette@state.sd.us](mailto:Sean.Blanchette@state.sd.us)







# SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

November 28, 2023

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted],

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is requiring the permit fee for your Cabin/Trailer permit for Lot [Redacted] at Shadehill Recreation Area to be adjusted in accordance with the Bureau of Reclamation Construction Cost Trends Land Index for South Dakota. The Index indicates an increase of 17% from 2023, which would result in a 2024 permit fee of \$2,735.00 if implemented as requested by BOR.

To stabilize the fee structure for the permittees, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) proposes to adjust the rate for the remainder of the current permit term based on the current 5-year index average of 5.4%. Although required by the BOR, this change requires the GFP Commission's approval. Below is the proposed rate schedule being considered at their next meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Fort Pierre.

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2025 rate (5.4%)	\$	2,600.00
2026 rate (5.4%)	\$	2,740.00
2027 rate (5.4%)	\$	2,890.00

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Sincerely,

Sean Blanchette  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD, 57501  
605.773.3391 | [Sean.Blanchette@state.sd.us](mailto:Sean.Blanchette@state.sd.us)



<b>Completed</b>		
<b>Custer State Park Resort</b>		
<b>FYE 2023 R &amp; M Projects</b>		<b>2023 Expenditures</b>
<b>STATE GAME LODGE</b>		
Cabin Renovations	\$	176,254.49
Dorm Renovations Flooring managers Dorm	\$	18,388.53
Roof Replacement SGL Campus	\$	134,900.00
Replace Hardwood Floor in Dining Room	\$	25,283.36
<u>Emergency Funds:</u>	\$	105,991.54
<i>HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Building Repairs, Communications</i>		
<b>STATE GAME LODGE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>460,817.92</b>
<b>LEGION LAKE LODGE</b>		
Roof Replacement	\$	26,500.00
Employee Housing	\$	46,274.06
<u>Emergency Funds:</u>	\$	9,655.31
<i>HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Building Repairs, Communications</i>		
<b>LEGION LAKE LODGE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>82,429.37</b>
<b>BLUE BELL LODGE</b>		
Cabin, Store and Stable Roof Replacement	\$	64,000.00
Stain Cabins / Log Replacement / Chinking	\$	75,867.48
Exterior Maintenance Door Replacement (5)	\$	5,679.11
Lodge Diningroom and Bar Refinish Floor	\$	13,860.00
<u>Emergency Funds:</u>	\$	12,081.30
<i>HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Building Repairs, Communications</i>		
<b>BLUE BELL LODGE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>171,487.89</b>
<b>COOLIDGE STORE</b>		
<u>Emergency Funds:</u>	\$	5,737.05
<i>Point of Sale System</i>		
<b>COOLIDGE STORE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,737.05</b>
<b>SYLVAN LAKE LODGE</b>		
Sylvan Landscaping and Fence Siding	\$	27,684.33
Cabin Carpet	\$	14,258.33
Dorm Renovation	\$	11,687.40
Sylvan Lake Interior Renovation	\$	161,277.31
Cabin 502 Interior Renovation	\$	15,767.15
Sylvan Lake Store	\$	14,137.61
Replace Hot Water Heater in Laundry	\$	18,704.24
<u>Emergency Funds:</u>	\$	17,205.44
<i>HVAC, Communications, Plumbing, Building Repairs</i>		
<b>SYLVAN LAKE LODGE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>280,721.81</b>
<b>All Resorts</b>		
PTAC Reserves	\$	17,081.66
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR CSP RESORT</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,018,275.70</b>
Actual 2023 Revenue	\$	19,887,473.25
5% R & M Fee	\$	994,373.66
Carry over from 2022 (actual)	\$	(107,410.01)
<b>Actual balance at end of 2023</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(131,312.05)</b>

**58th Custer State Park Fall Classic Bison Auction**

	% Change in Avg. 2023 to 2022			% Change in Avg. 2022 to 2021			2021 Average
	2023 Actual # Sold	2023 Average	2023 Total \$ Actual	2022 Actual # Sold	2022 Average	2022 Total \$ Actual	
MATURE BRED COWS	37	52%	\$ 1,905.41 \$ 70,500.00	43	-40%	\$ 1,251.16 \$ 53,800.00	\$ 2,088.64
MATURE OPEN COWS	36	17%	\$ 1,408.33 \$ 50,700.00	27	25%	\$ 1,207.41 \$ 32,600.00	\$ 964.77
2 YEAR OLD BRED HEIFERS	11	58%	\$ 2,100.00 \$ 23,100.00	29	-49%	\$ 1,331.03 \$ 38,600.00	\$ 2,600.00
2 YEAR OLD OPEN HEIFERS	16	8%	\$ 1,643.75 \$ 26,300.00	4	16%	\$ 1,525.00 \$ 6,100.00	\$ 1,320.00
YEARLING HEIFERS	46	76%	\$ 1,452.17 \$ 66,800.00	43	3%	\$ 825.58 \$ 35,500.00	\$ 803.13
HEIFER CALVES - LIGHT	92	45%	\$ 690.22 \$ 63,500.00	48	-5%	\$ 475.00 \$ 22,800.00	\$ 499.19
HEIFER CALVES - HEAVY	10	30%	\$ 800.00 \$ 8,000.00	10	-5%	\$ 615.00 \$ 6,150.00	\$ 650.00
BULL CALVES - LIGHT	87	28%	\$ 1,027.01 \$ 89,350.00	112	28%	\$ 800.00 \$ 89,600.00	\$ 625.00
BULL CALVES - HEAVY	91	54%	\$ 1,230.22 \$ 111,950.00	22	-9%	\$ 800.00 \$ 17,600.00	\$ 875.00
CINNAMON CALVES	11	0%	\$ 400.00 \$ 4,400.00	4	NA	\$ 400.00 \$ 1,600.00	\$ -
YEARLING BULLS	54	31%	\$ 1,825.93 \$ 98,600.00	46	15%	\$ 1,391.30 \$ 64,000.00	\$ 1,213.95
2 YR OLD BREEDING BULLS	5	50%	\$ 3,340.00 \$ 16,700.00	10	1%	\$ 2,230.00 \$ 22,300.00	\$ 2,204.55
2 YEAR GRADE BULLS	2	52%	\$ 1,900.00 \$ 3,800.00	1	-7%	\$ 1,250.00 \$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,337.50
MATURE BULLS		NA	\$ - \$ -	0	NA	\$ - \$ -	\$ -
	<b>498</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>\$ 1,272.49 \$ 633,700.00</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>\$ 982.21 \$ 391,900.00</b>	<b>\$968.83</b>

**2023**

Of the 68 registered bidders we had 37 in-person and 31 online

6 online bidders made a purchase

18 on-site bidders made a purchase

Bison went to buyers from South Dakota (13), Wyoming (3), Alabama, California, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Tennessee

Division of Parks and Recreation							
November YTD 2023 Camping by District							
LOCATION	2022	2023	%	LOCATION	2022	2023	%
Pickereel Lake	5,806	5,434	-6%	North Point	10,270	9,454	-8%
Fort Sisseton	1,527	1,800	18%	North Wheeler	1,110	1,140	3%
Roy Lake	8,197	8,087	-1%	Pease Creek	1,972	1,911	-3%
Sica Hollow	274	356	30%	Randall Creek	6,553	6,762	3%
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>	<b>15,804</b>	<b>15,677</b>	<b>-1%</b>	South Shore	412	433	5%
Richmond Lake	1,911	1,853	-3%	South Scalp	102	97	-5%
Mina Lake	3,272	3,322	2%	Whetstone	498	416	-16%
Fisher Grove	1,405	1,379	-2%	White Swan	202	194	-4%
Amsden	185	375	103%	<b>DISTRICT 10</b>	<b>21,119</b>	<b>20,407</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Lake Louise	2,099	2,276	8%	Farm Island	8,235	7,782	-6%
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>	<b>8,872</b>	<b>9,205</b>	<b>4%</b>	West Bend	8,388	7,710	-8%
Pelican Lake	6,345	6,375	0%	<b>DISTRICT 11</b>	<b>16,623</b>	<b>15,492</b>	<b>-7%</b>
Sandy Shore	1,862	2,068	11%	Oahe Downstream	13,814	13,568	-2%
Lake Cochrane	2,213	2,127	-4%	Cow Creek	2,689	2,908	8%
Hartford Beach	6,670	6,832	2%	Okobojo	1,527	1,337	-12%
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>	<b>17,090</b>	<b>17,402</b>	<b>2%</b>	Spring Creek	879	856	-3%
Oakwood Lakes	9,262	9,234	0%	<b>DISTRICT 12</b>	<b>18,909</b>	<b>18,669</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Lake Poinsett	8,540	8,149	-5%	West Whitlock	5,054	4,749	-6%
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>	<b>17,802</b>	<b>17,383</b>	<b>-2%</b>	East Whitlock	59	63	7%
Lake Thompson	7,782	7,830	1%	Swan Creek	679	782	15%
Lake Herman	6,068	6,072	0%	Indian Creek	7,718	7,595	-2%
Walker's Point	3,059	2,979	-3%	Lake Hiddenwood	91	231	154%
Lake Carthage	819	1,032	26%	Walth Bay	23	117	409%
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>	<b>17,728</b>	<b>17,913</b>	<b>1%</b>	West Pollock	871	1,137	31%
Snake Creek	8,484	8,190	-3%	<b>DISTRICT 13</b>	<b>14,495</b>	<b>14,674</b>	<b>1%</b>
Platte Creek	1,605	1,626	1%	Bear Butte	1,582	1,498	-5%
Buryanek	2,833	2,951	4%	<b>DISTRICT 14</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Burke Lake	109	37	-66%	Shadehill	7,306	7,437	2%
Dude Ranch	230	214	-7%	Llewellyn Johns	481	565	17%
Elm Creek	45	56	24%	Rocky Point	6,683	6,813	2%
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>	<b>13,031</b>	<b>12,804</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>DISTRICT 15</b>	<b>14,470</b>	<b>14,815</b>	<b>2%</b>
Palisades	6,153	6,117	-1%	Custer	54,192	55,560	3%
Big Sioux	7,564	7,956	5%	<b>DISTRICT 16</b>	<b>54,192</b>	<b>55,560</b>	<b>3%</b>
Lake Vermillion	11,999	12,283	2%	Angostura	18,255	17,113	-6%
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>	<b>25,716</b>	<b>26,356</b>	<b>2%</b>	Sheps Canyon	1,975	2,120	7%
Newton Hills	11,570	11,083	-4%	<b>DISTRICT 17</b>	<b>20,230</b>	<b>19,233</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Good Earth	-	-		<b>TOTAL YTD</b>	<b>355,447</b>	<b>350,589</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Union Grove	1,420	1,489	5%	<b>TOTAL for Month</b>	<b>1,912</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>	<b>12,990</b>	<b>12,572</b>	<b>-3%</b>				
Lewis & Clark	42,988	40,774	-5%				
Chief White Crane	13,875	12,300	-11%				
Clay County	1,031	1,972	91%				
Pierson Ranch	5,089	4,543	-11%				
Springfield	1,514	1,199	-21%				
Sand Creek	210	77	-63%				
Tabor	87	64	-26%				
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>	<b>64,794</b>	<b>60,929</b>	<b>-6%</b>				

