

Fishing

More than 1,100 square miles of water and a fishing season that never closes await you in South Dakota. The fishing section has been divided into four regions to assist your planning. The numbers on the map correspond to the numbers on the chart which accompany each region for quick reference. Refer to the current Game, Fish and Parks Fishing Handbook for rules and regulations regarding specific waters and species.

Black Hills, Badlands and Lakes Region

Comprising nearly a third of the state, this region features the famous Black Hills. Named by the Lakota, the mountainous Black Hills extend 100 miles, are 50 miles wide, and reach heights of more than 7,000 feet.

Within the Black Hills are 14 mountain lakes and more than 800 miles of meandering streams containing brook, brown and rainbow trout. On the surrounding prairie, reservoirs and ranch stock dams also provide angling fun. More than 50,000 stock dams, brimming with largemouth bass, northern pike and a variety of panfish, dot the western half of the state. Since many are found on private land, permission is needed before fishing.

Black Hills

Most Fished Species: Brown, brook and rainbow trout and largemouth bass

Popular Waters: Deerfield Reservoir, Sylvan Lake, Pactola Reservoir, Stockade Lake, Sheridan Lake, Rapid Creek, French Creek, Spearfish Creek, Spring Creek and Castle Creek

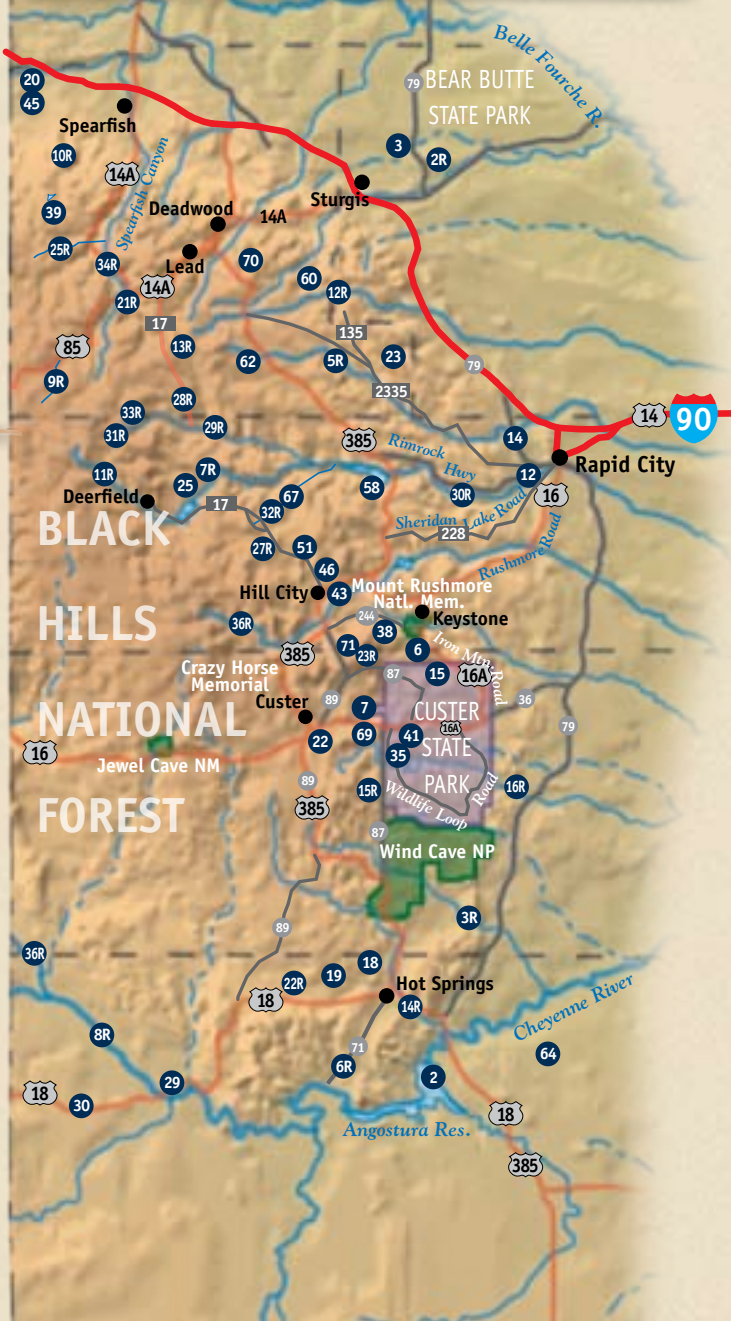
Fishing Tips

- ◆ Fly Fishing: Elk hair caddis, adams, blue wing olive, hare's ear nymph, flashback scud nymph in sizes 16-20 or streamers in sizes 4-10
- ◆ Spin Casting: Small spinners, crankbaits, spoons and plugs
- ◆ Bait Fishing: Salmon eggs, marshmallows, night crawlers, corn and grasshoppers (in season)

