

Lake Oahe Walleye Restoration Coalition

(A Division of the South Dakota Walleye Classic)

November 30, 2022

To: Lake Oahe Walleye Restoration Coalition members and supporters.

Re: Updated status on the coalition's efforts to restore the Lake Oahe walleye population.

The coalition was formed to address the deprivation of the walleye population in Lake Oahe. Towns, businesses, fisherman, guides, tourism organizations, resorts, and sportsman's groups have banded together to ensure that the SDGF&P implement programs that will ensure the restoration of the walleye population in Lake Oahe.

- Since the organization was formed, we have made these advancements.
- GF&P fisheries personnel requested a meeting with members of the coalition to hear our concerns and recommendations.
- Based on that meeting they developed a proposed plan to address our concerns.
- GF&P scheduled a public meeting at Mobridge to share their proposed plan with concerned parties.

Here are proposed next steps in this effort.

- Request the GF&P substantially increase the stocking numbers proposed at the Mobridge public meeting and stock these numbers in back-to-back years until the walleye numbers have been restored and maintained.
- Increase the quantity of forage fish stocked annually to support the increased numbers of small fish and to protect the growth cycle.
- Request the GF&P Commission immediately dedicate 2 million dollars of Capital Construction funds for the construction of Recirculating Aquaculture Fish Hatcheries. This will help provide for the substantial numbers of walleye needed to restore Lake Oahe's walleye population.
- Proceed immediately to complete the Aquaculture Hatchery at the Cleghorn Spring site in Rapid City and begin construction of three more facilities throughout the state.
- Build volunteer support in all the Lake Oahe Communities to assist the GF&P in this most critical program.

A general meeting will be held on Thursday January 26, 2023 at 7:00 P.M in the Akaska Community Center Akaska SD.

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