

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Posted At:** Monday, October 03, 2016 2:35 PM  
**Conversation:** Department Recommendation on Fishing Tournament Permit Fees  
**Subject:** Department Recommendation on Fishing Tournament Permit Fees

**From:** Mike Dorris [<mailto:mike.dorris@fbfs.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 04, 2016 11:52 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Department Recommendation on Fishing Tournament Permit Fees

To whom it may concern,

Good morning, my name is Mike Dorris, I am the Owner/Operator of Lake Area Walleye Club, LLC based out of Madison SD. I created LAWC in 2009 with the purpose of expanding the exposure of fishing and the great outdoors to the next generation. Too many of our next generation choose video games vs. outdoor activities. I do my best to create kid friendly events that will encourage our children to fish, hunt, hike, and simply be outdoors vs. lounging on the couch.

Every dollar of profit that I generate through LAWC go towards youth events, family events, and military appreciation events. I draw large crowds to my events because of the high percentage of entry fees returned to the participants, and the fishing gear I give away which has been around \$10,000 each of the last few years. If I have less dollars to purchase fishing gear to give away, I have smaller crowds, therefore less impact of getting more people outdoors to our events. I am also fairly confident that we give away more fishing gear to our youth than any other organization in the state of SD.

LAWC creates and host 10 to 15 events each year. LAWC's name is not on every single permit you receive as I delegate that out occasionally. 2 delegated permits in particular in 2016 were the Boys and Girls Club of the Sioux Empire Celebrity Walleye Classics (both ice and open water fishing) on Dry Lake #2. I am fairly confident that LAWC obtains more permits than any other organization in South Dakota on an annual basis.

The proposed permit fee I was made aware of yesterday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 would cost LAWC between \$4000 and \$5000 per year. This would sink LAWC and we would be out of business. The permit expense would have to come from the competitors of the events, more expense = less participation. LAWC has no salaries or annual profits, simply an operating budget for our events, insurance, income tax filing, and capital improvements of our equipment to host our events.

I agree that work is created for your personnel when a permit is applied for, but is this permit creating overtime, or the need for additional staff members? If not, I don't think any fee is necessary. I read in the proposal that work is created for your staff to clean up after the events, I assure you we leave the areas of our footprint much better than prior to our arrival. We constantly pick up aluminum cans, ice bags, and other garbage at our events that were there before we arrived. If the hosting organization wants to donate the fish and this creates too much work for your staff, than maybe this should not be an option, or charge a small application fee if they choose to go this route.

I encourage you to reconsider the expensive fishing tournament fees you are proposing on adopting for the future. I really feel the fishing license the angler purchases, and the park fee that is paid to use the parks is enough expense for our participants to pay to use the public resource. Organizations such as LAWC will be very negatively impacted by the fees, and the economic impact on the communities we host our events in will be felt.

Sincerely,

Mike Dorris  
Lake Area Walleye Club, LLC  
1106 NW 4<sup>th</sup> St  
Madison, SD 57042  
[www.lawcllc.com](http://www.lawcllc.com)  
[mdorris@fbfs.com](mailto:mdorris@fbfs.com)  
605-881-4459



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SDGFP

In regards to your proposal to allow the snagging of salmon in Oct. & Nov.. I realize the salmon are going to die after spawning but there is nothing about snagging that is sporting. Fishermen can already keep fish that are foul hooked, just leave it at that.

To me, watching people snag salmon is about as appealing as watching the hundreds of Hmong from Minnesota slaughter every fish they catch at Waubay lake in the spring. The state of South Dakota does not need to promote what amounts to subsistence fishing.

Sincerely,



John J. Hoile

147 17th St. NE

Watertown, SD 57201

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 10:42 AM  
**To:** GFP Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2016 4:20 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW:

**From:** Troy Lantz [<mailto:charbull69@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2016 4:03 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:**

A fee on fishing tournaments is a bad idea. I belong to a bass club in SD and fish several tournaments a year. These people are the biggest promoters of sportsmanship, conservation there are. Not to mention just overall promoters of the outdoors.

The more you pinch people for money, the fewer people that will be able to participate. I for one hope you decide against charging for tournaments.

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 8:42 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Asian carp harvesting

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Sunnyside [<mailto:sunnyside@iw.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2016 5:57 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Asian carp harvesting

I understand the threat to the environment that the Asian carp present. They are dangerous to the habitat and take the food that the baitfish should have.

I also know they are good to eat if cleaned properly, per your website. They are very hard to catch with a hook and line since they really don't bite on anything.

I would like the commission to make it legal to harvest the Asian carp by means of casting nets and spears or gaffs.

Using the casting net is very effective in removing a large number of the fish without a lot of effort. It would still be mandatory to immediately release any game fish caught in the process.

I do not know of any reason why a casting net should not be used to get rid of as many of these fish as possible. I am not aware of any current program to remove them from the waters that they are already infested. All the publicity on them is around not spreading them to other lakes and rivers.

The illegal use of casting nets for the taking of bait fish is already in place, preventing moving the species to other lakes and rivers.

I live in Canton, by the Big Sioux river, The carp are very much infiltrated in these waters. I would be happy if I had a permit to harvest them with my casting net. If there is a permit that I could get; allowing me to do this I would be willing to keep records, make reports of catches, whatever it takes to minimize the population of the species. If enough fishermen were allowed to harvest them when the rivers are down, this time of year, I think it would reduce the number of new fish hatched next year. I believe Iowa would also be interested in making this happen.

Let's take some positive steps to remove the species from the areas which they have infested, by eliminating them where they are, or at least reducing the population, there is less chance of them moving into other waters.

Roger Kleinschmit  
505 n Cedar, Canton SD 57013

[sunnyside@iw.net](mailto:sunnyside@iw.net)

605-659-5414

Call, text, or e-mail me with any information or other questions. Please respond one way or another.