Fishing Techniques

For the Black Hills angler, trout is the main quarry and are found in two primary habitats: small streams and mountain lakes. Rainbow trout are the most abundant and can be found throughout the Black Hills. Most waters are regularly stocked, but in about half of the streams, quality habitat has allowed wild trout to thrive. Refer to the Fishing Handbook for these management areas.

A slow and stealthy approach is needed for fishing small stream trout. Keeping a low profile and using brush and boulders to conceal your approach assists in success. Local fly fishing shops and country stores can be helpful to determine which flies and baits are working during a particular season.



Prairie Reservoirs

Most Fished Species: Walleye, perch, smallmouth and largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish and northern pike

Popular Waters: Belle Fourche Reservoir, Angostura Reservoir, Shadehill Reservoir, Little Missouri River, White River, Gardner Lake, Coal Springs Dam and Murdo Dam

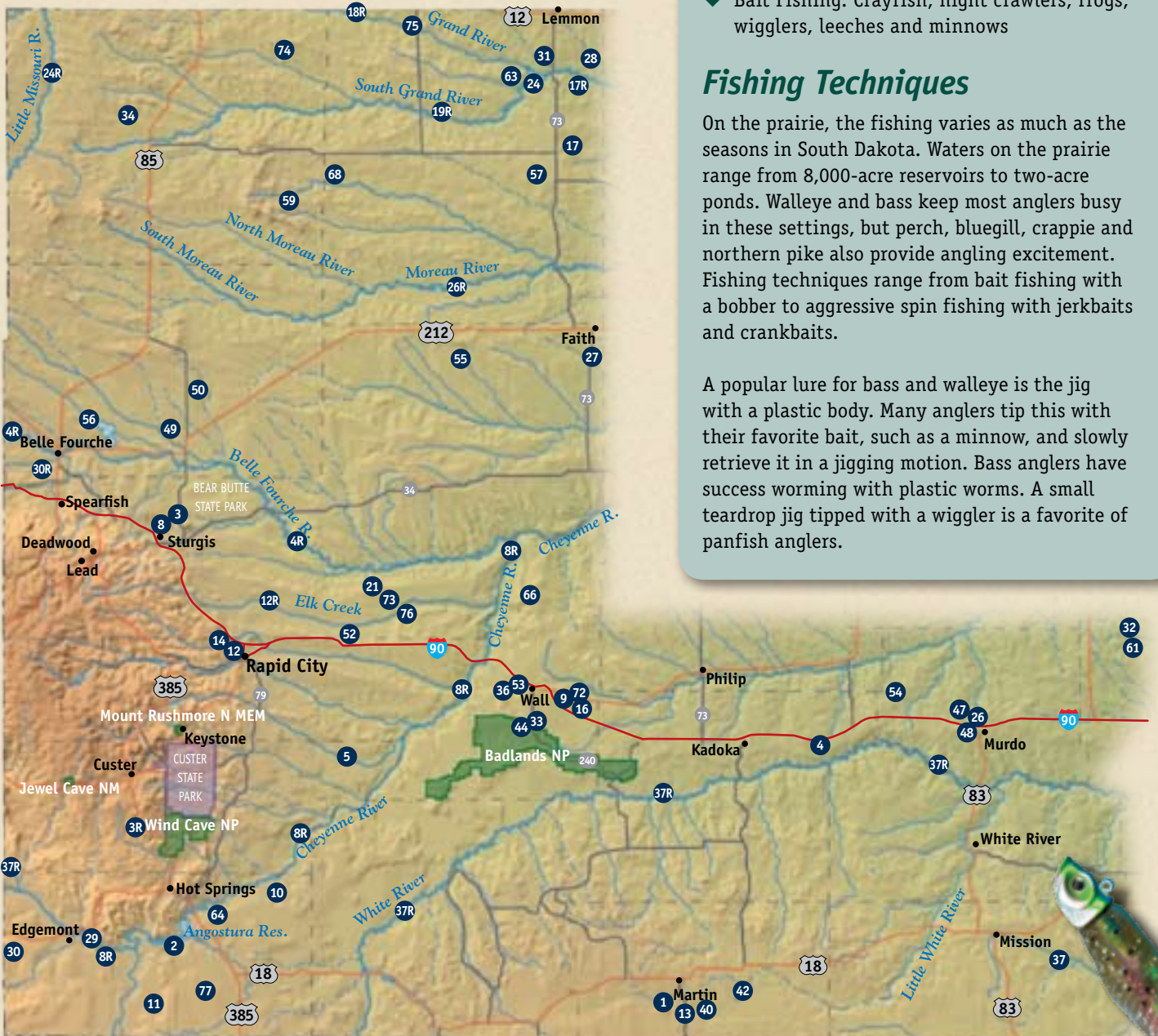
Fishing Tips

- ◆ Spin Casting: Spinners, crankbaits, jerkbaits, spinnerbaits, spoons and jigs with plastic tail bodies
- ◆ Bait Fishing: Crayfish, night crawlers, frogs, wigglers, leeches and minnows

Fishing Techniques

On the prairie, the fishing varies as much as the seasons in South Dakota. Waters on the prairie range from 8,000-acre reservoirs to two-acre ponds. Walleye and bass keep most anglers busy in these settings, but perch, bluegill, crappie and northern pike also provide angling excitement. Fishing techniques range from bait fishing with a bobber to aggressive spin fishing with jerkbaits and crankbaits.

A popular lure for bass and walleye is the jig with a plastic body. Many anglers tip this with their favorite bait, such as a minnow, and slowly retrieve it in a jiggling motion. Bass anglers have success worming with plastic worms. A small teardrop jig tipped with a wiggler is a favorite of panfish anglers.





Lakes and Reservoirs	Map Number	Acreage	Warmwater Species												Coldwater Species					Facilities													
			Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	White Bass	Bluegill	Bullhead	Catfish	Carp	Muskie	Northern Pike	Perch	Sauger	Tiger Muskie	Sturgeon	Chinook Salmon	Walleye	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Rainbow Trout	Camping	Boat Ramp	Toilet	Dock	Fish Cleaning	Handicap Access					
Rabbit Creek Dam	59	17	■																														
Reausaw Lake	60	5																															
Richland Dam	61	16	■			■								■								■											
Roubaix Lake	62	6																				■	■	■									
Shadehill Reservoir	63	4,693			■																	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
