

## WHAT MAKES LAKE OAHE SPECIAL

From 2005-2015, Lake Oahe supported between 94,000 and 338,000 angler days annually and generated between \$6.3 and \$22.7 million in direct economic input to the local and regional economies (based on a value of \$77 per angler trip). Lake Oahe is an important resource in South Dakota and its fisheries and aquatic habitats must be managed to maintain and enhance its value to various user groups. Lake Oahe is special because it provides warm, cool and cold water habitats and thus is able to support diverse fisheries including walleye, smallmouth bass, northern pike, channel catfish and Chinook salmon.



To obtain more information visit: [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov)

You can also speak directly to fisheries managers at the Ft. Pierre GFP Office:  
20641 SD Hwy 1806  
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Phone: 605.223.7700  
Email: [WildInfo@state.sd.us](mailto:WildInfo@state.sd.us)

Plans can be found at:  
[gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/tacklebox](http://gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/tacklebox)  
Learn about aquatic invasive species at:  
[SDLeastWanted.com](http://SDLeastWanted.com)



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# FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN LAKE OAHE 2017 - 2021

The Missouri River and its reservoirs provide considerable economic and recreational activity for South Dakota. Lake Oahe and its fisheries are part of a reservoir system which supports 40% of the angler use in South Dakota. Strategic planning is required to focus use of available resources to provide recreational opportunities that meet user expectations at the present time, while protecting resources for future use. Plans for the management of these resources are fundamental to their sustained and equitable use. This plan identifies current issues related to fisheries management of Lake Oahe and objectives to address these issues. Fisheries management strategies are outlined to accomplish specific objectives.

## MAJOR ISSUES IDENTIFIED FOR LAKE OAHE:

- Shoreline and boat access can be limited due to a variety of factors.
- Habitat quantity and/or quality may negatively impact anglers and fish populations.
- Many knowledge gaps exist for fish populations and community dynamics in Lake Oahe.
- Lake Oahe cold-water sport fishery exhibits boom/bust cycles creating discourse among anglers and making propagation efforts difficult.
- Water management practices impact people, fish, and habitat on Lake Oahe.
- Long term impacts of aquatic invasive species are not well understood.
- User group conflicts exist.
- New and established aquatic invasive species could potentially impact the fishery and water based recreation on Lake Oahe.
- Government and public interactions related to management can be challenging.

## OBJECTIVES ADDRESSING SOME OF THESE ISSUES INCLUDE:

- Increase shore fishing and boat access opportunities at two locations along Lake Oahe.
- Increase knowledge of status of native species in Lake Oahe, its tributaries, and intermittent streams.
- Develop a physical habitat management plan.
- Increase 3-year average juvenile gizzard shad production by 20%.
- Decrease yearly variability (3-year average) of Lake Oahe cold-water sport-fishery.

## STRATEGIES TO ACCOMPLISH THESE OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

- Work with the Parks Division, the USACE, local municipalities, and anglers to identify priority areas for access development and improvement based on potential use and feasibility.
- Work with the Corps of Engineers on funding and implementation of a base-line inventory of bottom substrates in Lake Oahe.
- Determine what, if any, habitat limitations exist for specific fish populations and their ability to support the Lake Oahe fishery
- Determine likelihood of water right applications to use ground water to increase water temperature to increase overwinter survival of adult gizzard shad.
- Review stocking histories (including stocking location, sizes, hatchery history, etc.) of cold-water fish and angler use to determine optimal stocking strategies for cold-water sport fish.
- Improve fall capture of pre-spawn Chinook salmon to ensure egg demands are met in future years.
- Construct a quarantine facility within the state hatchery system to address disease issues for possible sources of Chinook salmon eggs from outside the state of South Dakota.
- Work with North Dakota Game and Fish to conduct native species surveys and determine native species presence and status in the upper end of Lake Oahe and the stretch of Missouri River just upstream of Lake Oahe.

