

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: spearfishing

**From:** Paul Kruse [<mailto:paul.kruse.uq7e@statefarm.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 11:51 AM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: spearfishing

Brookings sd

**From:** Paul Kruse [<mailto:paul.kruse.uq7e@statefarm.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 8:00 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** spearfishing

To whom it may concern:

I know there is proposals to open spearfish hunting across the state and wanted to express my opinion. I feel this is a great recreational hobby and a win win for hunters and fisherman. Most lakes across are too dirty to dive in so most lakes would be unaffected. This activity is great to bring more revenue to the state and open our waters for everything. Please pass this. Thanks

***Paul Kruse***

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: 41:07:06:03 Areas open to spearfishing of game fish.

**From:** Dick Behl [<mailto:dbehl@fmsbscotland.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 8:09 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** 41:07:06:03 Areas open to spearfishing of game fish.

To: South Dakota Game, Fish, & Parks Commission

Thank you for allowing me to make comment on a petition for change of the above rule.

I would like to comment on and support a petition that has been presented to the Commission for consideration that would open spearfishing up to all inland lakes and boundary waters of the state. I do not feel that restricting spearfishing to certain times of the year or to certain lakes is fair. I enjoy the sport and feel that I should be able to enjoy my sport activity to any waters that anglers are allowed. It is my understanding that there is no biological reason to continue these restrictions. Therefore I would ask that you make the necessary changes to:

**41:07:06:03 Areas open to spearfishing of game fish.**

That will open up this sport to all areas. It seems that if you restrict the area and time for this sport, as the sport grows in numbers you are concentrating these individuals to only specific areas which isn't good. Please consider the proposed changes. Thank You!

Dick D. Behl  
220 5th Street  
Scotland, SD. 57059  
[dbehl@fmsbscotland.com](mailto:dbehl@fmsbscotland.com)

Sent from my iPad

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: S.D. Spear fishing

-----Original Message-----

From: victor herrick [mailto:[vic.herrick@yahoo.com](mailto:vic.herrick@yahoo.com)]

Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 12:03 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: S.D. Spear fishing

Dear Commissioners,

I urge you to open more opportunities for spear fishers. Applying modern principles of fisheries management to the resource, there is little reason to deny spear fishermen reasonable access to the resource .

Spear fishermen pay their way , Pittman- Robertson /Dingell-Johnson taxes on diving/spear equipment apply, and we should have equitable with anglers access to fishery resources.

We would like to see season restrictions lifted , within the confines of best science oriented management principles. Is there some management reason for current short season relative to what anglers enjoy ? Spearfishers should have similar access to anglers.

Spear fishing as done by free divers is an incredibly demanding athletic sport. We are relatively few, and likely to remain so. Catch per unit of effort is relatively low in study after study, typically lower than angling with less mortality, high grading and waste. Because spear fishermen are selective, there is less waste than what unskilled catch and release or size limit restricted anglers often generate.

I urge you to give spearfishers equitable access to the resource, and I also urge you to closely monitor the resource and make sure spear fishermen are not having undue impact on fisheries.

There may be specific species. I.e. large mouth and small mouth bass and perhaps salmonids that are so valued as sports fish that I would favor no take/no kill zones for anglers and spearfishers. Specific data to justify limiting access or take should be used in deciding, not just angler vs. spearfishers prejudice. There are so many emotion based biases against spear fishing in certain communities , but actual statistical data typically justifies this harvest technique.

Thank you for your careful consideration and supporting spear fishing as another ethical and sporting endeavor in the conservative management of SD fisheries.

Respectfully,

Victor Herrick  
10049 E. Calle Malpaso  
Hereford , AZ. 85615  
(760)890-8032

Sent from my iPhone

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: spearfishing comment

**From:** Ryan Gebauer [mailto:rgebauer@SSGI.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 11:53 AM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: spearfishing comment

Sioux Falls, SD 57110... Thank you!

Ryan

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ryan Gebauer [mailto:rgebauer@SSGI.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 9:40 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:**

Yes please allow spear fishing. My kids are learning to dive and have already asked the questions.

R.J. Gebauer  
SSGI  
Retail Division

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: spearfishing comment

**From:** Mike McGuire [mailto:anyh2o@hughes.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 12:33 PM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** Re: spearfishing comment

Hi,  
We have 189 members they range all ages and are from all your neighboring states including SD  
I am from Grand Junction Co and make it up there 4-6 time a year to dive Oahe  
We were all very disappointed that they did not open game fish this year in the race.  
Please pass this on even though the meeting is over and your late.  
Mike

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mike McGuire [mailto:anyh2o@hughes.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 6:19 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Cc:** Bill Donovan  
**Subject:** Spearfishing

We the members of RMSA Rocky Mountain Spearfishing Association would like to be on record as supporting the opening of all lakes to full bag limits, just as rod and reel fishermen are allowed. There is no since able reason to make a season for just spearfishing, that is discrimination. There is no reason for limiting the lakes we dive in as this is discrimination. There is not good reason to limit our take to a different # from what rod and reel fishermen take, this is discrimination. There is no reason to be charging an extra \$5 for spearfishing, again you are discriminating against a specific group and this is against the law.

Spearfishing is the most selective means of taking fish there is. It has a longer history then any other form of fishing. I would suggest the committee research and better understand our sport as your lack of knowledge on this subject does not entitle you to be making rules that discrimination against any group.

Sincerely  
Mike McGuire  
RMSA  
Sect.

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearing Rules

**From:** Chris Lidel [<mailto:chris@lidelconstruction.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 9:18 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearing Rules

To whom it may concern:

I am 100% for the rule change on spearing to include all year and all waters with the noted exceptions.

Spearfishing in my opinion is an enjoyable sport that has no negative impact on the other fisherman with their rod and reel.

Please change the rules and make spearfishing even more enjoyable!

Sincerely,

Chris Lidel  
7820 S McMartin Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing

**From:** John McManigal [<mailto:jmcmmanigal@eaglesales.org>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 9:16 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearfishing

My family are avid fishermen – we fish western SD and the Missouri river- especially lake Oahe. My past experience has never been good with the people spearfishing. They will move onto a point we are fishing as we drift by drop their flag and we cannot go back due to regulations and more importantly – safety.

What would the impact be during the spawn? Our neighboring states do not open their fishing season until after the spawn – now there is a proposal to allow spearfishing? You know they will target the large female breeders – not a good idea.

Anyway – my opinion is to not allow regulations to change and allow the spearfishing.

Please keep the regulations as is.

Thank you,  
John McManigal, Rapid City, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:**

FW: GFP Commission proposal on statewide spearing of game fish.

**From:** dakotacache.net, dorin

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 8:42 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** GFP Commission proposal on statewide spearing of game fish.

Hello. My name is Dorin Hemmelman and I am a recreational Scuba Diver who lives in the state of South Dakota. I have enjoyed spearfishing in the state for 7+ years. I will admit, the current laws governing our sport have been pretty restrictive, and limit my ability to enjoy the sport (requiring a minimum of 2 hours drive time to reach the closest water way). With such limited water ways and limited season approved for spearing I'm not able to enjoy the South Dakota waters as much as I would like.

I recently noticed that there has been a proposal to expand the season and waters that would be allowed for this sport. I must applaud this action, and hope that this will be put into place very soon. By implementing this proposal, the opportunity for existing spear fishermen will expand and allow new folks to take up this enjoyable sport.

I look forward to exploring and enjoying new waters of South Dakota in 2015 while enjoying a sport that I enjoy and look to pass to my kids in the future.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

-Dorin Hemmelman

7517 W. Boysenberry St.

Sioux Falls, SD 57106

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: spearfishing reg proposal

**From:** [dewending@mmm.com](mailto:dewending@mmm.com) [mailto:[dewending@mmm.com](mailto:dewending@mmm.com)]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 8:39 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** spearfishing reg proposal

Hello,

I am very much in favor of this for I am a spearfisherman and would like to have this opportunity.

Thanks

Darren

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**3M**

**Darren E. Wendling** | Mechanical Specialist  
Critical and Chronic Care Solutions Division  
3M Brookings, 601 22nd Ave S | Brookings, SD 57006  
Office: 605 696 2911  
[dewending@mmm.com](mailto:dewending@mmm.com) | [www.3M.com](http://www.3M.com)

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Bow fishing

**From:** Bruzelius, Kevin

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 8:39 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Bow fishing

Kevin Bruzelius, 825 S Grant, Pierre, SD 57501

I would be in favor of and think it's a good idea to have it open all season long, adds to the sport by giving people more opportunity to get outside and have fun at their convenience. I don't think it's a massive sport that's going to diminish the fish population by any means. Thanks, Kevin

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Response to GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

**From:** Dan Eichacker [<mailto:dan.eichacker@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 8:34 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Response to GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

I am agreement with the proposal. I agree with John Lott's comment that it is a social issue and not a biological issue. Everyone using the waters need to be respectful and curious to make everyone's day and enjoyable experience.

Thank you for listening to the spear fishing community.

Dan Eichacker  
46946 274th Street  
Lennox SD 57039

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing rules change proposal

**From:** Pretzer, Scott

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 8:31 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearfishing rules change proposal

As a 25-year resident of South Dakota, I am adamantly opposed to any changes in the current SD rules governing spearfishing of gamefish.

Many times per year while I am boat-fishing on Lakes Oahe/Sharp, I find diver-boats anchored on the prime spots for hours at a time.

Wouldn't be so bad if I could share the locations as boat-fisherman would allow. Also, from what I understand talking to divers, the

locations are cleaned-out of walleyes when the divers are finished.

Scott Pretzer

Fort Pierre, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearing

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Adam Rinas [<mailto:adamrinas@aol.com>]

> Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 1:58 PM

> To: GFP Wild Info

> Subject: Spearing

>

>

> Hello,

> My opinion is to keep it northernns and catfish and allow it on boundary waters too. But keep the season the same.

>

> Thanks

> Adam Rinas

> Sisseton S.D.

If anything allow all species of Bass

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**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

**From:** Jerry Newman [<mailto:jerrynewman@ymail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 9:29 PM

**Subject:** Re: Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

I would also go on record as opposing spearfishing in Black Hills streams and small lake. We need to preserve the few trout we have and not add another way to kill and reduce their numbers.

Jerry Newman, 5729 Bendt Drive, Rapid City, SD 57702.

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

**From:** David Hulkonen [<mailto:hulkonend@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:06 AM

**To:** SDGFPINFO

**Subject:** Re: GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

I absolutely oppose additional spear fishing of game species. This is incredibly unfair to "trophy" fish that have through good fortune escaped a fishhook (or maybe they learn). Its also limited to a small class of swimmers who probably don't have the patience to spend the time necessary for a successful fishing trip. A move like this seems destined to degrade the fishing experience for the vast majority of fisherman. I wish you could stop all spear fishing except perhaps ice house spearing for northern pike on the reservoirs.

David Hulkonen  
Vermillion, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** state wide spear fishing

**From:** avera.org, robert.nelson

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:14 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** state wide spear fishing

I support this proposal but would have two questions/concerns:

1. I believe it is still beneficial to have a period of time closed to pursuit of any game, whether land or water based. Such breaks in pressure are not only good for the species, but also for GF&P personnel to allow them to address other issues. Currently there are areas that are closed to fishing during certain times, so the same should apply to spear fishing.
2. What will be the spearing regulations regarding size, daily and possession limits? It is hard to catch and release a walleye that is 14.5 inches when the limit is 15. If no size limits greater than legal limits for fishing, then daily bag and possession limits should be set lower to allow for the potential of harvesting smaller otherwise illegal fish.

Thank you.

Robert Nelson

Brandon, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: spearfishing

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**From:** Ken Nyberg [<mailto:Ken.Nyberg@vantagepnt.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 9:44 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** spearfishing

Please leave the spear-bow regulations as is. winter And off season spearing in clearer water would probably increase game fish harvest , if the spearers want winter make it rough fish only. Am not in favor of the spearfishing in general I have been peacefully fishing a point on lake oahe on many occasions when a spear boat pulls up ,drops a buoy and by the regulations pushes me off the spot I was fishing.

**Ken Nyberg**

2211 N. Minnesota Street | Mitchell, SD 57301

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Proposal for spearfishing.

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**From:** ff25crash [<mailto:ff25crash@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 9:38 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Proposal for spearfishing.

My name is Timothy Staples, live in Sioux Falls. I just started spearfishing this last summer. Received dive certification in 2008. Speared other places and love it. I love spearing in SD, however to always drive to the river to shoot fish is time consuming and makes for a long day. If you would adapt this proposal it would make life a lot easier and more fun. Also I think if this proposal is adopted then more people would try spearfishing, and that might decrease the number of fellow fishermen saying those that dive are "cheating". Thank you for your time and the work you put into this awesome state with so much to do and hopefully more to do in the near future.

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S®4 Active™, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** State wide game fish spearing and bowfishing

**From:** Matt Decker [<mailto:mattdecker20@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 1:07 PM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** State wide game fish spearing and bowfishing

I'm in favor of the proposed changes. As a bowfishman I feel the difficulty of taking a game fish with a bow or spear can be higher than the angler technique, so why not allow it. most of the game fish are generally in deeper water and not as large as carp species so success can be challenging.

Matt G Decker  
Alcester, SD

## Ascher, Debra

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**From:** Jim Gruber <jgruber148@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 8:43 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules

game fish spearing: I am continually amazed by the continued effort of a few to break something that is not broken.. I ask one question, simply why would we want to ruin a good fishery to satisfy a few?

Has anyone even considered how the current fishery would be devastated by such a lousey law.. Northern, walleye, and any of the other game fish that make spawning runs would be targeted.. This means that all the larger adult fish would quickly be eliminated.. /then I ask if this is the case, why impose the 20 and 15 inch size limit on anglers? A fish once speared, harpooned, or shot is not going to be released..

If this is what we want, then open every lake, stream , and river to the have at it attitude.. hey, and then we can eliminated enforcement and really save some money... where do these people come from? jim gruber, 148 sunset park dr. Estelline. s.d. 57234

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Jay Hieb <jayhieb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 7:18 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Public record comment for proposed spear fishing policy changes.

Dear Game Fish and Parks,

I am writing to you today to respectfully voice my opposition to the proposed spear fishing regulation changes. I believe strongly that there are certain fish species that should not be speared.

Over the years I have developed a deep appreciation for wild trout in the Black Hills. These fish are rare and beautiful. We do not need to further threaten their existence with an open spear-fishing policy.

Furthermore, a responsible angler will properly release a fish that is not within regulation size limits or he does not wish to keep, leaving it unharmed and alive. With spear fishing one cannot accurately judge size, and a fish taken with the spearing method will surely die of its injuries if released. Also, this will place a target on every trophy fish, leaving the odds of catching such trophy fish with rod and reel that much more unlikely. This would only hurt sport fishing in South Dakota.

I am strongly opposed to this proposal and would advise leaving the spear fishing regulations off limits for game fish.

Respectfully,

Jay Jacob John Hieb

1509 Pennington St. Rapid City, SD 57703

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

**From:** Ev Hoyt [<mailto:evhoyt@rap.midco.net>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 12:51 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

**Cc:** Ev Hoyt; Lott, John

**Subject:** Fw: Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

Please include the comments below in the administrative record on the proposed spearfishing rule to be considered by the SDGFP Commission on Dec 11-12, 2014. Everett E. Hoyt, 4422 Carriage Hills Drive, Rapid City, SD 57702

**Subject:** Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

I would like to go on record with SDGFP to express most strongly my opposition to the recently announced proposed rule which would permit spearfishing of game fish in trout streams in the Black Hills – and most particularly in the catch-and-release sections and spawning areas of Black Hills streams! Most Black Hills streams are narrow and relatively shallow, making the resident trout easy targets for spearing. During the fall season, spawning brown trout congregate on shallow spawning redds where they would be an easy kill for spearfishermen. Two of the principal Black Hills streams, Rapid Creek (in Rapid City) and Spearfish Creek, are self-sustaining wild trout fisheries; and those streams could be easily decimated by spearfishermen. Black Hills streams and small lakes should be exempt from the proposed game fish spearfishing rule!

I am amazed that the proposed rule could proceed to this stage before the Commission with what is apparent to be so little thought as to the consequences, intended or unintended, for Black Hills streams and small lakes!

Please enter my comments in opposition to the proposed spearfishing rule in the record before the Commission in its hearing on the proposed rule to be held at its meeting on December 11-12, 2014 in Ft. Pierre, SD.

Everett Hoyt, 4422 Carriage Hills Drive, Rapid City, SD 57702

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Chuck Ross <hunt@scattergunlodge.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:31 AM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Year round spearfishing

To whom it may concern,

I was shocked in reading your proposed plan for opening the taking of game fish to spear guns and arrows on a year round basis.

Anglers are subject to slot limit regulations to sustain our game fish. When using a spear or bow and arrow do you measure the fish before or after you shoot or harpoon it? As an angler I am limited as to how many hooks I can have on a lure. Would there be a limit as to how many points one could have on a spear? If this proposal is about what some people might like to do, will we have gill netting as our next proposal in managing our resources.