*❖ Sherberth Dam	64	2	■																														
Sheridan Lake	65	385	■																														
Shulte Dam	66	8	■																														
Slate Creek Dam	67	4																															
Sorum Dam	68	87	■																														
Stockade Lake	69	130	■	■																													
Strawberry Hill Pond	70	2																															
Sylvan Lake	71	19																															
* Tennyson Dam	72	56	■																														
Tisdale Dam	73	20	■																														
* Vesey Dam	74	8																															
Vobejda Dam	75	10	■																														
Wicksville Lake	76	6	■																														
Williams Dam	77	20	■																														
Rivers and Streams			Total miles																														
Battle Creek	1R	48																															
Bear Butte Creek	2R	—																															
Beaver Creek	3R	—																															
Belle Fourche River	4R	133																															
Box Elder Creek	5R	—																															
Cascade Creek	6R	3																															
Castle Creek	7R	—																															
Cheyenne River	8R	288			■																												
Cold Spring Creek	9R	—																															
Crow Creek	10R	—																															
Ditch Creek	11R	—																															
Elk Creek	12R	—																															
Englewood Creek	13R	—																															
Fall River	14R	7																															
Flynn Creek	15R	—																															
French Creek	16R	62																															
Grand River	17R	144																															
Grand River, N Fork	18R	25																															
Grand River, S Fork	19R	30																															
Grizzly Creek	20R	—																															
Hanna Creek	21R	2																															
Hot Brook Creek	22R	3																															
Iron Creek	23R	—																															
Little Missouri River	24R	53																															
Little Spearfish Creek	25R	—																															
Moreau River	26R	289																															
Newton Fork Creek	27R	2																															
North Fork Rapid Creek	28R	—																															
Rapid Creek	29R	86																															
Redwater River	30R	41																															
Rhodes Fork Creek	31R	—																															
Slate Creek	32R	14																															
South Fork Rapid Creek	33R	—																															
Spearfish Creek	34R	—																															
Spring Creek	35R	78																															
Stockade Beaver Creek	36R	—																															
White River	37R	407																															

* Limited Access ❖ Marginal Waters/Intermittent Fishing