

SOCIOECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE
DEVILS LAKE FISHERY

by

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Recreational fishing at Devils Lake is an important industry for the city of Devils Lake and an important source of revenue for the Devils Lake regional economy. A survey of anglers who fished Devils Lake during the 1983-84 season was conducted to obtain selected socioeconomic characteristics and fishing expenditure information which was used to estimate the direct and secondary impacts on the Devils Lake local economy.

Because home origin influences spending patterns for fishing expenditures by anglers within the Devils Lake trade area, anglers were divided into three types: local anglers (Devils Lake local anglers), nonlocal anglers (North Dakota resident anglers excluding Devils Lake local anglers), and nonresident anglers.

Local anglers fished Devils Lake because of proximity, while nonlocal anglers came to Devils Lake for recreational experiences. The majority of nonresident anglers came to Devils Lake to visit relatives. Almost all summer anglers chose to camp while fishing at Devils Lake. Most nonlocal and nonresident winter anglers stayed at motels. Specie preferences by all anglers included walleye, northern pike, and perch.

Local anglers spent \$537 per season, nonlocal anglers spent \$991 per season, and nonresident anglers averaged \$596 per season.

The estimated total aggregate expenditures by all anglers during the 1983-84 fishing season was \$14 million which resulted in \$33 million of gross business volume for the Devils Lake regional economy. Nonlocal and nonresident fishing expenditures were responsible for generating approximately 80 percent of the total impact. Over 800 people were employed either directly or indirectly from the gross business volume that was generated. In addition \$614,000 of tax revenue was realized from these fishing expenditures.