



The week of December 25th, 2022

- The camping reservation window is open through March 25th, 2023. Book your late season pheasant and start planning your ice fishing trips with us in some of our great lodging options.
- Modern lodging reservations can be made for New Year's. It is also time to start thinking about Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day weekend getaways.
- 2023 Park Entrance Licenses and gift cards are available online.
- The road to Third Avenue Pond in Watertown is accessible and open to fish.
- Residents may register for potential depredation hunts in December at gfp.sd.gov/depredation-hunts/.
- Archery, muzzleloader, mentored, youth and apprentice deer seasons close January 1st.
- Prairie chicken, sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse, quail, and partridge seasons close January 1st.
- Preference points are available for purchase until January 4th, 2023.
- Duck, Canada Goose and White-Fronted Goose seasons are now closed. Snow Goose season closes January 6th.
- The 2023 fishing license period is from December 15th, 2022, through January 31st, 2024.
- Ice conditions vary right now despite the recent cold weather. Fishermen and hunters are reminded to use caution when crossing ice on certain bodies of water.

Aberdeen Area

Fishing Report

The ice conditions are not great because of all the snow on the ice. The weak ice spots are not able to freeze properly with the snow insulating these areas. Ice conditions vary across the area from open water to 9 inches of ice.

Richmond Lake: Anglers have been catching crappie and walleye.

Elm Lake: Anglers have been catching crappie, northern pike, and walleye.

James River / Elm River: Anglers have been catching northern pike.

Mina Lake: Anglers have been catching walleye.

Hunting Report

Waterfowl: Most of the waterfowl have migrated south. The light goose (snow geese) season closes January 6th statewide.

Deer: The mentored, youth, apprentice, muzzleloader, and archery deer seasons end on January 1st, 2023.

Pheasants: Pheasant hunting has been difficult with the recent snow. Hunters have to walk through deep snow and snow drifts to find pheasants. Renziehausen and Gerken Game Bird Refuges pheasant season opened on December 1st and is open through January 31st. Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge pheasant season is open from December 12th to January 31st.

Clark County

Fishing Report

Due to the extreme negative wind chills, high winds with blizzard conditions, and holiday weekend, fishing activity was very low with no reports this week.

Dry 1: No report.

Dry 2: No report.

Indian Springs: No report.

Reid: No report.

Swan: No report.

Codington County

Fishing Report

Goose: Fishermen are catching a few walleye.

Kampeska: Fishermen are catching a mixed bag of fish.

Pelican Lake: Little to no activity.

Blythe Slough: Fishermen are catching a few walleye.

Long Lake: Little to no activity.

Dry Lake: Fishermen are catching a few walleye and northern pike.

Hunting Report

Deer: Most deer activity continues to be in the early mornings and evening time frames.

Pheasant: Hunters are finding good number of birds near cover that has a good food source.

Day County

Fishing Report

Ice conditions vary right now. Use caution on certain bodies of water. Some areas have up to 14 inches and a lot of areas have thinner ice. When exploring new areas, check the ice often. Starting to see some smaller wheel shacks being pulled out on known good ice. Can still barely get around with wheeled rigs but limited to where you can get to.

Pickereel: Anglers are catching a mixed bag of panfish.

Waubay: Anglers are having success with walleye and perch towards the north end of the lake. Mostly smaller walleyes.

Bitter: Continue to see most of the traffic on the north end. Anglers are having good success with walleye, perch, and a few pike. Again, a lot of smaller walleyes being caught.

Hunting Report

Pheasant: Continue to see plenty of birds all over the county. The snow drifts pushed the birds to be more concentrated in some spots.

Hamlin County

Fishing Report

Poinsett: More and more fishermen are venturing out. Fishermen are picking up walleye, crappie, and a few perch as well.

Lake Norden: A few northernns are being caught close to shore as well as some walleyes.

3 Buck: A few walleyes are being caught during the very evening hours right at sundown. **Ice conditions are still slightly unsafe at this point. Check the ice before you drive out.

Hunting Report

Deer: Deer activity has picked up. Deer are becoming concentrated in their wintering grounds. The best deer movement has been seen an hour before sundown. **Reminder: All deer seasons close January 1st.

Pheasant: Pheasant hunters have been having great success. The recent snow has concentrated birds into cattails and thick grass.

Marshall County

Fishing Report

Ice conditions continue to vary. Use caution on the ice until you are familiar with ice conditions and check them often. Some areas have up to 13 inches and a lot of areas have thinner ice

West Stink Lake: Some smaller perch being caught with an occasional walleye. Unsure if the road going in is open as it seems to drift in fairly often.

Clear Lake: Starting to see some pan fish being caught.

Piyas: Not seeing or hearing much for a fishing report.

Roy: Continue to see good northern spearing opportunities in the state park on the west side.

Hunting Report

Pheasant: Still some good opportunity out there. A lot of good hunting areas have blown shut and may have pushed the birds to new locations. Birds are bunched up in good numbers and folks without a dog could easily try and cut tracks with the fresh snow.

Parks Report

Winter Wonderland Workshop: Time off from school with nothing to do? Break that cabin fever and join us for some winter themed fun in the park! Join us at the picnic shelters at **Hartford Beach State Park** on Wednesday, December 28th from 1-3 pm and at **Pelican Lake Recreation Area** on Thursday, December 29th from 1-3 pm. We will be hosting a winter themed workshop including winter campfire cooking, arts

and crafts, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and so much more! All equipment and supplies will be provided. A park entrance license is required.

Oakwood Lakes State Park: Start your year off right with a hike! Come out to the park for the traditional First Day Hike. Come when it is most convenient for you from December 31st to January 1st from 6am-11pm, but please dress for the weather. A park entrance license is required.

Roy Lake State Park: Roy Lake Suites are 25% off through March 31st! One or two bedroom suites available for \$90 to \$131.25 per night. Go online at goutdoorssouthdakota.com or call 1-800-710-2267 to reserve one of the suites.