Division of Parks and Recreation					
November Revenue by Item					
	2022		2023		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	Change
Annual	529	\$ 19,044	642	\$ 23,122	21%
2nd Annual	30	\$ 540	38	\$ 684	27%
Combo	576	\$ 31,104	703	\$ 37,970	22%
Transferable	41	\$ 3,280	34	\$ 2,720	-17%
Daily License	1,155	\$ 9,240	1,579	\$ 12,632	37%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	14	\$ 210	45	\$ 675	221%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	83	\$ 1,245	86	\$ 1,290	4%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	336	\$ 1,344	152	\$ 608	-55%
Motorcoach Permit	2,898	\$ 8,694	3,601	\$ 10,803	24%
CSP 7 Day Pass	3,549	\$ 70,980	3,473	\$ 69,460	-2%
CSP 7 Day Bike Pass	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
Rally Bike Band		\$ -		\$ -	
One-Day Special Event		\$ 5,950	0	\$ -	-100%
<b>PERMITS</b>	<b>9,211</b>	<b>\$ 151,631</b>	<b>10,353</b>	<b>\$ 159,964</b>	<b>5%</b>
Camping Services		\$ 148,083		\$ 188,692	27%
Picnic Reservations/ Boat Rentals		\$ 40		\$ 140	250%
Firewood	332	\$ 1,992	267	\$ 1,602	-20%
Gift Card		\$ 1,943		\$ 3,863	99%
Boat Slips		\$ -		\$ -	
<b>LODGING</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>\$ 152,058</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>\$ 194,297</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,543</b>	<b>\$ 303,689</b>	<b>10,620</b>	<b>\$ 354,261</b>	<b>17%</b>

Division of Parks and Recreation					
November YTD 2023 Revenue by Item					
	2022		2023		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	Change
Annual	61,075	\$ 2,198,686	59,850	\$ 2,154,602	-2%
2nd Annual	9,784	\$ 176,112	9,382	\$ 168,880	-4%
Double	35,640	\$ 1,924,578	37,206	\$ 2,009,136	4%
Transferable	2,655	\$ 212,400	2,602	\$ 208,190	-2%
Daily License	105,014	\$ 840,110	110,812	\$ 886,499	6%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	1,227	\$ 18,400	1,036	\$ 15,540	-16%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	5,912	\$ 88,680	6,293	\$ 94,395	6%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	18,629	\$ 74,516	19,346	\$ 77,384	4%
Motorcoach Permit	14,198	\$ 42,594	18,810	\$ 56,430	32%
CSP 7 Day Pass	185,069	\$ 3,701,380	190,116	\$ 3,802,320	3%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	16,389	\$ 327,780	18,894	\$ 377,880	15%
Rally Bike Band	29,558	\$ 591,160	26,233	\$ 524,660	-11%
One-Day Special Event		\$ 7,850		\$ 7,350	-6%
<b>PERMITS</b>	<b>485,149</b>	<b>\$ 10,204,246</b>	<b>500,581</b>	<b>\$ 10,383,266</b>	<b>2%</b>
Camping Services		\$ 13,513,611		\$ 12,709,930	-6%
Picnic Reservations/ Boat Rentals		\$ 11,645		\$ 21,990	89%
Firewood	37,496	\$ 224,976	37,545	\$ 225,272	0%
Gift Card		\$ 11,803		\$ 15,210	29%
Boat Slips		\$ 182,739		\$ 197,494	8%
<b>LODGING</b>	<b>37,496</b>	<b>\$ 13,944,773</b>	<b>37,545</b>	<b>\$ 13,169,897</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>522,645</b>	<b>\$ 24,149,019</b>	<b>538,127</b>	<b>\$ 23,553,163</b>	<b>-2%</b>

# Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Issues and Priorities



## South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Updated January 2024



Adopted by GFP Commission: **January 2024**



## Department Mission

We serve and connect people and families to the outdoors through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries, and wildlife resources.

## Vision

We will conserve our state's outdoor heritage to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations.

## Goals

**Opportunities** - Provide outdoor recreational opportunities.

**Resources** - Serve as stewards of our state's outdoor resources.

**Confidence** - Inspire Confidence – instill trust from the people we serve through transparency and accountability.

**Excellence** – Foster professional excellence. Develop and empower highly engaged and well-trained staff.

## Priorities

Habitat and Access  
Asset Management  
Customer Service  
Operational Excellence

**Motto** "Serve – Connect – Manage"



## Introduction

This document details fisheries and aquatic resources management work priorities beginning in 2024. It also identifies the most important aquatic management issues to address to help achieve the mission of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP).

Strategic planning is essential for any organization. Limited financial and human resources must be thoughtfully allocated to achieve maximum impact. Successful planning also recognizes the need to be flexible and able to adapt to changing conditions. Input from both SDGFP staff and the public is an important part of this document, particularly in identifying the most important management issues to address.

The organization of this document begins with an overview of the SDGFP Aquatic Section, including staff structure, statewide aquatics programs, and fisheries management areas. Specific work priorities for each program and fisheries management area then follow.

### **Aquatic Resources Management Structure**

The Aquatic Resources Management Section (Aquatic Section) is part of the Wildlife Division of SDGFP. Section staff include a section chief, program administrators for fish production and fisheries management, leaders for nine statewide programs, and staff at three fish hatcheries and five fisheries management work areas. Statewide programs were created to promote consistency in the implementation of research and management actions among work areas and hatcheries.

Within SDGFP, Aquatic Section staff collaborate with staff in the Parks Division, department communications team, law enforcement, and wildlife regions on the management of aquatic resources and their use by the public. Staff also cooperate with personnel from universities, federal agencies, and other states to help accomplish the mission of SDGFP.

### **Fisheries Management Areas**

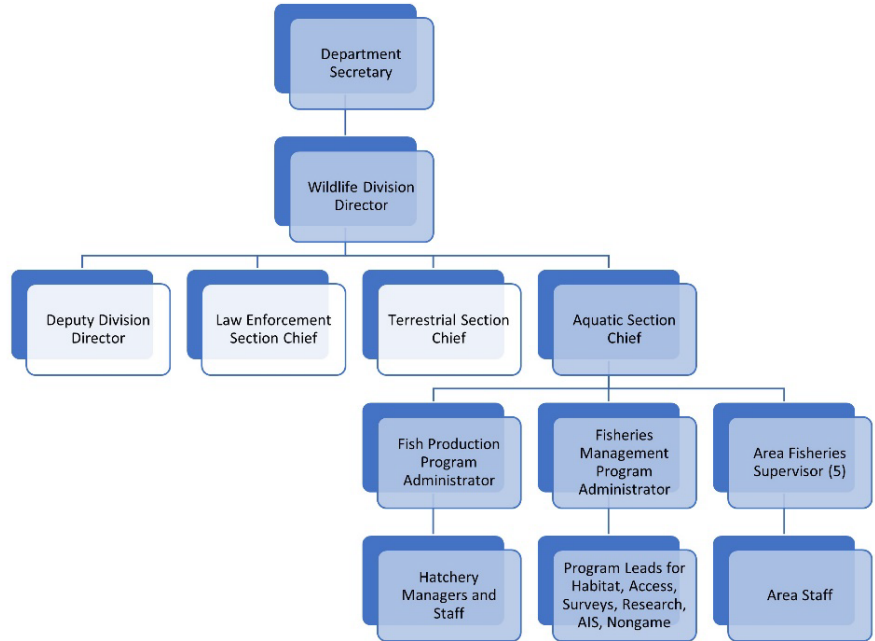
Fisheries work area boundaries are based on fisheries management areas (FMA). Fisheries management areas are loosely mirrored after the aquatic sub-regions identified in the South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan (2014), considering human demographics and resource use patterns. The FMAs delineated for fisheries and aquatics planning include East River (northeast