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 10:41 AM  
**To:** GFP Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: DAPL and the Missouri River

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2016 10:18 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: DAPL and the Missouri River

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**From:** NicholeMcMillan [<mailto:mpmmn@hmm21.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2016 10:13 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** RE: DAPL and the Missouri River

Good Morning,

My name is Nichole McMillan. I am writing to you wondering what your stance is in regards to DAPL (Dakota Access Pipe Line) and the Missouri River?

DAPL is looking to build this pipeline under the Missouri River starting in Cannon Ball, ND. This pipeline is going to go from North Dakota thru South Dakota, Iowa and into Illinois. That's 1, 172 miles of oil.

DAPL is stating that it would transport approximately 470,000 barrels per day with a capacity as high as 570,000 per day or more (reference: dakotaaccessfacts.com).

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has been protesting the access of the pipeline. I've read and seen tribal members bring the matter to court, residents along the Missouri on the front lines taking a stance and even children running thousands of miles across the country to bring awareness to the fact that should DAPL be allowed to build a pipeline under the Missouri River that when that line breaks, it will affect everyone's main source of water, kill off wildlife, affect the land. But I am wondering how this would affect the sales of fishing licenses, bait, tackle and anything else that would have to do with fishing on the Missouri River? I am wondering what your take is on all of this? I am not looking to stir up trouble, but as I am watching my family from Wakpala, Cannon Ball, McLaughlin, Mobridge (yes, I do have family in all of them), other tribes, celebrities, non-tribal members and various other people who are supporting this stance, being arrested, being physically altercated, I can't help but wonder why more people have not stepped up and said anything regarding the DAPL and the Missouri River?

I fear for the safety of my family, of the tribe, of the land and animals, of the future should the pipeline break.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and please consider standing against the DAPL, this could affect tourism as well.

Sincerely,  
Nichole McMillan  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Descendant  
[Nmcmillan65@gmail.com](mailto:Nmcmillan65@gmail.com)

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, October 03, 2016 9:43 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: East river deer license drawings

**Categories:** Commission

Thank you,

**Joe Cary** | *Secretary*

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

20641 SD Highway 1806 | Fort Pierre, SD 57532

605.223.7683 | [Joe.Cary@state.sd.us](mailto:Joe.Cary@state.sd.us)



**From:** Ronald Bornemannx. [<mailto:robormann@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, October 02, 2016 1:11 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** East river deer license drawings

As a non resident land owner in mcpherson county sd. I again look at your way of licensing in utter disbelief! Can someone there explain why you are offering so many double tags, but once again as a land owner I cannot even apply for a license until the 3rd drawing which I can't apply for yet? If your goal is to make sure resident hunters have the best chance to get a license, then each tag should be a single tag. If your goal is to keep non residence from hunting in the same areas as residence thereby reducing competition maybe that works I don't know. The only thing I can tell you is if I don't have the opera unity to get a tag to hunt my own property nobody else is going to hunt on it either and anyone that does (because all of those resident hunters running around with 2 tags are not all that ethical) will be prosecuted , no exceptions! It is very frustrating paying well over \$5000 in property taxes only to have slob wonder thru your personal property and piss and moan about they pay taxes so they should be able to hunt wherever. Your way of licensing does not promote any kind of good relations between myself and other hunters, in fact it makes me much more confrontational and protective of my property. My suggestion to you is to make available to non resident land owners a gratis tag to hunt on only there land. (We are tax payers you know). Let non residents apply in the second drawing, your resident hunters should have all their favorite tags filled in the first drawing, especially if they are all single tags . Third drawing should be first come first serve. One more thing to think about is the amount of money you could bring in selling more non resident tags.

Sincerely;

Ron Bornemann

701-361-7117



## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 10:42 AM  
**To:** GFP Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Fee

**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2016 1:54 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Fee

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**From:** Zachers [<mailto:zachers2@rap.midco.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2016 1:34 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Fee

Good morning, I'm the president of the Black Hills Bass Bandits in Rapid City SD, and I heard a rumor that there may be a proposal out on charging fees for tournaments ? we have about 10 club tournaments a year, we are a small nonprofit club and I am concerned about this if it's true. I appreciate an explanation of this if it's so.

Thank you for your time

Mark Zacher  
Black Hills Bass Bandits  
Rapid City SD  
605-391-1710  
[Zachers2@rap.midco.net](mailto:Zachers2@rap.midco.net)

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 10:42 AM  
**To:** GFP Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Fishing Tournament Fee Proposal

-----Original Message-----

From: Cary, Joe  
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 2:41 PM  
To: Comes, Rachel  
Subject: FW: Fishing Tournament Fee Proposal

-----Original Message-----

From: Richardt, Cory W SFC USARMY NG SDARNG (US) [mailto:cory.w.richardt.mil@mail.mil]  
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 2:06 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Fishing Tournament Fee Proposal

To the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission,

I am writing you this email in response to the proposal of establishing a fishing tournament fee that came out of your August meeting. I understand that there is an increasing number of fishing tournaments in the state evidenced by the SDGFP website and in the local newspapers. It seems that every weekend there are a handful of fishing tournaments throughout the year, except for the winter. The South Dakota winter has drastically fewer competitive fishing tournaments, and for that reason alone we decided to start the SODAK Ice Fishing League. My partner Chuck Wilson, of Aberdeen, SD and I organized the SODAK Ice Fishing League, llc in the spring of 2014 and began holding tournaments in the winter of 2015. This coming winter will bring our third season of holding tournaments. Our league is structured with four qualifying tournaments with a capacity of 50 two man teams with the top 25 teams qualifying for a championship, held at the end of the season. We have allowed 10 additional slots for teams to enter as 'at large teams' to be able to compete and see how our events run before they have to commit to join the league and fish the entire series. I believe it is important for you to understand the structure of our league, and to know that our league profits nothing from these events. Neither Chuck and I, nor our other workers/assistants take any income from organizing and running these events, so our interest in writing this letter is purely for the interest of the other 90+ anglers that participate in our events.

