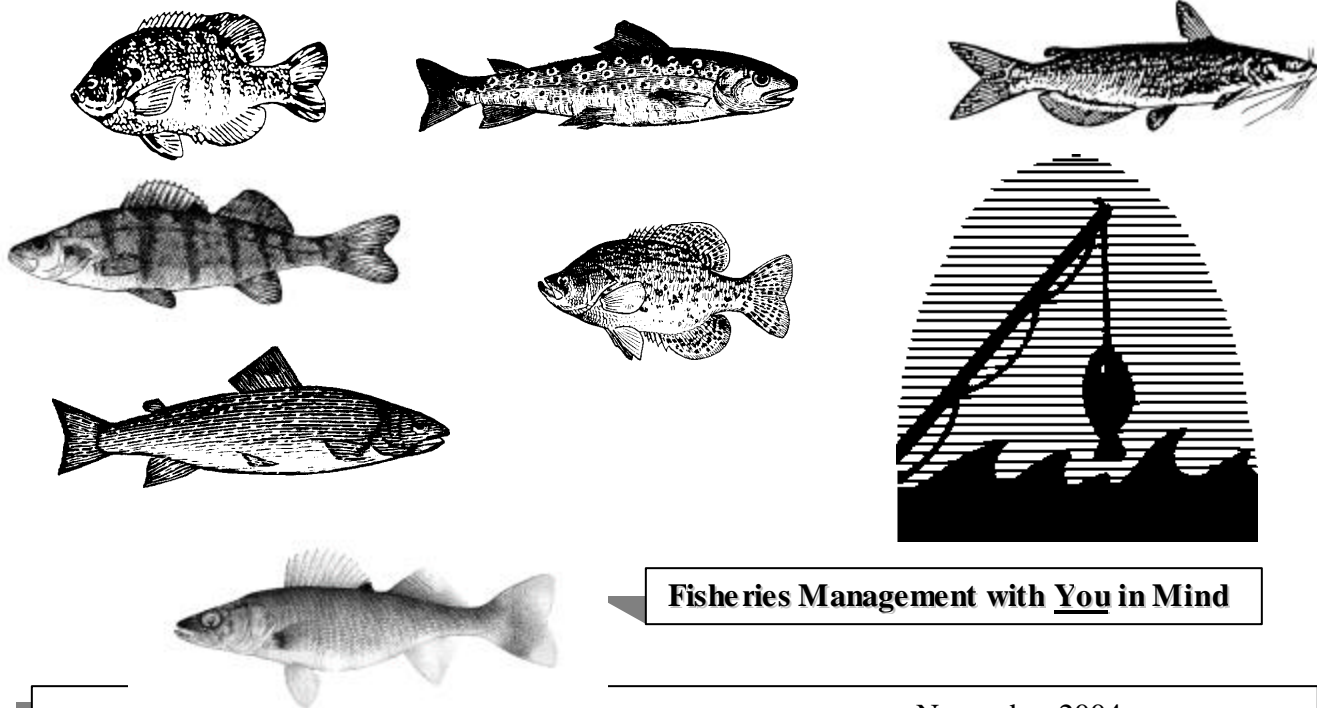


Report to Survey Participants
Fishing in South Dakota - 2003
Fishing Activity, Harvest and Angler Opinion Survey

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Fishe ries Management with You in Mind

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Dear angler,

This is a summary report of the Fishing in South Dakota – 2003 survey, which measured fishing activity, harvest in 2003 and angler opinions related to a number of topics. We sincerely thank all of you who participated by completing and returning your questionnaire. We had 7,296 anglers return their questionnaire for a response rate of 65.6%. The information collected by this survey will provide useful information for the next five years.

One objective of this survey was to gather enough information to estimate the total statewide fishing activity and harvest in South Dakota for 2003. A second objective was to gain an overall better understanding of resident and nonresident anglers fishing in South Dakota.

Fishing in South Dakota - 2003

Fishing Activity, Harvest and Angler Opinion Survey

Fishing license revenue collected in 2003 amounted to about \$4.8 million¹ with 52% coming from resident anglers and 48% from nonresident anglers. Resident anglers fished more days than nonresidents and harvested more fish (Table 1).

Table 1. South Dakota fishing activity and harvest comparing residents and nonresidents.

Parameter	Total	Resident Anglers	Nonresident Anglers
License Revenue	\$4.8 million	52.0%	48.0%
Days Fished	2,913,649	87.2%	12.8%
Walleye Harvested	1,878,076	75.7%	24.3%
Bass Harvested	237,649	86.6%	13.4%
Northern Pike Harvested	175,575	77.0%	23.0%
Trout Harvested	274,172	85.3%	14.7%
Yellow Perch Harvested	1,882,820	84.7%	15.3%

The fishing activity and harvest results from a 1999 survey were compared with the 2003 fishing activity and harvest results (Table 2). Overall, more total days of fishing occurred in 2003 than in 1999 (2.9 million days vs. 2.5 million days). However, more total walleye, bass, pike/musky, trout and yellow perch were caught in 1999 than were caught in 2003.

Table 2. South Dakota fishing activity and harvest comparing 1999 and 2003.

Parameter	1999	2003
Days Fished	2,505,085	2,913,649
Walleye Harvested	2,090,885	1,878,076
Bass Harvested	265,023	237,649
Northern Pike / Musky Harvested	292,084	176,922
Trout Harvested	309,146	274,172
Yellow Perch Harvested	2,142,092	1,882,820

The 2003 fishing survey measured fishing activity in two major fisheries in South Dakota, the Black Hills and the Missouri River system (Table 3). Resident angler fishing in the Black Hills accounted for 11.6% of the total resident fishing activity and in the Missouri River system accounted for 28.9%² of the total resident fishing activity in 2003. Nonresident angler fishing in the Black Hills accounted for 11.4% of the total nonresident fishing activity and in the Missouri River system accounted for 57.9%³ of the total nonresident fishing activity in 2003. Resident anglers accounted for 77.3% of the total fishing in the Missouri River system in 2003 (compared to 74.7% in 1999).