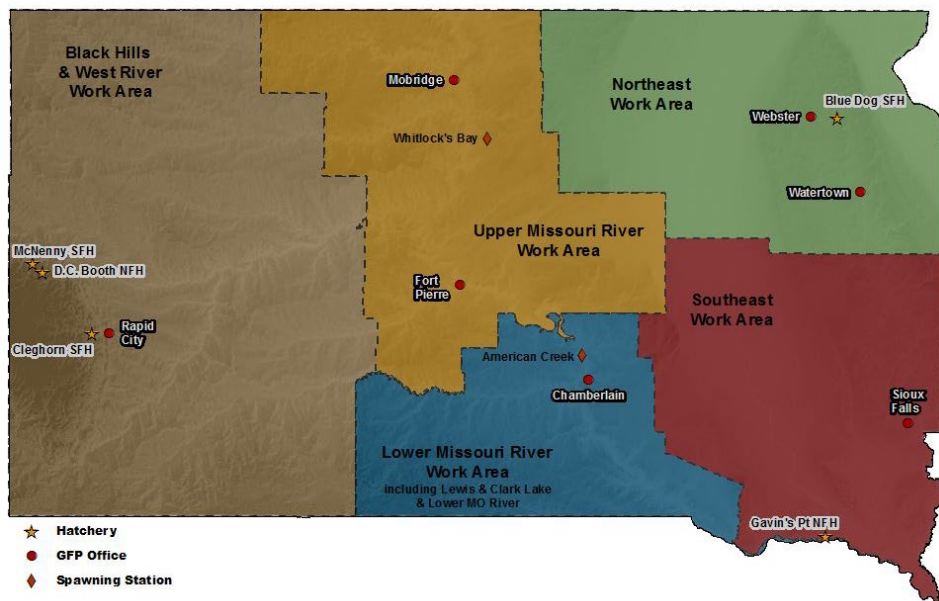


and southeast), Missouri River, West River, and Black Hills. The aquatic habitats of each of these areas are generally described in this plan. More detailed descriptions may be found in individual management area plans for the 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Strategic Plans (SDGFP 2014b and SDGFP 2019, respectively).

Aquatic Section Organizational Structure

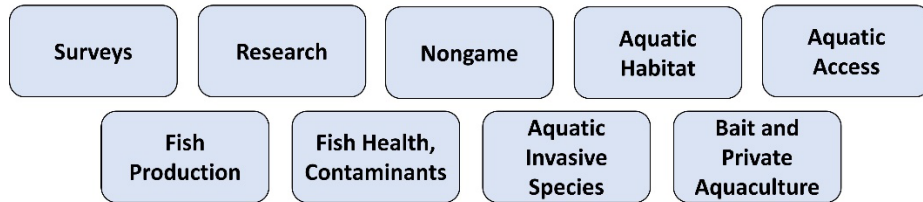


Aquatic Work Areas and Office and Hatchery Locations

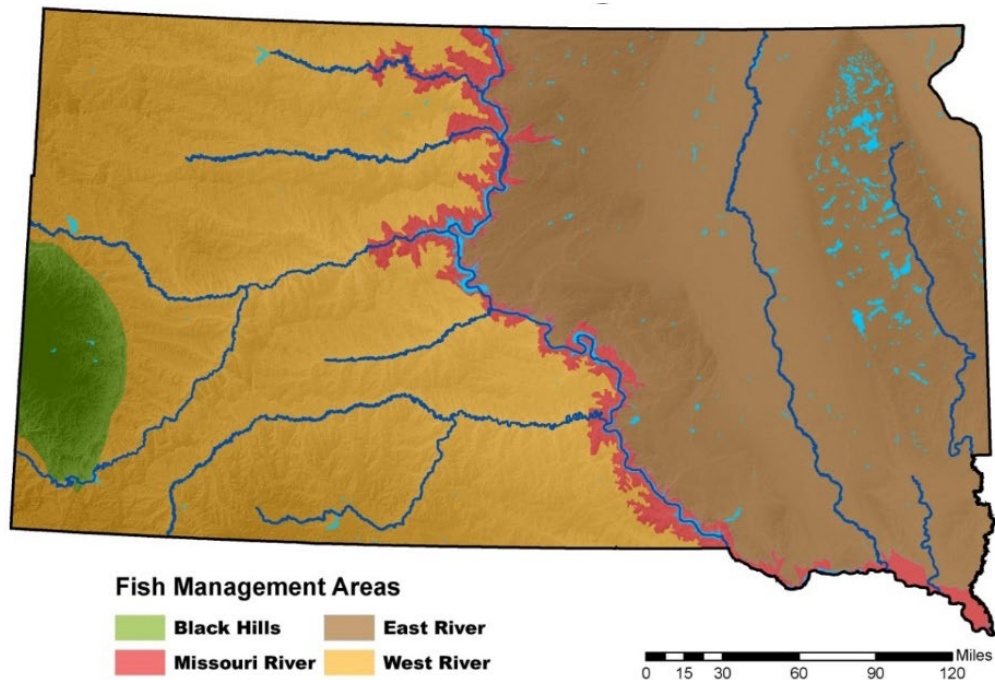




## Statewide Aquatics Programs



Some fisheries work areas are responsible for implementing priorities across multiple FMAs, while others, like the Northeast and Southeast work areas, are tasked with implementing priorities for a portion of one FMA.



Fisheries Work Area	Assigned Management Areas
Black Hills and West River	Black Hills and West River
Upper Missouri River	Missouri River and West River
Lower Missouri River	Missouri River and West River
Northeast	East River
Southeast	East River



## Planning

Strategic plans for aquatic resources management by the department were developed for the 2014 - 2018 (SDGFP 2014b) and 2019 - 2023 (SDGFP 2019) periods. Those plans contain detailed information on fisheries management areas, funding sources, budgets, staffing, statewide aquatic programs, issues, objectives, and strategies for programs and management areas.

Several approaches have been used to ensure plan implementation, such as developing annual work plans based on strategic plans and tracking progress toward management objectives. After over a decade of planning experience, the best approach is to develop and prioritize a list of issues for a particular program or fisheries management area, and then focus funding and staff resources on the highest priority issues. These priorities must align with the overall SDGFP priorities. Although this plan begins in 2024, change is anticipated. New issues and opportunities will arise, and obstacles to implementation will occur. Thus, the components of this plan will be annually reviewed and updated as needed.

This document lists management issues along with the highest priorities for fisheries and aquatic resources management for the Aquatic Section, statewide programs, and FMAs. Priorities for aquatic work areas include all priorities for FMAs for which an area is responsible.



## **Aquatic Management Priorities**

Within the mission, vision, goals, and priorities of SDGFP, the top management issues and priorities for aquatics management are:

### **Management Issues**

- Degraded habitat exists in many public fishing waters.
- Insufficient access exists at many public fishing waters.
- Fish production cannot meet current requests for the number of fish and timing of stockings of fish, particularly for urban and community fishing waters.
- Stocking strategies to increase consistency of experience as related to recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) efforts are unknown.
- Information on the post-stocking performance of many hatchery-reared fish is unknown.
- Evaluation of management actions, including use of regulations and habitat and access improvements, can be insufficient to inform future actions.

### **Top Priorities**

- Habitat and Access
- Consistently Meeting Stocking Requests
- Urban and Community Fisheries
- Stocking and Management Evaluations



# Statewide Fisheries Program Priorities

## Fisheries Surveys

### Program Overview

The fisheries survey program includes fish population, angler use, fish harvest, and angler satisfaction survey design, implementation, data management and analysis, and information sharing for surveys and other management activities. Results from these surveys are the basis for evaluation of management activities including use of harvest regulations, stocking, and habitat and access development.

### Management Issues

- Meeting the growing demand for timely fisheries information can be difficult.
- Traditional surveys of fish populations and their users are often expensive and time consuming.
- Sampling bias can make interpretation and comparison of collected data difficult within and between waters.

### Priorities

- Data Management and Info Sharing
- Fisheries Survey Optimization
- Understanding Fisheries Data Bias



## **Fisheries Research and Evaluation**

### **Program Overview**

The fisheries research and evaluation program is an integral and essential component of aquatic resource management. It leads to a better understanding of fish biology, ecology, population dynamics, and evaluates contributions of stocked fish to fisheries, identifies management efficiencies, and helps determine if angler needs are being met. Research and evaluations may be completed solely by section staff, or in collaboration with universities, other state and federal agencies, or other outside entities.

### **Management Issues**

- Evaluations of recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) fish stocked into the wild are lacking.
- Survival of stocked fish (hatchery or relocated wild) can vary, and benefits are difficult to quantify.
- Levels of improvements needed and associated impacts of aquatic habitat and access projects on fish populations and their users are poorly understood and can vary between systems.
- Changes in fisheries regulations and management have both biological and social impacts that may not always align.
- Influence of urban and community fisheries on the overall angling community and angler recruitment, retention and reactivation are poorly understood.

### **Priorities**

- Evaluations of:
  - Stocking
  - Fish and Angler Survey Techniques
  - Habitat and Access Improvements
  - Regulation Effectiveness
  - Urban and Community Fishery Impacts



## **Fishing Access**

### **Program Overview**

Game, Fish and Parks seeks to enhance fishing access opportunities. This includes maintenance and improvements on existing facilities and development of new facilities. Statewide, hundreds of boat ramps and shore fishing access areas are currently maintained. Some are managed through partnerships with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, counties, and city municipalities. The Aquatic Section also partners with the SDGFP Parks Division in developing, maintaining, and improving fishing access.

Funding for fishing access includes, but is not limited to, license revenues, Sportfish Restoration program dollars, State Habitat Stamp revenue, United States Coast Guard Motorboat Safety program dollars, and funds from third parties such as sport fishing clubs, cities, counties, and private individuals. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Title VI (Missouri River Land Transfer) funds are also available for some access projects.

### **Management Issues**

- Providing ADA accessibility with new and existing structures is difficult and can be expensive.
- Meeting user expectations, access standards, and area maintenance needs while continuing to add access opportunities is challenging.
- Providing adequate access for boat, shore, and ice anglers amid a variety of infrastructure challenges (water levels, ice, vegetation) is challenging.
- Effectively providing users with information to locate and use access areas can be difficult and users do not always know where to find for information.
- Costs to maintain aging access infrastructure continually increase.