The taking of any species while spawning or nesting does not make sense to a true sportsman. In many parts of the country trophy Northern Pike are treasured by the sport fishing community. Are we going to allow "sport spearing" with lights at night to harvest walleyes, smallmouth bass, or whatever else might be fun?

This is not an appropriate proposal. It will not only damage our resources but as importantly our image as mecca for true sportsman.

Charles Ross  
Pierre, SD

## Ascher, Debra

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**From:** Burket, Mark  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:21 AM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** proposed spear fishing rules

Please accept this as written comment to support the change in the State's spear fishing rules.

I know a general perceived thought from some sport fishermen is that spear fishing is unfair and gives opportunity to simply slaughter walleye. As a certified diver and motivation to become certified was to spear fish, I would disagree but it's difficult to get that message across. I've been spear fishing for 3 years and it is an absolute enjoyable, peaceful and challenging sport just as why many sport fishermen fish. Being also an avid sport fisherman for the last 40 or so years, I would definitely suggest that spear fishing is far more challenging than any of the sport fishing I've done. In that three years, I've speared just one Walleye or other sport fish. The 30 or so other spear fishermen I know have had equal success with of course the lucky one or two that have come up with two or three fish or even their limit, but those are just the accounts that everyone tells endless stories about for the next season or two.

The challenges. When I suit up for a dive I know I have about 45 minutes of air. I know I better pick my spot wisely because I only have opportunity to move about 200 yards and I know if I choose to move that 200 yards I'm consuming a lot of my air swimming and not fishing. The weather will generally need to be calm for several days before or else my visibility is only 2 or 3 feet at best. On the perfect of all days I may have 10 or 12 feet. I'm limited where I can fish because of fishing restricted areas. I am limited when I can fish by a season. I am limited by the same limit and size restrictions that are in place for sport fishing. I've passed on several fish as its far easier to bring the fish to the boat and put a yard stick to it then determining with the naked eye 30 feet under water if its 13 7/8 or 14 1/2. I'm still going to spear fish regardless of this change simply because it's such an enjoyable sport, just as I imagine a number of sport fishermen will do. I would encourage others to support this change or at least their perception of when the next time you see the dive flag sticking above the surface, that likely we are not just down there unfairly slaughtering the fish you are attempting to catch on the surface. Thanks for binging this forward for public comment and again I'd encourage the change. Thanks.

Mark Burket, CEO  
Platte Health Center Avera  
PO Box 200  
Platte, SD 57369  
(605)337-3364

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Julian Meuer <jmeuer@itctel.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 11:29 AM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Comments on GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish.

I normally read these types of things and have no real feelings either way. This one requires comments and questions: Will the current Species, Size, and Number regulations on certain lakes that Hook and Line Fishers abide by, also apply to Spearing and Bowfishing? If so, how can they physically be carried out? If they don't apply, why not? Could be that there are both Social and Biological issues involed. Or could be that no reasons for the current regulations exist.

Julian L. Meuer  
19 East First Avenue  
Webster, SD 57274

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Darwin Jones <jjs2011@rap.midco.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 9:46 AM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Spearfishing

As a citizen of South Dakota holding a valid fishing license in South Dakota I would be fully supportive of rules allowing year round spearfish, bow fishing of game fish and rough fish in all inland waters in South Dakota.

Darwin K. Jones  
PO Box 3759  
Rapid City, SD 57709

605-939-4466

[jjs2011@rap.midco.net](mailto:jjs2011@rap.midco.net)



This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

**From:** Jim Hawke [<mailto:rapidhawke@msn.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 11:36 PM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Cc:** Lott, John; Leif, Tony; Keyser, Emmett; Galinat, Gene; Adams, Geno; Kintigh, Mike; Davis, Jake; Kiel, Emily; Vonk, Jeff; Greg Riley; John Brewick; Jerry Newman; Jon Holmgren; Hans Stephenson; Dave Gamet; Mike DeMerssemanHome; Denny McKay; Don Polovich; Mike Lees; Jeff Olson; Bonnie Edwards; Mark Vickers; Bill Coburn; Gary Jensen; Ken Edel; Ev Hoyt; Jim Hawke

**Subject:** Re: Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

I am certain that there would be abuses if spearfishing were to be allowed for trout in Black Hills streams. We have designated areas for catch and release. There is NO release in spearfishing.

As a sports conservationist and fly fisherman I am aware of the delicate balance needed for successful growth of trout on our streams from juvenile to adult. I view spear fishing as intrusion in this process that can be avoided for the sake of our healthy stream fisheries. Therefore I emphatically oppose spearfishing on all streams within the Black Hills for cold water species of fish and wish to go on record in opposition of the proposal.

Sincerely,

James R Hawke, [Rapidhawke@msn.co](mailto:Rapidhawke@msn.co), 13129 S. Creek View Rd, Rapid City, SD 57702

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearfishing

**From:** Calvin Walsh [<mailto:calvin.walsh@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 9:05 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** Spearfishing

As population growth in South Dakota is increasing, fishing pressure on our lakes is also increasing, and I do not believe we need the added pressure of spearfishing for our game fish, anywhere in SD. Rough fish and Northern Pike would provide plenty of opportunity for spearfishermen. Bass are very easy prey for spear fishermen as they are not scared at all of swimmers, and walleye are not much better. Northern Pike at least are wary and would be sporting, where Bass and walleye are no challenge at all. This would take good fish away from sporting anglers. Most states only allow spearfishing for Non game species, and I believe it is time for South Dakota to follow suite. Every 2-4 pound largemouth taken by a spear in Pactola would be a huge thrill and trophy to most young anglers fishing that lake, and are harvested by spearfishers very easily. Thank You Cal Walsh, Hermosa, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Statewide spear fishing of game fish.

**From:** Levi Keehn [<mailto:levi.keehn@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:52 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules; Levi Keehn

**Subject:** Statewide spear fishing of game fish.

Greetings,

I do not agree with the new proposal. I think spear fishing is great when targeting species that could pose a threat to the overall diversity of a water system, I.e. northern pike, European carp. I think as a state we should look at making more small trout streams catch and release, or possible just lowering the daily limit.

I would say that realistically most kept fish are not consumed, but later thrown away. People catch a fish, they get excited and want to keep it, then they go home and freeze it, and six months later throw it away. Part of the beauty of fishing with a rod and reel is that you can catch fish all day long, and safely release the fish if you do not wish to keep them. On a good day I can fish for five hours, and catch 15 fish. A few times a year I'll take one home for supper. So I caught fish all day, and only one perished. With spearfishing every time you catch a fish you kill a fish. If a whole afternoon is spent spear fishing it wouldn't be unlikely to bring home your limit every time. You don't have the option to catch five fish and keep one. If you caught five you killed five. I could imagine people limiting out on trout rather fast, and because they don't want to be done fishing for the day they will move on to other species. At the end of the day they go home with a sac full of fish, and say to themselves "what will I ever do with this many fish" they will freeze them. When the time comes to clean the freezer they will throw them away.

I'm in favor of certain waters having specific rules and regulations. I think that reservoirs that have been illegally inundated with northern pike, such as Pactola reservoir, should have the daily pike limit removed. If you could spear 20 a day you would be doing the lake a favor. Why protect something that is causing harm? Don't get me wrong, I like to catch pike, but not in what was once a great trout fishery. I would also like to see people spear truckloads of carp out of Deerfield reservoir and castle creek.

In conclusion, I do not think the proposal in its current form is in the best interest of the state. At least not in the best interest of the Black Hills. Like I previously stated spearfishing has it's place, and I believe that is in harvesting fish that reproduce in such abundance that a limit is not even applicable. Those species are already covered in the current regulations. I ask of you today not to pass new regulations that will blanket every water system, but to pass regulations that will do what's best for each specific system.

Thank you,

Levi Keehn, Deadwood, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Rule amendments for game fish spearing for 2015

**From:** Mathew Schillinger [<mailto:mschillinger@amsbowfishing.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 11:29 AM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** Rule amendments for game fish spearing for 2015

Hello,  
Just showing my appreciation for the rule proposal on spearing and bowfishing of game fish in the State of South Dakota. It is so great to see a State work with others on setting new rules in support of the sport of bowfishing. I was in South Dakota 2 years ago bowfishing for Salmon on Lake Oahe and it was very enjoyable. We visited the Whitlock Spawning Station and talked with the South Dakota Game and Fish about the sport of bowfishing for game fish. It was a great conversation and I'm very excited to see the proposal to open the range even more.

From all of us bowfishers great job South Dakota on moving forward.

Mathew Schillinger, Stratford, Wisconsin

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

**From:** Jim Hawke [<mailto:rapidhawke@msn.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 11:36 PM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** Re: Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

I am certain that there would be abuses if spearfishing were to be allowed for trout in Black Hills streams. We have designated areas for catch and release. There is NO release in spearfishing.

As a sports conservationist and fly fisherman I am aware of the delicate balance needed for successful growth of trout on our streams from juvenile to adult. I view spear fishing as intrusion in this process that can be avoided for the sake of our healthy stream fisheries. Therefore I emphatically oppose spearfishing on all streams within the Black Hills for cold water species of fish and wish to go on record in opposition of the proposal.

Sincerely,

James R Hawke, [Rapidhawke@msn.co](mailto:Rapidhawke@msn.co), 13129 S. Creek View Rd, Rapid City, SD 57702

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:**

FW: Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

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**From:** Michael Lees [<mailto:mike@wescomm.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 1:59 PM

**Subject:** RE: Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

Dear Sirs:

I would like to go on record with South Dakota Game Fish and Parks to express my strong opposition to the recently announced proposed rule which would permit spearfishing of game fish in trout streams in the Black Hills – and most particularly in the catch-and-release sections and spawning areas of Black Hills streams! Most Black Hills streams are narrow and relatively shallow, making the resident trout easy targets for spearing. During the fall season, spawning brown trout congregate on shallow spawning redds where they would be an easy kill for spearfishermen.

Two of the principal Black Hills streams, Rapid Creek (in Rapid City) and Spearfish Creek, are self-sustaining wild trout fisheries; and those streams could be easily decimated by spearfishermen. Black Hills streams and small lakes should be exempt from the proposed game fish spearfishing rule!

Please enter my comments in opposition to the proposed spearfishing rule in the record before the Commission in its hearing on the proposed rule to be held at its meeting on December 11-12, 2014 in Ft. Pierre, SD.

Michael Lees  
509 Alta Vista Drive  
Rapid City, SD 57701

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: searfishing bowfishing

**From:** Irene Zacher [<mailto:idzacher98@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 11:17 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** searfishing bowfishing

if you legalize that- snagging should be legal too -maybe netting too -. not much difference . taking them without them biting

Irene Zacher, Lead, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

**From:** Bill Coburn [<mailto:treechaser.bill@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 5:05 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

Dear South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks,  
I would like to officially go on record that I strongly oppose the proposed rule that would allow spear and bow fishing for trout in the Black Hills. It is hard for me to even understand why this proposal was made without vetting it among sportsmen groups throughout the state to get their input. Hopefully the Game and Fish Commission will consider the impacts this rule would have on catch and release sections of streams and ponds.

Please enter my comments in opposition to the proposed spear and bow fishing rule in the record before the Commission in its hearing on the proposed rule to be held at its meeting on December 11-12, 2014 in Ft. Pierre, SD.

Bill Coburn  
3920 Ward Avenue  
Spearfish, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Reaction to spear fishing proposal

**From:** Nathaniel Kolhoff [<mailto:lightningx31@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 9:54 AM

**Subject:** Reaction to spear fishing proposal

Good morning,

I simply would like to voice my opinion regarding the recent spear fishing proposal. I am a South Dakota boy born and raised, enjoying all the lakes here in the southeastern part of the state, as well as the glacial lakes region. My dad and I have always been bass fishermen first, with targeting some pike thrown in there, and if we get a walleye, awesome, but that's typically not what we target. Bass fishing is catch and release for us. The only way we keep largemouth bass is if the hook is so deep that the fish is gonna bleed out anyway. And if spear fishing is made legal for all game fish, what is that going to do to the resident bass population, both small mouth, and large mouth? Spear fishing for carp is different, I'm sure we all can agree on, but otherwise, to me, I feel like it defeats the purpose of fishing, to be honest.

But I understand that if I'm in the minority, there's not much I can do. It's not like I'm going to move or stop fishing around here.

Best regards,  
Nate Kolhoff  
Sioux Falls, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

**From:** Hans Stephenson [<mailto:hansrc@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 11:23 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Re: Spearfishing exemption for Black Hills streams and lakes!

I am writing to go on record with SDGFP to voice opposition to the proposed rule that would allow spearfishing of game fish in Black Hills trout fisheries. I am strongly opposed to the spearing of trout within trout streams in the Black Hills. Black Hills trout streams, especially those with naturally reproducing trout populations, are special and unique fisheries and should not be subjected to spearfishing. Trout would be especially vulnerable to spearfishing in Black Hills streams during spawning seasons. Spearfishing has no place in our trout streams, and especially in catch and release stream reaches.

Black Hills Trout Waters (streams, ponds, and lakes) should be exempt from the proposed spearfishing rule.

Please enter my comments in opposition to the proposed spearfishing rule in the record before the Commission in its hearing on the proposed rule to be held at its meeting on December 11-12, 2014 in Ft. Pierre, SD.

Hans Stephenson, 1114 South Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Bonnie Edwards <bonnieedwards@rap.midco.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 9:51 AM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Spear fishing in Black Hills lakes and streams

Gentlemen:

My husband and I are fly fishers in the Black Hills and strongly oppose the rule permitting spear fishing of game fish in trout streams in the Black Hills. With Black Hills streams being mostly narrow and shallow, the resident trout would be easy to target. I doubt that anyone wanting to spear fish would take into consideration, or even care, about the fall spawning beds. We have enough issues with areas of Black Hills streams without the added concern of spear fishing enthusiasts! We have spent much time examining and replying to the GF&P Black Hills stream management plan. Surely GF&P cannot consider spear fishing to be part of it! Black Hills lakes and streams should be exempt from the spear fishing rule. Please enter our comments in opposition to the proposed spear fishing rule in the record before the Commission in its hearing on December 11-12, 2014 in Ft. Pierre.

Bonnie and Jack Edwards  
2708 Raymond Dr.  
Rapid City, SD 57702

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** jllienthal@brainerd.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 12:21 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Opposed to harvest of trophy muskellunge by spearing

South Dakota has a limited muskellunge resource. Muskellunge are a long lived fish that exist in low density. Encouraging harvest by any method will diminish South Dakota's ability to provide a reasonable reusable trophy fishery. This is not a food for the table fishery. It is much too valuable a fishery to be harvested just once. Jim Lilienthal MN DNR Fisheries (retired)

Sent from Windows Mail



**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:**

**FW:**

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**From:** Dick Muth [<mailto:DMuth@muthelectric.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 1:00 PM

**To:** SDGFPINFO

**Subject:**

I fully support the proposal to allow spear fishing in all South Dakota waters on a year around basis. I'm a avid scuba diver and this would open up more opportunities. Thank You

Dick Muth  
President  
Muth Electric, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1384  
Mitchell, SD 57301

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Robert Matthies <robertmatthies@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:59 AM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Spearing.

My name is Robert Matthies and I live in Hartford SD. My wife Teresa and I are both certified spear fisherman. We don't do much of it in South Dakota because of the driving distance. Because we have to travel to enjoy this sport, trips to warmer climates are scheduled. Having game fish spearing more accessible in South Dakota would certainly prompt us to more here. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

**From:** [dc571@abe.midco.net](mailto:dc571@abe.midco.net) [mailto:[dc571@abe.midco.net](mailto:dc571@abe.midco.net)]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:07 AM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** Re: GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

I like the new proposal. I bowfish quite a bit and I did darkhouse bowfish Northern Pike last year. In all the hours I've spent bowfishing I rarely see game fish, I primarily bowfish Waubay and the James River and last year I darkhoused Bitter, Scatterwood, and Nine Mile Lake.

During the spring of 2014 while bowfishing Waubay I did see an abundance of Silver Bass and a few Northern Pike (3). During darkhouse spearing we saw Northern Pike (of course) and while on Bitter a few random perch would come through. That's all the game fish I saw during 2014.

I've said all that to say that in my opinion opening up a year round bowfishing/spearing season for game fish on all lakes isn't going to have a huge impact on the quantity/quality of fish in our lakes, mainly because in my opinion bowfisherman don't see an abundance of game fish. I think people that don't bowfish might have a misconception that we could decimate the game fish population. But in reality the natural habits of game fish prevent us from seeing many of them let alone getting a shot off. I for one would like the opportunity to take some new species with my bow, so I'm all for the regulation changes.

