

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## FISH LIMITS Chapter 41:07:03

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>July 11,2024</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>Sept. 5,2024</b>	<b>Rapid City</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>Sept. 5-6,2024</b>	<b>Rapid City</b>

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

#### Recommended changes:

1. Modify the existing harvest regulation on Belle Fourche Reservoir where currently only those walleye less than 15 inches in length or 18 inches or greater in length may be taken, and of the walleye taken daily, no more than one may be 18 inches or greater in length, to a two fish daily limit with a 15-inch minimum.

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. Current harvest regulation is a 15–18-inch protected slot, with only one fish 18 inches or greater in length being allowed in the daily limit and has been in place at Belle Fourche Reservoir since 2005.
2. Annual lake surveys have documented a lack of younger age classes, resulting in few fish available to anglers under 15 inches.
3. The majority of the adult walleye population is currently within the protected slot, making few fish available for harvest.
4. Presence of large fish is likely suppressing recruitment of younger year classes into the population through cannibalism. A reduction in abundance of walleye in older year classes could result in increased survival of younger fish.

### DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

**41:07:03:03. Daily, possession, and length limit restrictions on special management waters - Additional restrictions described.** Daily limit, possession limit, length limit, and additional restrictions on special management waters are as follows:

~~(10) In Belle Fourche Reservoir and all waters contiguous thereto, including the terminal drop inlet canal, only those walleye less than 15 inches in length or 18 inches or greater in length may be taken, and of the walleye taken daily no more than one may be 18 inches or greater in length;~~

~~(11)~~(10) In Twin Lakes in Minnehaha County and Horseshoe Lake in Day County, the daily limit for walleye of any species is one, ~~28~~ twenty-eight inches or greater in length;

~~(12)~~(11) In Lynn and Middle Lynn Lakes in Day County, Opitz Lake in Day and Marshall Counties, Newell Lake and Belle Fourche Reservoir, including the terminal drop canal, in Butte County, and Curlew Lake in Meade County, the daily limit for walleye of any species combined is two and the minimum length limit is ~~15~~ fifteen inches;

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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~~(13)~~(12) From the Ft. Randall Dam downstream to the South Dakota-Nebraska state line on the Missouri River, the daily limit for white bass is ~~15~~ fifteen, possession limit ~~30~~ thirty; and

~~(14)~~(13) In Reetz Lake in Day County, the daily limit is: one walleye ~~28~~ twenty-eight inches or greater in length; one yellow perch ~~14~~ fourteen inches or greater in length; one black crappie ~~15~~ fifteen inches or greater in length; and one bluegill ~~10~~ ten inches or greater in length, from May 1 through September 30.

#### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

#### RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_