

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Fish Limits Chapter 41:07:03

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 5, 2020	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 7-8, 2020	Custer
	Finalization	May 7-8, 2020	Custer

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed Change:

1. In the Nebraska/South Dakota border waters, limit the harvest of flathead catfish 30 inches or longer in length to at most one fish daily, as part of the daily limit.

Background Information

- Administrative rules 41:07:03:01 through 41:07:03:03 list harvest restrictions for catfish for South Dakota inland and border waters.
- There are no daily or possession limits for catfish of any species for the inland waters of the Missouri River and the Grand, Moreau, Cheyenne, Belle Fourche, Bad, White, and Little Missouri Rivers.
- The daily and possession limits for all species of catfish, combined, for all other inland waters are 10 and 20 fish, respectively.
- At their March 2020 meeting, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission adopted a proposal to limit the harvest of flathead catfish 30 inches or longer to at most one fish daily, as part of the daily limit, for inland waters.
- No length restrictions are in place for catfish of any species for the South Dakota portion of the South Dakota-Nebraska border waters but at most one flathead catfish 30 inches or longer may be kept as part of the daily limit for the Nebraska portion.
- No length restrictions are currently in place for catfish of any species for the Iowa border waters with South Dakota.
- For the South Dakota-Minnesota border waters, at most one catfish 24 inches or longer may be kept as part of the daily limit.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Department staff met with Iowa and Nebraska staff in February to discuss border water catfish regulations. To standardize regulations for anglers, all three states desire matching regulations between border waters of NE-SD and IA-SD.

To standardize South Dakota border water regulations with Nebraska regulations, the department recommends changing flathead catfish regulations on the border waters such that at most one flathead catfish 30 inches or longer may be included as part of the daily limit.

As anglers are already restricted to one flathead catfish 30" or longer in the daily limit on the Nebraska portion of NE-SD border waters, adding the same regulation to the South Dakota portion would make the regulations for both states the same.

The IA-SD border water regulations are currently the same for both states but lack any length restrictions. If the one flathead catfish 30" or longer regulation is moved forward for South Dakota's portion of the NE-SD border waters, Iowa will submit the same length restriction for consideration in their regulation process for addition on the IA-SD border waters. If that is accomplished, the Department would recommend adding the one flathead catfish 30" or longer in the daily limit restriction on the IA-SD border water at that time.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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“One Over” regulations are effective at reducing harvest of fish when it is common for anglers to catch two or more fish above the specified length during a fishing trip. No negative impacts of a one-over-30” regulation on flathead catfish populations are anticipated, however, staff believe the regulation will not result in an increase in larger flathead catfish.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate?

There is no impact of the proposed regulation on an individual’s ability to participate.

2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?

The only impact on opportunities for new and existing users would be limiting individual anglers to only one larger flathead catfish per day.

3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?

Negligible impacts are anticipated.

4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?

Adding the proposed regulation to restrict the harvest of flathead catfish to at most one fish 30 inches or longer as part of the daily limit will add complexity to regulations. However, “one-over” regulations can, from a social perspective, increase value placed on larger fish for which harvest is limited. Increased awareness that flathead catfish above 30 inches exist may increase interest in this fishery. Also, addition of the same regulation on the Nebraska-South Dakota border waters will help standardized border water regulations.