Dylan Patrick Cavanaugh

Aberdeen SD, 57401

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** sio.midco.net, rickchristensen2  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 3:53 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Cc:** Christensen Rick  
**Subject:** Spearfishing proposal

I am in favor of the spearfishing proposal. I also spear fish, but would like to do this more. But with the limitations of a short season and limited areas to go, I don't get to do this often. It's hard understand why the rules would be different for spear versus line fisherman. But this proposal is a good start for the sport of spearfishing....

Rick Christensen  
6301 S Limerick Cir  
Sioux Falls, SD. 57108  
605-323-1448

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearing and bowfishing.

**From:** [khansen@dunhamcompany.com](mailto:khansen@dunhamcompany.com) [mailto:[khansen@dunhamcompany.com](mailto:khansen@dunhamcompany.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:35 PM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** Spearing and bowfishing.

I vote against it!

DCCS

Kurt Hansen, Sioux Falls, SD

Direct line 605-330-9405

Fax 605-330-9444

Cell 605-366-1898

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearfishing

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**From:** Doug Muth [<mailto:DMuth@holmesmurphy.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 10:28 AM

**To:** SDGFPINFO

**Subject:** Spearfishing

SD game, fish and parks

I support the proposal you are considering to allow spear fishing in all South Dakota lakes on a year round basis.

Doug

Sent from my iPad

Doug Muth, CIC  
Holmes Murphy & Associates  
Senior Vice President  
5120 South Solberg Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

**Ascher, Debra**

---

**Subject:** FW: Spear Fishing

**From:** Dwayne Klarenbeek [<mailto:DKlarenbeek@mwmech.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 10:52 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spear Fishing

To whom it may concern

I am an avid fisherman and spear fisherman for last 10+ years, having done both activities I can tell you can harvest 3 to 1 more fish by fishing rather than spearing, what makes spearing so great is the challenge, much like bow hunting deer. I am in favor of opening all South Dakota waters to Spearing.

Dwayne Klarenbeek

President / CEO

4105 N Lewis Ave

Sioux Falls SD 57104

11-17-14

Subject: Proposal on Statewide  
Spearing of game fish.

This was our first year spearfishing  
and we had a great time!!

We live in Brookings and our 1st adventure  
was to Lake Poinsett spearing carp. My  
son Isaac summed it up best on the way  
home "This was the best day of my life!"

The biggest carp we speared that day  
was 31 lbs. Besides carp, we speared (freediving)  
~~we~~ alot of northern pike this year, the biggest  
one being 41 inches (Lake Oahe).

My son and I want to say a big  
thank you for having a spearfishing season  
and if you do decide to open it up  
to all game fish, well, I can't find the  
words but WOW, that would be awesome!!!

Thank You Again!

Russ & Isaac Oetken  
Brookings, SD

RECEIVED

NOV 20 2014

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks  
Pierre, SD 57501

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** game fish spearing/bowfishing

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**From:** Mark Land [mailto:[mark@feradyne.com](mailto:mark@feradyne.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 9:26 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** game fish spearing/bowfishing

As a leading manufacturer of Bowfishing and bowhunting equipment I believe this is a great and positive move for the sport of Bowfishing and hopefully one that other states can look at and consider offering the same options to the sportsmen of their state. There are a few states that offer the option of taking any species with a bow that falls in line with the creel, slot and size limits established for their state and this have been a very positive thing for those states and has resulted in a big draw for out of state people to travel and fish those states that offer these extra opportunities for their sportsmen.

It has always been a long term misunderstanding as to why the regulations were different or even non-existent for Bowfishing vs standard, more accepted rod and reel fishermen. But in all reality with size, creel and slot limits, does it really matter whether the fish has a hole in it's lip or a hole in it's side if it is put in a cooler and utilized by the individual and in reality with the ability of a bowfishermen to see his quarry and determine size before shooting, it could be even better for following fish size limits and safer on undersized fish as many are hooked deeply and will die when released. As the sport of Bowfishing increases many participants are looking at other avenues to pursue other than your standard rough, non-native fish species and looking at the opportunities to pursue other species as well and especially fish species that are good on the table and can be consumed by the user as well. I applaud you on your efforts and consideration to expand these opportunities for all sportsmen and not just for the limited few and will be following and hoping for a positive outcome on this. Thanks

**Mark Land**

Feradyne Outdoors, LLC

Technical Support Manager/ Bowfishing Promotions / Prostaff Director

110 Beasley Rd SW / Cartersville, GA 30120

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** proposal to include walleyes for spearfishing across the state

**From:** Koistinen, Kelly -FS [<mailto:kkoistinen@fs.fed.us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:34 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** proposal to include walleyes for spearfishing across the state

My knowledge of spearfishing is fairly limited. Specifically, because I fish traditionally. However, I do know that when you shoot a spear at a fish, regardless of the species, if hit, the fish will end up dead or wounded. The main argument would be that we already have a shortage of walleyes the way it is, and the taking of large game fish would begin a most definite decline of those larger sized walleyes. As a traditional fisherman, those of us fishing the traditional way can't see what we are harvesting or catching. I think that the spearfishermen & women, would have a distinct advantage of being able to see their quarry. **Spearfishing for fish would be more advantageous to those underwater** and hence, they would deplete the large fish size faster. While spearfishing, how would a person legally tell what sized fish they are after? There is no underwater measuring device to decide if it is large enough or too large! We cannot pass this proposal. I believe there is only one way to harvest a fish, and that is line, pole, and hook! If this is allowed there is an **advantage to those underwater**. All persons who harvest fish should be on an equal playing field, meaning no clear advantage to one person or the other. Spearfishing is not fishing! It is hunting fish underwater with a clear advantage to those who do it.

It doesn't matter what type of income tournaments and/or the industry brings to the area. Do not look at this as a way it is a bad idea for the walleye fisheries of South Dakota, period! This state is a traditional state for hunting and fishing, we as South Dakotans don't want any new means of taking of the game and fish of this state. Just as a crossbow shouldn't be considered archery because of the clear advantage of a crossbow, spearfishing **shouldn't** be considered a means of fishing. If a traditional fisherman catches a non-legal fish, he just removes the hook from the fish's mouth and replaces it back into the fishery. If a spearfisher shoots a non-legal fish, it is dead! I cannot stress enough what a ridiculous proposal this is. Please leave well enough alone and vote this down. A vote for spearing fish legally is a vote to open Pandora's box and another battle to restore the fisheries of South Dakota after the killing of our walleye population. Leave the **tradition of fishing** here in this state the way it is, and vote this down.

Those of you on this list, please send to everyone you know who would like game fishing to remain traditional! Vote it down!

Kelly Koistinen, Rapid City, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** tisigp@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:21 AM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** statewide spearfishing

Please enter my objection to this proposal, current opportunities are more than adequate.  
Eugene Pluth  
3420 Champion Dr  
Rapid City SD 57701

**Ascher, Debra**

---

**Subject:**

FW: spearfishing

**From:** sio.midco.net, <mailto:brianslackbds@sio.midco.>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:23 AM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** spearfishing

I have just been reading about spearfishing being legalized in all SD waters. I feel that this is a mistake. I think that the use of hook and line should be the only way to catch fish. If a fish is caught on a hook, it can be released, but one speared would surely die. If this is passed, would the slot limit apply? I urge you to not pass this rule change.

Thank you, Brian Slack

Sioux Falls, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Game Fish Spearing

**From:** Killer B [<mailto:killerb61@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 4:39 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Game Fish Spearing

I am in favor of the proposed statewide, year round bowfishing and spearing of game fish. I enjoy bowfishing and spearing and believe that this would provide additional opportunities to sportsmen. Thank you.

Darin Haider

Volga, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearing fish

**From:** james sherman [<mailto:fisherman540@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 3:23 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** Spearing fish

Dear South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks,

I would like to officially go on record that I strongly oppose the proposed rule that would allow spear and bow fishing for fish in the lakes of South Dakota. It is hard for me to even understand why this proposal was made without running it past sportsmen and their subsequent groups throughout the state to get their feedback. I have personally been on the water in Pierre both below and above the dam when a "spear" charter boat came and began dropping off divers which with no regard to other hook and line fisherman in the area. Of course once they were dropped off, I could not navigate my boat within 200 or 400 yards of their flags. I think the "spear fishermen" if they should even be called fishermen, have received a nod on every proposal thus far and this has gone far enough! Hopefully the Game and Fish Commission will consider the impacts this rule would have on catch and release sections of South Dakota lakes, streams and ponds.

Please enter my comments of opposition to the proposed spear and bow fishing rule in the record before the Commission in its hearing on the proposed rule to be held at its meeting on December 11-12, 2014 in Ft. Pierre, SD.

James R. Sherman  
1111 1st Ave.  
Sturgis, SD 57785  
"Knot to Worry"

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** james sherman <fisherman540@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 3:23 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Spearing fish

Dear South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks,

I would like to officially go on record that I strongly oppose the proposed rule that would allow spear and bow fishing for fish in the lakes of South Dakota. It is hard for me to even understand why this proposal was made without running it past sportsmen and their subsequent groups throughout the state to get their feedback. I have personally been on the water in Pierre both below and above the dam when a "spear" charter boat came and began dropping off divers which with no regard to other hook and line fisherman in the area. Of course once they were dropped off, I could not navigate my boat within 200 or 400 yards of their flags. I think the "spear fishermen" if they should even be called fishermen, have received a nod on every proposal thus far and this has gone far enough! Hopefully the Game and Fish Commission will consider the impacts this rule would have on catch and release sections of South Dakota lakes, streams and ponds.

Please enter my comments of opposition to the proposed spear and bow fishing rule in the record before the Commission in its hearing on the proposed rule to be held at its meeting on December 11-12, 2014 in Ft. Pierre, SD.

James R. Sherman  
1111 1st Ave.  
Sturgis, SD 57785  
"Knot to Worry"

**Ascher, Debra**

---

**Subject:** FW: Spear fishing

**From:** Beatis <[beatis@aol.com](mailto:beatis@aol.com)>

**Date:** November 18, 2014 at 3:43:06 PM CST

**Subject:** Spear fishing

Dear Commissioners and GFP directors

The Black Hills Sportsmen's club met last night to discuss the petition presented to you last month on spear fishing all game fish year round on all SD waters. We strongly urge you not to finalize this petition at your next meeting. It would have long lasting effects on the lakes and streams, especially in the Black Hills. The divers have come to the commission year after year for extensions of their seasons and they have been granted. After every compromise has been granted, they have returned to the commission for additional expansion of seasons, waters and species. This latest petition is beyond reason and allows for no compromise. Please deny this petition.

Jeff Olson, Rapid City, SD  
Pres Black Hills Sportsmen's club

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** proposed rule change

**From:** Leonard Spomer [mailto:[leonard.spomer@beckmtr.com](mailto:leonard.spomer@beckmtr.com)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:05 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** proposed rule change

GF&P Commission

It is my understanding the GF&P Commission will be considering a rule change regarding the proposed expansion of spear fishing to include all inland waters, and perhaps include other species.

I would encourage to leave the rules as they are. I see this as an advantage to the spear fishing participants during certain times of the year. An example would be Largemouth bass in stock dams and impoundments that are clearly visible just below the surface, but will not bite on any lure, or bait. Trout, and other species would also be vulnerable.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Leonard Spomer  
20476 Browning Road  
Pierre, SD 57501

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearfishing Proposal

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**From:** Mike Muth [<mailto:mike@muthteam.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 8:55 AM

**To:** SDGFPINFO

**Subject:** Spearfishing Proposal

To the Game, Fish and Parks Commission,

Thank you for considering the changes to the SD spearfishing regulations.

I support the proposal to allow spear fishing in all South Dakota lakes on year round.

Mike Muth, Sioux Falls, SD

(605)376-6190 Cell

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Jason Jacobs <jasonj@marconet.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 8:56 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Spearing and Bow fishing "NO"

Hello,

I strongly OPPOSE the proposal for statewide, year-round season for spearing and bow fishing of game fish.

I currently buy a South Dakota fishing license annually and fish NE South Dakota in Marshall and Day Counties. If this proposal goes through I'll never purchase a non-resident license again because the damage done by spearing will destroy the fisheries that exist today. You will have 10,000 out of state anglers spearing walleyes and other game fish. They will destroy the tiger muskies on Lynn and Amsden.

Sincerely,

Jason Jacobs  
St Cloud, MN

SDGFP Commission  
523 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

November 20, 2014

Dear Commissioners,

As an avid traditional fisherman I write to you in protest to the proposed regulation change to allow spearing and bowfishing of all game fish species (except paddle fish and sturgeon) in all inland waters.

It is quit frustrating and infuriating to traditional fisherman that the commission would even consider such a rule change considering the potential decimation of some of the largest breeders due to the fact that bowfishers and divers particularly are after the largest of a species. You must realize there is no catch and release of a fish that has been shot or speared.

I belong to Walleyes Unlimited and one of our main goals is to see the game fishing prospects to be increased by catching and releasing the larger breeders. I personally have not kept a large or small mouth bass in over 50 years of fishing. I will keep enough walleyes under 20 and over 15 inches (if legal) for a meal of fresh fish and an occasional northern . I keep no other breed of fish unless it is fatally injured and legal to keep.

It seems to me that it is unsportsmanlike on the part of the divers and bowfishers to be able to walk along a creek or dive into a known habitat of a game fish and shoot a fish that a true fisherman/woman is trying to catch with hook and line. There is a tremendous difference between a spear or arrow and a fly or an 1/8<sup>th</sup> ounce jig.

Please do not support the proposed change to the already too liberal regulations pertaining to bowfishing and divers.

LaMoyne W. Darnall  
3015 Chancery Ct.  
Rapid City, SD 57702

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

**From:** Bryan Thompson [<mailto:bthompson@riw2000.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2014 3:41 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

Dear GFP,

I saw this posted today and would like to request you do not allow a statewide spearing program.

SD does not have very many places to fish muskies and allowing spearing in those waters would not be good for a very limited resource. Its very difficult to tell if a fish is a muskie vs. northern pike from the top. Many people don't know the difference even from the sides.

Please reconsider a statewide spearing program and do not allow spearing of waters that contain muskie.

If you have a moment would you mind sending me a list of SD waters that contain muskies? I thought it was just Amsden and the river. Maybe you have added more.

Sincerely,

Bryan Thompson  
Rosen's Inc.  
4221 Lindsey Ln.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Concerned Sportsman

**From:** Bruce A. Kitowski [<mailto:esoxmaster@charter.net>]

**Sent:** Saturday, November 22, 2014 7:11 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Concerned Sportsman

My name is Bruce A. Kitowski I live at Waite Park, MN. I have just been informed that the state is considering opening spearing to all game fish. I am totally against this and can not believe this is even being considered. If this law passes I will not be visiting your state anymore. Which I do twice a year. I have passed this on to many many people and I know they are all against it. Thank you for your time.

Bruce A. Kitowski

President St. Cloud Chapter of Muskies Inc.

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearing/bowfishing

**From:** Kurt [<mailto:kthn@sio.midco.net>]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 23, 2014 9:38 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Cc:** Todd

**Subject:** Spearing/bowfishing

Im totally against any new spearing or bowfishing seasons or areas.

One of my many issue's with this is all the blocks of ice that will be left sitting around on the ice just waiting for someone to hit while trying to enjoy actual fishing.

I have already witnessed blocks of ice left out on bitter lake and lynn lake.

If its all about extra revenues then I'd be more then happy to pay more for my license and the out of state people should be paying much more then currently are for the wonderful opportunity we provide them!

Id like to also ask that bordering state's that have closed seasons will not be allowed to fish our water's during that time.

Kurt Hansen

47588 horizon drive

S.f.s.d. 57104

6053661898.

**Ascher, Debra**

---

**Subject:** FW: Spearing proposal

**From:** Jim Propst [<mailto:Propst@santel.net>]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 23, 2014 9:06 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearing proposal

I see no need for widening or lengthening the spearing season. We don't need the additional harvest and the additional pressure on an already limited resource. Lakes close to the borders will be overrun with MN and IA spear chucker's. Spearing isn't sport – just harvesting. And if the harvest numbers are insignificant why not allow other types of harvest like shotguns on carp? I see this proposal as another attempt to deepen the revenue stream for GF&P salaries and having nothing to do with a quality fishery.

Thank you,

James Propst

Huron, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** game fish spearing

**From:** Jake Rehnstrom [<mailto:jakerehnstrom@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 23, 2014 2:49 PM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** game fish spearing

After reading your proposal to allow game fish spearing in all inland waters for all species in the state of south dakota i am concerned about allowing such regulations on waters that contain muskies as these fish could be easily targeted though the ice or when they are attempting to spawn in the spring and due to the length of time it takes for these fish to reach trophy size i fear that allowing this would decimate the current growing populations that we have of these wonderful fish.

Jake Rehnstrom, Watertown, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** spearfishing proposal

**From:** Allen, Justin  
**Sent:** Monday, November 24, 2014 10:23 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** spearfishing proposal

Dear Commission Members:

Please vote against the statewide spearfishing proposal of game fish. The difference between spearing and hook & line angling is with hook & line the fish need to bite on your presentation. Spearing... all the fish has to do is be there & it is dead. There is no variable of the fish being willing or active or anything, it just has to be there. It doesn't matter that it's not prime time & fish aren't feeding, it doesn't matter that there was just a bug hatch or that it's a full moon, they just have to be there.