The vast majority of our anglers have to travel a minimum of over 100 miles to each of our events; and to add to this, we have had a dozen teams in the last two years come from out of state to participate in all of our events. Every time our anglers come to one of our events, they look at Fuel, Bait, Lodging, Meals/Snacks/Drinks, Fishing License, and any additional tackle/equipment they purchase for the outing. These all add up quickly and I fear that adding an additional expense will be further 'nickel and diming' our anglers and deter them from entering our events. I have heard the argument that these fishermen would be fishing anyway and spending this money in our local economy, but in the case of a good number of our anglers, this is not the case. Many teams have expressed to me this league is the only time that they make it out fishing for the winter. They have said by committing to the events prior to the season, they feel obligated to come out and fish - and are very thankful for it.

Our entry fee for each event is \$20 per person per event. This adds up to \$2000 in entry fees per event; all of which we pay out. The proposed fee of

\$350 for our field of 100 anglers would equal 17.5% of our total take in going to this new tournament fee. Over the whole winter season, according to your proposal, we would have to pay roughly \$1600 for our five events, in tournament fees alone.

Also according to the proposal on the [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) website, this increased revenue will be "brought forward in an attempt to provide compensation to the department for added staff time associated with tournaments." In our two previous years of running these tournaments, we have yet to have any GFP officer stop us for a game check, creel survey, or license check - which we are not complaining about whatsoever. We have taken this fact as proof of trust in our tournament officials to conduct clean, safe, and law abiding events; which we are very proud to say that we do.

I want to make it clear that I do not oppose a tournament fee being established, but I do oppose the one that has been laid out in the press release and posted on the SDGFP website. I am a firm believer in that if a person offers a problem without a solution - he is merely complaining 'over morning coffee'. As such, I would like to offer alternative solutions: 1)

I would like more specific parameters set to the fees, such as base it off of number of participants only or base it off of a percentage of the total entry fees. 2) The fact is there so many more tournaments in the summer versus the winter, thus requiring the additional staff time that your press release references; so would the commission be opposed to a seasonal fee?

Perhaps an increased fee in the busier months versus the winter months, when the workload is lighter.

I would like to thank the SDGFP for all they do for our state wildlife, state parks, and fisheries; and for your consideration in this matter.

Cory Richardt  
605-949-1065  
Watertown, SD  
SODAK Ice Fishing League, llc

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 10:42 AM  
**To:** GFP Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Fishing Tournament Fee Proposal

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2016 12:04 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Fishing Tournament Fee Proposal

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**From:** brianm [<mailto:brianm@alliancecom.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2016 12:02 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Fishing Tournament Fee Proposal

I am writing to voice my opinion on the proposal to establish fishing tournament fees. I have attended several tournaments the past several years both open and hard water in South Dakota. I am writing to oppose tournament fees altogether unless the fee structure is right-sized to the entry fees that these tournaments. Comparing a \$500 50 boat entry fee with \$25,000 payouts to a \$20 entry fee \$800 payout is not fair and will only result in smaller just as popular tournaments to go by the wayside. Unless that is the true intention of the proposal, the fee structure should match the tournament structure. Today's tournament environment already has a stigma of only those with \$90k boats and the money to play in multiday high dollar tournaments need apply. To these types of tournaments the proposed increase doesn't matter to their participants and their decision to enter isn't based on an extra fee dollars added to the entry fee. However, the small entry fee tournaments that are usually located in smaller communities and attended by locals or those that share same interests are going to see the most impact of a tournament fee. Please reconsider this fee structure until it can address this imbalance. Im sure some of the smaller SD tournaments and communities that support them would agree that a fee can be imposed but at a level that is equal to the level of the tournament being held.

Brian Moen  
Renner, SD

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2016 2:23 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Fishing Tournament Fees

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**From:** Rick Lutt [<mailto:southfork@gwtc.net>]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2016 2:00 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Fishing Tournament Fees

I'm writing this letter opposing the recommended fees wanting to be placed on tournaments.

It is hard enough for some tournaments I fish for them to get a decent turnout, expenses are high to fish and just getting higher with increasing equipment cost and travel expenses. An added fee would further reduce the payout in a tournament, lowering the money we have a chance at winning back. Lowering the payout in these would be more likely to keep competitive anglers from Nebraska and Iowa from coming to them like they do now, and you already make money off of their license sales. Not to mention the money they spend on gas at the local stations, food at the restaurants, and rooms at the hotels. What if a tournament is expecting over 20 boats and only 12 show up, they've already had to pay the fee and now they're out the extra money to pay back.

The divisional this fall on Oahe for the TBF, will have I'm assuming over 200 participants, (I haven't heard a number but that's usually common), Only 12 are from South Dakota. The state should promote these tournaments instead of trying to make money by charging fees, just think of the money that will be spent on non-resident licenses alone, plus \$30 each vehicle for park entrance to the boat ramp and Spring Creek, plus all the money spent in the local community to businesses that are grateful to have a bass tournament in the area.

All the tournaments I have fished through the Bass Federations not once have I seen any Law Enforcement or staff show up to an event. A few times on Lake Sharpe they came to survey fish which in my opinion would be an added benefit to them to have a set time and place they can come and collect data they need. Most of the tournaments we have are at Corps boat ramps so you can't even state that there is cleanup on your end of it for those. You can't tell me it's that much work or takes that long for someone in an office to look at a calendar and see there's no other tournaments then when they issue a permit, and unless you can show specific expenses that are caused from these tournaments then you shouldn't be able to set a fee on them.

