

PRAIRIE NEWS

<http://SD-PheasantHunting.com>
1-855-SD Lodge

February 2013

35451 253rd Street
Kimball, SD 57355

Media Update:

We have updated our website for the new year! As always, we welcome your feedback. While revising some of the pages, we discovered that the submission process to receive a free newsletter was not functioning properly. If you subscribed to the newsletter in the last month, we may not have received your request so please forward your information to us again.

Fishing Update:

For the past few months, we have been focused on pheasant hunting. As this season winds down, we want to look ahead to fishing opportunities. Our proximity to the Missouri River as well as South Dakota's premier reservoir lakes makes the Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort your ideal fishing destination.

Lake Oahe is located behind the Oahe Dam near Pierre, covering about 370,000 acres. Lake Sharpe is behind the Big Bend Dam by Fort Thompson and is much smaller with an area of about 57,000 acres. Lake Francis Case is further south behind Fort Randall Dam and covers about 102,000 acres.

All of these lakes offer superior fishing but some are better known for particular species of fish. Therefore, we can review the most popular fish so that you can make an informed choice of fishing destinations.



Walleye – The most popular Missouri River fish, walleye is the state fish of South Dakota. Their name comes from the ability of their eyes to reflect white light, giving them excellent sight in turbid and low-light conditions. Walleye are most active in the morning and evening, and they feed more frequently on cloudy days or in rough, choppy water.

Although walleye can grow to about 30 inches in length and 20 pounds in weight, most lakes are fished extensively and yield catches about half this size.





Catfish – The second most popular fish along the Missouri River, catfish possess remarkable taste and smell receptors. Taste buds are distributed over the surface of its entire body. These special senses allow catfish to easily find food in dark or muddy waters. Catfish are omnivores, which means they will eat almost anything and can be caught using a variety of natural or prepared baits.

Although a catfish could weigh 40 pounds, we view anything over 10 pounds as an admirable catch. When removing hooks, we always remind our guests to beware the sharp spines on the catfish fins.

Perch – Yellow perch is the species most commonly found in the Missouri River. In the same family as walleye and sauger, perch are light yellow with dark, vertical bars on their sides. Perch prefer to swim in schools, and they are an important food source for other predatory fish species, particularly walleye and northern pike.



Yellow perch are fairly easy to catch, even when fishing for other species. They are popular because they are one of the most flavorful panfish.



Northern Pike – These fish are ambush predators, hence they lie in wait and then accelerate rapidly when they strike. As a result, northern pike are very popular sporting fish because of their speed and strength. In the springtime, fishing for pike from the shore is effective because they move into shallow water to spawn. During hotter weather, the fish move into deeper water and boat anglers have better luck.

Most of our fishermen release the pike they catch because they are too bony, but the larger fish can be kept and successfully filleted.

Smallmouth Bass – Very popular along the Missouri River, the smallmouth bass is considered one of the toughest fighting freshwater fish. It is generally intolerant of pollution, so our clean water lakes make a perfect habitat for the smallmouth bass. The females are a bit larger than the males, typically weighing from three to six pounds.



Prairie Puzzle:

Last month's question pertained to the first pheasant hunting season in South Dakota:

South Dakota's first pheasant hunting season was in 1919. In 1931, the starting time of noon for shooting hours was implemented. Since 1961, the third Saturday of October has been the designated opening day of the season.

February question: ***Which of South Dakota's three reservoir lakes – Lake Oahe, Lake Sharpe and Lake Francis Case – was named after a former South Dakota governor?***

Please submit your answer by February 14, 2013 to be included in the prize drawing for a free Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort hunting hat. Responses will be accepted via mail, phone, or email. Good luck!