Also this is huge safety issues for multiple reason that shouldn't even need to be discussed. 90% of boaters in SD and probably close to 100% of non-resident boaters have no clue what diver flags and makers are. I hope it never happens but I'm honestly surprised no diver has ever been hit by a boat in the Pierre area especially from the Hwy. 14 bridge to Oahe Dam. I have seen so many time were boat going full throttle go within yards of these markers. I have also seen on multiple occasions divers using makers/flags on short ropes so when they dive the marker/flag goes under the water as they dive deeper only to have it resurface when they are close to the top of water. I can't think of a unsafer practice!!

Please vote against this proposal.

Thanks for your time.  
Justin Allen  
Pierre, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Game Fish Spearing Proposal

**From:** DeBoer Nick [<mailto:Nick.DeBoer@tetrapak.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, November 24, 2014 10:28 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Game Fish Spearing Proposal

Hi,

I am contacting you to express my concern with the proposal to allow game fish spearing in my home state of South Dakota. I live in Minnesota now but make multiple fishing trips throughout the seasons back home.

South Dakota has been passing more and more progressive and protective length/bag limits etc. Why is the proposal even on the table? You can't release speared fish so it doesn't work well at all with length limits. Also why does the GF&P want to increase harvest on game fish species? It just doesn't make any sense to me.

There are already plenty of spearing opportunities on the Missouri River system for walleyes etc and plenty of northern pike options throughout the state. No reason to increase harvest on waters that are seeing an increasing amount of harvest pressure.

Thanks,

Nick DeBoer  
Winsted, MN 55395  
320-237-4394

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

**From:** Corey Arvidson [<mailto:corevarvidson@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 25, 2014 8:56 PM

**To:** SDGFPINFO

**Subject:** RE: GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

Hello,

I think this is an excellent idea. However I would recommend spearing be closed on all fish species from 3/15-5/15 to allow for spawning to take place. I think certain streams would could see intensive pressure/ over harvest during peak spawning times.

Thanks, Corey Arvidson, Lake Preston, SD

## **Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** David J Veilleux <mickeyfinn@knology.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2014 3:35 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Spear fishing proposal

I will start out first by saying that I am totally against this spear fishing proposal. How could anybody in their right mind propose such a thing ? Where are the ethics ? Trout need our protection. Is this a money thing ? Are you trying to create more revenue for the state ? Is this some east river thing ? Spear fishing for trout would be devastating to the streams. Would ruin a great fishery. This proposal has to be the dumbest I have ever heard coming from a fishing game department. Who ever came up with this BS proposal has no ethics. I haven't met or talked to anyone on social media who thought this was a good idea. Guess it's time to contact my congressional representatives. Dave Veilleux concerned fly fisherman .

David J Veilleux  
2005 Cruz Dr  
Rapid City South Dakota 57702.  
(605)431-0070  
[Mickeyfinn@knology.net](mailto:mickeyfinn@knology.net)

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing amendment proposal

**From:** Gary Roth [mailto:[gary\\_roth@hotmail.com](mailto:gary_roth@hotmail.com)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2014 10:22 AM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** Spearfishing amendment proposal

GF & P Comission:

Please add my voice in OPPOSITION to amending the spearfishing regulations to include all waters of the State of South Dakota. I feel that with the high horsepower of todays outboard engines (not me with my old 40hp) that dangerous situations would evolve too quickly at the speeds that can be attained and that smaller lakes are not the place for spearfishing to be expanded into with recreational fishing, water skiing, wakeboarding, etc posing conflicts and possible injury and probable death to those involved.

NO on expansion of spearfishing in all waters of the state.

Thank you

Gary Roth, Aberdeen, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** M Zacher <zachers2@rap.midco.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 30, 2014 12:16 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Spearfishing Proposal

**Importance:** High

As a very big concern to the Bass fishing world, I feel as well as many others this could very much hurt the Large Mouth and Small Mouth Bass population. As a member of BASS and a tournament angler I support catch and release for mainly Bass but also for other species. I realize spear fishing is a sport, but there should be some sort of regulations on species that thrive and create a thrill of catching and releasing. Please consider my concerns and help protect our Bass waters.

Mark Zacher  
Black Hills Bass Bandits  
Rapid City SD  
605-391-1710

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** SPEARFISHING

**From:** Darin Finley [mailto:[darin.finley@pandhwholesale.com](mailto:darin.finley@pandhwholesale.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 1:57 PM  
**Subject:** RE: SPEARFISHING

I am from Rapid City, SD 57701

Thank You  
Darin Finley

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**From:** Darin Finley [mailto:[darin.finley@pandhwholesale.com](mailto:darin.finley@pandhwholesale.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 8:05 AM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** SPEARFISHING  
**Importance:** High

If you were to pass this proposal you are in the works of having the majority of having all fisherman in this state very "PISSED" off!! I am not only speaking for bass fisherman but as well as the walleye fisherman too. I see this being an unfair advantage to the regular fisherman, CHILDREN and the HANDICAPPED residents not be able to catch fish. The spearfisherman have the advantage to spear the better fish of the species compared to the regular fisherman with hook and line. Then what happens?? There will only be smaller fish in the lakes and rivers and will not have any of the larger size fish to contend for.

In the lakes and and smaller lakes it will be easy pickens for the spear fisherman to spear such as the Bass and Walleye, the Bass is the easiest to spear, they are a curious fish and do not flea off as other species do. For instense, Pactola Lake there use to be a nice population of Bass in this lake to fish for, then in the last 5yr span they have been depleted down to nothing of any size or to a size to fish for. THANKS to the allowing of spear fishing in this lake. I know, I have seen it many multiple times happening so I do not fish there anymore!!!!!!!!!!

If there is a decision to allow a season for spearfishing in SD, should it only be allowed on the Missouri river where there is plenty of water. But to allow on the lakes, should only allow spearing for the Pike, Catfish, and all non game species such as Carp, Sheep Head and sucker fish.if you plan to allow spearing in the lakes on all species then the trout and samon should be include as well. Spearfishing will ruin the boating industry, the purchase of fishing licenses, park recreational tags, day passes, out of state licenses and much much more than you can imagine.

I am a Bass fisherman and hearing about this proposal has me very upset that "YOU" as the GFP service of SD thinking of opening a state wide season on spearfishing, the consequences of this happening will be detrimental to you and to the state!! So PLEASE!!, think this out before you decide to make this happen .

A very concerned SD fisherman!!!!

Darin Finley

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:**

Open Spearing on all SD Lakes for all game fish

Are you crazy or have you just lost your minds? Meaning no disrespect, but if you are even considering a change to open all inland lakes to spearing of all game fish you better step back and consider the ramifications of this proposal. **DO NOT BEND OR BREAK** just because of a few spear fishing freaks want the rights to kill fish in every lake in South Dakota. When was the last time you saw a spear fisherman release a 10 pound walleye to be speared again?? Enough said!

Here is my name and address:

Jim Forrette  
812 South 3rd street  
Milbank, SD 57252  
605-432-6663 home  
320-808-1032 work

## Ascher, Debra

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**From:** avera.org, jerry.soholt  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 1:52 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** State Wide Scuba spearfishing

Good Day to all:

The sportsman and women all across thank you for the many hours of dedicated service you provide our great state. Many of the hunting & fishing opportunities we have is because of the vision and steady hand the Commission has provided over the years.

Today I would like you to consider a yes vote in favor of allowing scuba divers the opportunity to spearfish statewide. Scuba diving is much like any hobby where there are a core group of dedicated divers and many more on the fringe who dive periodically. Having the opportunity to dive with spear gun in hand in some of the smaller lakes of SD would be a real interest to me and I assume to many others. I own a small boat so the river just isn't an option for a day or two of recreational diving. For many of the fisherman who feel threatened by a diver who is under with the fish a couple things to consider. In the majority of SD lakes the underwater visibility after mid June in only a few feet this in itself puts the diver in and difficult situation. Making sure that 14 inch fish is really 14 inches with no opportunity to release it if so lucky as to hit it with the refraction of the image will delay many shots thus eliminating the opportunity. The diver must be relatively stationary because swimming increases the rate at which the diver goes through his tank of air thus shortening the time he or she is able to be under water.

I do not know the number of divers in SD who participate in this activity on the river, if passed I'm sure there will be a year of increased interest however I would also expect the success ratio to be pretty low.

I do enjoy archery hunting for deer and would equate this to be a similar activity only with increased difficulty and a reduced success rate. For the avid fisherman I'm sure they perceive this as a threat to their water. I am not a very good fisherman but enjoy time spent above and below the surface this would provide an opportunity for many to spend another few hours on or in the waters of SD.

Thank you for your consideration and again I urge a yes vote.

Sincerely  
Jerry Soholt

***Jerry Soholt***  
President  
Avera Foundation  
212 E. 11th Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
605-322-4750  
[www.Avera.org/donate](http://www.Avera.org/donate)  
*Find your true North.*

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Venturecomm <davidse@venturecomm.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 7:12 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Game fish spearing

My vote is no on opening the spearing of all game fish in the state. Our glacial lakes get an extreme amount of fishing pressure the way it is. If I catch a fish on rod & reel I have the option to keep or release for big or small reasons. The only way to release a speared fish is not to release the spear & I don't think that is going to happen.  
Please vote No. David Seibel Britton South Dakota

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:**

**FW: Meeting**

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Joanne Hegg [mailto:[joanne@mitchelltelecom.net](mailto:joanne@mitchelltelecom.net)]

**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 5:02 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Meeting

Sent from my iPad. So because a few fishermen want to spear their fish, you are going to. Grant this crazy idea?? Now we have been asking for a better pheasant season, and nothing was done. The season should be shorter and the Game and Fish should help to provide more food and cover, and some better food plots at the State open hunting grounds. Another good idea is cut the fishing tournaments in Chamberlain, for out of staters and let the great, hardworking SOUTH DAKOTANS fish FIRST,,,,, FIRST!!!!!!! Do you know how many fish will NOT be used, by spearing, and will be left to DIE or rot because they were NOT retrieved by the SPEAR man. Let's do what the good SD folks want instead of talking MONEY.

Mitchell, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:**

**FW:**

**From:** Bill Hagemeyer [<mailto:billwhage@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 8:37 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:**

spearing game fish is the wrong answer- sounds like some third world country-spear carp  
,there should be plenty of those-

bill hagemeyer , dakota dunes ,sd

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 11:18 AM  
**To:** Kiel, Emily  
**Subject:** FW: Spear Fishing Concern

**From:** Michael Wheaton [<mailto:mewheaton1@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 10:59 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Spear Fishing Concern

Greetings,

I am writing to express concern about the proposed spear fishing changes. I would be concerned particularly about the vulnerability of trout in the Black Hills streams where water flows can be low and fish easier to spot and take by spear. I am wondering if this has been considered and if special regulations could be established related to spear fishing in the Black Hills streams. I also wonder about size regulations since it is difficult to judge a fish's size in the water and spearing does not allow releasing fish that are outside the size regulations since they are harmed by the spear.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mike

--

Michael E. Wheaton  
5904 W 61ST ST  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
[mewheaton1@gmail.com](mailto:mewheaton1@gmail.com)  
605-521-7720

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing

**From:** Steve-Home [mailto:srick708@sio.midco.net]

**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 8:41 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearfishing

To Whom it may concern,

I do Scuba diving on the Missouri and take part in the spearfishing, and would like to see the dates be changed just like the hook and line fishing season.

I have seen lots of discussion on some forums (Dak Angler site) re: this and they are all talking how bad this would affect the fishing and I have to tell you the scuba-spearfishing sport is not as easy as hook and line and it sure does not affect the fish population as much as the hook and line does. If they want to keep the spearfishing just the way it is then I think the state needs to shut down fishing Walleye fishing season during the walleye spawn like Minnesota does. They all come here to fish and keep a lot more fish than someone spearfishing would, and I don't know how many sportsmen would try to spear a Walleye from the surface due to a slot size. And most scuba divers do not dive all year due to the climate of SD. Also when we do dive and spearfish the time is limited between and 1 hour to 2 hours at the most and then you are out of air, I dove the Pickstown area many times this summer and did not shoot any walleye or bass as I only seen one Walleye that was under 15" so not a good summer of spearfishing unless you like to shoot carp.

I hope that the GFP staff can help educate the fishermen of the state re: the scuba spearfishing sport.

Steve Rickenbaugh, Sioux Falls, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spear Fishinig

**From:** Rodney Melcher [<mailto:rodney.melcher@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 10:01 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spear Fishinig

Fishing is a big part of my life as a paraplegic and veteran and your generosity of my reduced fishing license. Spearfishing will dampen my out look on catch and release fishing knowing that one day that bass I just landed may have the chance to be the Big Bass of the day. I have joined the Black Hills Bass Bandits and Bass and am looking forward to a many more rewarding days on the lake. Spear fishing in my mind does not promote good fishing habits. Please read and consider my E-mail a vote for Large and Small Mouth Bass and other species of fish to be released alive and the enjoyment for another anglers catch another day.

Rodney Melcher  
6709 Ridgeview Court  
Black Hawk, SD 57718

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:**

FW: GFP Commission to Meet Dec. 10-11

**From:** chuck [<mailto:cbhobbies@venturecomm.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 10:35 AM

**To:** SDGFPINFO

**Subject:** Re: GFP Commission to Meet Dec. 10-11

ATTENTION G, F & Parks Commission:

I still cannot believe you ever started spear fishing Game Fish! So , therefore, I am still adamantly against your even considering extending it. Thank you.

I would still love to hear a reasonable , total , explanation for it???

Sincerely,

Chuck Byrum.

PO Box 12

Highmore, S D. 57345

l.

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearing fish

**From:** Roger Brown [<mailto:roger@rlnc.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 7:52 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Spearing fish

Carp OK, otherwise no it is not needed and is of little benefit to wild life management. Years ago (late 50's) I recall the spear fishing that went on around the northeast SD area. Large northern and walleye needed for building the fish numbers were taken and many just left to rot. It is impossible for some to resist a big score or a dozen big scores legal or otherwise. There may be solid reasoning that I may not be aware of, however I just don't see the need or potential value for fish management.

Thank you,  
Roger Brown  
Sisseton, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Fish Spearing

**From:** Marc Schmitz [<mailto:Marc.Schmitz@RaymondJames.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 8:13 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Fish Spearing

I believe strongly that expanding fish spearing will hurt our fisheries, but more detrimental, damage our reputation as a state that caters to out-of-state recreational fisherman which are the people that bring real money to South Dakota and the GFP.

Thank you,

Marc C. Schmitz  
1204 E Church St  
Pierre, SD 57501

**Ascher, Debra**

---

**Subject:** FW: Spear fishing proposal

**From:** Widman, Mark  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 4:08 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Spear fishing proposal

Dear Commissioners,

I am asking you to vote "No" on expanding the spearfishing proposal. It seems to me that it will cause a lot of frustration between fisherman in boats and on shore and the spearfishing enthusiasts.

If the proposal set up dive safety zones on each lake to separate the divers from boaters and shore fisherman, then I would be open to it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Widman  
Tea, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: spearfishing

**From:** Jef [mailto:jefitso@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 4:12 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** spearfishing

Hi, I am an active spear fisherman and have been for over 10 years in South Dakota. I feel that we:

Spear fishermen/women should have the same seasons, limits and lakes as all other fishermen/women. the weather pretty much dictates our season.

Bow fishing is different than ice spearing and underwater spearfishing. underwater spearing is different with supplied air than on a free dive. I do not know why it would all be lumped together

The safety regulations are insane. A boat and a diver are legally located at 25 yards from the diver flag. Boats need to be 100 yards away, all boats motorized and non-motorized. A canoe can knock you out as easily as a jet ski. Free divers come up every few minutes to breath. If a boat hits me and kills me and we are both at 25 yards there is no one at fault.

The lanyard being 20' makes no sense. An underwater shot is dictated by the visibility and power of the speargun. Most don't even go that far. All the lanyard does is allow you to come up to breath while your spear and fish are underwater.

We get charged \$5 extra dollars to participate in our sport and then get further restrictions.

Thanks for opening up Pike in all BH lakes. I love them and have takes well over 1,200 pounds out for you, no kidding I have the photos to show it. I could really care less about trout and bass. I do like to get a few walleye at Angostura before the water mudds up.

