



## DAKOTA PRAIRIE LODGE & RESORT

# PRAIRIE NEWS



### **IMPORTANT REMINDER: MAKE YOUR PHEASANT HUNTING RESERVATIONS**

This year, open Pheasant Season begins on October 19 – and we are already counting down the days. If you are hoping to hunt pheasants with us in 2024 or in early 2025, do not hesitate to reach out as soon as possible. Weekends and weekdays are filling up quickly, so it is crucial to get your name on the books.

It is looking like a banner year for wild pheasants here in our home of Brule County, South Dakota. We've spotted countless chicks running through the fields and enjoying the swaths of alfalfa we have planted for them. Want to get in on the action? Give us a call to make a reservation for group sizes from one to forty!



### **THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE LODGE**



What's new at the Lodge? After getting a lot of rain recently, our fields are looking lush and green – and that is perfect for our resident pheasant chicks! Baby pheasants have been out and about this July, signaling a banner year ahead for pheasant hunting this fall.

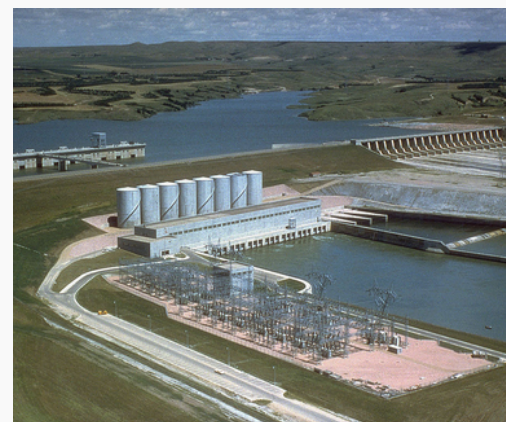
As we count down the days until Pheasant Season (exactly 86 days as of this newsletter's publication), we are also enjoying our favorite summer pursuits: prairie dog hunting and fishing on the Missouri River. This summer, we have been lucky enough to host nearly 200 prairie dog hunters. Plus, it's not too late to book a fishing trip with us! Enjoy a few days out on the "Big Muddy" reeling in some walleye.

### **IT'S A GREAT DAY FOR CATCHING FISH**

Fishing on the Missouri River is one of our favorite pastimes come summer. In our Kimball, South Dakota location, we are perfectly poised to take advantage of the flowing waterway. Our experienced guides will help you find the perfect place to cast your line – they know all of the secret spots where walleye like to hide out and lurk! There has been some other interesting news for our area of the Missouri River as well: Fort Randall Dam closed for the first time in history.

This dam is located near Yankton, and typically flows at a rate of 3-5 mph. After a large rainfall, however, the dam was closed due to flooding in Iowa and Nebraska. The riverbed nearby dried, and treasure hunters flocked to the area, searching for keepsakes and coins in the silt.

The Fort Randall Dam is now running as normal again, and the Missouri River walleye are ripe for catching!



## WHAT FISH CAN YOU CATCH IN THE MISSOURI RIVER?

Avid fishermen love the diversity of great catches that you can find in our local area of the Missouri River, familiarly nicknamed the "Big Muddy." So what might you hook when you cast your line on a fishing trip with Dakota Prairie Lodge and Resort? Let's dive into the types of fish you can find in the Missouri...

### WALLEYE (*SANDER VITREUS*)

The walleye is the most common fish that you will find in the Missouri River – and it is one of our favorite creatures to look for in the depths of the water. Walleyes are freshwater fish native to Canada and the northern portion of the United States. They can grow to be over 30 inches long, and the largest specimens among them can weigh over 20 pounds. The record for the largest walleye ever caught is held by Mabry Harper, a resident of Tennessee. The record-breaking fish weighed 25 pounds. Walleye are nocturnal predators that mainly eat other fish species, such as bullheads, freshwater drum, yellow perch, darters, and minnows. They also eat crayfish, insects, worms, and other small mammals. When fishing for walleye, our favorite bait options include leeches, worms, and minnows.



### SMALLMOUTH BASS (*MICROPTERUS DOLOMIEU*)

One of the best things about fishing on the Missouri River? You never know what you might catch. In South Dakota's portion of the Missouri River, there are a few areas known for trophy smallmouth bass. Lake Francis Case, which we often fish, is one of those areas. This sport fish is native to the upper portions of the Missouri River as well as other freshwater tributaries in Canada and North America. The world record size for smallmouth bass is 11 pounds, 5 ounces. It prefers cool, fast-moving water and often hides out in nooks and crannies along the shore of the Missouri. Smallmouth bass typically eat insects, amphibians, crayfish, and even the young of other smallmouth bass.



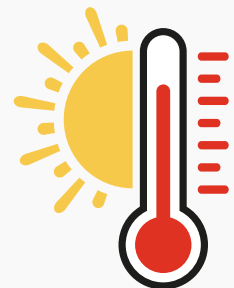
### NORTHERN PIKE (*ESOX LUCIUS*)

Commonly known as simply a "northern," the northern pike can be found in the upper waterways of the Missouri River throughout the summer. They can grow to a relatively large size, measuring up to 22 inches long and weighing in at as much as 40-50 pounds. The current weight record for the northern pike is 55 pounds – and that record-holding fish was caught in Germany. These olive-colored fish are often in the mix when fishing in South Dakota.

## PRAIRIE PUZZLE

**July Question:** What is the highest temperature ever recorded in South Dakota?

- a) 120° F                      b) 108° F  
c) 113° F                      d) 125° F



Submit your answer by August 10, 2024, for a chance to win! Answers will be accepted via email, phone, or mail. Correct answers will be entered into the prize drawing to receive a FREE Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort hat.