

Comes, Rachel

From: info@gfp.sd.us
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 9:21 PM
To: baumbergersteve@gmail.com
Cc: Comes, Rachel
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form

Categories: Commission

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: 87

Petitioner Name: Steve Baumberger

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Rule Identification: Lake Sharpe - Only one (1) smallmouth bass ≥ 15 " may be allowed in the daily bag limit.

Describe Change: The change I'm seeking is better size diversity and an overall healthier smallmouth fishery.

Reason for Change: Lake Sharpe is a relatively small reservoir with very high fishing pressure, with continuous pressure on smallmouth hangouts day after day during the open water season. Large smallmouths have declined greatly since the removal of the trophy fishery status in 2014, as a result of harvest during pre-spawn and spawning bass in shall waters. As anglers struggle to find legal size walleyes for harvest, more anglers, including guide services, are targeting larger smallmouth for harvest, and as the word spreads that they make good table fare, this trend will increase. Most anglers today do not like to go home without limits of fish. The implementation of this rule will improve the size distribution of smallmouths, improve the overall health of the fishery, and make for a better fishing experience for all, especially for those like myself who want a sustainable sport fishery.