Jef Whittle  
2519 Arroyo Ct  
Rapid City, SD 57702

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing

**From:** Calvin Modlin [<mailto:ctmodlin@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 6:41 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearfishing

I do some spearfishing, bow fishing, and a lot of hook and line fishing, and enjoy them all. In my opinion the first two are quite different then the latter. Although we have the electronics to help us locate fish we can't identify what species they are or what bait they will take. We still have to use our skills and have a lot of luck to fill the creel. With spearing you know what species your getting and it doesn't matter what their eating. With hook and line its possible to release that other fish that's 20" plus or the ones that are to small. Release is a little harder to do after a spear or arrow has gone throw both sides of that fish. Are the those spearfishing going to report the ones that were mistakenly taken or will they just get sent to the bottom of the lake or river??? How will that be controlled? There are some species that during certain times will be very easily taken with a spear or bow (similar to snagging during spawn) and the numbers taken would not allow a sustainable number of fish to keep reproducing. Back to square one of another expense of restocking and many years before their fishable again. I feel that the season set is adequate and that not all species or waters should be opened to spear and bow fishing.

Thanks for the opportunity to express my thoughts,

Calvin t. Modlin

3706 W Omaha

Rapid City SD 57702

**Ascher, Debra**

---

**Subject:** Oppose ability to spearfish all South Dakota waters

**From:** Larry Smith [[mailto:gofishy\\_mn@yahoo.com](mailto:gofishy_mn@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 6:47 PM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** Re: Oppose ability to spearfish all South Dakota waters

I live in Rapid City, SD

—Original Message—

**From:** [gofishy\\_mn@yahoo.com](mailto:gofishy_mn@yahoo.com) [[mailto:gofishy\\_mn@yahoo.com](mailto:gofishy_mn@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 29, 2014 8:02 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Oppose ability to spearfish all South Dakota waters

> I oppose opening up all South Dakota waters to spearfishing. I am  
> especially concerned with the ability of spearfishing to target the  
> largest fish in a body of water. The GF&P has spent a large amount  
> of time and taxpayer money to establish fisheries throughout the  
> state. The large fish in the system are the powerhouse for  
> reproduction and provide incentive for hook and line fishermen to  
> want to fish a location. Since hook and line fisherman have many  
> obstacles when fish are present such as small fish being more likely  
> to bite a lure (due to percentage of fish by size), mood of fish to  
> bite, ability to put a bait in the strike zone of fish, etc...; they  
> are not as likely to harvest larger and more fish than those who  
> spearfish. All of these points are especially of concern for  
> smaller fisheries. These fisheries could be devastated and those that spearfish would just move  
> on to the next body of water, as would the hook and line anglers.  
>  
> I believe the spear fishing community should be happy to already have  
> the opportunity to spear game fish in South Dakota, rather than  
> continuing to push and push for more and more. Many states only  
> allow spear fishing of rough fish. I would like this opportunity  
> to that of providing paddle fishing opportunities. Some opportunity  
> is great, but it should not just be opened up like other fishing  
> opportunities. You should add opportunities slowly and evaluate the results before adding more  
> opportunities.  
>  
> Lastly, opening up spear fishing of game fish to many more bodies of  
> water would cause them to dive more in those waters. I envision  
> more dangerous interactions between divers and all recreational  
> boaters. Once again, smaller bodies of water would have more issues.  
>  
> Thanks for your time,  
> Larry Smith

## Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** SD BASS Federation Nation Response to Spearfishing proposal

**From:** Jeff Brown [mailto:[thebrowns@svtv.com](mailto:thebrowns@svtv.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 1:21 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** SD BASS Federation Nation Response to Spearfishing proposal

John, Geno and the Commission.

Upon speaking with our national director and South Dakota B.A.S.S. Nation constituents, we have come up with the following in response to the proposal:

Some points in *favor* of the year-round regulations...

- 1) It makes the rules simple and easy to understand and easier for law enforcement too. Fairness for all user of the resource - as long as everyone abides by bag limits, there should be no problems.
- 2) Closed seasons for bass have been shown to be of little biological value so an exemption or a special rule is not really biologically necessary. The key element is the *population* impact. I doubt that even under ideal conditions, there would be enough spearing of bass to impact a population - individual fish and nests, yes, but not the entire population in a lake or reservoir. There will always be nesting bass in places and at depths that the spear fishermen cannot get to them and nature has a way of compensating for lost nests by increasing survival of fry in the unaffected nests.
- 3) Harvest of bass is likely to be relatively, as typically, walleye are the preferred target and murky waters offer some protection. We assume the numbers of bass potentially taken will be low just as it is with rod & reel angling (people just don't keep bass like they used to).

Some points to *oppose* the regulation..

- 1) Allowing spearing of game fish in some ways reduces their "value" to the public. When traditionally only "rough fish" were allowed to be taken by means other than rod & reel and "game fish" were considered a more precious resource worthy of greater protection. It is a perception issue that could be made worse by allowing spearing of game fish.
- 2) B.A.S.S. has an obligation to oppose regulations that threaten bass populations *if the science does not support the change*. Good management must consider all constituents and balance the desires of many groups without sacrificing one for the other.
- 3) If there are populations that are very low and in waters where they are especially vulnerable (such as infertile ponds or lakes where the bass don't reproduce and recruit consistently and have really clear water) then lake-specific exemptions or season closures may be in order.

In South Dakota, we Bass Nation members consider the Largemouth to be easy targets if fishing was allowed any time prior to July 15 due to their nature of bedding. Although we do not have conclusive studies on the majority of spawning depth, time of year, etc... we would encourage a restriction to withhold the harvest of these fish by all methods of spearfishing from March 1 – July 15.

Your consideration would greatly be appreciated. Thank you, Jeff Brown South Dakota BFN CD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Comments of Spearfishing Regulations

**From:** Conor McMahon [<mailto:conormcmahon00@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 1:48 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Comments of Spearfishing Regulations

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my strong opposition to the proposal to expand Spearfishing to all inland waters.

As an active fisherman in the Black Hills I am very concerned that the impact this expanded spearfishing could have on the trout streams and lakes of the Black Hills. This proposal would allow spearfishers to target our largest trout, even during periods of spawning, when they are particularly vulnerable. This could be a potential disaster for the quality of trout fishing in the Black Hills.

I sincerely hope that the commissioners will not allow spearfishing for trout or any other game fish in the Black Hills

Regards,

Conor McMahon  
Rapid City, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Comment on proposed game fish spearing

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Larry Russell [<mailto:larry.russell@midstatesd.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 11:46 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Comment on proposed game fish spearing

This message is to notify you of not only my personal opposition to the proposal, but also to advise you that every fisherman I know (dozens) opposes the proposal. Some reasons for the opposition are listed below:

1. It has always been frustrating after a hard day of sport fishing to return to the dock and find scuba divers cleaning their catch of mostly large walleyes that they have speared. Making it legal year-round for spearing only adds to the frustration.
  2. Expanding spearing of game fish will increase the take of larger sized fish, and potentially affect spawning unfavorably.
  3. Spear and bow and arrow fishing for rough fish as a principle is fine, unless the practice interferes with sportfishing.
  4. Scuba divers too often interfere with sport fishing by their barricade floats in the natural trolling paths of sport fishermen, and creating an impediment to access good fishing spots.
  5. Scuba divers generally have an unfair advantage over sport-fishermen, and take a disproportionate amount of game fish.
  6. There is no evident, compelling reason to change the present rules and permit game fish spearing.
- In summary, I oppose the legalization of game fish spearing, certainly in open water.

Larry Russell  
Chamberlain, SD

December 2 2014

South Dakota Game & Fish Commissioners

Meeting December 11<sup>th</sup> 2014

Comments on proposed regulation change for spearing and bow-fishing.

Dear Commissioners

The proposed changes as proposed will have a very harmful effect on the game fish of South Dakota. The proposal if changed will put the spawning fish of all species at risk at the very time they should be protected from harvest. We have shown through our catch and release bass tournaments that spawning bass can be caught and released with little or no effect on their population. By opening an opportunity for fishermen to spear or shoot them with an arrow will have an everlasting effect as the fish will be eliminated from the system. While I view the opportunity for bow fishing and spearing has a place in our outdoor activities and is growing in popularity the regulations should furnish them more opportunity for the taking of rough fish NOT game fish. Most other states have regulations for bow fishing and spearing with protections for their game fish. South Dakota does not need to be a leader when it comes to selective harvest of some of our finest resources" GAMEFISH." I would ask you to keep the existing regulations in place as they are in 2014. No Change.

Phillip Risnes

26643 461 Ave. Hartford S.D. 57033 605-941-9162 prisnes@unitelsd.com

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:**

FW:

**From:** Glenn and Barb Imberi [mailto:labfamily@nvc.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:40 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Glenn and Barb Imberi [mailto:labfamily@nvc.net]

**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2014 8:23 PM

**To: Subject:**

To: South Dakota Game Fish Parks Commissioners

Please do not change the current Spear fishing Regulations. The new proposals appear to create additional restrictions on shore and boat anglers. An underwater spearing person with a tethered flag could virtually have the run of a smaller body of water and not only create restrictions on other anglers, but could also create confusion and safety issues. Over the years we have always heard of proposals that create restrictions on sportsman and the difficulty in understanding regulations and the enforcement of them, well this is one that tops the list of questions on how to regulate, educate, enforce and be fair to the overall population of users, ie THE SPORT ANGLER

Glenn Imberi, Aberdeen, SD

President

Northeastern So. Dak. Walleye Club

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spear fishing rule changes proposed

**From:** Warren Cody [mailto:Cody.Warren@rcgov.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 02, 2014 9:37 AM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Spear fishing rule changes proposed

Box Elder , SD

Thank You ...

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**From:** Warren Cody [mailto:Cody.Warren@rcgov.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:25 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Spear fishing rule changes proposed

To the Game Fish and Parks Commission ,

I would like to add my support AGAINST the opening of spear and bow fishing statewide and on all bodies of water. I think the spear fisherman could do harm to a population of fish in a hurry if opened up to the proposed rules. There are already enough conflicts between boat fisherman and divers as it is. I think this may just cause more conflicts. Opening to waters where there is length limits on Muskies will be an issue . I don't know how you spear and release a fish if it is to short or have to many over length walleyes. Thanks for your consideration on voting this down.

Cody L. Warren A.C.E.  
Airport Electrician  
[Cody.Warren@rcgov.com](mailto:Cody.Warren@rcgov.com)  
605-381-9457

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Bowfishing game species year round

**From:** Brent Larsen [<mailto:bnqlarsen@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 02, 2014 5:59 AM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** Re: Bowfishing game species year round

Spearfish, SD

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**From:** Brent Larsen [<mailto:bnqlarsen@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 3:16 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Bowfishing game species year round

I think this is awesome what a great and wonderful way to give more family's another excuse to get up off of the couch and get outside and enjoy the great outdoors. Some kids and women don't enjoy the slow pace of rod and reel fishing. Usually Bowfishing is faster paced and more exiting. This would encourage more to get outside especially being able to eat a much better tasting game fish then rough fish.

Brent Larsen

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Open Spearing

**From:** Bob Wruck [<mailto:bob.wruck@millermarine.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 02, 2014 1:11 PM

**To:** Ascher, Debra

**Subject:** RE: Open Spearing

Sartell Minnesota

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**From:** Bob Wruck [<mailto:bob.wruck@millermarine.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 8:35 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Open Spearing

Hello

I am emailing in regards to the open spearing. I really enjoy fishing the water in South Dakota. You have quality fish and quality lakes. I believe opening up the spearing year round for game fish will impact the quality of fishing. It could very easily be an abused privilege given to the public.

Thanks

Bob Wruck

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spear and bow fishing

**From:** [alsd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:alsd2000@yahoo.com) [mailto:[alsd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:alsd2000@yahoo.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 02, 2014 2:25 PM

**To:** Ascher, Debra

**Subject:** Re: Spear and bow fishing

OK, my name is Al Arendt, Valley Springs, SD. Please include the comments I sent back on November 14th and this comment.. If those bow and spear fishermen want to get the large fish, let them fish with a rod and reel or fly rod so they can not choose to pick only the large fish to shoot. Thank you.

Sent from Windows Mail

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**From:** [alsd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:alsd2000@yahoo.com) [mailto:[alsd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:alsd2000@yahoo.com)]

**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 9:49 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** RE: Spear and bow fishing

Spear and bow fishing should not be allowed on all inland waters as proposed. Bow and spear fishing in the Black Hills lakes, small streams, and low dams with mostly clear water, would result in the harvesting of only the largest fish since the bow or spear fisherman sees and can pick the target. In the Black Hills, bow and spear fishing should not be expanded.

Sent from Windows Mail

December 3, 2014

SDGFP Commission  
523 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

As an avid traditional fisherman I write to you in **protest** to the proposed regulation change to allow spearing and bowfishing of all game fish species (except paddle fish and sturgeon) in all inland waters.

It is quite frustrating and infuriating to traditional fishermen that the commission would even consider such a rule change. Consider the potential decimation of some of the largest spawners due to the fact that spearfishermen, particularly, are after the largest of a species. You must realize there is no catch and release of a fish that has been shot or speared.

I belong to Walleyes Unlimited and one of our main goals is to see the game fishing prospects to be increased by catching and releasing the larger spawners. I personally do not keep a large game fish that can survive and be useful for the resource. I will keep enough walleye under 20 and over 15 inches (where legal) for a meal of fresh fish.

I feel it is unsportsmanlike on the part of bowfishers and spearfishermen to be able to walk along a creek or dive into known habitat of game fish and spear game fish. I do, however, support spearing **rough fish** only. If game fish is to be offered to spearfishermen, require a special permit to be issued during a spearfishing tournament.

Please **do not** support the proposed change to the already too liberal regulations pertaining to divers and bowfishing.

Larry C. Talley  
2327 Huntington PL  
Rapid City, SD 57702

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** opposition to spearfishing proposal

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Luke Van Oeveren [<mailto:lsvhusker@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 3:33 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** opposition to spearfishing proposal

To Whom it may concern,

As residents of the state who frequently use various state rec areas, and whose family owns property on Lake Cochrane SRA we are adamantly opposed to the proposed year round spearfishing proposal. This doesn't seem to fit well and would severely limit enjoyment of the lake for our family at Lake Cochrane. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lucas & Maria Van Oeveren  
Sioux Falls, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Year Round Spear and Bow Fishing Proposal

**From:** Terry Walter [<mailto:tawalt61@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 1:36 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Year Round Spear and Bow Fishing Proposal

I am a life-long South Dakotan and an avid outdoorsman. I enjoy fishing, both by rod and reel in open waters and ice fishing by hook and line. It is a very important privilege that I have these opportunities as a citizen of our state. I am opposed to the proposed rule change to allow spear and bow fishing year round of all game fish in South Dakota on all public waters/ice. I believe the current season of June 15 to March 15 is adequate to give sportsmen and women the opportunity to participate in those activities. The March 16 to June 14 period should remain closed, which is the prime spawning period for the majority of game fish in South Dakota. The proposed rule change could potentially have adverse impacts on future game fish populations and our opportunities to enjoy fishing in our state.

I am not opposed to expanding the current June 15 to March 15 spear/bow fishing season to other public waters that are currently restricted. I also am not opposed to allowing year round spear and bow fishing to fish species that I would categorize as "rough fish", such as carp, gar, catfish, and the like, but not for, walleye, northern pike, bass, crappie, blue gill, etc.

Sincerely,  
Terry Walter  
231 Linnell St  
Pierre , SD 57501

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Year round spearing

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Dick & Kathy Ellenbecker [mailto:[richardk@sio.midco.net](mailto:richardk@sio.midco.net)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 11:24 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Year round spearing

Please do not allow year round spearing on Lake Cochrane in Dueul County). Our relatively clear water would be very inviting to divers. The lake is not large and summer boating is often quite active. This could be very dangerous for divers and boaters.

We also have a limited number of large fish and this population could be decimated by heavy spear hunting pressure.

Thank you, Richard Ellenbecker, 6510 S Killarney Ct, Sioux Falls, SD 57108

(3640 Edgewater Dr, Lake Cochrane)

Sent from my iPad

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Fish Spearing Proposed Changes

**From:** Blake Hoffman [mailto:bhoff007@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 8:41 AM

**To:** Ascher, Debra

**Subject:** Re: Fish Spearing Proposed Changes

Debra,

My city and state is Sioux Falls, SD. Thank you.

Blake Hoffman

**From:** Blake Hoffman [mailto:bhoff007@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 20, 2014 6:57 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Fish Spearing Proposed Changes

Dear G,F&P Commissioners,

I'm writing to express my support for year round game fish spearing statewide.

I'm a life long resident of SD and both a line fisherman and a spear fisherman. I would appreciate the change to allow the spearfishing season to align and mirror the regular fishing season and opened up to statewide waters.

I spear fish several times a year and have never had an issue sharing waters with line fisherman. Our group has had good conversations with line fisherman at the cleaning station and if anything, line fisherman are curious about what we see down there.

There are always a few grumpy fisherman but they're usually the type that gripe about ANY fisherman moving into their space. There are many acres of water for us all.

