

## **Dave Fryda**

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Hello to all and thanks for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself. Unlike most in the Fisheries Division, I am not a native North Dakotan – but close! I was born and raised in Springfield, South Dakota and spent much of my youth prowling the shores and waters of the Missouri River in southeast South Dakota. My father and grandfather were commercial fisherman and it seems throwing nets at fish has been a central part of my life since I could walk.

In 1994 I graduated from South Dakota State University with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. During my undergraduate career I spent several summers working as a seasonal fisheries aide on Missouri River reservoirs in South Dakota. Following graduation I worked with white sturgeon and burbot in Idaho and British Columbia while I was employed by the Idaho Fish and Game Department. While those experiences were highly enjoyable and allowed me to see some incredible scenery, this prairie dweller soon fled the dense trees and returned to the pheasant fields of South Dakota. In 1996 I was hired as a research assistant in the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in Brookings and spent the next two years studying the benthic fishes of the Missouri River. I earned a M.S. Degree in Fisheries Sciences in 2000 working on the fish community and habitat assessment of the White River in South Dakota.

My employment with the ND Game and Fish Department began in 2000 when I accepted a District Fisheries Biologist position in Riverdale. As a District Biologist I was responsible for managing several dozen lakes throughout central North Dakota. I remained in that position until March of 2007 when I was fortunate enough to become the Missouri River Fisheries Supervisor. As I write this I am just settling into my new role in the Fisheries Division and am excited about the new responsibilities and challenges I will have while managing the diverse fisheries of the Missouri River System. My new job will entail a mixture of field work and office work topped off with a healthy dose of public interaction. On the Missouri River System, field season begins in April with walleye and northern pike spawning. Throughout the spring and summer crews are busy with a wide variety of fish sampling aimed at gathering data on everything from larval rainbow smelt to walleye to northern pike to chinook salmon. We also collect water quality information to monitor the status of coldwater habitat in Lake Sakakawea. The long field season wraps up in October when the last salmon is spawned and the boats are stored. Winters are spent analyzing data, writing reports, making management recommendations and preparing for the next field season – while juggling phone calls and emails that seem to be ever more abundant each year. The next several years will be exciting yet challenging as the lingering drought continues to stress the great fisheries of the Missouri River.

If you find yourself in Riverdale feel free to stop and talk.