

Comes, Rachel

From: info@gfp.sd.us
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:22 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: 110

Petitioner Name: Steven Baumberger

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Rule Identification: Lake Sharpe - Only one (1) smallmouth bass $\geq 15"$ may be allowed in the daily bag limit, except for approved South Dakota Department of Game Fish & Parks bass tournaments.

Describe Change: The change I am seeking is to greatly improve size diversity by reducing overharvest of large smallmouth bass, which in return will create an overall healthier smallmouth fishery.

Reason for Change: Lake Sharpe is a relatively small reservoir with very high fishing pressure, and continuous pressure on smallmouth hangouts that overlap with those of walleyes, day after day during the open water season. Large smallmouths have declined greatly since the removal of the trophy fishery status in 2014. As anglers struggle to find legal size walleyes for harvest, more anglers, including guide services, are targeting smallmouth bass for harvest, especially those 15" and larger, and as the word spreads that they make good table fare, this trend will increase. Most anglers today, including non-residents, do not like to leave the water 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 smallmouth bass sport fishery.