

PLEASE
BY END OF
FRIDAY.

We the undersigned disagree with the Game Fish & Parks decision to increase the fishing limits on Opitz Lake in Marshall County. It is our belief the lake has already been over fished and that the limits should remain at 2 fish per day. We further would encourage increased enforcement of the 2 fish limit and size restrictions.

(Signers of this petition should print name and address on the first line and a signature on the second line)

1. David Bankers 442992 S Shore Dr Lake City SD 57247

[Signature]

2. Elmer Steiner 333 Roosevelt Av. Eden SD 57232

Elmer Steiner

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

To: SD GF&P Commissioners 523 E. Capital Ave. Pierre, SD 57501

Danny Gritschitsch
Box 104

eden.01@HotMail.
com

Eden S.D. 57232

cel 605-880-7590

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1. Fran C. Kawk
FRAN CIKAWEK

2. Sheila Crawford

3. [Signature]

4. Carla Sanderson
Carla Sanderson

5. [Signature]
Richard M. Sawisch

6. [Signature]
Michael Angles

7. [Signature]

8. Craig Tevelde
Craig Tevelde

9. Christine Babekuhl 322 Wilson Eden
Christine Babekuhl

10. Craig Babekuhl 322 Wilson Eden
Craig Babekuhl

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1. Jim Pitzl 12047 437th ave Eden, S.D

Jim Pitzl

2. Eric MacLennan 44146 101st Vethen

3. Jonda Kraft 25 S. Main St. Webster.

Linda Kraft

4. Bob Phillips 11661/ Roy Kota Drive Lake City

Tom Blair 812 S. 9th St Aberdeen S.D.

5. Jaylen Kwasnichen Aberdeen Sd

6. Walter Barr 204 S 2d St Eden SD

WALT BARR

7. Georgia Barr " " "

Georgia Barr

8. Terry J. Sattler 402 So 3rd St Eden SD

Terry J Sattler

9. Rodney Nelson 43764 122nd St Eden SD

Rodney Nelson

10. Dale Pitzl 43649 122st Eden SD

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1. Denise Fox PO Box 124 Eden SD 57232
Denise Fox

2. Andrew Schuster PO Box 74 Eden SD 57232
Andrew Schuster

3. Daron Steiner

4. Andrew Mischlitzsch
PO Box 104 Eden SD 57232

5. Kevin Pitzl
Eden SD (268-1168)

6. Tammie Steiner
Eden SD Tammie Steiner

7. *Roslyn*
Roslyn, SD

8. Maclain Pitzl
eden SD

9. Kent Carlsen
Eden SD

10. Keith *MS*
Eder

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1. Blair Healy 211 Hickory Langford SD

Blair Healy
2. Greg Healy Bretton SD

3. Ralph Keritz Eden SD

4. Daniel E. Bor Scout Falls, S.D.

5. Rick Johnson Aberdeen, SD 57401

6. Olen Ahlstrom Eden SD

7. James O. Baker
Linton S. Dak 57445

8. Jon Healy
1802 Overlook Ridge Brookings, SD

9. John Phillips
323 S 3rd Street Eden, SD 57232

10.

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1. Julie Pitzel 43649 122ND St. Eden SD 57232
Julie Pitzel
2. Beverly Johnson 442954 South Ocean Drive
Beverly Johnson
3. Micah Samson 43755 122nd St Eden SD 57232
Micah
4. SAM Pitzel 122nd 3rd St. Eden SD 57232
Sam Pitzel
5. Daren Olson 214 2nd St Eden 57232
Daren Olson
6. Art Steiner 11989 Steiner Rd Eden SD 57232
Art Steiner
7. Franklin Hostetler 219 S 2nd St Eden SD 57232
Franklin Hostetler
8. Joe Pitzel
Joe Pitzel
9. James or Bloch, 404 LAKEVIEW DR, MILBANK, S.D.
James Bloch
10. Julie Heitman
Julie Heitman