This Fee will do very little on your end compared to what we already have to spend to fish here, adding a fee will only penalize the competitors and the very fisherman that chose to fish in your state.

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, October 03, 2016 11:14 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Fishing tournament fees

**Categories:** Commission

Thank you,

**Joe Cary** | *Secretary*

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

20641 SD Highway 1806 | Fort Pierre, SD 57532

605.223.7683 | [Joe.Cary@state.sd.us](mailto:Joe.Cary@state.sd.us)



**From:** Dave Johnson [<mailto:tarnson@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, October 03, 2016 11:06 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Fishing tournament fees

Dear Commission:

I have two concerns about the proposed fishing tournament fees rule. The first has to do with enforcement. The proposed rule puts the burden on the participants to determine whether the tournament they are fishing in has a permit. Unless there is a requirement for tournament sponsors to publish and display their permit, and further, an awareness in anglers that by participating in a tournament without a valid permit, they are in violation, the chain of responsibility becomes cloudy, at best. Basic fairness would dictate that the entity responsible for applying should directly suffer the consequences for not doing so. Penalizing sponsors makes sense for a multitude of reasons, beyond common sense. First, prosecuting one sponsor rather than one hundred participants is more efficient. Second, I doubt that you could find a state's attorney or a judge who would prosecute or convict an angler for a sponsor's inaction.

My other concern has to do with the burden this fee may create for non-profit or charitable organizations, particularly when their net revenue from such an event may be very small. This added expense could cause these low margin events to be discontinued, which would be unfortunate since many of them are designed to promote family participation in the sport, increasing the base of future anglers.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Dave Johnson

2629 Air Haven Road

Watertown, SD 57201

Phone: 605-884-9577

Cell: 605-220-0540

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2016 10:51 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: GFP Commission Proposes Establishment of a Fishing Tournament fee

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Theisen, Dean [<mailto:dtheisen@smithfield.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2016 7:00 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** GFP Commission Proposes Establishment of a Fishing Tournament fee

Dear Commissioners,

I am not in favor of these fee proposals. As a sportsman I fish in a couple of tournaments a year. Some of these tournaments have been fund raisers in honor of an individual outdoors sportsperson with proceeds being donated to cancer research or whatever their cause is, and other tournaments are family friendly gatherings of the people I work with getting to know my personal family (son, daughter, brothers) as a fun weekend outing. My family and other co-workers partake in a weekend of camping and fishing at the wonderful Platte Creek recreation camp ground once a year. As some of my family and co-workers only fish once a year I think the added cost would deter them from the additional cost bestowed upon these individuals. So if this proposal goes into effect, potentially the number of tournaments could dwindle, thus the business in those areas will lose revenue along with the State of South Dakota, the campgrounds as well, reduced park entrance numbers, and license not being purchases. As for my family couple live out of state so they purchase an out of state license just to come over here and fish with myself in a family oriented event that doesn't care about the number of people in the boat as long as it meets state regulations, they only weigh 7 fish in that tournament which is completed by volunteers in their organization. I frequent these spots I fish a few times a year just due to the beautiful nature of the area and my limited schedule availability.

The points the State makes: Time for Review, research, Law enforcement and clean-up.

- 1. Staff time for review:** How much time is spent on review? I see the application is entered online and into a database by an individual for that tournament. So all one has to review is the application? All of a couple of minutes to read, then approve and forward it onto the next step in the process. How much research? Do they look at the database from last couple of years and there is no negative remarks about the tournament it proceeds unto the next step? How many people need to approve a fishing tournament? Could the cost be reduced by decreasing the number of approvals necessary for a tournament? How many man hours a year are put to this process?
- 2. Law Enforcement:** As I have fished these tournaments I have only been checked twice by an officer on the water of the Missouri River system and have been checked once on a small lake during a tournament. As most of the other times I have been checked it is usually right after coming to shore for the day. I have abided by all the laws and regulations thus additional resources needed? Where is the need for additional law enforcement? In most tournaments' if you do not follow the rules and laws of the state you are disqualified from the tournament so why would there be a need for additional enforcement?



- 3. Clean-Up:** I would like to know what they are cleaning up? How many hours of clean up necessary after a tournament? Because while I'm out there or a family member we pick our trash and any of the other trash that might have been left by someone else. You pack it in you pack it out. I have been the last one vacating some of the campgrounds after the weekend and they look just as clean as when people arrived. Is the state charging for other activities that take place out at state parks like family reunions, Class Reunions, large picnics, etc?
- 4.** The fact that you would fine the angler for fishing in a tournament that was not approved by GFP would be absurd. Why would you fine someone who is not breaking the law? How is he to know that the organizer of the tournament placed an application in for approval? The additional cost of this application fee will be passed onto the angler.

Dean Theisen  
3201 W 43<sup>rd</sup> street Apt 5  
Sioux Falls, SD  
605-521-4055

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## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2016 8:39 AM  
**To:** GFP Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Live animal traps

-----Original Message-----

From: Cary, Joe  
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 8:23 AM  
To: Comes, Rachel  
Subject: FW: Live animal traps

-----Original Message-----

From: Earl Girton [<mailto:northfork321@svtv.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, August 14, 2016 8:52 AM  
To: SDGFPINFO  
Subject: Live animal traps

I am a bit puzzled by the dept's involvement with live traps. For years, the GF&P has been buying fairly large numbers of live traps from a fellow I know; all the while, there were other local manufacturers, including myself, who were selling equal quality traps to the public for less than the GF&P was paying this fellow.

So, first off, I question why the dept. is even involved in the live trap market. Do you give them away? If not, there should be hundreds of them on hand to loan, or whatever.

