

**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION  
PROPOSAL**

**PUBLIC WATERS  
Chapter 41:04**

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	July 16 – 17, 2020	Ft. Pierre
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	September 2, 2020	Rapid City
	<b>Finalization</b>	September 2 – 3, 2020	Rapid City

**COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

Proposed Change

1. Require safety signage in association with operation of aeration systems during periods of ice cover on waters with open public access.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

1. Aeration is used to prevent fish kills during the summer and winter and to prevent ice from forming that may damage permanent docks or other structures anchored in the lakebed. Operation of aeration systems during the winter can cause significant public safety issues, as systems create open water and weakened ice conditions. Often, the public is unaware of system operation until it is accidentally discovered, while on the ice. Establishing a requirement that an aeration system in operation during periods of ice cover, on waters to which the public has open access, be signed and marked, would reduce safety issues associated with winter operation of aeration systems. Signage requirements would include:
  - o Signs of highly visible size and design indicating "Danger Open Water", clearly showing the location of the open water created by the aeration system, posted at all boat ramps and public access points any time the aeration system is in operation.
  - o Conspicuous markers, sufficient to notify the public of the location of the aeration system, shall be placed around the open water area during periods of ice cover.
  - o Access area signs and on-lake markers must be removed by March 30 each year, or earlier, if weather conditions warrant.

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

Not Applicable.

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

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

No.

APPROVE

MODIFY

REJECT

NO ACTION

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

No.

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

The regulation helps increase the safety of all these groups of outdoor recreationists.

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

Yes, by increasing safety.