### **Priorities**

- Meet Expectations for Access
- Addressing Infrastructure Limitations
  - ADA Accessibility
  - Aging Infrastructure
  - Water levels, ice, etc.
- Improve Access Information Sharing



## **Fish Habitat**

### **Program Overview**

This program includes a variety of small and large-scale projects to enhance fisheries habitat. Examples of habitat projects include small dam inspections, shoreline alteration permitting, shoreline alteration inspection, small dam and water structure repair and maintenance, sedimentation removal, undesirable species removal, submergent and emergent vegetation plantings, stream habitat projects, installation of artificial or natural structures, flow regime and water level modifications, riparian zone and watershed improvements, and water quality improvements.

### **Management Issues**

- Costs of maintaining aging infrastructure continually increase.
- Addressing effects of erosion, wind/wave action, and reduced water volume on fishable waters is difficult and expensive.
- Manipulating water levels of man-made impoundments can positively affect fisheries quality, but management options to address water level fluctuations are limited.
- Balancing land-use practices, environmental conditions, and habitat needs to sustain fisheries is difficult.

### **Priorities**

- Address Aging Infrastructure
- Reduce Sedimentation
- Enhance Water Level Management
- Improve Water Quality





## **Non-Game Aquatic Species**

### **Program Overview**

The Non-Game Aquatic Species program is part of the SDGFP Wildlife Diversity Program. The purpose of the Wildlife Diversity Program is to inventory, protect, and manage non-game species and their habitats, and prevent the listing of native species as threatened or endangered. It also maintains the Dakota Natural Heritage Program.

Aquatic non-game species management and research is focused in two areas: species tracked by the Natural Heritage Program and species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). In return for developing and implementing the South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan (SDGFP 2006, 2014a), SDGFP is eligible for State Wildlife Grant funds. These federal grants provide matching funds for managing many SGCN in South Dakota, including 28 fish, 11 freshwater mussels, two turtles, and four aquatic insects.

### **Management Issues**

- Information on the distribution, biology, and population dynamics of many nongame species and SGCN is insufficient.
- Management of nongame species and SGCN alongside sportfish populations can be challenging.
- A comprehensive database containing both sportfish and nongame/SGCN information is lacking, making timely data synthesis and dissemination difficult.

### **Priorities**

- Increase Species Status Information
- Expand Management Opportunities
- Data Management



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## **Fish Production**

### **Program Overview**

Fish stocking is an important fisheries management tool for introducing new species, supporting urban and community fisheries, supplementing natural reproduction, repopulating after winterkill, and maintaining a fishery in the absence of natural production or high angler use. Fisheries managers stocking requests dictate the species, numbers, and sizes of fish produced by the three state fish hatcheries. Fish are also obtained from other states, federal hatcheries, private sources, or by transfer from one water to another (trap-and-transfer). Considerable effort is directed to spawning walleyes in the spring and Chinook salmon in the fall. Eggs for some fish species are also obtained from other state hatcheries, federal hatcheries, or private business.

### **Management Issues**

- Hatchery production cannot meet fisheries manager requests.
- Aquatic Invasive Species and fish health concerns can impact pond rearing and trap-and-transfer.
- Fish stocking needs continue to increase, and hatchery infrastructure is aging.

### **Priorities**

- Increase Rearing Capabilities
- Expand Recirculating Aquaculture
- Plan for Future Infrastructure Needs



## **Bait and Private Aquaculture**

### **Program Overview**

By statute, SDGFP is the regulatory authority for the baitfish industry and private aquaculture. Wild baitfish are a public resource sold by private entities and private aquaculture can affect public fisheries and aquatic resources.

Baitfish harvest from South Dakota waters has an estimated economic impact of over \$3,000,000 a year (SDGFP 2007). In 2023, 127 resident retail, 21 resident wholesale, 16 export, and 42 non-resident retail bait licenses were issued while 13 private aquaculture and five fee fishing licenses were issued. Private aquaculture facilities vary from totally enclosed recirculating systems to fish rearing in natural waters. Private aquaculture produces fish for human consumption, sale to private landowners, export outside of South Dakota, and evaluating aquaculture research.

### **Management Issues**

- A comprehensive database of waters historically used for private aquaculture, particularly in relation to the online approval process for new waters, is lacking.
- An online process for issuing licenses and importation permits, along with submitting required reports and fish health information is needed.
- It is difficult balancing protecting fisheries resources from invasive species, disease, and unauthorized fish stockings with commercial aquaculture and bait operations.

### **Priorities**

- Private Aquaculture Database
- Online Licensing and Report Submission
- Regulatory Mechanisms to Protect Fisheries



## **Fish Health and Contaminants**

### **Program Overview**

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks regulations in administrative rules protect wild fish populations from pathogens and invasive species. Prior to bringing fish or reproductive products into South Dakota from out-of-state, an importation permit must be issued, based on the appropriate fish health certification. Fish health protocols and sampling is described in the Statewide Fish Health Manual (SDGFP 2016b).

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks cooperates with the South Dakota Departments of Health, Agriculture and Natural Resources, to test fish for mercury, selenium, cadmium, pesticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in a minimum of 10 waters annually. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration threshold value of 1.0 ppm is used for issuing mercury advisories.

### **Management Issues**

- The process for submitting information and fees for issuance of importation permits is inefficient and lengthens the time needed for approval.
- Existing pathogen testing requirements for fish importation may not include new pathogens of concern.

### **Priorities**

- Online Fish Importation Permitting
- Regular Review of Pathogen Testing Requirements



## **Aquatic Invasive Species**

### **Program Overview**

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) activities follow SDGFP's AIS Strategic Management Plan (SDGFP 2016a), recently updated in 2023 (SDGFP 2023). Current tasks annually conducted include sampling for AIS spread detection, education and outreach, updating the GFP Commission, communicating with other government agencies and non-governmental organizations, and attending regional and national AIS conferences.

### **Management Issues**

- The high number of access points and aquatic systems in South Dakota make reaching individuals in-person challenging.
- Providing all users of surface water within South Dakota with AIS Best Management Practices for practicing Clean, Drain, Dry is difficult.
- High numbers of aquatic systems in South Dakota make documenting current distributions of existing and new AIS difficult.
- User compliance with existing regulations is inconsistent.
- Few management options are available once an AIS becomes established in a waterbody and options are often costly and ineffective.

### **Priorities**

- Outreach and Education
- Detection and Monitoring
- Regulations and Compliance
- Mitigation and Eradication



# Fisheries Management Area Priorities

## **Black Hills**

### **Area Overview**

The upheaval of the Black Hills by volcanic activity during the Tertiary period caused the concentric rings of sedimentary and volcanic rocks visible today. This forested region with diverse narrow valleys, high plateaus, and well-defined drainages has numerous streams but no natural lakes. However, several constructed dams have created lakes with considerable recreational use. Aquatic systems in the Black Hills do not contain the diversity of plants and animals found in other management areas. The Black Hills has the second highest human population of any management area and is a major tourist destination.

### **Management Issues**

- The small size of most yellow perch in Deerfield Reservoir does not meet angler expectations.
- Rainbow trout stockings have not been fully evaluated; additional information on angler harvest of stocked trout is needed.
- Habitat quality in some Black Hills stream reaches does not meet angler expectations, due to loss and degradation.
- Effective walleye stocking strategies, to establish fishable walleye populations in Black Hills reservoirs, have not been determined.
- Some Black Hills reservoir fisheries are negatively affected by sedimentation.

### **Priorities**

- Deerfield Yellow Perch Population Quality
- Rainbow Trout Stocking Evaluations
- Stream Habitat Improvement
- Walleye Stocking Strategies
- Sediment Removal in Aging Reservoirs



## **Western South Dakota**

### **Area Overview**

The main western tributaries of the Missouri River are the basis for most aquatic habitats in western South Dakota. Natural wetlands are rare and generally associated with rivers and streams. Land use is dominated by grazing, although tillage agriculture is increasing. Dams or ponds, frequently constructed on intermittent streams for watering cattle and other livestock, provide fishing opportunities. Three large Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs, Shadehill, Angostura, and Orman, are extremely important fisheries.

### **Management Issues**

- Fisheries and angler access is impacted by sedimentation and abundant vegetation in aging reservoirs.
- Maintaining water levels required for sustainable fisheries can be difficult.
- Fish stocking needs are not always met, especially for stock dams and small impoundments.
- Survival of walleye juveniles produced in recirculating aquaculture systems and stocked into small impoundments is unknown.
- Some anglers living in rural areas may not have quality fishing opportunities within a reasonable travel distance.

### **Priorities**

- Sedimentation Removal in Aging Reservoirs
- Impoundment Water Level Management
- Fish Availability for Stocking
- Walleye Stocking Evaluations
- Shore Fishing Access
- Quality Rural Fishing Opportunities



## **Missouri River**

### **Area Overview**

The Missouri River is the longest river system in North America, averaging a mile wide and transporting 20 to 25 million tons of sediments a year. In South Dakota, four major dams on the river created Lakes Oahe, Sharpe, Francis Case and Lewis and Clark. These dams have greatly altered the form and function of the river, as well as the associated aquatic plants and animals. The only free-flowing river sections in South Dakota are located below Fort Randall Dam and Gavin's Point Dam. Walleye and smallmouth bass fisheries define the mainstem reservoirs and paddlefish fisheries currently exist in Lake Francis Case and below Gavins Point Dam. A salmon fishery exists in the coldwater habitat in Lake Oahe. The only free-flowing river sections in South Dakota are located below Fort Randall Dam and Gavin's Point Dam. Missouri River fisheries provide significant recreational opportunity and contribute greatly to the economies of towns along the river.

For the Missouri River Fisheries Management Area, general issues and priorities are provided, as are more-specific issues and priorities for the upper (Oahe and Sharpe) and lower (below Big Bend Dam) portions of the area.