Secondly, why is the dept. paying too much for every trap they buy? I know a state trapper who stated that he can only work 60% of his time as a trapper, 'due to budget constraints'. Yet the dept. is paying over \$10 per trap too much for the ones they are purchasing. I know of multiple orders submitted for purchase, each under \$1000, which I understand eliminates the need for getting bids, so it appears that whoever is in charge of wasting our tax dollars is aware of competitive suppliers, but chooses not to patronize them.

I sell my traps for \$55, which includes So. Dak. sales tax, yet I understand that the last order for 50 traps from the 'chosen supplier' was at \$65/trap, and that does not include sales tax. Am I looking for business? No. It just chaps my butt to watch our limited wildlife tax dollars being thrown away. And I believe that someone should be held accountable for this waste. And just maybe the GF&P should let private citizens purchase traps if they need them, from whomever they want. Then if someone wants to spend \$65 (plus tax) on a trap, at least they are wasting their own money.

Earl Girton  
7400 W. Madison St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57107  
[northfork321@svtv.com](mailto:northfork321@svtv.com)  
605-977-2680

dba: Live Traps R Us

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, October 03, 2016 9:46 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: new law

**Categories:** Commission

Thank you,

**Joe Cary** | *Secretary*

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

20641 SD Highway 1806 | Fort Pierre, SD 57532

605.223.7683 | [Joe.Cary@state.sd.us](mailto:Joe.Cary@state.sd.us)



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**From:** jonathan hart [<mailto:jonathanhart21@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, October 03, 2016 9:42 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** new law

My name is Jonathan Hart, Iraq War vet and a Tribe member of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. I need information on getting a new law passed for the "natives". That gives them hunting preference. I think it's not fair that the white people living in this state with more then 160 acres get tags set aside for them. These people are living on land that belongs to the Lakota, this land was stolen by the Government in 1868 ( **Treaty of Fort Laramie**).

Where are the tags set aside for the Lakota in this state? zero..... I Know everyone in the Pierre office will laugh about this because you are white and don't care about history. But I am here to fight the white man laws and get some hunting rights for the Lakota people. I hope to get a timely response on my concerns for equal right.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Hart  
SGT, USMC

112 6th ave  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
605-645-2419

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 10:34 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Proposal # 5 Tournament Fee

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Betsy Lentz [<mailto:tberry@tnics.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 10:18 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Proposal # 5 Tournament Fee

I am writing to argue against the application Fee for Fishing Tournaments that is being proposed for adoption at the October meeting.

Dakota Sportsman, in Watertown, a membership of outdoor enthusiasts and supporters host an annual fishing tournament in June at Lake Poinsett. Under the new rules, our tournament would be assessed \$525 for our 80 boats. Our tournament is a fundraiser for the activities we support.

We host a Steak Feed the night before Pheasant opener, for members and the public. We host and run a Kids Ice Fishing Tournament in February on Lake Kampeska, with a hot dog lunch and prizes and trophies for the kids. We are a major contributor to the Youth Sportsfest each September in Watertown, hosting over 200 kids for a day of outdoor activities and experiences. We send a donation annually to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for a food plot in the Southern Black Hills. We send several teenagers each summer to an Outdoor Camp hosted in the Black Hills by SD Wildlife Federation. And we have donated \$2000 per year to the GFP for food plot programs in the Codington County area. These are some of our projects.

We have been told by local GFP staff that the rule change is to support the additional work of the staff to support and police these tournaments. Let me share a story of GFP involvement at our tournament this year. We did ask that our tournament be placed on the GFP schedule on the website, and it was. During the tournament, a CO from GFP did arrive, also with a Brookings County Sheriff. It turns out that the sailboat regatta, also being held on Poinsett had overturned a paddleboat to use as a buoy marker and not notified any authorities. A citizen phoned in worried about occupants in the water in danger.

After that was deemed foolish, but no one was in danger, we had another incident. A large boat from MN with an inboard motor, attempted to launch on the West side, into a very heavy wind and big waves. The boat motor died and was already off the trailer with no driver. The CO told my 19 year old son who was helping with the tournament to jump in the water to try and secure the boat. "Since he had shorts on". He was nearly pushed into the dock and crushed by the boat. How was that our responsibility? They did get the boat trailered for the out of staters that did not even say thank you. None of these incidents were caused by the fishing tournament, and none of those participants are required to support GFP with funding, such as licenses.

If GFP needs more funds to run the work that they are charged with, why not raise the license fee for Out of State Fishermen? They will surely pay to fish here as they do not have great fishing in MN, IA, ND and others, so they come here. Has a plan been developed to pay for fighting invasive species? The zebra mussels are likely coming. The risk is more from out of state fishermen bringing it in, so maybe the State should start collecting higher fees to have a fund to fight those when needed.

Please consider that this is like double taxation. Fishermen are already supporting GFP through the purchase of their license. And this rule change would add additional cost to the same people. Tournaments are generally hosted by groups of outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists, so you would be biting the hand that feeds you.

Betsy Lentz  
Watertown, SD

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 11:26 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Tournament fees

**Categories:** Commission

**From:** Kris VenOsdel [<mailto:kris.venosdel@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 11:01 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Proposed Tournament fees

Kris VenOsdel  
Springfield, South Dakota

I am sending this email in opposition of the proposed application fee for tournament fishing. The amount of fees that GFP keeps imposing on anything to do with outdoor activities anymore is getting out of hand. There is more than enough money brought in to cover the supposed extra expenses that you say need to be covered for these tournaments.

"These events require staff time for review, research, law enforcement and cleanup. The proposal is brought forward to provide compensation to the department for added staff time associated with tournaments."

Do we not already buy licenses and pay fees for these activities already? Isn't it the job of the conservation officers to monitor ALL fishing activity whether it's tournament or just a normal day with every day fishing going on? If cleanup is such a problem that your staff need to come in and clean up afterwards, maybe you should fine the tournament organizers at that point. There is no need to assess a fee to every tournament organizer when the vast majority do an excellent job of clean up afterwards.

