



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

400 WEST KEMP AVENUE | WATERTOWN, SD 57201

Outdoor Report

The week of October 12, 2020

- **REMEMBER:** AIS regulations are in place for a reason. Pull ALL boat plugs and drain all water out of the boat before leaving the boat ramp.

Aberdeen Area



Fishing Report

Richmond: Anglers have been catching walleyes, white bass, and perch. The white bass has seemed to be taking off and with good size fish too. Fishermen have been using minnows and having the best luck. Seems to be the best fishing towards the evening.

Elm: Anglers have been catching walleye, perch, and northern pike. It seems that live bait has been working best for these species with minnows being the most common.

Wylie: This lake has been stocked by the Game, Fish, and Parks with white bass, bluegill, and smallmouth bass. Great spot for kids to do some fishing and enjoy a resource that is close to Aberdeen.

Elm River: Anglers have been having some success catching walleyes and a few Northern Pike from time to time.

James River: Anglers seem to be catching a variety of different species with the most common being channel catfish. If you want to get out and just catch some fish, the James River has been producing.

Mina: Small walleyes, perch, and some bluegills are being caught.



Hunting Report

Waterfowl: There are still plenty of Canada geese in the area as well as surrounding counties. Hunting over decoys in wheat or silage fields seem to be the best for Canada geese. The duck season has been open for a while now. With all the water in the area there seems to be plenty of ducks. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Waterfowl production areas have been producing a lot of ducks. There has even been white fronted goose also known as speckle bellies in the area. Also, the weather seems to be cool in the morning from 30s to 40's but during the day it has been hotter in 50's and 60's. This will have some ducks moving and some new ones showing up, great time to hunt a variety of ducks. I been seeing all ducks getting their great plumage making them easier to identify. This past weekend, I've seen some new waterfowl species including bufflehead, ring-necked duck, canvasback, snow geese, and red heads in the area. In addition, it was awesome to see speckle bellies flying.

Deer: Archery deer season has been open for a while now and the deer seem to be moving more with the recent cool temperatures in the AM. Brown, Edmonds & McPherson county has a good number of deer in the area. If you are a bow hunter, get out and enjoy some deer hunting. The mornings seem to be very cooler temperatures in the low 30's creating great deer movement. Moreover, it is a great time use your apprentice deer tag. There has been a lot doe movement during the mornings.

Pheasants: I been seeing a lot of pheasants in Brown and Edmonds County. Last weekend during resident pheasant opener, hunters had a lot of success walking through CRP on Game Production Areas and some Walk in Areas. Pheasant numbers are looking great in Southern Brown County and in McPherson and Edmonds County in CRP fields and standing corn. Everyone make sure to be safe for this upcoming statewide Pheasant opener. Make sure to wear your hunter's orange and have fun out there. Shooting hours start at 10AM.

Clark County



Fishing Report

Dry 2: Producing good walleye and perch. Over 100 boats participated last Saturday, so expect a full ramp and parking if arriving to fish.

Reid: Producing a few walleye and perch still.

Most other lakes have showed very low angling pressure.



Hunting Report

Waterfowl: Numbers still seem to be on the low end in the county. Most hunters struggling to find huntable birds right



now.

Pheasant: Hunting was hard for the resident opener.

Codington County



Fishing Report

Goose: Boat fishermen are still catching a few walleyes, most of which continue to be between 14 and 16 inches. A few perch are getting mixed in as well. **The boat ramp in the NW corner has been repaired and is functional and the drive approach leading into the ramp is complete as well.**

Kampeska: Fishermen continue to catch a mixed bag of fish from shore and by boat, including (northern pike, white bass, perch, crappie, bluegill and walleye.)

Pelican Lake: Little fishing activity.

Blythe Slough: Opened to boating on September 1st, with no motor restrictions.



Hunting Report

Geese: Seeing more geese in the harvest crop fields over the last weekend.

Ducks: There seems to be a few more ducks around, then we were seeing last week.

Deer: Archery deer hunting continues to be slow, most buck activity continues to be at night.

Pheasant: The normal pheasant season opens this weekend Oct. 17th, 2020 at 10 AM.

Day County



Fishing Report

Due to the high water and safety hazard of a potential vehicle and pedestrian accident, the county is no longer allowing pedestrians on the Grenville grade, Day Co 1 north of Hwy 12 to 140th St., and Yellowstone trail from Main St. to Day Co 1. Also, if you are shore fishing make sure you are parked in a legal parking spot and it is not posted as no parking.

Rush: The bite has seemed to slow down for perch

Waubay: Anglers are having some luck with walleye on the north side of the lake

Bitter: Have not heard or seen much come out of the lake



Hunting Report

Waterfowl: Pretty good number of birds in the area, a lot of the hunters are taking advantage of the good numbers.

Deer: Hearing of more people filling their archery tags to focus on other wildlife in the area.

Pheasant: Good pheasant numbers are providing ample opportunity for outdoorsmen.

Hamlin County



Fishing Report

Poinsett: Fishermen reports of a mix bag of walleye and perch being caught.



Hunting Report

Deer: Colder temps and corn harvest beginning has got some deer moving. Now would make a good time to be harvesting some does.

Ducks: Still a few ducks around yet the numbers of hunters were low this past weekend.

Geese: This past weekend there was less activity, but the opportunity still presents itself if one wanted to hunt these birds.

Marshall County



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

400 WEST KEMP AVENUE | WATERTOWN, SD 57201



Fishing Report

Opitz: Some limits of nice walleye being caught. Good healthy looking fish.

Roy: A few walleye and bass being caught.

Clear: Some panfish and bass being caught. The occasional walleye.



Hunting Report

Waterfowl: Good pockets of birds all over the county. The eastern portion of the county seems to be holding the highest numbers of birds. The cold front coming through late this week may bring in new birds.

Pheasant: Hunters had decent success this past weekend focusing on grass fields next to harvested crops.

Deer: The deer are really moving in the mornings and evenings. I'm still seeing some bachelor groups of bucks. Rut should be right around the corner.



Park Report:

Pelican Lake Recreation Area:

- Come on out to Pelican Lake Recreation Area during the month of October and take part in the self-guided activity "Creatures of the Night Hike and Seek". Can you find what goes bump in the night? In this self-guided activity, we're challenging you to find several nighttime creatures of South Dakota! Just hike the trails at participating state parks and Outdoor Campuses, keeping your eyes open for the informational signs and hidden nocturnal animal pictures along the way. Find them all and email us the secret code words to enter the prize drawing! You can find the full list of details by going to <https://gfp.sd.gov/hike-and-seek/>.
- The dump station will be winterized this week due to freezing temperatures at night. That doesn't mean camping season is over! The west campground comfort station will remain open a while longer for those of you looking to enjoy some fall fishing, hiking, and a cool campfire at night. Follow us on Facebook at Pelican Lake, Sandy Shore, and Lake Cochrane Recreation Area's for more updates!

Mina Lake Recreation Area:

- What is more beautiful in the fall than holding a warm cup of coffee and looking at the lake. Book our Modern Cabin at Mina Lake Recreation Area for this fall. The modern cabin is still available for South Dakota pheasant opener October 17th-18th.