### **Management Issues**

- Current fish population and angler survey methods may not accurately represent fishery metrics.
- Additional evaluations of fish stockings and regulations (harvest limits) are needed for proper decision making.
- Involvement of multiple governing agencies makes management and long-term planning difficult.
- Potential conflicts exist among increasingly numerous and sizable angler groups.

### **Priorities**

- Improve Surveys to Index Sportfish Populations
- Evaluate Stockings and Regulation Impacts
- Improve Inter-agency Coordination
- Address Angler Group Conflicts





## Upper Missouri River (Lakes Oahe and Sharpe)

### Management Issues

- Information on smallmouth bass fisheries is lacking.
- Stocking of paddlefish in Lake Sharpe has not been evaluated.
- The change in walleye population survey methodology a few years ago has made stocking decisions difficult.
- There is a lack of information on fish loss through Oahe and Big Bend Dams during all flow regimes.

### Priorities

- Describe Smallmouth Bass Fisheries
- Determine Lake Sharpe Paddlefish Population Status
- Evaluate Lake Oahe Walleye Stockings
- Document Fish Losses Through Dams

## Lower Missouri River (below Big Bend Dam)

### Management Issues

- Effects of zebra mussels on the Lake Francis Case fishery are unknown.
- Contribution of stocked walleye juveniles to the Lewis and Clark Lake walleye population, at older ages, is not well understood.
- Paddlefish condition below Gavins Point Dam has decreased but the cause and extent has not been determined.

### Priorities

- Evaluate Lewis and Clark Lake Walleye Stockings
- Lake Francis Case Zebra Mussel Impacts
- Paddlefish Condition Below Gavins Point Dam



## **Eastern South Dakota**

### **Area Overview**

Glaciation in eastern South Dakota created a grassland landscape of rolling plains and wetlands. Row-crop agriculture dominates land-use. Most of South Dakota's natural lakes are in this area, along with the watersheds of the James, Vermillion, and Big Sioux Rivers. Eastern South Dakota also contains small impoundments, many of which were made in the 1930s. The fisheries resources of this area include over 370,000 acres of lakes and 1,100 miles of streams. Southeastern South Dakota has the highest human population in the state.

For the Eastern South Dakota Fisheries Management Area, development of management issues and priorities were done separately for the northern and southern portions of the area.

### **Northeast Area**

### **Management Issues**

- Survival and optimal stocking strategies for muskies raised in recirculating aquaculture systems need to be determined.
- Post-stocking survival of walleye produced in recirculating aquaculture systems is unknown.
- Relative post-stocking survival of walleye fry versus juveniles is unknown.
- Stocking strategies for community fisheries need to be evaluated.
- Angler preferences for community fisheries management options is unknown.
- Post-stocking performance of fish raised in recirculating aquaculture systems in community fisheries is unknown.
- Limited ice fishing and shore fishing access opportunities exist.
- Limited fishing access and degraded aquatic habitat exists at Gary Creek.
- Habitat projects to improve fish passage in the Big Stone Lake watershed are needed.
- Information on lake sturgeon population dynamics, movement, and reproductive status in Big Stone Lake is needed.



## **Priorities**

- Walleye and Musky Stocking Evaluations
- Stocking and Management Strategies for Community Fisheries
- Habitat Improvement in Gary Creek
- Shore-Fishing and Ice-Fishing Access
- Improve Fish passage within Big Stone Lake Watershed

## **Southeast Area**

### **Management Issues**

- There is an ever-increasing need for fish for stocking.
- Information on the best stocking and management strategies for community fisheries is lacking.
- There are declining sport fish populations and dam safety concerns with aging impoundments.
- Changing angler and boater demands drive improved access needs for lakes and rivers.
- Changing user demographics, including increasing urbanization and population growth, fuel demand for nearby quality fishing opportunities.
- The possibility of silver and bighead carp spreading to new waters during periods of high-water levels is of concern.

### **Priorities**

- Increase Fish Available for Stocking
- Evaluate Management Strategies for Community Fisheries
- Intensively Manage Aging Small Impoundments
- Improve River and Lake Access
- Minimize the Spread and Impact of Invasive Carp



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South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. 2016a. Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Management Plan. Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre.

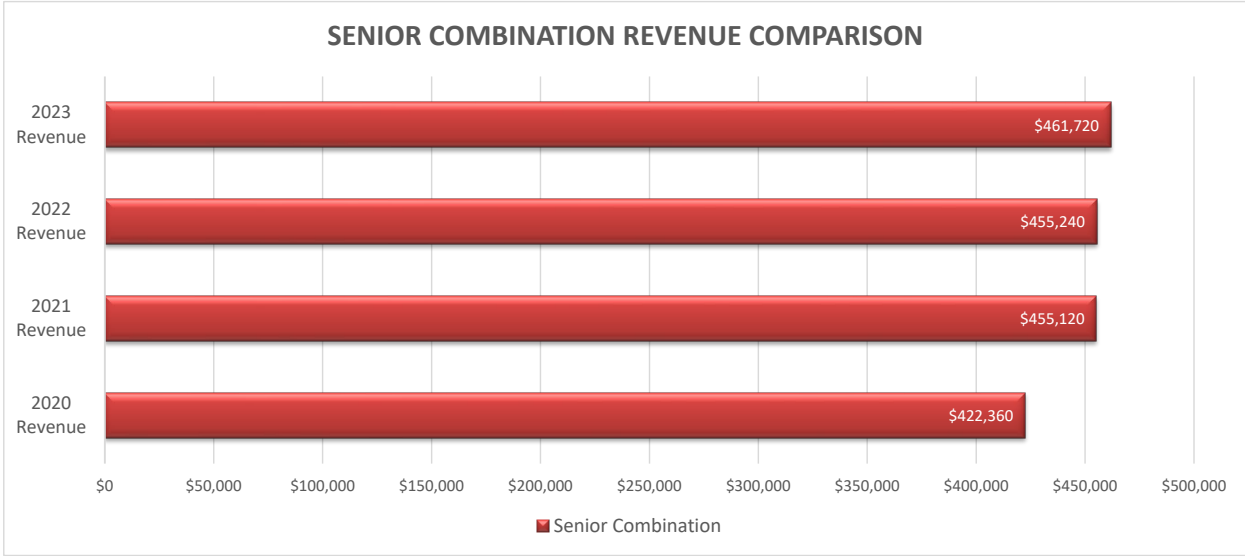
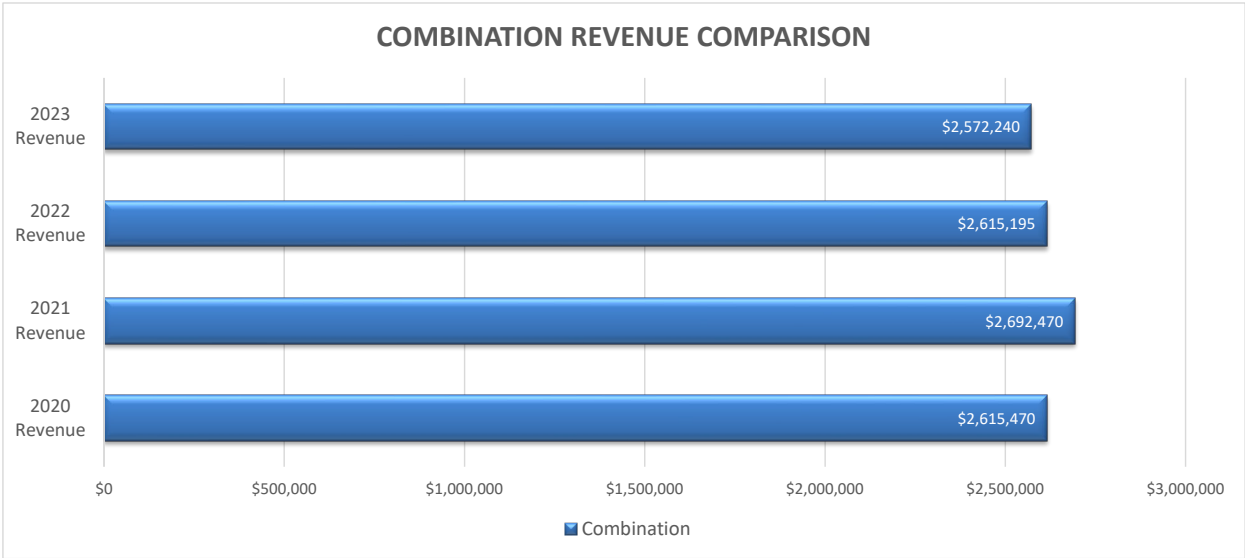
South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks. 2016b. South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks Fish Health Manual 2016. South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks, Pierre.

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. 2019. Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Adaptive Management System Statewide Plan Components. Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks 2023 Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Management Plan, Pierre.