To end, I feel another fee to participate in an outdoor activity is getting away from the goal of getting more people outdoors in general.

Thanks,  
Kris VenOsdel

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2016 7:58 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Sage Grouse season comments

**Categories:** Commission

**From:** Andrew Kopp [<mailto:andytkopp@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2016 9:25 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Sage Grouse season comments

Hello,

This year I was fortunate to be able to harvest a sage grouse near Camp Crook. I commend the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks along with their partners for making this season a reality. I would like the following changes to take place;

1. Treat the access permits as tags. I suggest charging \$25 to successful applicants. I believe offering free tags encouraged many people to apply that did not have serious intentions of participating in this hunt. This may have taken away a potential opportunity to people who fully intended to go on the hunt if provided the opportunity. Charging a fee may help alleviate this problem that I perceive.
2. Hold the season later. In September most of the sage grouse are molting and full of pin feathers. Many people treat hunting sage grouse as an opportunity to obtain a trophy, myself included. I brought my grouse into a taxidermist today and was informed the bird may not be mountable given that it was molting at the time of harvest. A later season in November or December would help to ensure the birds have mature feathers at the time of harvest. I suggest a season in December to avoid the rifle deer season.

Thank you for taking the time to read these suggestions. I did enjoy the hunt,

My name is: Andrew Thomas Kopp  
My address is: 1311 Harmony Lane, Watertown, SD, 57201

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 10:43 AM  
**To:** GFP Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: TOTAL BULL\_\_\_\_!! I can already see that any money from BASS tournaments will be spent on the restocking of your precious walleye!! Very BAD idea in my opinion

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2016 4:29 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: TOTAL BULL\_\_\_\_!! I can already see that any money from BASS tournaments will be spent on the restocking of your precious walleye!! Very BAD idea in my opinion

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**From:** Mel Williams [<mailto:bassman573@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2016 3:52 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** TOTAL BULL\_\_\_\_!! I can already see that any money from BASS tournaments will be spent on the restocking of your precious walleye!! Very BAD idea in my opinion

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone



## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2016 1:03 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Tournament fees

-----Original Message-----

From: Blaine Fopma [<mailto:bgfopma@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 12:43 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Tournament fees

I recently learned about the proposal to add fees for fishing tournaments. I previously ran a small ice fishing tournament series in our state and if this proposal was in place it would have been detrimental to what we were doing. It is hard enough trying to find sponsors and get participants without the extra fees. I truly believe nobody is profiting from administering these tournaments. If you have to raise license fees (which I am not for), I believe it would be a better solution than charging a separate tournament fee. Thank you for your consideration.

Blaine Fopma  
7625 s Courtyard cir  
Sioux Falls, sd 57108  
605-359-9870

Sent from my iPhone

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Kiel, Emily  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2016 1:40 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Cc:** Lott, John; Saylor, Will  
**Subject:** FW: tournament fees - Public comment

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Frank [<mailto:marohnfr@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2016 1:31 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** tournament fees

I agree that fees should be charged for tournament use of a lake. Seems to be too many of them anyway. Fishing should be fun, not for pay. Win a trophy and call it good.

Frank

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2016 8:39 AM  
**To:** GFP Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: tournament fees

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2016 7:46 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: tournament fees

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**From:** rsimkins [<mailto:rsimkins@vastbb.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 5:38 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** tournament fees

WTF greedy bastards pretty soon there will be nothing to do that's cheap other than rioting and spreading violence, why the hell do you need to mess with the tournaments nobody takes the god damn fish home to eat we go beyond to keep the fuckers alive and healthy always looking out for the pollution and ethics of fishing more than any other group!!! and you want to dick us fuck you GF&P!!!

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 8:48 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: TOURNEY FEES

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**From:** Don Fjerstad - Watertown Radio [<mailto:don.fjerstad@alphamediausa.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 8:38 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** TOURNEY FEES

Dear Sir: I agree with the concept of tournament fees, but, not the amounts you have proposed! I think a lot of charity, non-profit & conservation clubs etc. tourneys would call it quits. For the last 20+ years KWAT & KDLO radio in Wtn. has sponsored and run a fishing tourney on the third Friday in January on Lake Poinset. We do it to kick-off the Poinsett Pounders Governors games & childrens day. We charge \$7 per person & depending on the weather, we average 170 fisherman per year. We serve free brats, buns, peanuts, water & pop from 10a.m. to 3 p.m. Our cost \$1500. We give out \$350 in cash prizes. We buy \$500 in door prizes & give donated door prizes away...also. Now, with a \$800 tourney fee for a 5 hour fishing tourney, we will end our annual tourney!! I think a structured fee of \$100 for 100 people & a \$200 fee for 101+ fisherman would be tolerable to business sponsors & charity tourneys. On Lake Kampeska alone, each winter, in Wtn., there is a Ducks Unlimited., Elks club, Izaak Walton & a couple other non-profit tourneys. I feel they may end there tourneys also. Yours Truly;  
Don W. Fjerstad, Outdoor Director & Sales-KWAT, KDLO, KIXX, KKSD, KSDR-FM & KSDR-AM  
, Watertown, S.D.

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2016 7:56 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Walleye Tournament

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Terry Nelson [<mailto:westprairie@icloud.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2016 6:45 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Walleye Tournament

The best way for the state to get rid of folks having tournaments, especially smaller tournaments. Would be to start charging for them. I feel the tournaments bring plenty of revenue to the state through The different ways fisherman spend money we do not need to take away from the entry fees. Unless they can show where the extra money is going. It would need to show that it's improving our fishery otherwise it's senseless, The anglers are just wanting to spend money in South Dakota and show that it's a great place to fish. Please take extreme consideration before you put this through.