Spearfishing is fun, exciting and often, like line fishing, unsuccessful in terms of the harvest. I thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Blake Hoffman

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing Regulation

**From:** Lily Mitchell [<mailto:lilymitchell447@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 5:02 PM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Spearfishing Regulation

My city and state are Pierre, South Dakota

**From:** Lily Mitchell [<mailto:lilymitchell447@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 23, 2014 11:59 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Spearfishing Regulation

I want to officially oppose the proposed spearfishing regulation to open it state wide. Enough is enough I have had to deal with a large boat dropping several spearfishermen throughout the entire sully flats or on several points around me while I have been fishing and it is bad enough on our large lakes but state wide is too much. They can say what they want but it is just a way to harvest fish when they can't catch them and this regulation sounds like it is coming from someone trying to profit from it.

Thanks Doug Mitchell

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearfishing

**From:** Keith Reiners [<mailto:reinersk@puetzcorp.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 3:26 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearfishing

I want to write to voice my opinion on spearfishing. I know there is a meeting coming up to determine the legality on this. I don't see how spearfishing is any different than rod fishing therefore spearfishing should be open to the same rules as rod fishing. Please include me on the list that is supporting spearfishing state wide, thank you.

**Keith Reiners**  
Project Manager

Puetz Corporation  
800 North Kimball Street | Mitchell, South Dakota 57301

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearing/Bowfishing

**From:** Lucas Nogelmeier [<mailto:lucas@lewsfireworks.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 4:28 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearing/Bowfishing

Just wanted to drop you a quick note regarding the proposal allowing the spearing/bowfishing of most game fish, year round. I do not know all of the details of the proposal, but my concern would be damaging the female population during the spawn. Granted, not all anglers practice catch and release at this time, but with spearing/bowfishing, that option is not available. Those are just my two cents regarding the matter.

Lucas T. Nogelmeier - Watertown, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearing Proposal

**From:** Tom Satrang [[tomsatrang@woodlandcabinetry.com](mailto:tomsatrang@woodlandcabinetry.com)]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 1:25 PM

**To:** Peterson, Cathy

**Subject:** Spearing Proposal

The proposal to open spearing state wide to all inlands waters is a crazy proposal and is not in the best interest of our SD fisheries. I have not talked to one SD fisherman that supports this idea.

Thank you.

Tom Satrang, Sisseton, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing

**From:** Kyle Krause [<mailto:kyle@dakotahillslaw.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 3:58 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** Spearfishing

Greetings. I am writing regarding the proposal to allow spearfishing in all South Dakota waters. As someone who enjoys trout fishing in the Black Hills, this strikes me as a bad idea for any streams within the Black Hills Trout Management Area. Bowfishing in some areas of these streams would be quite easy, and could be detrimental to trout populations, some of which are becoming more self-sustaining. A lot of the experienced anglers who fish those streams practice primarily catch and release, which is obviously not an option when spearfishing. I would suggest that bow and spearfishing not be allowed in streams within the Black Hills Trout Management Area.

Kyle Krause

The Law Office of Kyle Krause, Prof. L.L.C.

Rapid City, SD 57702

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Donald Williamson <dduck316@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 8:18 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules; GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Spearfishing

The only difference I see in taking fish with bow, spear or pole is the fact that it's almost instant death with a spear rather than hooking there lip n dragging them to a slow bloody painful death with a fishing pole and the fact that it might get some younger guys to try the fishing thing if they have the bow or spear option I've been Spearfishing for years n it's not easy so far as the people thinking we're going to wipe out the population of trout (aka mountain carp) I highly doubt it.

Let's just give it a try and see how it goes I'm very proud of South Dakota considering getting rid of some rules rather than adding it almost makes me feel like I'm living in America.

Thanks

Donald Williamson  
Whitewood SD USA

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Opposition to Spearfishing Proposal

**From:** tom black [mailto:tomblackinspector@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 5:50 PM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** Opposition to Spearfishing Proposal

Game Fish and Parks Commission,

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to change the spearfishing and bowfishing seasons.

Spearfishing and bowfishing are fun sports. Both are a viable way to take game fish. However spearfishing and bowfishing give a significant advantage to taking large fish. By the nature of the sight fishing it affords the fisherman to be selective with the fish they harvest. Much like hunting for a trophy deer, the projectile angler can select only the largest trophy fish for harvest. This practice can negatively impact the quality and quantity of trophy fish.

These large fish are a necessary and coveted part of our statewide brood stock. It is important to limit the seasons to protect the larger fish from over harvest and harvest during the very important spawning seasons.

Having experienced scuba diving with sport fish it is very apparent to me that the fish loses a significant advantage to the diver. Very often fish are not spooked by an experienced diver. In clear water conditions this allows the diver to survey the population, select specific trophy fish and make a terminal harvest with a high percentage of success.

The current regulations governing these fishing sports have already been altered by expanding seasons and opening additional lakes to legal harvest.

Through the years the GFP have been responding wisely and with a conservation first approach to balancing the access of the sport and protection of resources.

Please vote in opposition to this proposal.

Thank you,  
Tom Black  
Aberdeen, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Equal rights to bow fishermen

**From:** DARIN WILLIAMSON [<mailto:nebuildinganddoorinc@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 9:00 PM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** Equal rights to bow fishermen

I would like my name to be added to the long list of bow and spear fishermen that want to share the same rights on the same bodies of water as hook and line fishermen. Please make this law to include all bodies of water open to fishing, also open to spearing or bow fishing.

Thanks,

Darin Williamson  
Bryant SD

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Northeast Building & Door, Inc.  
PO Box 1  
Bryant, SD 57221

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Brandon Efraimson <brandon@efraimsonelectric.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 9:21 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Spearfishing

Open up all the lakes in South Dakota to spearfishing I would like the same opportunity as rod and reel fisherman thank you

Desmet sd

Brandon Efraimson

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Brook Wendling <brook.wendling@mines.sdsmt.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 9:36 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Spearfishing in South Dakota

Concerning the proposed rule to open the entire state to spearing game fish:

This is something that I feel has been a long time coming as it is a popular sport with a limited area to practice it. There are many positive reasons for this change. One of the largest is the fact that it is another way to promote outdoor activity, which seems to be a fading past time in modern society.

Since there will be the same regulations applied as line fishing there should be no concern of over harvesting fish. Also, this will be a better source of information, regarding fish population, over line fishing since the success of the fisherman is not limited by the hunger of the fish.

Kind Regards,



Brook Wendling  
Bryant SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearfishing Proposal

**From:** JIM [mailto:james.ekholm@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 1:36 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearfishing Proposal

GFP Commissioners:

I am opposed to the loosening of South Dakota fishing regulations to include the spearing of game fish. I have property on Lake Cochrane in Deuel County and because of water clarity and depth, divers will interfere with the recreational boating season as well as hook and line fishing. Ice spearing or shore spearing will further deplete our already shrinking fish populations.

James A. Ekholm          Gary, South Dakota and Boca Raton, Florida

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearing of Game Fish

-----Original Message-----

From: Dean Maeyaert [[mailto:dean\\_maeyaert@yahoo.com](mailto:dean_maeyaert@yahoo.com)]

Sent: Thursday, December 04, 2014 8:39 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Spearing of Game Fish

GFP Commissioners:

I am opposed to the loosening of South Dakota fishing regulations to include the spearing of game fish. I have property on Lake Cochrane in Deuel County and because of water clarity and depth, divers will interfere with the recreational boating season as well as hook and line fishing. Ice spearing or shore spearing will further deplete our already shrinking fish populations.

Connie & Dean Maeyaert  
3418 Dakota Trail  
Gary, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** state wide spearing proposal

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**From:** Gary & Marlys Wickre [<mailto:gmwickre@venturecomm.net>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 11:04 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** state wide spearing proposal

Gary and Marlys Wickre oppose the state wide proposal of spearing all game fish year around. Size limits on walleye and bass will not work with spearing. If the proposal is instated, there should be a limit of 1 walleye, and closed from March 15 to June 15.

Gary and Marlys Wickre

PO Box 465

Britton, SD 57430

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Proposed spearing changes

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mark Haugan [<mailto:mark@huntbrokenarrow.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 1:27 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Proposed spearing changes

I am in favor of the proposed changes to the spearing regulations to open up more waters to the spearing community. I see no valid reason to have the restrictions in place. Spear fisherman have demonstrated that their impact to the Oahe tail race game fish population, during a tournament two years ago, was less than minimal. Please open up a sector of our great South Dakota outdoors to a small but passionate group of sportsman.

Thank you,  
Mark Haugan

Sent from my iPhone

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearfishing Law.

**From:** M&R Signs [<mailto:steve@m-rsigns.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 2:05 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearfishing Law.

I'm in total support of changing the laws in favor of spear fishing through out the state. This would help clear up some of the laws that are rather vague in regards to spear fishing in general. Example you can snorkel and free dive around you own personal dock but as soon as you snorkel or free dive with a spear gun for rough fish you are considered illegal. That really makes no sense.

There is also a misconception on the strength of spear guns in general. These are not the same guns you see on James Bond, a pneumatic spear gun with lanyard only effectively shoots at best four foot.

Thanks  
Steve Rysdon  
426 S. Coteau  
Pierre, SD 57501

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

**From:** Ronald J. Kolbeck [RJKolbeck@fnbsf.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 12:50 PM

**To:** Peterson, Cathy

**Subject:** RE: GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

I presented the proposal last night at the regular monthly meeting of the McCook County Wildlife Club. The club voted to officially express opposition to the proposal. The membership was concerned that the opening of all waters year-round might place too much pressure on the few bodies of water that are actually clear enough to allow for spearing. Therefore, the preference is to keep rules in place to allow the department to manage the activity for each body of water.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to provide input in the process. Please feel free to call or respond with any questions.

Ron Kolbeck, Treasurer  
McCook County Wildlife Club  
Sioux Falls, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** GFP Proposal for statewide game fish spearing

**From:** Leo Flynn [<mailto:lflynn7@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 8:43 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** GFP Proposal for statewide game fish spearing

Hello, would like to briefly voice my opposition to this proposed expansion. Especially in regards to trout streams in the Black Hills. Small stream fishery that will be damaged by this. Bow/spearfishing would target the largest breeder stock and decimate the population.

I am not in favor of significant expansion of this in other freshwater bodies as well.

Thank you,  
Leo Flynn  
Rapid City, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: spear fishing on inland lakes

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**From:** Russ Eng [<mailto:Russ.Eng@aaasd.org>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 8:20 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** spear fishing on inland lakes

My name is Russell D Eng. I live at 3021 W Ralph Rogers Rd, Sioux Falls, SD 57108 and have a summer cabin on Lake Cochrane. I am dismayed that you are considering allowing spear fishing on South Dakota lakes such as Cochrane. This appears to be a tragedy waiting to happen---Cochrane is way to small in size and given the already crowded recreational water craft activities that take place on the Lake, it will only be a matter of time before something terrible happens. I hope you will discard this idea as unnecessary and potentially dangerous. Thank you. Russell Eng

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** I'm opposed to the proposed spearfishing liberalization

**From:** Dan and RONALDA Driscoll [<mailto:drdrisco@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 7:46 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Cc:** Dan and RONALDA Driscoll  
**Subject:** I'm opposed to the proposed spearfishing liberalization

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed spearfishing liberalization. When one considers the huge shift towards length limits that has occurred over the past couple of decades, I immediately ask whether a spearfisher measures before or after the shot. This seems to be a big shift in fisheries management philosophy that has not been properly vetted.

Dan Driscoll  
[drdrisco@yahoo.com](mailto:drdrisco@yahoo.com)  
4024 Windslow Place  
Rapid City, SD 57701

RECEIVED

DEC 05 2014

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks  
Pierre, SD 57501

December 4, 2014

SD GFP Commissioners: concerning the proposal of state wide spearing of game fish.

Commissioners,

Several people approached Marshall County Sportsman's club members stating that we should oppose this proposal. No one came to us in favor of this proposal. At our December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, we discussed the proposal.

Following the discussion, the Marshall County Sportsman's Club strongly opposes the proposal of state wide spearing of game fish.

Reasons why we oppose:

- 1: If spearing became more popular, there would be safety concerns of large holes in ice needed for spearing and the large blocks of ice on the surface could be struck by snowmobiles and other vehicles.
- 2: Spearing would not work well with the GF&P's management plan of size limits on walleyes and bass. It is hard to judge the length of fish in water and spearing doesn't allow for catch and release.
- 3: Year around season would make the fish vulnerable just prior to spawning. Archers in open water could disrupt the nesting areas of bass and crappie.

Thank you,

Marshall Co. Sportsman's Club



Gary Wickre, sec.

RECEIVED

DEC 05 2014

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks  
Pierre, SD 57501

### Petition to Oppose Year-Round Game Fish Spearing on All Inland Waters

**Petition summary and background**

The South Dakota GFP Commission has a petition before it to open year round spearing of Game fish (Walleye, Northern, Crappie, Perch, Bass, etc) both with underwater spearing (SCUBA and snorkel), land and boat based spearing, and through ice spearing with spear guns, hand held spears and with archery equipment. This is over and above current laws currently allowing spearing and shooting with archery equipment of carp and catfish.

**Action petitioned for opposition to proposed licensing in South Dakota for game fish spearing**

We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens and residents of Lake Cochrane who urge the South Dakota GFP Commission to NOT allow this activity which will cause conflict with licensed hook and line fishermen and add danger on the water where boaters and watercraft operators must take action to avoid contact with Diver Down flags, and the extra damage to an already overfished smaller body of water that has a tendency to remain clear throughout the boating and fishing season.

Printed Name Signature Address Comment Date

12/3/14

I am a property owner at Lake Cochrane in Deuel County. Please do not allow year round spearing of Game Fish. Our relatively clear water would be very inviting to divers. The boating activity on our lake is very active. This could be very dangerous for both divers and boaters.

Also the population of large fish is already limited for anglers. "Cherry picking" by spearing, etc. would further decimate the fish population.

Richard J. Ellenbecker  
6510 S. Killarney Ct.  
Sioux Falls,  
SD 57108

Richard J. Ellenbecker  
(3640 Edgewater Dr.)  
(Lake Cochrane)

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearing Proposal

**From:** Deb Boulton [mailto:DBoulton@bhelectronics.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 10:11 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearing Proposal

Game, Fish and Parks Commissioners:

I am opposed to the changing of the South Dakota fishing regulations to include the spearing of game fish. I am a property owner on Lake Cochrane in Deuel County.

Lake Cochrane is a very small lake with good water clarity and depth. Divers would interfere with the recreational boating season as well as hook and line fishing. The size and usage of this lake would create a major safety issue for divers. Additionally, spearing will further deplete our already minimal fish populations.

Please consider carefully the risk/benefit of making such a change. I am available for further comment if necessary at the number listed below.

Thank you!

Deb Boulton  
2539 State Hwy 68  
Porter, MN 56280

Game Fish and Parks Commission  
523 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in reference to the proposed changes to the Game Fish Spearing rules. I have been diving and spearing fish since 1995 and have immensely enjoyed the sport. Both of my sons enjoy the sport as well.

I believe the proposed changes will reduce the congestion of divers on Lake Oahe that has occurred from Oahe Dam to the Cheyenne River. I also believe it will bring more revenue to the State from divers who come from bordering States. I would not be opposed to a reasonable increase in spearing fees for residents or non-residents as this sport is quite different from traditional hook and line fishing.

I am excited about the possibility of exploring different bodies of water while enjoying the sport of spear fishing along with camping in different state parks.

Sincerely,  
Larry Picek  
20557 SD Hwy 37  
Huron, SD 57350

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spear fishing

**From:** Jeff Hodges [mailto:[funnybonehodes@yahoo.com](mailto:funnybonehodes@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 05, 2014 9:03 AM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** Re: Spear fishing

Pierre,SD

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [yahoo.com](mailto:funnybonehodes@yahoo.com), funnybonehodes  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 2:49 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Spear fishing

I am not a diver or a spear fishing enthusiast. I am however in support of those that are interested in this to be able to do it wherever they please. I am an avid fisherman and love to go under the bridges to fish. Those that want to do the same under water should have every right to do so.

Thank you,

Jeff Hodges

Sent from my iPhone

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** New spearing proposal

**From:** ty smith [<mailto:aquafang@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, December 05, 2014 6:12 AM

**To:** Ascher, Debra

**Subject:** RE: New spearing proposal

want to say how I support this new proposal! Speaking as a bowfisherman, i cannot say how lucky I am to be a SD resident. The SDGFP I believe is very supportive of its outdoorsmen and listens to them. You guys care about who pays your paycheck. I believe that anyone should be able to take a limit of fish by bowfishing or spearing. Shooting fish with a bow was probably done long before the invention of the rod and reel. And as an avid bowfisherman, I can honestly say that opportunities to shoot gamefish are not abundant and by no means easy. If I want to take home a limit of fish I'm gonna do it the easy way. With a rod and reel. It would however be nice when the opportunity presents itself. We pose no threat to the fish population for the simple fact that it just simply does not happen too often to have the opportunity. And even if it would, we have to purchase a license to bowfish for rough fish and have to pay extra \$5 to take gamefish. I think this alone should grant the opportunity. Thanks again for taking this proposal into consideration!