**COMBINATION LICENSES**  
December 15 - November 30

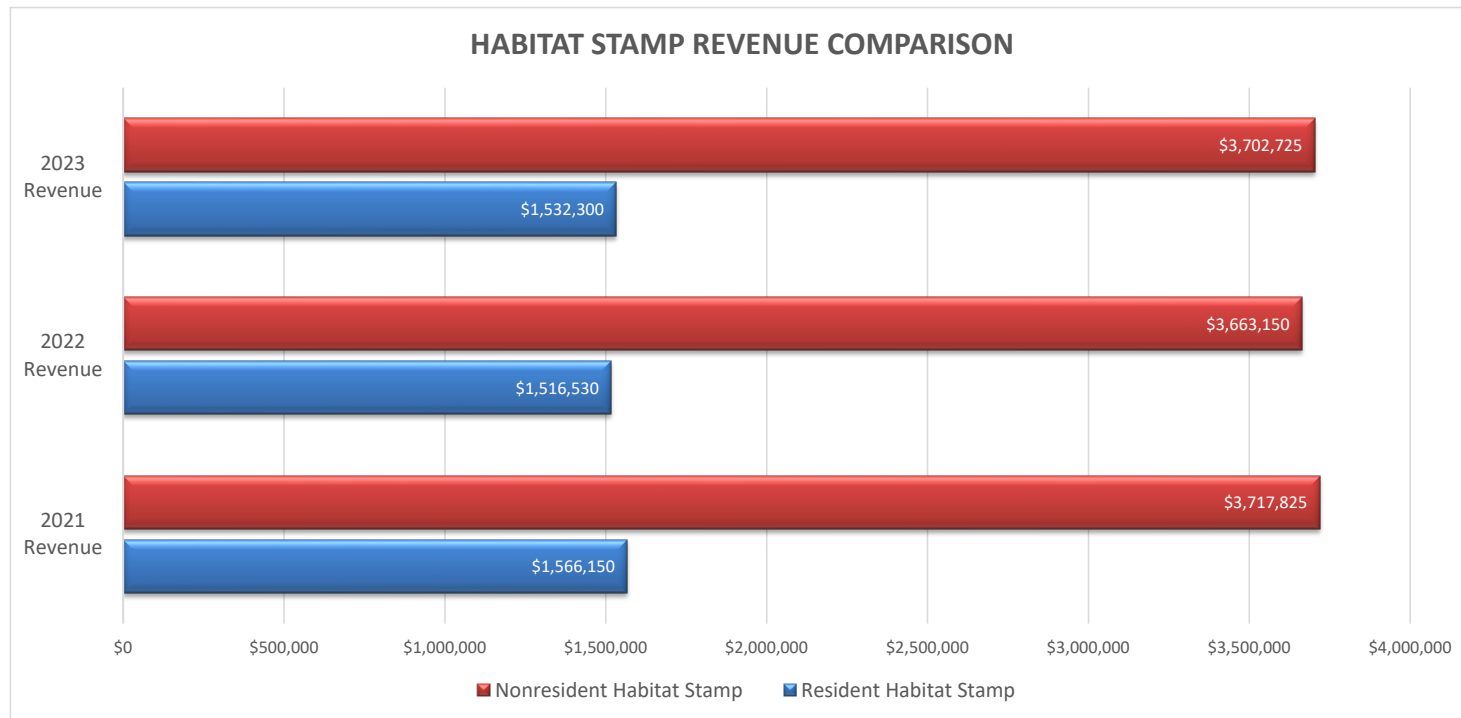
License Type						+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg	
	2020	2021	2022	3-yr Avg	2023	2023 Revenue	2022 vs 2023	3 Yr. Avg vs 2023	2022 vs 2023		3 Yr. Avg vs 2023
Combination	47,554	48,954	47,549	48,019	46,768	\$2,572,240	(781)	(1,251)	(\$42,955)	(\$68,805)	-3%
Senior Combination	10,559	11,378	11,381	11,106	11,543	\$461,720	162	437	\$6,480	\$17,480	4%
<b>Combination License Totals</b>	<b>58,113</b>	<b>60,332</b>	<b>58,930</b>	<b>59,125</b>	<b>58,311</b>	<b>\$3,033,960</b>	<b>(619)</b>	<b>(814)</b>	<b>(\$36,475)</b>	<b>(\$51,325)</b>	<b>-1.38%</b>



## HABITAT STAMP

December 15 - November 30

License Type						+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg	
	2020	2021	2022	3-yr Avg	2023	2023 Revenue	2022 vs 2023	3 Yr. Avg vs 2023	2022 vs 2023		3 Yr. Avg vs 2023
Resident Habitat Stamp	57,965	156,615	151,653	n/a	153,230	\$1,532,300	1,577	n/a	\$15,770	n/a	n/a
Nonresident Habitat Stamp	77,155	148,713	146,526	n/a	148,109	\$3,702,725	1,583	n/a	\$39,575	n/a	n/a
<b>Habitat Stamp Totals</b>	<b>135,120</b>	<b>305,328</b>	<b>298,179</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>301,339</b>	<b>\$5,235,025</b>	<b>3,160</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>\$55,345</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>



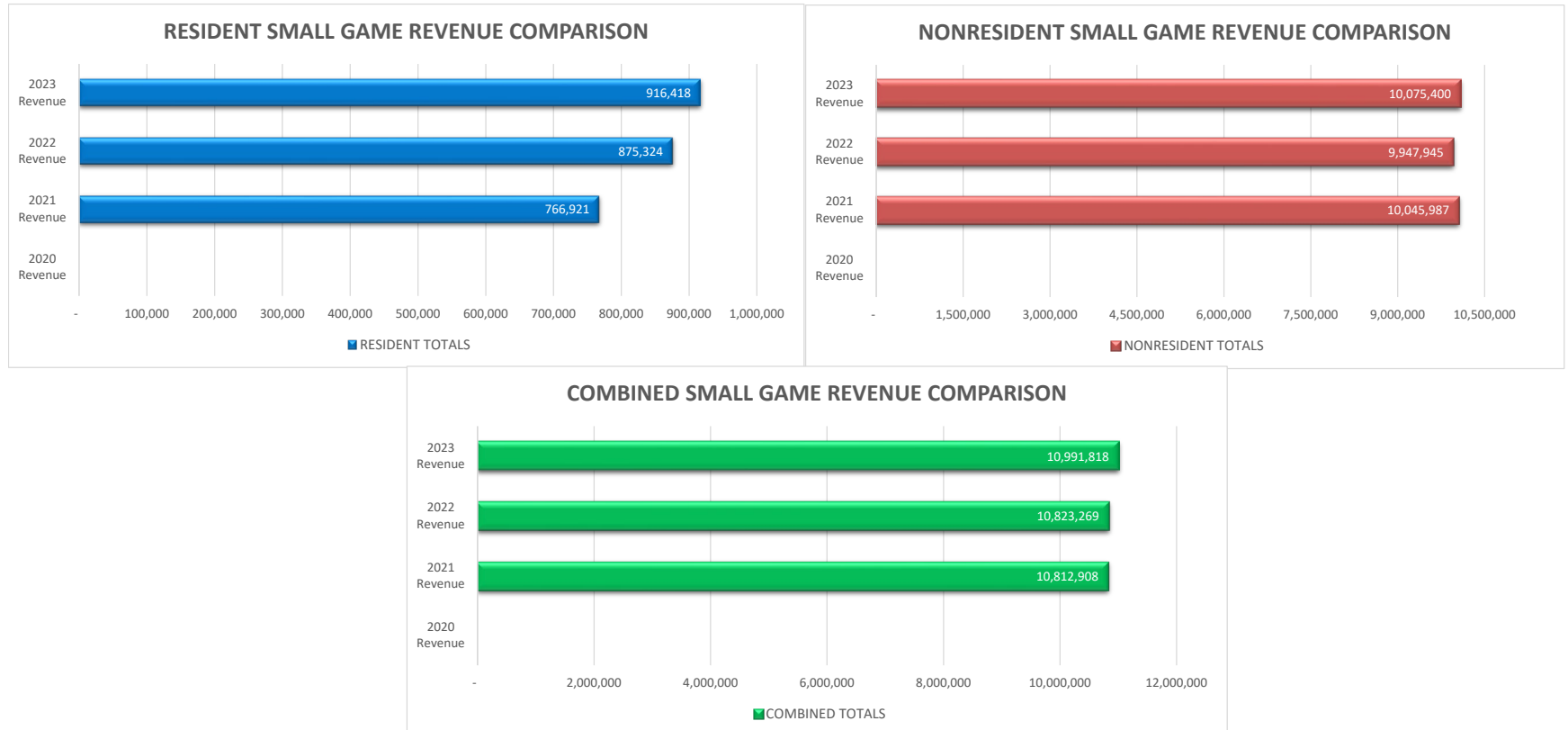
## SMALL GAME LICENSES

December 15 - November 30

License Type	2020	2021	2022	3-yr Avg	2023	2023 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change
							2022 vs 2023	3 Yr Avg vs 2023	2022 vs 2023	3 Yr Avg vs 2023	from 3 Yr Avg
Small Game	15,451	14,463	18,097	16,004	19,648	\$648,384	1,551	3,644	\$51,183	\$120,263	23%
1-Day Small Game	1,154	1,241	864	1,086	782	\$9,384	(82)	(304)	(\$984)	(\$3,652)	-28%
Youth Small Game	3,863	4,738	5,963	4,855	5,984	\$29,920	21	1,129	\$105	\$13,552	23%
Furbearer	3,519	3,991	3,599	3,703	3,327	\$99,810	(272)	(376)	(\$8,160)	(\$11,280)	-10%
Predator/Varmint	1,638	1,355	2,004	1,666	1,866	\$9,330	(138)	200	(\$690)	\$1,002	12%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	n/a	525	1,408	n/a	1,759	\$8,795	351	n/a	\$1,755	n/a	n/a
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	25,746	24,386	22,582	24,238	22,159	\$110,795	(423)	(2,079)	(\$2,115)	(\$10,395)	-9%
<b>RESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>51,371</b>	<b>50,699</b>	<b>54,517</b>	<b>51,551</b>	<b>55,525</b>	<b>\$916,418</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>3,974</b>	<b>\$41,094</b>	<b>\$109,490</b>	<b>7.71%</b>
Small Game	59,469	72,115	71,105	67,563	72,494	\$8,771,774	1,389	4,931	\$168,069	\$596,651	7%
Youth Small Game	1,756	3,068	3,052	2,625	3,100	\$31,000	48	475	\$480	\$4,747	18%
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	945	1,260	1,121	1,109	1,013	\$46,598	(108)	(96)	(\$4,968)	(\$4,401)	-9%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	9,378	12,933	13,570	11,960	12,908	\$981,008	(662)	948	(\$50,312)	\$72,023	8%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	286	374	359	340	295	\$35,695	(64)	(45)	(\$7,744)	(\$5,405)	-13%
Furbearer	13	12	4	10	3	\$825	(1)	(7)	(\$275)	(\$1,833)	-69%
Predator/Varmint	4,233	4,337	4,144	4,238	4,244	\$169,760	100	6	\$4,000	\$240	0%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	n/a	310	370	n/a	544	\$2,720	174	n/a	\$870	n/a	n/a
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	2,138	4,988	3,737	3,621	7,204	\$36,020	3,467	3,583	\$17,335	\$17,915	99%
<b>NONRESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>78,218</b>	<b>99,397</b>	<b>97,462</b>	<b>91,466</b>	<b>101,805</b>	<b>\$10,075,400</b>	<b>4,343</b>	<b>10,339</b>	<b>\$127,455</b>	<b>\$679,937</b>	<b>11.30%</b>
<b>COMBINED TOTALS</b>	<b>129,589</b>	<b>150,096</b>	<b>151,979</b>	<b>143,888</b>	<b>157,330</b>	<b>\$10,991,818</b>	<b>5,351</b>	<b>13,442</b>	<b>\$168,549</b>	<b>\$789,426</b>	<b>9.34%</b>

\*The license year for Migratory Bird Certificates changed in 2021 so license sales are not comparable between years.