Sent from my iPhone

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 8:42 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Asian carp harvesting

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Sunnyside [<mailto:sunnyside@iw.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2016 5:57 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Asian carp harvesting

I understand the threat to the environment that the Asian carp present. They are dangerous to the habitat and take the food that the baitfish should have.

I also know they are good to eat if cleaned properly, per your website. They are very hard to catch with a hook and line since they really don't bite on anything.

I would like the commission to make it legal to harvest the Asian carp by means of casting nets and spears or gaffs.

Using the casting net is very effective in removing a large number of the fish without a lot of effort. It would still be mandatory to immediately release any game fish caught in the process.

I do not know of any reason why a casting net should not be used to get rid of as many of these fish as possible. I am not aware of any current program to remove them from the waters that they are already infested. All the publicity on them is around not spreading them to other lakes and rivers.

The illegal use of casting nets for the taking of bait fish is already in place, preventing moving the species to other lakes and rivers.

I live in Canton, by the Big Sioux river, The carp are very much infiltrated in these waters. I would be happy if I had a permit to harvest them with my casting net. If there is a permit that I could get; allowing me to do this I would be willing to keep records, make reports of catches, whatever it takes to minimize the population of the species. If enough fishermen were allowed to harvest them when the rivers are down, this time of year, I think it would reduce the number of new fish hatched next year. I believe Iowa would also be interested in making this happen.

Let's take some positive steps to remove the species from the areas which they have infested, by eliminating them where they are, or at least reducing the population, there is less chance of them moving into other waters.

Roger Kleinschmit  
505 n Cedar, Canton SD 57013

[sunnyside@iw.net](mailto:sunnyside@iw.net)

605-659-5414

Call, text, or e-mail me with any information or other questions. Please respond one way or another.

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 27, 2016 8:45 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Fishing tournament fees

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**From:** Mike Schortzmann [<mailto:mjshorty57@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 10:08 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Fishing tournament fees

I am writing in support of fishing tournament fees. I agree that there should be some compensation for added costs to hold these events. I hope that the proposed fees are enough to cover those costs. If not, maybe the fees should be higher.

Mike Schortzmann  
1022 Rockhill Road  
Rapid City, SD 57703  
605-342-6829



## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 10:42 AM  
**To:** GFP Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2016 4:20 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW:

**From:** Troy Lantz [<mailto:charbull69@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2016 4:03 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:**

A fee on fishing tournaments is a bad idea. I belong to a bass club in SD and fish several tournaments a year. These people are the biggest promoters of sportsmanship, conservation there are. Not to mention just overall promoters of the outdoors.

The more you pinch people for money, the fewer people that will be able to participate. I for one hope you decide against charging for tournaments.

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2016 8:39 AM  
**To:** GFP Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 4:09 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW:

**From:** Terry Clark [<mailto:teclark5@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 3:58 PM  
**To:** SDGFPINFO  
**Subject:**

I am writing to ask if there is a way . That the state could pass a law that would aloud residents 65 and older to get a lifetime fishing license. I know of many states that do that for their older ones. It would really show how much you appreciate them. TY

Please consider this carefully with your staff and all involved.

Sincerely,

Terry E. Clark

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2016 10:23 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW:

**Categories:** Commission

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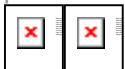
**From:** Feser, Harold [<mailto:Harold.Feser@POET.COM>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2016 9:47 AM  
**To:** SDGFPINFO  
**Subject:**

Please do not change tournament cost for ice fishing. These tourneys have very little impact on the fishing system, and are hard to keep them going due to participation. Weather affects them greater than the summer fishing. I started ice fishing about 10 years ago and just about find a tourney every week end. Now it is hard to find one within 1 hours drive let alone 2 hours. Thank you.

**Harold Feser**  
Logistics Coordinator



4615 N. Lewis Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
P/ +1 (605) 965-2216  
F/ +1 (605) 965-2303  
poet.com



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## Mobridge Area Chamber of Commerce

**MOBRIDGE**  
BRIDGE CITY

212 N Main St Mobridge, SD 57601  
Phone: 605-845-2387 Fax: 605-845-3223  
[www.mobridge.org](http://www.mobridge.org) / [info@mobridge.org](mailto:info@mobridge.org)

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
523 E Capital Dr.  
Pierre, SD 57532

Dear Members of the South Dakota GF&P Commission,

We are writing to you in regards to agenda item 12, fishing tournaments, that was discussed at your August 4-5<sup>th</sup> meeting. It has come to our understanding that the commission is looking at imposing fees for tournaments that are applied for through the tournament application system. Although we understand the need for the Game, Fish, and Parks office to manage what is a tight budget, we do oppose the fee structure that was discussed.

Us as a community that thrives on tourism, and particularly fishing tournaments, anticipate a negative impact on those tournaments that may not be able to afford the excess costs that were proposed. We are fortunate enough to see all sizes of tournaments ranging from South Dakota's Largest (Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament, 525 teams), to midsize (Denny Palmer Memorial Classic, 137 teams and the Cabela's National Walleye Trail), and smaller local tournaments (Mobridge Couples Tournament, 3M Tournament, Northern Oahe Series, and many more). From our experience, any costs that directly impact the bottom line will adversely drop the amount of advertising, amount of payout, and/or the number of participants. This in turn will decrease the collection of sales tax, park passes, fishing licenses, and other means of which the state and small communities like Mobridge fiscally budget for. There could potentially be a downward spiral in some fishing tourism, and we would assume that this isn't something that the commission is wanting.

We are asking the commission to consider not imposing a fee structure, and to have open dialogue those non-profits, communities, and individuals that work tirelessly to showcase the abundant fisheries of SD to tournament anglers.

If any commission members would wish to discuss this further, our Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Committee would be more than amicable in conversing.