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1. Deane L MacInaell
44146 101st Vebelen SD 57270
2. Davis Seid
42541 102ndst Britton SD 57430
3. Jim Hartman
505 Drake Ave Milbank SD 57252
4. RUTH ANDERSON
116730 Roykota Dr Lake City SD 57454
5. Joy Pahl
43650 118th Lake City SD 57247
6. Basil Knebel (aka Jelan Knebel Jr)
12355 440th Ave Eden, SD 57232
7. Kelly Knebel
12355 440th Ave Eden, SD 57232
8. Lela Knebel
12355 440th Ave Eden SD 57232
9. Ryan Opitz Ryan Opitz
10. Dennis Winters Clear Lake SD

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1. Russell Bartunek 904 S Foster Sioux Falls 57111
R. Bartunek
2. Alan W. Schultz 4148 20th Ave SW
PEGGY E. SCHULTZ WATERTOWN, SD 57201
Alan W. Schultz
Peggy E. Schultz
4. Michael Dunn 119 S Second St. Eden, SD 57225
Michael Dunn
5. Donald Schuster Eden, SD
Clement Schulte Roslyn
6. Clement Schulte 12446 440 Ave
7. Hilary Neuberger 46928 121 st Eden SD
8. Donald J. Dunn P.O. Box 103 Eden S.D.
9. Gary McTall 1199 752 Sissatou N SD
10. Renee Norton 409 5th St. E Clear Lake, SD 57026

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1. Jerry Keintz
438364 Northside Drive, Lake City, SD
J Keintz
2. DENNIS HEALY, 438928 NORTHSIDE DRIVE, LAKE CITY, SD
Dennis Healy
3. Diane Healy, 438928 Northside Dr Lake City SD 57247
Diane Healy
4. Lois Keintz 438364 Northside Dr, Lake City, SD 57247
Lois Keintz
5. Jane Duerre 116749 Boykota Lake City
Kent Duerre 116749 Boykota Lake City
6. Kent Duerre
7. Wayne M. Wegleitner 409 Hammond St
Langford SD
8. JEFF AND LINDA 104 W. BURTON AVE
ROSELIN, SD
9. Yvonne Healy 211 Hickory
Langford SD 57450
10. Sydney Cohen

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1. Jennifer Keintz 116 S 3rd St Eden
Jennifer Keintz
2. Mitchell Samson
Mitchell Samson
3. Berdette Zastrow
BERDETTE ZASTROW
4. Bruce Zastrow
Bruce Zastrow
5. Craig Sommer
1244 Porcupine Drive Aberdeen SD
6. Dale Iverson
Sisseton
7. Mike Haller Roslyn
Mike Haller
8. Sarah Gaikowski Webster
Sarah Gaikowski
9. Thomas Steiner Eden SD
Thomas Steiner
10. Justin Henning Roslyn SD

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1. Halley Schmidt 214 S Kline St. Aberdeen, SD
Halley Schmidt

2. Taylor Schmidt 1219 N Washington Aberdeen SD
Taylor Schmidt

3. Jack ^{Jacob} Schmidt ^{Schmidt} 1325 W. Lake Dr. Grenville SD
Jack Schmidt

4. Robert Fischbach 38932 147th St Warner SD
Robert Fischbach

5. JATHY FISCHBACH 38932 147th St
Jathy Fischbach Warner SD 57419

6. Barbara Schmidt 1425 N Lakeview Dr Grenville, SD 57231
Barbara Schmidt

7. Gordon Rahlf Wren, SD
Gordon Rahlf

8. Luke Nordquist Lake City, SD
Luke Nordquist

9. Gary J. Knebel
Gary J. Knebel 401 Main St Roslyn SD 57224

10. Greg Keintz 116 S 3rd Eden
Greg Keintz

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1. John Krubel
12335 44th Ave Eden SD
2. Jersey Schuster
43648 120th St Eden SD
3. James Michtitsch
43224 122nd St Langford SD
4. Heath Sommer
120755 Cedar Acres Eden SD 57232
5. Bill Leonard
318 Taft Ave Eden, SD 57232
6. Braden Stearn
PO Box 131 Eden SD 57232
7. Lyle Michtitsch 43222 122 St Langford SD
8. April Michtitsch - P.O. Box 104 Eden SD 57232
April Michtitsch
9. Grace Michtitsch P.O. Box 104 Eden SD 57232
Grace Michtitsch
10. CAROL LEE MICHLOTSCH PO Box 91 EDEN, SD 57232
Carol Lee Michtitsch