\*Migratory Bird Certificates changed from 1 option to 2 in 2022

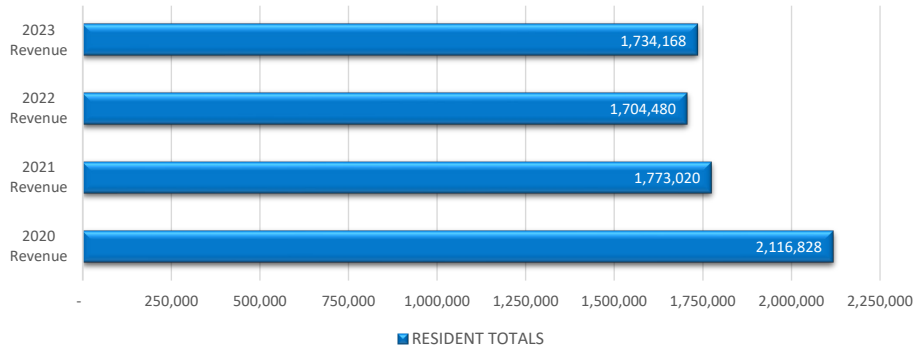


## FISHING LICENSES

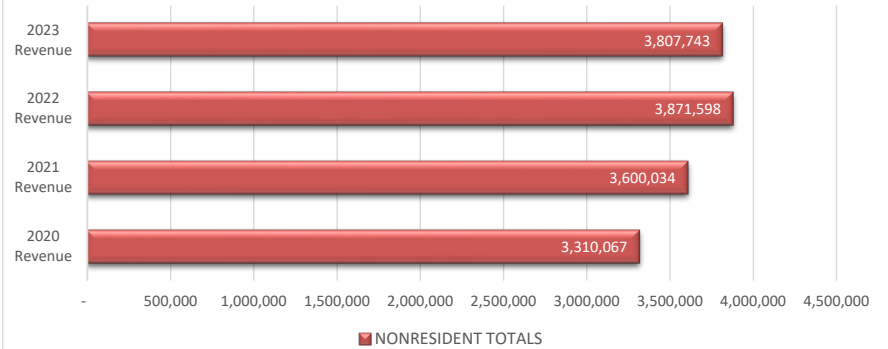
December 15 - November 30

License Type	2020	2021	2022	3-yr Avg	2023	2023 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr Avg
							2022 vs 2023	3 Yr Avg vs 2023	2022 vs 2023	3 Yr Avg vs 2023	
1-Day Fishing	7,190	6,618	6,535	6,781	7,041	\$56,328	506	260	\$4,048	\$2,080	4%
Annual Fishing	67,311	55,472	53,194	58,659	53,952	\$1,510,656	758	(4,707)	\$21,224	(\$131,796)	-8%
Senior Fishing	14,550	13,905	13,564	14,006	13,932	\$167,184	368	(74)	\$4,416	(\$892)	-1%
<b>RESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>89,051</b>	<b>75,995</b>	<b>73,293</b>	<b>79,446</b>	<b>74,925</b>	<b>\$1,734,168</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>(4,521)</b>	<b>\$29,688</b>	<b>(\$130,608)</b>	<b>-5.69%</b>
1-Day Fishing	33,569	43,834	37,674	38,359	36,907	\$590,512	(767)	(1,452)	(\$12,272)	(\$23,232)	-4%
3-Day Fishing	25,173	19,823	18,813	21,270	18,681	\$691,197	(132)	(2,589)	(\$4,884)	(\$95,781)	-12%
Annual Fishing	27,486	32,317	38,399	32,734	37,702	\$2,526,034	(697)	4,968	(\$46,699)	\$332,856	15%
<b>NONRESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>86,228</b>	<b>95,974</b>	<b>94,886</b>	<b>92,363</b>	<b>93,290</b>	<b>\$3,807,743</b>	<b>(1,596)</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>(\$63,855)</b>	<b>\$213,843</b>	<b>1.00%</b>
<b>COMBINED TOTALS</b>	<b>175,279</b>	<b>171,969</b>	<b>168,179</b>	<b>171,809</b>	<b>168,215</b>	<b>\$5,541,911</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>(3,594)</b>	<b>(\$34,167)</b>	<b>\$83,235</b>	<b>-2.09%</b>

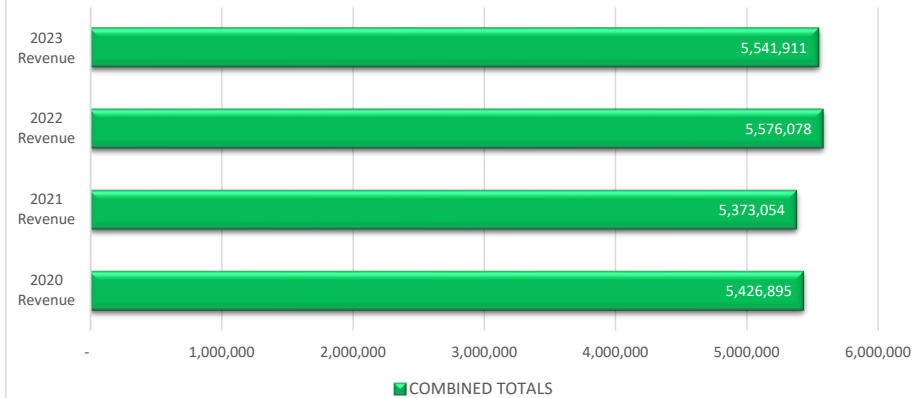
### RESIDENT FISHING REVENUE COMPARISON



### NONRESIDENT FISHING REVENUE COMPARISON



### COMBINED FISHING REVENUE COMPARISON





# Public Comments

## Nonresident One-Day Fishing License

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**Douglas Farrand**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I support keeping the 1 day license but suggest raising the fee to \$20/day. If some one buys 3 days in a row they would be within \$2 of a 3-day plus habitat stamp cost of \$62 using the 2023 fee schedule.

---

**Ron Snyder**

**Dell Rapids SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

A good compromise would be to put limit on the number of one day fishing license at 2, instead of eliminate it. Any one who fishes more than that should step up and purchase a longer license and pitch in more to help support the resource. That would help maximize support for the resource and continue allow participation for more people. Thanks.

---

**Robert Friedrichsen**

**Redfield SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Non resident one day fishing license should be exempt from habitat stamp. If they are not regular fishing, they are not continually enjoying over the long term, the benefits. When my relative come from Colorado & we go to the lake for a day, it can really add up in license expense for everyone to have the addition cost of the habitat stamp.

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**Mark Miller**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

put the habitat stamp in the price of a one day fishing license

# Other

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**Corey Trudeau**

**Elk Point SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I would like to see if the Commissioner's would consider looking into the law which is in place at this time for Crossbow and muzzle loader hunting. In seasons restricted to muzzleloading firearms, and permitted crossbow users, telescopic sights are not allowed. Telescopic sights are sights that utilize magnification. I have done months of research on non-magnification scopes. Different companies have made non-magnification scopes in the past but are no longer selling them and have discontinued making them all together.

I would like the commissioners to allow magnificent scopes while using muzzle loader and permitted crossbow users. Thank you.

Corey Trudeau

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**Brandon Brake**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I am unable to find the time and location of the December commission meeting. Can the time and location please be posted on the website, for the public's know?

Thanks  
Brandon Brake  
The Outpost Lodge

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**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

We upload a letter about impacts of SDCL 40-36-27 on SDGFP's licensing rules/laws for predators.

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 788  
Black Hawk, SD 57718  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

SDGFP Commission  
523 East Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Contradictory law about licenses

Dear Commissioners,

I found an interesting law in Chapter 40-36, that seems to contradict some of the licensing for hunting of various predators, that you currently enforce via Chapter 41-6 or 41-8. I could not find a definition of predator in chapter 40-36. As 40-36 is in a different title than laws in 41-6 or 41-8, I wonder if this contradiction of law has been overlooked.

**40-36-27. Killing of predatory animal without hunting license--Falsification of bounty claim--Violation as misdemeanor.**

Except as provided by § 40-36-16, it is a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to hunt, take, or kill predatory animals without possessing a resident small game license or a resident predator/varmint license. It is a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to falsify any bounty claim, or to claim a bounty on any skin for which a bounty has been paid or refused.

Source: SDC 1939, § 25.1002 as enacted by SL 1961, ch 123, § 2; SL 1977, ch 190, § 541; SL 1998, ch 252, § 3; SL 2020, ch 179, § 2. (Emphasis added)

=====

There is an excepting to this law for coyote killing for bounties in chapter 40-36:

**40-36-16. Hunting license not required of landowner to receive bounty.**

A landowner or occupant does not have to possess a resident small game license or a resident predator/varmint license in order to receive the bounties specified in § 40-36-15 for the killing of the predatory animals specified by that section within the confines of the owner's or occupant's property.

