

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS**

A Public Hearing will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 1360 SD-44, Winner, SD 57580, at 2:00 pm (Central Time) on September 10, 2026, to consider adoption, amendment and repeal of Administrative Rules of South Dakota numbered

1. ARSD 41:07:03:01. Inland waters.

Effect: Modify statewide inland fishing regulations by allowing limited harvest of muskellunge and northern-muskellunge (tiger) cross, and establishing certain limits.

Reason: Provides anglers with a limited harvest opportunity for muskellunge and tiger muskellunge while maintaining a quality trophy fishery.

2. ARSD 41:07:03:03. Daily, possession, and length limit restrictions on special management waters -- Additional restrictions described.

Effect: To update fishing regulations for special management waters and remove special harvest restrictions for Reetz Lake.

Reason: Provides anglers with a limited harvest opportunity for muskellunge and tiger muskellunge while maintaining a quality trophy fishery. In addition, the proposal removes the special regulations for Reetz Lake because the public access agreement under which those regulations were established is no longer in effect, and public access is now available only with landowner permission.

3. ARSD 41:07:05:03. Paddlefish snagging, processing, and transportation restrictions.

Effect: The proposed amendment modifies the transportation requirements for paddlefish harvested during the archery season below Gavins Point Dam.

Reason: The proposed amendment reduces unnecessary processing restrictions for anglers while maintaining effective enforcement of applicable paddlefish regulations.

4. ARSD 41:09:04:16. Records required.

Effect: The proposed amendment would remove the annual submission of a summary report for retail bait dealers as a requirement for license renewal and specify an annual summary report needs to be submitted by wholesale and export bait dealers. The rule ensures that bait dealer records are consistent, accurate, and accessible for department review.

Reason: The purpose of this section is to provide the department with a consistent and reliable method for monitoring bait dealer activities, ensuring compliance with applicable statutes and administrative rules, and supporting enforcement efforts related to the sale, transport, and distribution of bait species.

5. ARSD 41:09:08:03.03. Pathogens of regulatory concern.

Effect: The proposed amendment updates the list of fish pathogens and revises the pathogen testing requirements.

Reason: These changes reduce the regulatory burden on fish importers and suppliers, align permit requirements with current fish health standards, and continue to protect the state's aquatic resources.

6. ARSD 41:09:15:09. Restricted times of fishing tournaments.

Effect: Clarifies the dates during which fishing tournaments are prohibited by specifying that tournaments may not be conducted on the Friday preceding the Fourth of July weekend when the Fourth of July falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday. Also provides clearer direction for tournament organizers and Department staff regarding restricted holiday periods.

Reason: The clarification promotes consistent administration of tournament permits, reduces scheduling conflicts during periods of heavy public use, and helps preserve recreational opportunities for the general public during the holiday weekend.

7. ARSD 41:10:02:01. List of endangered birds.

Effect: Modify the list of state endangered bird species.

Reason: The proposed rule updates the state endangered species list to reflect the best available biological information and current conservation status.

8. ARSD 41:10:04:01. List of aquatic invasive species.

Effect: The proposed amendment adds the golden mussel to the list of aquatic invasive invertebrates.

Reason: The amendment is necessary to proactively address the threat posed by golden mussel.

9. ARSD 41:10:04:02.01. Aquatic species conveyance launching and removal exceptions.

Effect: The proposed amendment modifies exemptions from aquatic invasive species conveyance launching and removal requirements for specific

circumstances involving aquatic conveyances.

Reason: The proposed amendments modify exceptions to aquatic invasive species conveyance restrictions to maintain protections against the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Persons interested in presenting amendments, data, opinions, and arguments for or against the proposed rules may appear in-person at the hearing, or mail or e-mail them to the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, or by going to the GFP website at <http://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions>. All persons who desire to submit written amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views by mail or email are encouraged to mail or transmit the same in sufficient time so that it is received by and in the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks 72 hours prior to the date of the hearing. All written and email comments must include the name, hometown/city, and state of the person submitting the comments.

After the written comment period, the Commission will consider all written and oral comments it receives on the proposed rules. The Commission may modify or amend a proposed rule at that time to include or exclude matters that are described in this notice.

For Persons with Disabilities: This hearing will be located at a physically accessible place. Please contact the Department of Game, Fish & Parks at least 48 hours before the public hearing if you have special needs for which arrangements can be made by calling 605-773-3718.

Copies of the proposed rules are available for review on the internet by going to <https://rules.sd.gov/> and copies of the proposed rules may be requested from the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501 by calling 605-773-3718.

Published at the approximate cost of \$_____.