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1. Kyle Haines Langford
Kyl D Haines
2. ~~Loren Josephson~~ Loren Josephson Lake City
Loren Josephson
3. Ron Bringer Lake City
R
4. Rebecca Streier Eden
Rebecca Streier
5. Jane A. Schneider 912135 Drywood Lake Rd Sisseton
Jane A. Schneider 912135 South Shore Drive Lake City
6. Wayne Lattin Watertown SD
BRIAN LATTIN Eden SD
7. Pam Steiner
Pam Steiner
8. Rick Lehman Langford
Shawn P. Aleson P.O. Box 141 Eden S.D.
9. Josh Trautner 12555 437 Ave ROSLYN S.D.
Josh Trautner
10. Jennifer Boerig 43872 123rd St. Eden, SD
Jennifer Boerig

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1. Danny Muehlisch Eden S.D.
Danny Muehlisch
2. Walter LeBlanc Verden SD
Walter LeBlanc
3. Georgia Barr Eden SD
Georgia Barr
4. Leslie King Eden S.D.
LESLIE KING
5. Shari Baker Eden SD
Shari Baker
6. Greg Wigenor Langford SD
Greg Wigenor
7. Nathan Steiner Eden SD
Nath Steiner
8. J. Allen Eden SD
Justin Allen
9. GABRIEL PLEINIK EDEN S.D.
Gabriel Pleinik
10. Jennifer Sandal Eden SD
Jennifer Sandal

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1. DONALD G. PETERSEN 44032 SD Hwy 10 Lake City S.D.
Donald G. Petersen
2. BYRON PETERSEN 11130 Guy Rd LAKE CITY, SD 57247
Byron Petersen
3. Clark Moeckly 41698 SD Hwy 10 Britton SD 57430
Clark Moeckly
4. Deanna Petersen 11130 Guy Rd Lake City, SD 57247
Deanna Petersen
5. Rodney D. Westby
Rodney Westby - PO Box 137, Roselt, SD 57260
6. Lois Westby
Lois Westby - PO Box 137 Roselt, SD 57260
7. Carolyn Jett 44032 SD Hwy 10 Lake City S.D.
Carolyn Jett 57247
8. Sandy Grube 1208 Main Britton
Sandy Grube
9. Alan Grube 1508 main Britton
ALAN GRUBE
10. David Doctor 442553 N. Shore Drive Lake City S.D.
David Doctor

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1. ~~John Phillip~~ 323 S 3rd Street Eden SD
JC Phillips

2. ~~Paul Amundson~~ 43298 111th St Lake city SD
Paul Amundson

3. Alex Suther 41236 116th St. Ceremont SD
Alex Suther

4. Chad Strei
3335 41st Ave Bellingham MN

5. ~~Paul Amundson~~
306 LAKEVIEW DR MILBANK, SD

6. Jerry Arbach 318 6th Ave E Sisseton SD 57262
Jerry Arbach

7. Richard Mysterick 611 4th Ave E Sisseton SD 57262
Bill Mysterick

8. Blair Healy 211 Hickory St Langford SD 57454
Blair Healy

9. Wayne Wegleitner 409 Hammond St Langford SD.
Wayne Wegleitner

10. ~~Paul Amundson~~ Columbia ~~Langford SD~~
~~Paul Amundson~~ ~~Langford SD~~

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1. Blake Anderson - 116 N 2nd St. Groton S.D. 57445
Blake Anderson

2. Chris Kassube - 3975 134th BAK SD 57427
Chris Kassube

3. Taylor Anderson - 236 East 7th Ave
Taylor Anderson Groton, SD 57445

4. Ron Anderson 609 N 3rd
Ron Anderson Groton SD 57445

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

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To: SD GF&P Commissioners 523 E. Capital Ave. Pierre, SD 57501

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [SPAM] Opitz Lake in Day County
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2015 11:08:57 AM

From: tom [mailto:tom@knasecoinc.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 10:58 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [SPAM] Opitz Lake in Day County

I own a house in Eden SD and I fish Opitz off and on. Recognizing the lake is an outstanding walleye fishery, I would prefer caution on the side of removing the 2 fish per day limit. Removing the 15" length limit will guarantee that everyone fishing will have fish to take home. Increasing the 2 limit per day to 4 per day, will guarantee the lake will be fished out.

