

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

FISH LIMITS Chapters 41:07:03

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 4-5, 2022	Pierre
	Public Hearing	March 3-4, 2022	Pierre
	Finalization	March 3-4, 2022	Pierre

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Remove the restriction requiring anglers to keep the first four walleye caught when fishing through the ice for the lower portion of Lake Francis Case.

The GFP Commission proposal was in response to a petition for an administrative rule change.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Current regulations require the first four walleyes caught, while fishing through the ice on the lower portion of Lake Francis Case, to be harvested. The 15-inch minimum length limit does not apply, and anglers may not release walleyes caught.

The current proposal would remove the existing walleye harvest restriction requiring anglers to not release any walleye caught while fishing through the ice in the lower portion of Lake Francis Case. As is currently the case in administrative rule, the 15-inch minimum length limit would not be in effect while fishing through the ice, in the lower portion of the reservoir.

Specific regulations for walleye harvest when fishing through the ice on the lower end of Lake Francis Case were enacted in 2001 in response to public concern over high mortality of walleye caught from deep water and then released. The intent of the regulations was to reduce post-release mortalities by prohibiting release of walleye and limiting the number of walleyes caught during a fishing trip. There is evidence to support the idea that post-release mortality increases at deeper depths.

The special walleye harvest regulations for the lower portion of Lake Francis Case, when fishing through the ice, is the only case in the state where a regulation specifically requiring fish to be harvested exists because of potential post-release mortality. However, the same issue occurs at other locations during various times of the year, including in the lower portion of Lake Francis Case during the summer.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

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

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 described as follows:

(8) In Lakes Francis Case and Sharpe, the minimum length limit for walleye is 15 inches from September 1 through June 30. However, in Lake Francis Case, length limits for walleye do not apply to any angler while fishing through the ice from the northern, east-west Gregory-Charles Mix county line downstream to Fort Randall Dam, ~~and such angler may not return or release to the water any walleye;~~

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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