Ty Smith  
Warner, SD

## Ascher, Debra

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**From:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Sent:** Friday, December 05, 2014 11:49 AM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Comment on : GFP 2014 November Proposals - 2014 December Finals

Name: Wade Gubrud

Address: 3592 Edgewater Drive

City: Gary

State: SD

Zip: 57237

Email: [wade.gubrud@pioneer.com](mailto:wade.gubrud@pioneer.com)

Phone: 605-520-2506

Comment: I am opposed to the statewide/multiple species spearing proposal. I believe it should be determined on a lake by lake basis and be limited to northern pike and rough fish like Minnesota. Many lakes have limited large walleye populations which could be significantly affected by spearing. Lakes with good water quality are going to be targeted by spear fisherman placing higher pressure on some lakes more than others. Unlike anglers, there is not a possibly of catch and release and large fish will most often be the target without the option of release. Also, how do you enforce size limits for spearing since catch and release is not an option? Also, please consider the perception of a statewide multiple species spearing season. The revenue this state receives from out of state anglers is significant and I believe spearing(specifically walleye) will get blamed when fishing is poor or the lack of big fish being caught. Whether it is the real cause or not it will get blamed. Thank you for taking my comments.

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** spearing of muskies

**From:** Dean Peterson [<mailto:dapeters@hickorytech.net>]

**Sent:** Friday, December 05, 2014 2:07 PM

**To:** GFP Admin Rules

**Subject:** spearing of muskies

Recently, I heard there is a current proposal in South Dakota to allow spearing of muskies. I would definitely be against that. For several years I have gone fishing in South Dakota, particularly in the Webster area. A few years back I talked to a bait shop employee in Hayward, Wisconsin. In Wisconsin they allow native Americans to spear muskie in certain areas. He said one native took a picture of every muskie he speared in a single winter and brought them in the bait shop to show the employee. This spearer brought in around 40 pictures of trophy muskie just in one winter. The lake he speared wasn't a large lake. Just one spearer who is out there every day can decimate a lake.

I was planning on fishing Lynn Lake near Webster for muskie. If this liberal law goes into effect I won't waste my time going out there.

Dean Peterson  
2004 Roe Crest Drive  
North Mankato, Mn. 56003

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Comments on Proposals

**From:** Steve Nedved [<mailto:steve@dakotascuba.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, December 05, 2014 3:07 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Comments on Proposals

December 5, 2014

Steve Nedved  
25761 408th Ave.  
Mitchell, SD 57301

Dear Commission Members;

I am writing in support of the proposed changes to the spearfishing rules.

My name is Steve Nedved and I am a scuba diver and instructor. The scuba diving community as a whole is an ecologically minded group. Scuba divers see a side of our waterways that most people don't even think about. Opening up the spearfishing to inland waters will only help improve the subsurface conditions for everyones benefit. Scuba divers routinely clean out debris and trash each time they dive and spearfish. It is important that the waterways are kept clean and free of garbage that can impact the health of the fish.

By changing the rules, scuba divers from across the state will have new reasons to dive and clean the lakes they live nearby. Everyone will benefit from having scuba divers accessing our public waterways.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Nedved  
Dakota Scuba  
Mitchell, SD  
605-999-6819  
[steve@dakotascuba.com](mailto:steve@dakotascuba.com)  
[www.dakotascuba.com](http://www.dakotascuba.com)

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Fish spearing plans

**From:** John Appelen [<mailto:johnappelen@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, December 05, 2014 12:45 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info; Lorenzen, Paul

**Subject:** Fish spearing plans

We are residents of Lake Cochrane and are against any plans for the spearing of game fish on this lake. It is too small -- about 360 acres -- to have adequate surface area to add "spearing", with the marking buoys and related crafts, to the already busy traffic-- about 40 watercraft on busy days.

Please respond to us as to what you can or will do regarding this.

Gary, S.Dak. 572237

On a related concern, the "wake maker" boats should have to stay much further from shoreline than about 60-70 ft beyond dock end which would be about 120 ft. from shoreline. Nearly every evening such a boat operates back and forth in front of our lot. It's wake is not dampened much by the time it reaches the shoreline. Probably not helpful for the sand staying on the beach.

DEC 08 2014

# Petition to Oppose Year-Round Game Fish Spearing on All Inland Waters

Game, Fish & Parks  
Pierre, SD 57501

**Petition summary and background**  
The South Dakota GFP Commission has a petition before it to open year round spearing of Game fish (Walleye, Northern, Crappie, Perch, Bass, etc) both with underwater spearing (SCUBA and snorkel), land and boat based spearing, and through ice spearing with spear guns, hand held spears and with archery equipment. This is over and above current laws currently allowing spearing and shooting with archery equipment of carp and catfish.

**Action petitioned for**  
We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens and residents of Lake Cochran who urge the South Dakota GFP Commission to NOT allow this activity which will cause conflict with licensed hook and line fishermen and add danger on the water where boaters and watercraft operators must take action to avoid contact with Diver Down flags, and the extra damage to an already overfished smaller body of water that has a tendency to remain clear throughout the boating and fishing season.

**opposition to proposed licensing in South Dakota for game fish spearing**

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Gary Burlingame	<i>Gary Burlingame</i>	2442 Lake Cochran Dr West Gary S.D	Our walleyes are already overfished and undermanaged	12-2-14
Deede Burlingame	<i>Deede Burlingame</i>	2442 W Lake Cochran Dr Gary, SD 57237	✓	12.2.14
Jay Grabow	<i>Jay Grabow</i>	3257 Edgewater Drive Gary SD 57237		12-3-14
Gordon Fuhr	<i>Gordon A Fuhr</i>	2118 Lakeview Lane Gary, S. D 57237		12-3-14
SHIRLEY HOLT Shirley Holt	<i>Shirley Holt</i>	3802 - Edgewater Dr Gary SD 57237	LET THIS HAPPEN	12-6-14
Dennis Nisbich	<i>Dennis Nisbich</i>	2566 Lak Cochran Dr Gary SD 57237	Don't do this	12-4-14
Dave Hontyes	<i>Dave Hontyes</i>	2100 Edgewater Dr Gary SD		12-4-14
KELLY NORDGARD	<i>Kelly Nordgard</i>	3300 Edgewater Drive Gary, SD 57237		12-4-14
Kathi Nordgaard	<i>Kathi Nordgaard</i>	3300 Edgewater Dr Gary SD 57237 48246 18th St.	Not enough room for lake to sustain	12-4-14
CASEY SEVESEN	<i>Casey Severson</i>	Gary SD 57237		12-4-14





**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Opposition to the proposal of spearing and bow fishing

-----Original Message-----

From: Patricia Meyer [<mailto:patriciajohnsonmeyer@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, December 07, 2014 6:46 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Opposition to the proposal of spearing and bow fishing

Dear GFP Commission members,

As a summer resident of beautiful Lake Cochrane, I feel the lake is too small to provide enough clearance and safety for boaters, waterskiers, jet ski drivers, anglers and spear fishers all on the lake at the same time.

I want to clearly state that I am opposed to the proposal to allow spearing and bow fishing of game fish species.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this important decision.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Meyer

1814 Terrace Drive

Brookings, SD 57006

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spearing

-----Original Message-----

From: aol.com, LanaRae2323

Sent: Saturday, December 06, 2014 8:27 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Spearing

To whom it may concern:

My family and I enjoy ice spearing on South Dakota waters a great deal.

I got an email that there is a special hearing to possibly change the regulations of spearing in South Dakota. We feel it would be great if the regulations were changed to allow spearing and bowfishing of all game fish species (except paddlefish and sturgeon) in all inland waters. We look forward to seeing this put into action and will enjoy many hours of spearing in South Dakota. Thank you for your consideration.

Lana Hawkins  
Garretson, SD

Harlow Lundquist  
Garretson, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Regulation on Spear and Bow fishing

**From:** Jim Platt [<mailto:jamesp@rap.midco.net>]

**Sent:** Saturday, December 06, 2014 5:22 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Regulation on Spear and Bow fishing

As a S.D. Bass fisherman who also practice's catch and release to further our population on both small and large mouth bass is very concerned about spear and bow fishing on our Bass population. Most waters in S.D. have slot limits on them, but with this proposal on open season on all game fish as I can see it, could and will become a very big problem on all our SO.D. bass population. Please reconsider state wide open game fishery's, on spear & bow fishing.

B.A.S.S. member

S.D. Bass Federation Nation Member

James Platt

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Opposed to the proposal of spearing & bow fishing

-----Original Message-----

**From:** David M Meyer [<mailto:meyerortho@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, December 06, 2014 10:39 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Opposed to the proposal of spearing & bow fishing

To the attention of the GFP Commission: I want to state that I am opposed to the proposal to allow spearing and bow fishing of game fish species. I am a summer resident of Lake Cochrane and this lake is too small to provide enough clearance and safety for boaters, waterskiers, anglers and spear fishers all at the same time. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr David M Meyer  
1814 Terrace Drive  
Brookings, SD 57006

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Input On Proposal To Change Spearfishing Regulations

**From:** Douglas Brockhouse, STOR [<mailto:dbrock@benderco.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, December 07, 2014 4:22 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Cc:** [bill.donovanshsc@midconetwork.com](mailto:bill.donovanshsc@midconetwork.com); [tigermowers.com](http://tigermowers.com), cjohnson; Jay Marshall; Jim Koch; David McGuire; [bdrewski26@gmail.com](mailto:bdrewski26@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Input On Proposal To Change Spearfishing Regulations

Commissioners:

I have been a diver for thirty eight years now with a number of those years involved in commercial dive operations around the world. I have had the opportunity to dive in a wide variety of conditions from water temps just one degree above freezing to over eighty degrees, visibility conditions from zero where I couldn't see a light pressed against my mask to hundreds of feet. Of all the places that I have dove I put the diving here in South Dakota right up at the top – not because of the visibility, not because there are really great things to see on the bottom but because I have the opportunity to enjoy the sport of spearfishing right here in South Dakota.

I am more than an avid diver. I have a summer home in north of Pierre and spend nearly every weekend there from mid-june through the end of November. Weather permitting, I spend every day that I am at the riven in the water – diving. On an average weekend I will see up to forty divers enjoying Lake Oahe. I will switch between diving Oahe to Lake Francis Case but limit those trips because of visibility challenges.

The dive community has worked for years now in an effort to increase the days, the areas and the fish types that we can hunt. Changes have been made at a slower rate than the divers would have liked to have seen but some changes have happened. For a number of years it was generally accepted that the season for spearfishing really needed to begin after the spawn because of the potential negative effect that divers could have on the fish population during the spawn. Studies have been conducted and that perception has been discredited. It is not accepted that divers would not have any effect on the fish population if the season overlapped the spawning season.

It has been brought to the forefront that there would be increased danger to divers if the areas for spearfishing were opened to other lakes and streams where recreational boating occurs. Mainly in those area around docks and boat ramps. We can dive in those bodies of water now. We can shoot junk fish in those bodies of water now. The only difference would be that we could shoot gamefish – not just junk fish. The same enforcement of regulations around docks and boats ramps would be the same.

During the last couple meetings that we have had with GF&P officials it has been stated that the underlying issue with opening the areas where spearing would be allowed is a social issue. Several of us in the dive community have requested to see the complaints that have been filed about the divers, the areas that we dive in and the fish that we take. We have not been given any information on those complaints. It is our understanding that there are no written complaints – only verbal complaints. Since there are no written record of the complaints it is hard to get an accurate read on the actual number of complaints. Have there been just a handful and those have then been repeated over and over? Have there been hundreds and there really is a problem the dive community needs to deal with? Additionally, who have the complaints been received from? Obviously, there is a group of fishing guides that work on Lake Oahe that find it a challenge that others are taking fish in that body of water. Since that is one of a handful of areas open to spearing gamefish we are forced – if we want to spearfish – to be in the same areas that the guides. Lake Oahe is two hundred miles long, that is a lot of water and there is room for lot of boats, a lot of guides and a lot of divers.

If there is a need to focus on the social issue then there should be an effort to reduce the friction between the two groups. The proposal to open the season dates and the areas would spread the divers out over a larger area which in effect would reduce the concentration of divers on Lake Oahe. There may still be forty divers on Oahe on a weekend day – we will have to wait and see if that number holds. I will predict that some of those divers that are currently driving hundreds of miles to dive will choose to check out newly opened lakes and rivers.

The proposal to open the spearfishing season to the entire year is reasonable. Opening the entire state is reasonable. The boundary waters and interaction with the boarding states is a bit confusing but a plan can be put into place to cover those areas.

We – as a member of the dive community – look forward to reaching a workable expansion of the season, the waters affected and the permitted fish.

Thanks for your consideration.

**Douglas Brockhouse, SIOR**  
Bender Commercial Real Estate Services  
122 South Phillips Avenue  
Suite 350  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Testimony on petition to change Rules for spearfishing of Game Fish

**From:** Bob and Joann Barden [<mailto:bobjob10@pie.midco.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2014 12:37 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Testimony on petition to change Rules for spearfishing of Game Fish

South Dakota Game and Fish Commission,

I am an archer and bowhunter but I do not believe that expanding the areas for spearfishing and bowfishing of game fish is a good idea. I can envision people going to farm ponds and spearing or bowfishing bass and other species when they are spawning in shallow water close to the shore. In harsh winters the number of fish in some of these ponds is already drastically reduced or sometimes completely eliminated, taking spawning fish would certainly further reduce their numbers. I do not believe this practice would be either sporting or ethical. I am sure that there are many other considerations for other areas but these reasons alone are sufficient for me to respectfully request that you deny this petition.

Robert G. Barden  
209 N Oneida Ave.  
Pierre South Dakota 57501

To GFP commission

Dec 4

We as spear fishermen are few and far between. I'm sure as a commission<sup>you</sup> have our exact numbers because we do pay a premium ~~and~~ of extra \$5<sup>00</sup> to enjoy our sport. This issue should not be a vote of majority rule, fishermen vs spearing. There is room for both of our recreations to coexist. This issue should be decided by ~~the~~ science based harvest of our fisheries, and will spearfishing greatly reduce or have any impact on these resources. Harvesting of our fish done by legal but different means is just that, different.

Spearfishermen have very few ~~areas~~ areas and days of diving because of water temp. and most importantly water clarity.

I hope the Commission will take into account that if spearfishing is allowed to expand to the extent our hook and line friends already enjoy and problems do arise, you will be able to implement appropriate remedies the next year.

Sam Nachtigal  
Platte

RECEIVED

DEC 08 2014

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks  
Pierre, SD 57501

**South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks**

**December 7, 2014**

**Yes! Yes! Let's allow bowfishing for all game fish. Maybe even expanding it to shooting with up to .30 caliber, netting, electro-shocking, etc. Kids could trade in their trusty Zebco's for a new \$1,000 Mathews Bow and really learn the thrill of killing the "big one".**

**This would also eliminate those annoying older fisherman with their fancy boats and those silly ideas of slots, limits and catch and release. And don't we have enough methods of killing catfish now including no limit?**

**Sincerely,**

**Lowell Swedlund  
25443 Wind Song Valley Road  
Custer, SD 57730**

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 07, 2014 1:52 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Comment on : GFP 2014 November Proposals - 2014 December Finals

**Name:** Rob Zeller

**Address:** 2501 Windsong Lane

**City:** Gary

**State:** SD

**Zip:** 57237

**Email:** [zeller.rob@gmail.com](mailto:zeller.rob@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 6052725237

**Comment:** I reside on Lake Cochrane and OPPOSE spear fishing on Lake Cochrane.

## Ascher, Debra

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**From:** Nalydb1@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 07, 2014 2:43 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Cc:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Bowfishing Changes

I applaud your efforts to expand the sport of bowfishing. We all like to see an outdoor sport thrive. However, i have severe reservations about expanding the sport to all waters in the state especially and including trout streams. Bowfishing for trout in lakes i would see as acceptable. At least in lakes trout would stand a fair chance. There are streams in the Black Hills where i definitely feel this expansion would be inappropriate. For example: (to name just three areas. I could name more) 1)Spring Creek along Sheridan Lake Rd, 2)Grace Coolidge walk-in fishing area, Custer State Park, 3)walk-in fishing area, Rapid Creek, Silver City. In these three area large trout are planted by GF&P. There a number of pools in these area where it would be extremely simple to take these large trout with a bow. It wouldn't be a sport. It would just be mass killing of these fish.

During a normal fishing season i catch approximately 250 fish. I keep, on average, six fish. Three because i have hooked them so bad they can't be returned to the water and three to throw on my smoker for holiday smoked trout. There is no such thing, obviously, as spear and release. The daily limit would be routine for a bowfisher.