Please proceed with caution and change one limit item at a time. The 2 per day limit can be addressed after fish netting results are examined.

Tom Knase
219 4th St
Eden SD 57232

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Comment on 2016 Fishing Regulation Proposals
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 1:51:24 PM

From: D Hansen [mailto:dhansen147@itctel.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 1:33 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Comment on 2016 Fishing Regulation Proposals

I support the proposed fishing regulation changes for 2016 on the lakes in northeast SD in general, with particular reference to Bitter Lake.

Over the past few years, I've had the good fortune of "processing a lot of data" on walleye harvest and condition in Bitter Lake. These data were not collected in a scientific manner, unlike the Wildlife Division's data. Nonetheless, my observations of and conclusions from these data are consistent with those of the Division. Walleyes from the abundant 2011 year-class of walleyes are not growing like they should be. Neither are many of the other walleyes in the population.

Removal of the 15-inch minimum size restriction on Bitter Lake is soundly based in fisheries management science and is supported by reliable scientifically collected data. It is also supported by anecdotal observations by active anglers.

I encourage the Commission's approval of the proposed fishing regulation changes for Bitter Lake. Although I have no personal observations of the fisheries on the other lakes in question, I have seen the data collected by Wildlife Division staff. I believe they have collected compelling data to support the recommended regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Doug Hansen
Webster, SD

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Commercial Fishing of White Bass in South Dakota: More "Class" Rules and a Plea for Unleashing the State's Entrepreneurial Energies
Date: Monday, September 28, 2015 11:37:10 AM

From: Robert E. Wright [mailto:rwright@augie.edu]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 11:21 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Cc: Harry Thompson
Subject: Commercial Fishing of White Bass in South Dakota: More "Class" Rules and a Plea for Unleashing the State's Entrepreneurial Energies

Dearest Commissioners,

White bass are a highly prized game fish everywhere, it seems, except South Dakota.

They are the state fish of Oklahoma and are so closely related to striped bass ("stripers"), the state fish of Maryland, Rhode Island, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, and New Hampshire, that they can be successfully hybridized with them to create superfish called wipers. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Striped_bass]

White bass and their various kin are voracious predators; feeding schools of them are among the most exciting environments in which one can fish in fresh water. I urge you watch this YouTube video of white bass "boiling" on Lake Mead [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-m8E_8WCPR4], where fishing guides like Adventure in Angling [adventureinangling.com] earn thousands guiding fishers to hotspots.

White bass also fight like the dickens. I have often had on line what I thought was a 2 lb. white bass only to pull out a 4 lb. walleye. Unlike walleye, white bass strike with force and will often jump. Even throwbacks fight hard.

Despite a myth to the contrary, white bass are excellent table fare when properly prepared by avoiding the lateral line or mud line. This guy knows what he is doing [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xcb3dYWiXcs>]. These stuck up walleye fishers also have a clue: [<http://www.walleyecentral.com/forums/archive/index.php/t-200335.html>] though I have found that nothing but salt, pepper, and butter are needed. The owner of M&W bait shop in Sioux Falls once told me that she silently served white bass (and drum) to some friends and they found it the best "walleye" they had ever eaten!

Most importantly, though, white bass can be caught with *regularity from shore* throughout the temperate part of the year. (I don't ice fish so I don't know if they hit hard in the winter.) I stress *from shore* and with *regularity* because they are in many ways a poor man's fish. No boat required, just a pole, a simple hook, and \$2 worth of minnows and a guy can limit out in two hours any evening in the summer. And, thanks to the generous limit, a successful white bass outing can feed a family (well) for several days while walleye fishers get skunked completely or have to scrape together a meal out of four "smalleye."