¹ One-half the cost of the two resident combination licenses was attributed to fishing.

² Compared to 22.3% in 1999.

³ Compared to 55.5% in 1999.



Table 3. South Dakota fishing activity in the Black Hills and the Missouri River system by license type (2003).

License Type	% Fishing in the Black Hills	% Fishing in the Missouri River System	Estimated Total Number of Days Fishing	
			Black Hills	Missouri River
Resident Annual	25.1%	46.0%	181,248	367,790
Combination	17.1%	51.4%	71,528	249,965
Senior Fishing	22.9%	46.4%	31,712	79,883
Jr. Combination	19.8%	48.8%	9,125	19,974
Resident One-Day	25.3%	32.3%	885	1,130
Resident Oahe	N/A	95.8%	N/A	16,929
Resident Total			294,498	735,671
Percent of Total Resident Fishing (N=2,541,239 days)			11.6%	28.9%
Nonresident Annual	8.1%	61.0%	11,750	87,581
Nonresident Family	18.0%	48.5%	11,105	28,852
Nonresident 3-Day	17.2%	53.3%	12,693	41,997
Nonresident One-Day	28.2%	41.4%	7,029	10,319
Nonresident Annual Oahe	N/A	98.7%	N/A	41,631
Nonresident Family Oahe	N/A	98.7%	N/A	5,409
Nonresident Total			42,577	215,789
Percent of Total Nonresident Fishing (N=372,410 days)			11.4%	57.9%
Total Number of Days Fishing			337,075	951,460
Percent of Total Fishing (N=2,913,649 days)			11.6%	32.7%

Anglers' Evaluation of the Fishing in 2003. Overall most anglers rated the fishing in 2003 in the fair to good range (Table 4). Overall, almost two-thirds of the anglers were satisfied (20% dissatisfied) with their 2003 fishing experience (Table 5).

Table 4. Anglers' rating of the fishing in South Dakota in 2003 analyzed by license type.

License Type	Evaluation – Rating of the Fishing in 2003					
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Opinion
Resident Annual¹	4.6%	13.7%	38.8%	34.8%	5.6%	2.5%
Resident One-Day	9.7%	15.6%	31.5%	26.1%	4.3%	12.8%
Resident Oahe	7.5%	15.6%	42.3%	27.0%	3.9%	3.7%
Nonresident Annual	4.7%	12.2%	35.5%	37.8%	9.4%	0.4%
Nonresident Family	7.3%	14.3%	31.4%	39.5%	6.2%	1.4%
Nonresident 3-Day	6.5%	14.0%	25.9%	38.7%	13.3%	1.7%
Nonresident 1-Day	7.8%	13.2%	28.9%	36.2%	9.4%	4.4%
Nonresident Oahe²	7.2%	16.1%	31.4%	37.9%	7.0%	0.4%

¹Includes the Annual Fishing License, Combination License, Senior Fishing License and the Junior Combination License.

²Includes the Nonresident Annual Oahe Fishing License and the Nonresident Family Oahe Fishing License.

Table 5. Anglers' satisfaction with their overall South Dakota 2003 fishing experience.

License Type	Evaluation – Satisfaction with 2003 Fishing Experience		
	Dissatisfied	Neutral / No Opinion	Satisfied
Resident Annual ¹	20.2%	15.3%	64.5%
Resident One-Day	20.7%	28.0%	51.3%
Resident Oahe	25.4%	15.0%	59.6%
Nonresident Annual	20.4%	10.2%	69.3%
Nonresident Family	22.2%	10.8%	66.9%
Nonresident 3-Day	18.9%	9.0%	72.1%
Nonresident 1-Day	17.8%	13.5%	68.3%
Nonresident Oahe ²	21.1%	7.4%	71.5%
Weighted Average ³	20.3%	14.6%	65.1%

¹Includes the Annual Fishing License, Combination License, Senior Fishing License and the Junior Combination License.

²Includes the Nonresident Annual Oahe Fishing License and the Nonresident Family Oahe Fishing License.

³Based on proportion of total fishing days.

Understanding Anglers. Six types of anglers were identified based on their top motivations for fishing (Table 6). Enjoying time spent with friends and/or family primarily motivates social anglers while nature anglers are most interested in enjoying the outdoors. For the relaxation anglers it is the opportunity to get away from the everyday pressures and relax while on the other hand the excitement anglers view fishing as an opportunity for excitement. The food anglers are primarily motivated by the opportunity to bring fish home to eat while the sports anglers are motivated by catching a trophy fish, becoming a proficient angler and/or competing with other anglers in fishing tournaments.

Table 6. Angler types based on top motivations for fishing (residents vs. nonresident).

Dominant Motivation	Resident Anglers	Nonresident Anglers
Social	28.0%	29.4%
Nature	24.8%	17.1%
Relaxation	20.8%	20.1%
Excitement	16.4%	24.3%
Food	7.7%	5.3%
Sports Angler	2.3%	3.8%

For a complete copy of these survey results, please send your name and address to:

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or send your name and address to me by e-mail: larry.gigliotti@state.sd.us

and ask for the **Fishing in South Dakota – 2003** survey report. The final report should be ready for distribution by about January 1, 2005.