

Great Plains Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office News

SUMMER OF SERVICE

Riverboat Days: A Snapping Good Time



Jason Kral displays a common snapping turtle to youths at Riverboat Days.

In August, Jason Kral and Brandon Boehm joined Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery for Yankton, South Dakota's 35th Annual Riverboat Days Festival.

This event provided area youths "hands on" experience with the incredible creatures that inhabit their neighboring rivers, lakes, and ponds.

Touch tanks and displays of local fish, turtles, frogs, toads, crayfish, and even leeches

were set up to give more than 200 children the ability to learn about and get "in touch" with their local aquatic resources.

"It's a swordfish!"

- Curious child upon seeing a paddlefish at Riverboat Days

We participated in three events in Yankton this summer and

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pierre, SD

September 2018

Highlights

- * 4 outreach events
- * 1,000+ participants
- * A ton of trash
- * A map to better fishing
- * Fish for the future

interacted with more than 1,000 participants.

Contact
Brandon_Boehm@fws.gov
for more information

Missouri River Clean Up: Tons of Fun

In July, we combined efforts with South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pierre Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, City of Pierre, SD Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited, public citizens, and private groups to clean up the Missouri River near the cities of Pierre and Fort Pierre, SD.

More than 100 volunteers braved 100+ degree

temperatures to collect 2,710 pounds of trash and debris from the river and shoreline in just three hours!

Over the past 10 years, we have helped remove 19 tons of garbage in and around South Dakota's capital city.

We enjoyed the opportunity to make the river a cleaner place and meet new friends!

Contact Daniel_James@fws.gov
for more information



Alyssa Gunning, Dylan Turner, and volunteers work together at the Missouri River Clean Up, hosted by the Pierre Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

A Map to Better Fishing

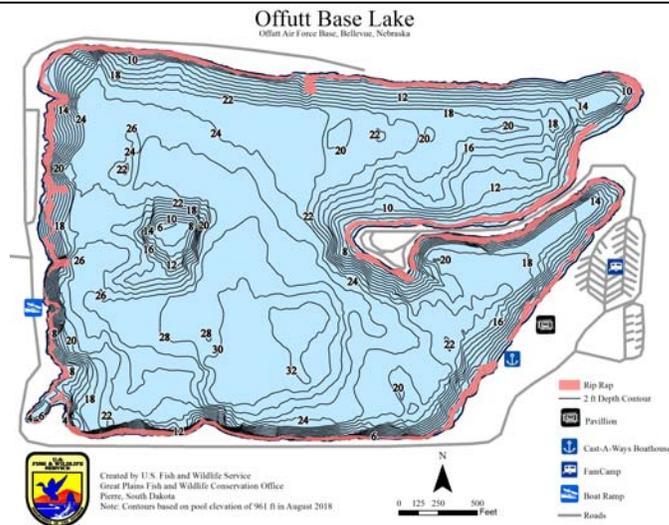
In July, we collected nearly 1,400 depth and geographic position data points throughout Offutt Air Force Base's recreational fishing lake to make a bathymetric map. We also collected detailed points around the lake's shoreline to map the rip rap surrounding the lake.

This map will serve as a useful resource for anglers and managers. Anglers can use this map to find fishing hot spots. Biologists now know how much and where

rocky substrate is located, which invasive zebra mussels use almost exclusively. This information will allow for better management of the lake and its resources.

The ability to quickly create detailed lake maps is a valuable tool that will allow us to better support recreational fishing for our partners and the public.

Contact Alyssa_Gunning@fws.gov for more information



Bathymetric map of Offutt Base Lake created by Alyssa Gunning.

Stocking Tomorrow's Trophies



Dylan Turner assists Tim Schroeder, Terry Hall, and Chris Hooley (GPNFH) to stock paddlefish in Lake Sharpe, SD.



Age-0 paddlefish.

In September, we assisted Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery (GPNFH) and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks stock more than 16,000 age-0 paddlefish into Lake Sharpe, SD. Since 2015, more than 180,000 paddlefish have been stocked in Lake Sharpe!

This stocking event provided an impromptu outreach opportunity with children from a local daycare that came over to check out the excitement. The kids were extremely eager to touch these prehistoric fish and were

astonished to learn that paddlefish can grow to over 100 pounds.

The reintroduction of paddlefish into this stretch of the Missouri River is intended to create a recreational fishing opportunity for anglers in the future. We plan to continue stocking age-0 paddlefish and we hope to see harvestable-size fish within a few years.

Thanks to everyone at GPNFH for their hard work and dedication producing paddlefish for the Missouri River.

Contact Dylan_Turner@fws.gov for more information

Publications and Reports

Turner, D., D. James, and R. Goodman. 2018. Pine Ridge Indian Reservation: 2017 fisheries survey report. USFWS, GPFWCO, Pierre, SD.

Presentations

Johnson, J. 2018. Pallid sturgeon population assessment update: Segment 7. Contributed paper. Middle Basin Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup Stocking Subcommittee Meeting.

Pierce, L. 2018. Pallid sturgeon population assessment update: Segments 5 & 6. Contributed paper. Middle Basin Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup Stocking Subcommittee Meeting.

Reynolds, S., M. Colvin, R. Jacobson, T. Welker, **L. Pierce,** K. Steffensen, and D. Marmorek. 2018. A structured decision making approach to redesigning the Pallid Sturgeon Population Assessment Program. Contributed paper. 148th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society.

Reynolds, S., M. Colvin, M. Miller, T. Welker, T. Gemeinhardt, K. Steffensen, **L. Pierce,** and R. Jacobson. 2018. Estimating abundance and capture probabilities of a rare, endangered species—Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)—in the Lower Missouri River. Contributed poster. 148th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society.

Great Plains Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

420 South Garfield Avenue Suite 400

Pierre, SD 57501

605-224-8693

<https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/fisheries/greatPlainsFWCO.php>