This brings me to a bigger issue: "class" rules. I use this term with trepidation because by

"class" I do not mean just socioeconomic class (rich, poor, or in between) but also class of outdoors folk. Some of us do not have the money or time or frankly patience to buy, maintain, pull out of storage, launch, etc. an 18 foot Lund with a fish finder, a live well, etc., etc. Some of us just want to run out to East Vermillion or Thompson or Poinsett on a whim on a long summer evening and catch some fish. We don't know where the precious walleye are biting or what color jig is hot this week. If this "class" of fisher catches a decent walleye while out fishing (for whatever bites), yeah, it'll go on the stringer. But we are just as happy with some perch or crappie or, yes, white bass. And this class is not happy that if he is with a buddy and one of them catches fish over his limit, he can't legally share with his buddy because they happen to be standing on shore instead of lounging in a boat (one typically laden with high tech equipment ... how fair is that? For the fish I mean).

Some other "class" rules on SD's books include the 5-day limitation on ground blinds on public land. Why is it okay for a guy to put up a tree stand and leave it in the same spot the entire season but another guy, too old, fat, afraid, or poor to use a tree stand, can't? When I called GFP to inquire about this, I was told that the ground blind seems to "claim" an area more than a tree stand does. I'd like to see some empirical research on that (and I know there isn't any because the officer I spoke to admitted there was not clear policy on tripods because no one had ever asked), and if it is in fact the case, then why not make clear to everybody that blinds, stands, tripods etc. do not given preference to the owner, only a vehicle in the appropriate parking space does?

Half of all states allow the use of crossbows during whitetail deer archery season (24 w/o restriction, 1 on private land only): <http://www.tenpointcrossbows.com/united-states-crossbow-regulations/>. Why is SD one of the half that does not allow them? Again, it appears that there is a class bias to the decision because bows are generally more expensive than crossbows in terms of initial purchase and subsequent kit (arrows, sights, etc., etc.) but especially in terms of practice time to become proficient. Some of us simply do not have the time to shoot 100+ arrows per week for weeks on end while others, city dwellers, cannot practice in their backyards (rightly so) or afford to give \$7.50 per day to use the ranges at Archery Outfitters. So why not allow archers to use crossbows, if only for part of the full archery season? Crossbows would draw more females and kids into the sport. Or is that why it is illegal (except in firearms season, which really isn't all that useful)?

SD GFP's policies also seem to discriminate against hunting lessees. Special buck tags are not made available to them (unless they are also ag. lessees, which in this day and age is rare) so they have to take the risk of the draw as most such leases are concluded in the spring/summer and not after GFP's September lotteries. This raises yet another issue: why is it in most states, hunters are guaranteed a shotgun/rifle buck tag but have to enter a lottery for antlerless tags while in SD the antlerless are doled out liberally and the lottery is for bucks? Only landowners get buck tags with regularity. Again, whatever the rationale for the system was/is, it reeks of "class" legislation, in this case rural vs. urban.

Finally, hunting lessees on annual leases (as most seem to be) can't invest in the sorts of technologies that allow people to hunt all day in the state's harsh climate (e.g. the wooden "condos" that dot the landscape) because they are too costly to put up for only one season. But hunting lessees could invest with confidence, if allowed by law, in moveable elevated blinds. By the current regulations, a moveable elevated blind would have to have the wheels removed or be detachable from the vehicle. The types of vehicles used in Texas are illegal (for deer) even if the engine is off and the operator is not in the cab. (See

<http://texaspredatorposse.ipbhost.com/index.php?showtopic=23790> for several of many examples.) Why? It can still be illegal to drive on public land, to shoot at deer out of a cab, or out of a moving vehicle while allowing people to drive to a spot, hunt it, and drive away when the day is done.