Best Regards,

Lindsay Scott

Jesse Konold

Rick Bolduan

Mobridge Chamber Executive Director Mobridge Tourism Co-Chair Mobridge Tourism Co-Chair

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Posted At:** Monday, October 03, 2016 3:04 PM  
**Conversation:** public comment of bass regs  
**Subject:** public comment of bass regs

**From:** Blackwell, Brian  
**Sent:** Monday, October 03, 2016 11:59 AM  
**To:** Adams, Geno  
**Subject:** public comment of bass regs

Geno,

Steve Charron (Huron, SD) stopped in this morning to express his support for removing the black bass regulations from Enemy Swim. I told him I would pass his info on.

Thanks,

Brian

**Brian Blackwell** | *Fisheries Biologist*  
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks  
603 E 8<sup>th</sup> Ave | Webster, SD 57274  
605.345.3381 | [brian.blackwell@state.sd.us](mailto:brian.blackwell@state.sd.us)



On behalf of South Dakota Walleye Unlimited members (“SDWU”), and the other organizations signed on below, SDWU would like to address its concerns with regards to ARSD Article 41:09 Special Permits and Licensing (Fishing Tournament Fee’s).

Walleye tournaments have seen significant growth in popularity over the last few years. SDWU considers this a good thing for both walleye anglers and the South Dakota economy. Fishing is part of the South Dakota heritage and tournaments give both local and non-residents an opportunity to experience the great fisheries that SD has to offer. Local tournaments are a stepping stone for anglers looking to enhance their fishing skills by fostering friendly competition. Minimal entry fees for such tournaments make it affordable for many young and new anglers to compete. For example, the Sioux Empire Chapter of SDWU hosts a fishing tournament at Platte Creek every year with a limit of 50 boats. The entry fee for this tournament is only \$70 per team. Unfortunately, the proposed rule will likely cause SDWU to raise this entry fee. As written, SDWU believes the proposed rule harms lower entry fee tournaments that cannot absorb the increased financial burden caused by the fee. The current structure of the proposed rule only factors in the number of participants, it does not take into consideration the entry fee charged by the tournament. That is, a local tournament with 50 boats is charged the same application fee as a national tournament with 50 boats and a large entry fee. This will likely harm many local, low-entry fee tournaments across the state by causing them to increase their entry fee, which will likely lead to decreased participation by anglers.

SDWU is aware of the necessary time and man power required to process tournament permits. However, SDWU does not see a need for a game officer to be present at every tournament (but SDWU doesn’t think this should discouraged either). Nor is SDWU aware of extensive trash caused by tournaments. If excessive trash is a problem after a tournament, SDWU would appreciate being made aware so we can work with the tournament directors to clean up such areas as well as help prevent future problems. SDWU and many others organization feel the current proposed fees would have a negative effect on the tournaments that are already proposed and being organized for the coming year. Most tournaments held locally are 100% payout tournaments which means all the entry fee or sponsorship money is paid back out to the anglers. Any additional fees would be directly passed on to the angler through an increase in entry fees or lower pay-outs, thereby likely lowering tournament participation. This could harm a growing industry and an important part of the South Dakota economy.

SDWU cannot support ARSD 41:09 in its current form. SDWU does understand the growing number of tournaments creates an administrative burden on the GFP staff. Thus, SDWU would support a reasonable, flat fee (amount TBD) per tournament application to offset the additional costs and time placed on GFP staff. SDWU would be glad to poll tournament directors to see what a reasonable fee may be. Please take our members concerns under consideration when reviewing this proposed rule change at your October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in Mobridge, SD.

Respectfully,

Rocky Niewenhuis, President  
South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 7:56 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on proposed tournament fees  
**Attachments:** USA Bassin letter to SDGFP.docx  
  
**Categories:** Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Damar Dore [<mailto:dored@cox.net>]  
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2016 4:50 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Fwd: Public comment on proposed tournament fees

> Date: Wed, 17 Aug 2016 16:39:40 -0400  
> From: Damar Dore <[dored@cox.net](mailto:dored@cox.net)>  
> To: [jim.spies@state.sd.us](mailto:jim.spies@state.sd.us)  
> Subject: Public comment on proposed tournament fees  
>  
> Mr. Spies,  
> I have enclosed a comment for reconsideration on the proposed tournament fees rule, thank you for taking time to review it. If you or any of the other members of the committee have questions on what we are suggesting please contact me at 605-216-3798 or by email and I will be happy to make clarifications as needed.  
>  
> Very Respectfully  
> Damar Dore  
> Director  
> USA Bassin South Dakota Division

USA Bassin, South Dakota Division would like to applaud The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks on its efforts to manage its staff cost with that of area tournaments, I understand the need for these fees with the departments needing to operate inside its budgetary constraints.

However, I believe that there is a fairer and equitable solution to this short fall, one that could ease the burden of applications and not to increase the cost to organizers to operate tournaments. After polling several tournament anglers, we feel a better solution to have a rider on the current fishing license (much like a duck stamp for hunting) for an additional \$10.00 per annual to fish tournaments in South Dakota, This would make it fair to all tournament and derby anglers that wish to fish these style events.

Most of the tournaments we currently fish are less than 20 boats which concerns me for future growth and when we have open tournaments, the issue we face not knowing until the last moment how many boats are showing up to fish, if we purchase a 20 + permit and only 10 boats show up then we are in the hole by at least 3 tournaments to get that amount of funds recovered. As a club you don't want to discourage anglers from fishing your events, and as an organization you cannot be successful by losing funds.

I do believe that applications for any size event should be mandatory; this would give the SDGFP notice of a planned event should they desire staff to attend, also it would allow the planning so multiple events are not scheduled for the same locations and dates creating thus hazards and delays for non-tournament anglers.