

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION GUIDE SHEET
FISHPOND MANAGEMENT
(ac.)
CODE 399**

GENERAL CRITERIA

In addition to the national criteria, the following criteria apply to all implementation of this practice in South Dakota:

The drainage area of ponds will not include untreated concentrations of organic wastes or other sources of pollution, including eroding croplands or other erosion problem sites, sewage outfalls, livestock feed yards, winter concentration areas, areas of pesticide or herbicide contaminations, etc. Such areas must be adequately treated by the landowner or other responsible party prior to any application of this practice by Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Requirements for Water Depth, Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen

Type of fish	Water source	Depth for restock after extremes ^{1/}	Depth for protection from extremes	Water Temperature at one foot below water surface	Dissolved Oxygen
Warm water species	Dependable, constant flow	≥ 12 feet	≥ 15 feet		≥ 5 ppm
Warm water species	Intermittent flows	≥ 15 feet	≥ 25 feet		≥ 5 ppm
Trout	Dependable, constant flow	≥ 15 feet	≥ 25 feet	< 70 degrees Fahrenheit	≥ 5 ppm, recommend 9-12 ppm
Trout	Intermittent flows	≥ 20 feet	≥ 30 feet	< 70 degrees Fahrenheit	≥ 5 ppm, recommend 9-12 ppm

^{1/} These depths are not sufficient to maintain fisheries through low water conditions caused by drought or freeze up from extreme cold. Restocking will be necessary. To avoid such losses assure that at least one-third of the pond is at least 15 feet deep.

STOCKING AND POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Species for stocking will be limited to those that are legal for use in ponds, lakes, or reservoirs in South Dakota. Species selections and stocking rates shall be determined and approved by South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks (SDGF&P). Contact the local SDGF&P conservation officer for information on obtaining fish or contacting licensed commercial dealers.

Stocking rates and species selection shall depend upon the size, depth, water temperature, and water quality of the area to be stocked. Stocking recommendations are included in the SDGF&P publication "Managing South Dakota Ponds for Fish and Wildlife" (1990).

Pond stocking will avoid any adverse impacts to federal or state listed threatened or endangered species and state species of special concern.

FISH TOXICANTS

Fish toxicants will be used only if the eradication of fish is a management need. An applicator's license is required. Authorization to obtain and use fish toxicants and technical assistance for their use shall be obtained from the SDGF&P and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SDDENR) and shall comply with South Dakota Surface Water Quality Standards.

Chemicals shall be applied in compliance with manufacturer's recommendations as shown on the labels. The operator is responsible for compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the use of chemicals.

FEEDING

Supplemental feeding is not recommended for species other than trout. If feeding is used, follow manufacturer's guidelines for use of commercial fish foods.

CONTROL OF AQUATIC VEGETATION

Pull, rake, or cut vegetation and remove from the pond.

Consult with DENR prior to introducing any chemical controls into surface waters to ensure compliance with South Dakota Surface Water Quality Standards.

Do not use chemicals that are not authorized for use in waters from which fish are to be used for human consumption.

OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Operators planning to sell or to harvest fish by other than approved sport fishing methods will contact SDGF&P for licensing requirements.

Contact SDGF&P or South Dakota State University for assistance in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases or parasites.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Document on the SD-CPA-26 the species for which the pond is to be managed. Include the depths and water temperatures that are to be maintained.

REFERENCES

Willis, D. W., M. D. Beem, and R. L. Hanten. 1990. Managing South Dakota Ponds for Fish and Wildlife. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, SD. 70 pp.