

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

**GFP Seeks Comments  
On Canada Goose &  
Turkey Plans**

PIERRE – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is seeking comments on the 2010-2014 resident Canada goose management plan prior to drafting the next five-year plan for 2015-2019. GFP is also seeking comments on the 2001-2010 wild turkey management plan prior to drafting a five-year plan for 2015-2019.

"The current resident Canada goose management plan focused on harvest management tools to reduce crop damage caused by resident Canada geese while maintaining quality hunting and viewing opportunities for Canada geese in South Dakota," stated Tony Leif, director of the Division of Wildlife. "With the current wild turkey management plan being as outdated as it is, we need to continue to ensure quality species management and look forward to hearing from the public on their feedback."

All individuals interested in commenting on either of these proposed plans have from now through May 15, 2015, to comment on the different plans in their current form. Each management plan can be found online at: <http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/management/plans/default.aspx>.

Written comments for the resident Canada goose management plan can be emailed to [canadagooseplan@state.sd.us](mailto:canadagooseplan@state.sd.us) or sent to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501. Written comments for the wild turkey management plan can be emailed to [turkeyplan@state.sd.us](mailto:turkeyplan@state.sd.us) or sent to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501. Comments must be received by May 15, 2015, and include your full name and city of residence.

**Calving Season Kicks  
Off In Custer**

CUSTER STATE PARK – With spring in full swing, bison calving season is kicking off in Custer State Park. The first calves of the year have already been spotted.

Most bison calves are born in late April to early May. The calves are a rust-orange color for a month or so following birth, before gradually turning dark brown. Calves are usually 40-50 pounds at birth.

Greening grass along the roadsides this time of year attracts wildlife, creating prime viewing opportunities; however, drivers should exercise caution of animals on and near the roadway. Check your speed and stay alert.

Visitors are reminded to not move, "rescue," or otherwise interfere with calves. Their mothers will return to take care of them. Bison cows are fiercely protective of their young and should be treated with caution and respect.

For more information, contact the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center at 605-255-4464.

**Boating Safety  
Course April 26 In  
Columbus**

NORFOLK, Neb. -- Seats are available for the Option B boating safety course in Columbus on April 26, 1-4 p.m. at the Loup Public Power. Nebraska law requires any motorboat operator (including personal watercraft) born after December 31, 1985 to complete a Boating Safety Course and be in possession of a course certificate. Operators must be 14 years of age to use a motorboat (including personal watercraft) in Nebraska.

Option B, the home study option, requires participants to download and study materials online before attending an Option B class, a 3-hour home study review/test-out session. Those looking to take the 6-hour Option A course can find additional classes on the Boating Education online calendar: <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/boating/guides/boating/BGeducate.asp>.

To attend the course in Columbus, contact Donna Robinson at [donna.robinson@nebraska.gov](mailto:donna.robinson@nebraska.gov) or (402)416-3139. In case of severe weather, call prior to the class to confirm course status.

**S.D. Fish Consump-  
tion Advisories**

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota departments of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are reminding anglers to check the current list of fish consumption advisories as the 2015 fishing season begins.

Based on testing results from 2014, two advisories have been added to the list:

\*\* Hazeldon Lake in Day County for walleye greater than 21 inches.  
 \*\* Lynn Lake in Day County for walleye greater than 18 inches.

A complete list of all lakes and sizes of specific species within those lakes, for which advisories have been issued, can be found at: <http://doh.sd.gov/food/Fish-Advisories.aspx>.

Annual testing of fish for metals, pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyl or PCB's is a collaborative effort of the South Dakota Departments of Game, Fish and Parks, Environment and Natural Resources and Health. When test results exceed established values for certain sizes of fish in a water body, a consumption advisory is issued.

**S.D. GF&P Anter  
Auction May 2**

PIERRE - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) will host its antler auction Saturday, May 2, 2015, at the Rapid City regional office shop located at 4130 Adventure Trail.

Items up for auction include, but are not limited to antelope, deer and elk antlers on skull plates; deer and elk bulk antlers; deer and elk shoulder mounts; bobcat pelts as well as mountain lion skulls and hides. Other miscellaneous items will also be on the auction and include tree stands, goose decoys and elk ivories. Auction items are subject to change and are limited in quantities.

Doors open at 9 a.m. MDT and the auction begins at 10 a.m. MDT. The public is invited to attend.

# Late Spring Fishing Tips

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

Late spring is the time of year when fish become active and aggressive, since they're cold-blooded, warmer water means more activity and more activity requires more food.

The walleye will be on the move, cruising, looking for a meal, so you'll need to make some changes from the way you fished during the early spring, the old-water period.

This is the time of year when you'll be able to speed up your presentation. You'll still use many of the same lures, but you'll fish them a little faster.

If you're using a jig, you'll want to speed up your retrieve, jig a little more aggressively, drift the boat a little quicker or use your trolling motor to move the bait a bit

quicker.

When using a live bait rig, this is a good time to switch from your minnow rig to a crawler rig.

Depending on the temperature, it may still a little early to troll a spinner, but a live-bait rig like the Northland Roach Rig worked just off the bottom will start to look pretty good to walleyes, bass and other predator fish.

Crankbaits will really start to come into play as the water temperature rises and trolling or casting crankbaits along the shoreline will really start to produce.

You'll probably start trolling crankbaits about 1 ½ mile per hour, but as the water warms, fish will be more apt to chase a fast moving crankbait and you can troll at a faster speed, covering more ground and catch more fish.

