

**From:** info@gfp.sd.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 07, 2019 5:03 PM  
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**Cc:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** Petition for Rule Change Form

**South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks**

## **Petition for Rule Change**

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

ID: 67

Petitioner Name: Steve Baumberger

Address:

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Rule Identification: Statewide – change the daily and possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass from 5 to 4 and 10 to 8 respectively.

Describe Change: The change is self explanatory from the rule identification above.

Reason for Change: This is an outdated regulation, going back when very few anglers harvested largemouth and smallmouth bass, when fishing pressure was much less than it is today. Black bass, especially largemouth bass are the main predator fish in many bodies of water across the state where other species of sunfish are present. Over harvest of largemouths leads to a stunted population of other sunfish species such as bluegill and crappie, negatively impacting the entire fishery. The state's fisheries are shared by hundreds of thousands of anglers across the Midwest, and it grows every year. This rule will distribute the resources to more anglers, especially those South Dakotans who have very limited time to fish. This rule change also would coincide with the current regulation for the state's most popular fish, the walleye, which simplifies fishing regulations, especially for those waters where both species are present. Nobody needs to harvest 5 smallmouth or largemouth bass a day, or a combination thereof when several other species such as perch, bluegill, crappie, catfish and white bass are available to harvest.