In conclusion, i would vote against bowfishing in all steams. To meet this practice would amount to nothing more than mass slaughter. In addition, bowfishers miss targets and wound fish that will surely die later. I ask that you consider expanding bowfishing to all waters in the state carefully. It could spell disaster for most streams. I commend GF@P for their superb management of the trout population in the state. You folks do a fine job and we appreciate it. Thank you for considering my opinion on this matter.

Doug Klinski  
7204 Grosbeak Lane  
Black Hawk, SD 57718



**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** GFP Commission to Meet Dec. 10-11

**From:** Ken Sinner [<mailto:ken.sinner.b6fv@statefarm.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2014 2:22 PM

**To:** SDGFPINFO; GFP Wild Info; Spies, Jim

**Subject:** RE: GFP Commission to Meet Dec. 10-11

If you are going to look at opening up game fish spearing; let's take a look at the use of crossbows during our archery season. I had a gentleman hunter, who is originally from South Dakota, and owns property in both South Dakota and Minnesota; tell me that Minnesota opened up the use of crossbows this year, to anyone 60 and over. Being I am 62, and have loved to archery hunt for many years; I thought I would look into this a little more, as I have thought that we should look at something similar here in South Dakota. After going on line; I found that Minnesota changed their regulations to allow anyone 60 and over, the opportunity to hunt with a crossbow during the archery season. I also found, that in Wisconsin, they are allowing ANY ARCHER the right to use a crossbow during archery season, for a \$3 fee! That means that 266,000 of their 600,000 deer hunters could use crossbows to hunt! Now, I'm not saying that I feel we should open it up to all archery hunters; but when a person gets to a certain age, it is just that more difficult to be able to culminate the hunt, by getting off a well, placed shot with a regular bow. Even though I feel that I am in good physical shape for being 62; I'm not sure if it is still good for me to be climbing 15' ladder stands to get an edge over the whitetail deer. So, you will say, use a ground blind. I have tried; but have you tried to get yourself into a shooting position after you have been squatted down for an hour or more? It's difficult to get the knees and ankles going in the same direction; then try to pull back on the bow without hitting the roof of the blind, or the back of it. Along with that; and it doesn't matter if you are in a ground blind, or a tree stand; try to find the deer, later in the evening through the peep site with bifocals! All of this makes it a little more difficult as we get older. Does that stop the hunting blood from running through our veins? Absolutely not; but it does start to wear on one, as we know that our opportunities to actually put that good shot on a whitetail buck is coming to close, sooner than we would like. I guess I just don't understand why South Dakota is dragging its feet on allowing the use of a crossbow during archery season, without a medical affidavit. What do Minnesota and Wisconsin, along with Nebraska and Wyoming, know about crossbow use, compared to South Dakota? Is crossbow use needed for all archers? I'm not saying that I believe we need to go that far; but why not allow the 55, or 60 and older hunter the chance to extend their archery days, by giving them a little more distance and a little more speed with the use of this equipment. These are the hunters that have paid for licenses for many years; have raised sons and daughters who are now archery hunters themselves; and that also give dollars to HAH and TIPS. I hope that you will consider this option for the older archery hunter. Thank you for your time. Ken Sinner, Watertown

# Petition to Oppose Year-Round Game Fish Spearing on All Inland Waters

The South Dakota GFP Commission has a petition before it to open year round spearing of Game fish (Walleye, Northern, Crappie, Perch, Bass, etc) both with underwater spearing (SCUBA and snorkel), land and boat based spearing, and through ice spearing with spear guns, hand held spears and with archery equipment. This is over and above current laws currently allowing spearing and shooting with archery equipment of carp and catfish.

We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens and residents of Lake Cochrane who urge the South Dakota GFP Commission to NOT allow this activity which will cause conflict with licensed hook and line fishermen and add danger on the water where boaters and watercraft operators must take action to avoid contact with Diver Down flags, and the extra damage to an already overfished smaller body of water that has a tendency to remain clear throughout the boating and fishing season.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Brigitte Staudenmaier	Brigitte Staudenmaier	4205 E. Thornwood Pl.		12-3-2014
Charles Staudenmaier	Charles Staudenmaier	Sioux Falls SD 57103		12-3-2014
		Lake home Address		
		3578 Edge water Dr.		
		Gary SD 57237		
			This is not a good	
			approach to the recreational	
			use of Lake Cochrane.	
			Brigitte and Charles	
			Staudenmaier	

**Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Daryl Fuhrman <dkfuhrman56@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2014 9:50 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** Spearfishing

I am in favor of opening spearfishing year round in all bodies of water.

Daryl Fuhrman  
1215 N. Jay St.  
Aberdeen S.D.

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing Proposal

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**From:** Gon Sanchez, M.D. [<mailto:passagvrs@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2014 7:19 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spearfishing Proposal

To GF&P Commission,

I am writing as both a hook & line fisherman as well as an archer and a scuba spearfisherman. I am not in favor of the proposed rule changes. While I have no concerns from a biological or resource standpoint, I believe that this rule will only serve to increase conflicts between the groups. In general, I feel that regulatory agencies should balance both resource and user concerns. It is no secret that there exists considerable disdain between scuba fisherman and boaters. In its current form, I believe the rule changes are too broad and in the end won't serve to improve the situation. There will likely be more conflict and less understanding if all waters are open to direct competition between the two groups. It would seem more productive to convene a group of interested parties and try to come up with better ways to allow more access for scuba divers but limit conflict at the same time. A suggestion would be to more unequivocally separate the two groups both temporally and spatially. For instance, instead of just restricting proximity to divers, you should also restrict divers proximity to active boat fisherman. This alone would probably eliminate most of the current conflicts. Limiting the group size of divers would also serve the same purpose. There is no question that when the commercial tour operators showed up on Sully Flats or the US14 bridge, and shut down those entire areas to boaters, no good will was generated. Certainly, separation in time could be considered as well. Allowing scuba divers in front of Marion's Gardens in the spring time or in the Oahe Tailrace during the Shad run would not go well at all. By the same token, spearing under the US14 bridge at 7AM during the week would hardly be noticed; but on Saturday at noon during the summer, would guarantee conflict with boaters and jetskis. I think that there are many ways that the GF&P can allow all users to have greater access to the resources we would all like to enjoy, but it should be done in a way to prevent conflicts. I don't believe this proposal will do that in the end.

Gon Sanchez, M.D.  
Fort Pierre

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spearfishing

**From:** Sam Kinstle [<mailto:outdooraddictx@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2014 6:00 PM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Spearfishing

Rapid city South Dakota

**From:** Sam Kinstle [<mailto:outdooraddictx@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 4:34 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Spearfishing

I have been spearing and fishing most of my life. I can agree with parts of both sides of the dispute. I believe that if the regulations are the same for spearfishing as they are for fishing (limits, slot limits, sizes, etc.), it will have little to no effect on populations of fish. Also if the price on the spearfishing license was raised it would discourage mabye some from spearing as it did when we started having to pay for a spearing license. It can also create more revenue for aquatic and wildlife management. I believe that it also not fair for people who only spear to not have the same opportunities as fishermen.

Respectively

Sam kinstle

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Spear Fishing

**From:** <michael@ambur.us>

**Date:** December 8, 2014 at 12:57:16 PM CST

**Subject:** Spear Fishing

Commissioners:

I am emailing you in regard to the proposed spearfishing rules changes for 2015 (Modification of 41:07:06:03).

Mr. Donovan, in his letter of October 27, 2014 to the commission, refers to spearfishing/bow fishing of game fish. As a bow hunter of over fifty years, I don't like to be included in a proposal such as this. In my opinion, spearfishing and bow fishing are separate issues. If I want to shoot carp/rough fish—that is good enough—but I don't want to go out and kill that big bass on her bed at spawn time....you can't get her to take your plug/bait dragging it in front of her nose, but you can see her and can shoot her with an arrow—REALLY? Having the spearfishing/bow fishing season open during the spawn would be ridiculous! Probably even fishing with a line and hook is too; but at least if we do catch a big female full of eggs, we can turn her back....we have not killed her.

Thanks for your consideration. I know your job is not an easy one.

Michael Ambur  
PO Box 368  
Presho, SD 57568

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: ARSD 41:07:06:03 (Areas open to spearfishing of game fish).

**From:** Dave Johnson [<mailto:tarnson@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2014 2:35 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** ARSD 41:07:06:03 (Areas open to spearfishing of game fish).

I'm concerned that the proposed amendment could be detrimental to game fish populations if there are no restrictions on spearing/bowfishing during spring spawning, when fish are concentrated in shallow water, or at anytime in shallow creeks and streams. Just as snagging is generally prohibited, reasonable restrictions need to be placed on spearing/bowfishing. It is not the equivalent of catch by hook and line, and deserves distinct regulation.

Sincerely,

Dave Johnson  
2629 Air Haven Road  
Watertown, SD 57201

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:**

FW: I am against fish taken by arrows.I work for the GAME FISH AND PARKS at cochrane recreation.our lake is only 366 acres with most of the traffic being recreational and our customers at the park are about 90 % against this.I ask to consider not to vo

**From:** Siebert Dorhout [<mailto:siebertandjudi@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2014 2:12 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** I am against fish taken by arrows.I work for the GAME FISH AND PARKS at cochrane recreation.our lake is only 366 acres with most of the traffic being recreational and our customers at the park are about 90 % against this.I ask to consider not to vot...

Siebert and Judi Dorhout  
2386 Lake Cochrane Drive East  
Gary, SD 57237

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Proposal - Spearing & Bow Fishing

**Importance:** High

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**From:** Christianson, Jim [<mailto:Jim.Christianson@guycarp.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 10, 2014 9:22 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Proposal - Spearing & Bow Fishing

**Importance:** High

To whom it may concern, I am opposed to the proposal to allow spearing and bow fishing of game fish species. I live at Lake Cochrane (57 years) and I view the proposal very negatively for a variety of reasons not the least of which is safety and depletion of large game fish and spawning fish.

Kind Regards,

Jim Christianson  
2254 Lake Cochrane Drive East  
Lake Cochrane, SD (Gary, SD)

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** FW: Proposal to further open up spearing of other game fish.

**From:** [kbuck@tnics.com](mailto:kbuck@tnics.com) [mailto:[kbuck@tnics.com](mailto:kbuck@tnics.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2014 9:57 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Proposal to further open up spearing of other game fish.

I am very much opposed to such a proposal. I believe this would be harmful to the future production cycle of various species as well as disrupt the fishing experience for those fishing with traditional methods. Please vote no on this proposal. Thank you, Ken Buck, Peever, SD

Sent from Windows Mail

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Spear fishing regulations

**From:** woodytigg [mailto:woodytigg@sio.midco.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 10, 2014 5:26 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Spear fishing regulations

Hello Commissioner's

The regulations that are in place now are working well between the diving community and hooked line, boating, and other water activities. Spear fishing state wide would create safety issues on the smaller lakes. I have spoke with a few divers and not a one has ever said they went out to harvest a few fish for eating. All they talk about is shooting big fish. We don't need a group that targets only trophy fish.

Please leave the spearing regulations that are in place alone.

Thank you

Woody Tiggelaar

Sioux falls.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphon

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** spearfishing

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Whillock [mailto:jwhillock@abe.midco.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 7:53 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: spearfishing

Dear Commission,

I am writing to encourage the expansion of spearfishing throughout the state.

Fishing has been a love of mine for as long as I can remember -- whether fishing for largemouth bass and bluegills in west river stock dams, fly-fishing for trout in the streams of the Black Hills, or fishing for walleye, smallies and northerns in the Missouri River.

Over the last five years, another way of fishing has become a source of enjoyment and delicious food: spearfishing in Oahe. It is a delight to be able to swim among the fish -- snorkeling and scuba diving -- and to face the challenge of harvesting selected fish. There is an indescribable sense of intimate connection with the water and fish that one experiences when immersed in the environment and face-to-face with the fish. The multifaceted challenges -- from water clarity & visibility and locating fish, from getting close enough and making a good shot -- are things I've grown to deeply appreciate. It is an experience that I think most "traditional fishermen" can't even imagine.

One reality is import to consider is the simple fact that people fishing need to respect each other, including respecting the space where each is fishing. Perhaps a key reason for resistance to expanded spearfishing is the reluctance to share the water and resources with others.

Given the reality of the harvest rules being consistent with the "regular" fishing regulations, there should be no adverse impact upon fish numbers.

I would greatly enjoy the opportunity to spearfish throughout the state rather than having limited areas in which to fish for gamefish.

Thank you for your leadership in helping us all to be good stewards of the resources and recreational opportunities in our state.

Jeff Whillock  
Aberdeen, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

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**From:** Taylor Jones [mailto:TJones@vqcheese.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 10, 2014 11:37 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules  
**Subject:** GFP Commission Proposal on Statewide Spearing of Game Fish

My name is Taylor Jones and I currently live in Milbank, SD. I am 23 years old and a recent graduate from SDSU. I have been SCUBA diving since I was 17 years old and one of my favorite activities is spearing walleye in lake Oahe. Unfortunately, because I have so much less time than I previously had while in college, I have not been able to partake in this activity. The allowance of spearing statewide would make it much easier for me and others like me to enjoy this SD outdoor recreational activity. It would also be good for local economies because it would create new spending in different areas of the state, not just near the river. Along with this, I see no downside to opening spearing statewide. The limit of fish is the same limit for fisherman. Therefore, no more game fish will be taken from the ecosystem. I believe that there is a misconception among some that spearfishing is too easy and not sporting. This is definitely not the case. There have been multiple times that I have done much better conventional fishing than I have spearing. Overall spearfishing is much more difficult than conventional fishing. Boats can cover so much more ground than a diver and can go through many more fish. Also there is less waste. Spearfisherman keep every fish they shoot. If a fisherman throws a fish back, there is no guarantee that the fish will survive.

Outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, spearing, etc. are what keep young people like me in the state of SD. I believe we have some of the best opportunities in the country for these types of activities. The expansion of which will only help our state, and make it more appealing to live in. I plead that you to open spearfishing statewide.

Thank you,

Taylor Jones

## LAW OFFICE, P.C.

December 8, 2014

Gary Jensen  
PO Box 9579  
Rapid City, SD 57709

Dear Commissioner Jensen:

I am writing about the proposed spearfishing expansion. When I was 12, I learned how to scuba dive, and by age 18 I started with the Codington County Search, Dive and Rescue team doing underwater rescues and body recoveries in all conditions including under ice, in contaminated water, and at night in sloughs, lakes, and rivers. I have since given up this high-stress volunteer work and focused most of my diving around spearing fish. Because of my somewhat unique experiences with water, diving, and the outdoors, there are a few things that I wanted to share with you.

For those who've never tried it, spearing fish is not *easy*. The visibility, almost without exception, is not good. Typically, on the average dive anywhere in South Dakota, your visibility is limited to about 6 to 8 feet from the diver's mask to a point where either algae or light completely restricts visibility. As the wind blows in South Dakota, the summer waters warm and more particles grow and end up in the water, the visibility is reduced significantly. Sure, there are exceptions when the wind doesn't blow for several days or in some unusual bodies of water that don't have the effects of ag-related run off, but generally, in most any body of water in South Dakota, 8 feet would be the average extent of visibility. Many times, it is not that good, and it definitely is not as good as what ice fisherman experience when they are looking down through a hole to their jigs twelve feet below.

Much like weary whitetails that do not tolerate movement or unnatural noise, walleyes are typically very skeptical of anything unusual in their environment and quick to dart off. The best walleye spear fishermen, much like the best walleye anglers know if they can find some structure, sit still, and stay there long enough avoiding the cold and not run out of air, they may get a shot at some fish. By moving, breathing, or simply being in the wrong place, spear fishermen typically see few if any fish, especially walleyes or most other game fish.

Scuba diving also presents certain problems because of both the air use in a tank over time, and also because of a buildup of gasses in a diver's system. Eventually, because of the pressure associated with being under water, divers begin to have a buildup of gasses in their system which can cause severe neurological damage or death if not properly monitored and "off gassed". Even people who do not use scuba equipment must spend approximately two to four times the amount of time on the surface as they do under water to avoid this problem. Most scuba divers are limited to either two or three dives per day, depending on the depth, typically at only 45 minutes per dive. Any more

“bottom time” than that and a diver is risking seriously bodily injury to themselves. So while a boat full of fisherman could go out at 6:00am and fish with two lines each all day, any one diver is really limited by the ground that they can cover by sight, physical exhaustion constraints, air quantity restraints, and gas buildup in their system.

Much like many sports, spearfishing enthusiasts seem to have three things in common: they like the physical exercise, they love the water, and they are happy eating something other than fish for dinner. So, while opponents to this measure make it seem like what is being proposed is a free for all that will destroy the fishery in a matter of years and interrupt hundreds of other hook and line fisherman, the truth is that there are so many inherent limiting factors to spearfishing that most fisherman will not see much impact.

Thus, I am writing to ask for your support of the measure, whether it be the current proposal or some modification thereof, to allow those of us that do live somewhere other than the Missouri River and enjoy the challenge and enjoyment of spear fishing.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Seamus Culhane". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Seamus W. Culhane