Fast water presentations will also become more productive! The fast water below the Missouri River dams will hold a variety of fish. Theses predators will lie among the rocks and debris on the bottom, waiting for an easy meal to swim or drift by.

By drifting through the fast water, and kicking your motor in and out of gear, which helps to slow your drift, you'll be able to get your bait in a vertical presentation.

If you're after catfish, try a crappie rigs with rubber bands hooked between the bottom snap and the sinker, as this will help to keep your rig out of the snags and in the fish-catching zone.

The rubber band lets the sinker snap in and out of the rocks and when you are hung up, you can pull back hard on the line, letting the line snap back. By doing this you will either kick the weight loose or break the rubber band. Now all you have to do is replace the rubber band and weight



Gary  
**HOWEY**



PHOTO: TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES

**Catfish like this one are eager biters in the late spring, feeding heavily in the fast water below the Missouri River dams.**

instead of putting together an entire crappie rig, which saves you time and gets your rig back into the water quickly.

Anglers using bottom bouncers and crankbaits will start to pick up the aggressive walleyes that have moved up into the turbid water looking for an easy meal.

Prior to dropping a bait into the water, I generally like to make a drift through the area, keeping an eye on my locators so I'll know at what depth the walleyes are located.

If they're tight to the bottom, I'll tie my crankbait on a short snell, if they're suspended higher, I'll use a longer snell to get the bait into the area that the walleyes are feeding..

Fish this rig by taking your motor in and out of gear so that the rig will stay vertical which allows the crankbait the opportunity to work its magic.

Jigs cast along the shoreline or off the points and retrieved in a darting fashion will also take these fast water cruisers.

One thing you'll want to do when fishing the fast water below a dam is to use heavier line. Since the fish you're after are aggressive, water clarity is generally poor and the rig you'll be using heavier, so you won't need to use lighter line.

Heavier line, although a pain to fish with, will help you to get any snagged lure from the bottom. Line in

the 10 to 15 pound range will generally work well when fishing live bait rigs in the fast water.

Drop your line down until you feel the bottom bouncer tick the bottom; now work it up and down as you would a jig. This causes the crankbait to dart and jump around resembling a wounded minnow.

Use just a heavy enough bottom bouncer to keep the bait vertical. If you aren't vertical, you'll know soon enough because it will snag up.

The bites on this rig will generally come as you jerk the rig upward or just as the bottom bouncer comes in contact with the bottom.

Late spring is also the time of the year when you need to keep your eyes open, looking for signs of activity on the surface.

Seagulls diving on an area or minnows hitting the surface are a good indicator that predator fish such as walleyes and bass are on a feeding spree. The fish force the minnows to the surface or up into the shallow water where the gulls and other shore birds take advantage of this easy meal.

If you spot this type of activity, it will pay to check it out, as there are probably game fish near by.

This is the time of the year when walleyes and bass will move from the deeper water off the points and sandbars, especially when the water is rising. You'll also find them in areas where creeks, streams or runoff enters the lake or river.

The water coming in is generally warmer and the incoming water brings a smorgasbord of fine dining to the hungry fish.

Grubs, worms and insects are carried along by the incoming water and the fish will set up below these areas waiting for lunch to come to them.

Late spring is an excellent time to head for your favorite fishing hole, as the fish are more active, the mosquitoes haven't come out yet and the temperatures are comfortable.

By speeding up your presentation and going to a bit larger bait, you should be able to take a few of these aggressive late spring fish.

*Gary Howey, Hartington, Nebraska, is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series, seen on the MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. In Northwest Iowa, it airs on KCHE 92.1 FM. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com).*



LEFT: Scotty Dittmer caught this Northern Pike on a recent outing.



RIGHT: Mikaila Dittmer caught this Saugeye.

PHOTOS BY TJ'S MINIMART

**\$25 =**  
**15 WORDS**  
**1 PHOTO**  
**1 NEWSPAPERS**  
**1 SHOPPERS**  
**SPEEDY SALE!**

**Get Extra!**

**Buying or Selling a Car?**  
**Get EXTRA exposure and a Speedy Sale!**

Your 15 word, 1 photo classified ad will run for 6 days in the Press & Dakotan, and once in the Missouri Valley Shopper for only \$25!

**MV Shopper** MISSOURI VALLEY  
**PRESS & DAKOTAN** YANKTON DAILY

Great school car! 2003 PT Cruiser, silver, 91,000 miles, good gas mileage. \$4,200 - call (555)555-5555

Get Extra offer good through April 30, 2015. Subject to change without notice.

**319 Walnut**  
**605-665-7811**  
**yankton.net**

**Got An Outdoors Photo You Want To Share?**  
**Email It To [jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)**

*Celebrate Women 2015*

**Bring Mom For A Special Day of Fun!**

*Power Your Heart into Life*  
*Celebrate Women 2015*

**with Event Speaker Julie Clark**

**NEW Location!**  
**Saturday, May 9th, 2015**  
**NFAA Easton Archery Complex**

Doors Open at 11:00 am  
 Lunch Served 12:30pm-1:45pm  
 Door Prizes & Inspirational Speaker 2pm  
 Booths Open at 11am

Advance Tickets Only \$20  
 Tickets available at Yankton Hy-Vee, Press & Dakotan & the Broadcaster

**her-voice**  
 Experience...the Difference!  
**1st FIRST DAKOTA NATIONAL BANK**  
**YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C.**  
*Yankton's Primo Women's Event!*