Source: SDC 1939, § 25.1001 as added by SL 1963, ch 141, § 1; SL 1998, ch 252, § 2.

**40-36-15. Bounties payable for coyotes--Restrictions on payments--Fraud--Penalty.**

The following bounties may be paid from the state animal damage control fund to any resident of this state who possesses a resident small game license or a resident predator/varmint license and who kills, within the boundaries of this state, including parks and monuments, the following animals:

- (1) For each adult coyote, five dollars;

(2) For each coyote pup, five dollars.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission may not approve any bounty claim except during the months of April, May, and June. No bounty payments may be made under this section unless the commission determines that the average price of raw furs in the round for the preceding winter is below five dollars per animal.

Any person who exhibits to a county auditor the skin of an animal which was killed outside of the boundaries of that county, or who patches any skin or part of skin, for the purpose of defrauding the State of South Dakota, in any manner, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**Source:** SDC 1939, § 25.1001; SL 1941, ch 122; SL 1945, ch 36, § 10; SL 1947, ch 115; SL 1951, ch 126; SL 1961, ch 123, § 1; SL 1963, ch 141, § 1; SL 1967, ch 90; SL 1972, ch 220; SL 1978, ch 288, § 1; SL 1983, ch 292, § 16; SL 1991, ch 186, § 30; SL 1998, ch 252, § 1; SL 2020, ch 179, § 1.

=====

There is some contradictory law in chapter 41-6, allowing folks to hunt the furbearing animals that are predators, without a furbearing license & without referencing license requirement of 40-36-27

**41-6-3. License not required to hunt fur-bearing animals on own land during open season.**

A resident of this state may catch, trap, or kill protected fur-bearing animals upon land occupied by him without obtaining a license so to do, during any period when hunting, catching, taking, trapping, or killing such animals is permitted.

**Source:** SDC 1939, § 25.0308 (4).

**41-6-4. Fur-bearing license not required--Resident under eighteen.**

A license to take fur-bearing animals is not required of a resident of this state less than eighteen years old to exercise the rights and privileges of the holder of such a license.

**Source:** SDC 1939, § 25.0308 (3); SL 1959, ch 113, § 2; SL 2009, ch 206, § 44; SL 2021, ch 184, § 1.

There is some contradictory law in chapter 41-6, that makes it illegal to hunt fur bearing animals without a furbearing license, without referencing license requirement of 40-36-27

**41-6-23. Fur-bearing animal hunting and trapping license--Privileges--Activities for which license not required--Violation as misdemeanor.**

Except as provided in this chapter, it is a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to hunt, take, kill, or trap fur-bearing animals without a license to take fur-bearing animals or in violation of the conditions of the license or the rules of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission.

A license to take fur-bearing animals permits the licensee to set or operate a trap or traps, hunt, catch, take, trap, or kill fur-bearing animals, except the black-footed ferret, to the extent and in the manner provided in §§ 41-8-20 to 41-8-26, inclusive.

A license to take fur-bearing animals is not required for residents to hunt raccoon, skunk, opossum, badger, jackrabbit, fox, and coyote with firearms. A license to take fur-bearing animals is not required for residents to trap raccoon, skunk, opossum, badger, jackrabbit, fox, and coyote between April first and August thirty-first.

*Source:* **SDC 1939**, § 25.0302 (18); *SL 1941, ch 105; SL 1959, ch 112; SDC Supp 1960, § 25.0302 (16); SL 1967, ch 83; SL 1976, ch 261, § 1; SL 1977, ch 328, § 1; SL 1978, ch 295; SL 1979, ch 278, § 12; SL 1984, ch 29, § 5G; SL 1990, ch 332, § 8; SL 1991, ch 337, § 18; SL 2007, ch 240, § 1; SL 2019, ch 184, § 2, eff. Mar. 11, 2019; SL 2021, ch 184, § 5.*

**41-8-19. Trapping of fur-bearing animals prohibited--Exceptions--Violation as misdemeanor.**

Except as authorized by chapter 41-6 and this chapter, no person may set or operate any trap, hunt, catch, take, trap, or kill any fur-bearing animal. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

*Source:* **SDC 1939**, § 25.0801; *SL 1941, ch 121; SL 1947, ch 113; SL 1951, ch 125; SL 1955, ch 86; SL 1959, ch 122; SL 1959, ch 123; SL 1961, ch 122; SL 1976, ch 261, § 2; SL 1991, ch 337, § 50; SL 2012, ch 203, § 1.*

**41-6-23. Fur-bearing animal hunting and trapping license--Privileges--Activities for which license not required--Violation as misdemeanor.**

Except as provided in this chapter, it is a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to hunt, take, kill, or trap fur-bearing animals without a license to take fur-bearing animals or in violation of the conditions of the license or the rules of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission.

A license to take fur-bearing animals permits the licensee to set or operate a trap or traps, hunt, catch, take, trap, or kill fur-bearing animals, except the black-footed ferret, to the extent and in the manner provided in §§ 41-8-20 to 41-8-26, inclusive.

A license to take fur-bearing animals is not required for residents to hunt raccoon, skunk, opossum, badger, jackrabbit, fox, and coyote with firearms. A license to take fur-bearing animals is not required for residents to trap raccoon, skunk, opossum, badger, jackrabbit, fox, and coyote between April first and August thirty-first.

*Source:* **SDC 1939**, § 25.0302 (18); *SL 1941, ch 105; SL 1959, ch 112; SDC Supp 1960, § 25.0302 (16); SL 1967, ch 83; SL 1976, ch 261, § 1; SL 1977, ch 328, § 1; SL 1978, ch 295; SL 1979, ch 278, § 12; SL 1984, ch 29, § 5G; SL 1990, ch 332, § 8; SL 1991, ch 337, § 18; SL 2007, ch 240, § 1; SL 2019, ch 184, § 2, eff. Mar. 11, 2019; SL 2021, ch 184, § 5.*

=====

There is permission to hunt predator/varmints and raccoons or badgers with various licenses, including furbearers

**41-6-80. Predator/varmint license required to hunt, take, or kill certain animals--Exceptions--Violation as misdemeanor.**

*Except as provided in this section, it is a Class 2 misdemeanor for a resident to hunt, take, or kill raccoons, badgers, or species defined as a predator/varmint in § 41-1-1 without a resident predator/varmint license or in violation of the conditions of the license or the rules of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission. A resident predator/varmint license allows a resident to take or kill raccoons, badgers, or species defined as a predator/varmint in § 41-1-1, except by means of aerial hunting or as prohibited by statute or rule. A resident of this state is not required to secure a*

*predator/varmint license to hunt, take, or kill a predator/varmint on lands owned or operated by the resident.*

*However, if a resident possesses a resident small game license, a resident youth small game license, a resident big game license, a license to take fur-bearing animals, or a resident turkey license, the resident need not acquire the resident predator/varmint license as provided in this section to hunt the species enumerated by this section in the manner and places permitted. A resident small game license, a resident youth small game license, a resident big game license, a license to take fur-bearing animals, or a resident turkey license is valid for hunting those animals permitted by the resident predator/varmint license from date of purchase until the end of the license year as provided by rules promulgated by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission pursuant to chapter 1-26.*

**Source:** *SL 1998, ch 252, § 17; SL 2002, ch 193, § 4; SL 2007, ch 238, § 3.*

Excerpt from Hunting and Fishing Handbook – that does not reference the requirement in SDCL **40-36-27** for small game license or a resident predator/varmint license. Mink, weasel, bobcats and river otters are not covered by various license options offered in **41-6-80**..

Bobcat, Mink, Weasel, Beaver, Muskrat, and River Otter	<b>HUNTING OR TRAPPING   Habitat Stamp and the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furbearer License</li> <li>• No license required for youth under age 18*</li> </ul>	<b>HUNTING OR TRAPPING   Habitat Stamp and the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonresident Furbearer License</li> <li>• River Otter is RESIDENT only.</li> </ul>
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=====  
Here is a law that requires mentions that person merely to have a big game license to hunt big game (which includes mountain lions), without referencing SDCL 40-36-27 licensing requirements for hunting predators in SD.

**41-8-6. License required to hunt big game--Violation.**

*No person may pursue, hunt, take, or kill any big game animal at any time, except persons to whom a big game license has been issued. A violation of this section is subject to § 41-8-18.*

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=====  
Thanks,



Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society



## DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

This meeting will be held in person, via zoom/conference call, and Livestream. Listen to the meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST via Livestream at <https://www.sd.net/remote1/> or join via zoom by clicking on the link below. Depending on your application, you may be required to enter the meeting ID and password. Remember to **enter your display name and mute your microphone**. To help keep background noise and distractions to a minimum, make sure you **mute your microphone and turn off your video** when you are not speaking.

**Thursday, December 7, 2023, starting at 1 pm CST,**

Zoom Meeting Link <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/93912915359?pwd=K2FVZzdQSXJTY0NwWG5mSWpSazUwdz09>  
or join via conference call      Dial 1 669 444 9171      Meeting ID: 939 1291 5359      Passcode: 0565645

**Public Input:** To provide comments, join the meeting in person, via zoom, or via conference call per the info above. To conduct the public hearing and/or open forum as efficiently as possible, we ask those wishing to testify to **register by 1:00 pm CST the day of the meeting by email to [Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us](mailto:Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us)**. **Testifiers should provide their full names, whom they represent, their city of residence, and which proposed topic they will address.**

**Written comments** can be submitted at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record, comments must include the complete name and city of residence and meet the **submission deadline of seventy-two hours before the meeting (not including the day of the meeting)**.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023.

*Stephanie Rissler*

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Stephanie Rissler, GFP Commission Chair