

12-01-14

Mississippi River Sauger Regulation Proposal

The current regulation is a 6 bag limit per day with no size limit. It is my opinion we have had a steady decline in both numbers and size over the past 10 + years. I see more and more people taking these fish home when they are only 12 to 13 inches in length. A lot of these fish aren't even getting the chance to spawn once in their lifetime.

This is directly attributing to a decline in the total number of sauger in the river. As the total numbers drop so does the chance of catching bigger trophy fish. I base this information on myself being a fishing guide and a tackle manufacturer for the past 20 + years.

My proposal is to impose a length limit of 15 inches. This will ensure that each fish will have the opportunity to spawn at least once before becoming fare game. It will also coincide with the length limit of walleyes saugeyes taking any question out as to whether the fish is of legal length. In as little as 3 years it's very possible to increase both numbers and size of this species. I thank all of you for both your time and consideration.

Signed: Tim Hutchison

Date: 4/14/2014

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