

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION PROPOSAL

## General Provisions

41:07:01

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Public Hearing</b>	November 5	Pierre
	<b>Finalization</b>	November 5-6	Pierre

## Commission Proposal Highlights

Modify 41:07:01:03 “**Baitfish use restricted.**” as noted below.

### Recommended changes

Allow for the use of dead baitfish in the Black Hills Trout Management Area and other specified waters where use or possession of live bait fish is restricted.

**41:07:01:03 Baitfish use restricted.** A person may not use or possess live minnows or live baitfish at or adjacent to the following waters:

- (1) The waters in the Black Hills Trout Management Area except Stockade Lake, Custer County, and Sheridan and Pactola Lakes, Pennington County;
- (2) Allen Dam, Lake Creek, Cedar Creek Dam No. 1, and Cedar Creek Dam No. 2 on the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in Bennett County; and Little Moreau No. 2 in Dewey County.

## SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Many Black Hills lakes contain multiple game fish species and dead baitfish are a highly effective means of taking some of these species. Salted and pickled baitfish are not a threat to Black Hills trout management. The preserving process kills all potential organisms that would threaten Black Hills Trout Management Area (BHTMA) fisheries. While real concerns, such as viruses like VHS, still pose a threat through frozen baitfish, frozen baitfish are allowed throughout the rest of South Dakota and this should be examined at a statewide level.

The possession and use of dead baitfish would not interfere with the ability to trap baitfish within the BHTMA remain as stated by allowed by current regulations. This would also make it legal for anglers to catch and harvest white suckers, creek chubs and other species legal for noncommercial use as bait found within the BHTMA as long as the fish is killed before it is transported from the water where it was caught.