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Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form
Date: Monday, May 29, 2023 5:38:08 PM

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: 192

Petitioner Name: Richard Hoff

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Rule Identification: Allowing crossbows for paddlefish

Describe Change: No allowing crossbows as a method of harvesting a paddlefish, unless the person has a disability.

Reason for Change: REMOVE crossbows as a legal method of take for paddlefish. 2. Allowing crossbows as a legal method of take for paddlefish was unilaterally decided by the GFP last summer without notification or consultation with Bowhunters, Bowfishermen or previous paddlefish tag holders. Crossbows should only be allowed for those with physical handicaps as outlined in current statute. The use of a crossbow in bowfishing for paddlefish allows the angler to have a shoulder fired, cocked, weapon at the ready the moment a paddlefish presents itself for a shot opportunity. Vertical bow archers' must either draw and hold their weapon at full draw physically waiting for a fish to present an opportunity or draw quickly when an opportunity presents itself. The use of the crossbow, and its "always ready to fire" state, provides a significant advantage for anglers over their game relative to paddlefish taken by traditional archery methods. 41:07:05:02. Paddlefish season in special management areas. Any paddlefish angler 18 years of age and older shall obtain and have in possession a valid South Dakota fishing license and a valid, nontransferable paddlefish permit and associated unlocked tag to take or attempt to take a paddlefish with a bow and arrow or crossbow or take or attempt to take paddlefish or rough fish by snagging. A Nebraska resident possessing a South Dakota nonresident paddlefish permit is exempt from the South Dakota fishing license requirement if the Nebraska resident angler possesses a valid Nebraska fishing license or is legally exempt from compliance with Nebraska license or permit requirements. Any paddlefish angler under 18 years of age shall have a valid paddlefish permit and associated unlocked tag in possession while shooting paddlefish with bow and arrow or crossbow or snagging paddlefish or rough fish. (2) Paddlefish may be taken from sunrise to sunset from June 1 through June 30 from the Missouri River below Gavin's Point Dam with a bow and arrow, or a crossbow downstream from the Highway 81 bridge. Except as provided in this rule, an archery paddlefish angler 18 years of age and older shall obtain and have possession of a valid South Dakota fishing license and a valid, nontransferable paddlefish permit and associated tag available from the licensing section of the department before participating in archery fishing for paddlefish. A Nebraska resident possessing a South Dakota nonresident archery paddlefish permit is exempt from the South Dakota fishing license requirement if the (3) Paddlefish and rough fish season is open on the waters of Lake Francis Case and the White River up to the Highway 47 bridge from May 1 through May 31. Paddlefish may be taken by snagging or, bow and arrow or crossbow. 41:09:12:08 Disabled angler assistance permit. The department may issue a disabled angler assistance permit to a person with a valid fishing license, or who is exempt from licensing requirements, who has a physical or developmental disability that prevents them from being able to perform any of the activities associated with fishing. The permit allows another person to assist the permitted individual while fishing, in accordance with existing regulations, and without the need to possess a valid fishing license. A disabled angler assistance permit may be issued on either a temporary or permanent basis, dependent on the type of disability.

