

Wednesday, August 11

Fishery Resources of South Dakota

Fishes of the Missouri River National Recreational River in South Dakota

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ABSTRACT: The 94-km Missouri River section downstream from Gavins Point Dam, and the 62-km section downstream from Fort Randall Dam are classified as National Recreational Rivers. An ichthyofaunal list and fish habitat data were needed for conservation planning. We collected fish during three summers from four macrohabitats using five fish collection techniques, and measured fish habitat characteristics. Temperature, conductivity, and turbidity varied little, but substrate, depth, and velocity differed among macrohabitats (e.g. depth and velocity in the channel exceeded those elsewhere; sand dominated the substrate except in silt-laden tributary mouths and backwaters). We collected 21,699 fish of 53 species and combined our survey with others to compile a list of 91 species. Common recreational species included walleye, *Stizostedion vitreum*, and catfishes, *Ictalurus* spp. Twenty alien species were present. Seventy-one native species have persisted, but the pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) is endangered and a few other species (e.g., native minnows) may be in decline.