I think by liberalizing these rules (and there are probably many others I have yet to discover) you could INCREASE hunting and fishing tourism into the state and get more residents interested in hunting and fishing and hence buying licenses and paying sales taxes on kit, etc. Instead of commercializing the white bass harvest, GFP should encourage more outfitters to offer white bass/fishing packages, maybe combined with doves (the season for which seems to start too late, btw) or geese. You wouldn't think about allowing the commercial harvest of walleyes or pheasants, right? So use the same techniques that generate revenue to the state from those sources to build up the markets for white bass, archery, hunting leases, etc. That boils down to being more INCLUSIVE rather than EXCLUSIVE, without, of course, endangering the reproductive success of the underlying resource.

For example, instead of allowing Asian and European carp to collect in their masses at the Vermillion spillway (where I saw people catching and RELEASING them over the summer), sponsor a bow fishing contest where the deceased carp are mulched for fertilizer instead of becoming a burden on the archer/fisher (or a stinky mess when illegally left on the bank). You could run the contest yourself and keep the profits or license it to entrepreneurs for a fixed fee. I've written a book called *Little Business on the Prairie* [http://www.amazon.com/Little-Business-Prairie-Entrepreneurship-Prosperity/dp/0931170680/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8] that shows how entrepreneurial South Dakotans can be *when allowed to innovate*. Free them up, as you did decades ago for the pheasant industry, and the state soon will be known for more than roosters, bison, and snobby walleye-or-nothing fishers.

-- Robert E. Wright
Sioux Falls, SD

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: commercial take of white bass
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 12:17:33 PM

From: Martin Tarby [mailto:mjtarby@rushmore.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 11:44 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: commercial take of white bass

WHAT? You have got to be kidding! White bass is a SPORT FISH! I and many other fishermen thoroughly enjoy fishing for white bass with rod and reel. I am fervently opposed to any attempt to commercially fish for white bass or any other sport fish. Please do not vote to reduce the recreational opportunities available to South Dakota anglers.

Sincerely,
Martin Tarby
Rapid City
South Dakota

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Commercial take of White Bass
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:20:12 PM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)

From: Paulson Marc [<mailto:Marc.Paulson@rcgov.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:12 PM
To: Miller, LouAnn
Subject: RE: Commercial take of White Bass

Marc Paulson
Hermosa, SD

From: Miller, LouAnn [<mailto:LouAnn.Miller@state.sd.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 11:20 AM
To: Paulson Marc
Subject: RE: Commercial take of White Bass

I have received your comment below and in order to include in the public hearing minutes, please reply with your first name, last name, city, and state.

Thank you
LouAnn Miller
SD Game Fish & Parks
Phone number 605-223-7660



From: Paulson Marc [<mailto:Marc.Paulson@rcgov.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 11:50 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Commercial take of White Bass

Dear SDGF&P,

We now have a fishery where you can take kids fishing and they can catch fish. Younger kids have trouble catching some types of fish and get bored easily but in the spring when the white bass are running they have a lot of fun and enjoy fishing because they can catch these more aggressive fish. I do not believe we need to reduce the population of white bass by allowing commercial fishing. If you want to allow commercial fishing let them take the cat fish there are lots of them and no one seems to fish for them as much. I hope more fisherman are against this also.

Marc Paulson

email: marc.paulson48@yahoo.com

From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: fish regulations
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:05:10 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Arden Price [<mailto:gpa321@icloud.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:04 PM
To: SDGFPINFO
Subject: fish regulations

I am all for removing the 15 inch limit and going to a 4 a day limit there is just to many small fish being caught numerous times and also to much of a problem to inforce when that many small fish

Sent from my iPad

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Fishing rule changes for Opitz Slough
Date: Monday, September 21, 2015 12:23:03 PM

From: Tom Tobin [mailto:tomtobin39@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 11:46 AM
To: SDGFPINFO
Subject: Fishing rule changes for Opitz Slough

I am Thomas Tobin. My phone number is 605-380-6348. I am contacting the department relating to the proposed fishing rules changes for Opitz slough. I live in Aberdeen SD and am 66 years old. I fish Opitz Slough about 20 times per year. I am opposed to removing the 2 fish limit or to reduce the size limit. The fishing was real good into June, then it was a little slow for about 6 weeks and now is is very good. If you change the rules on this lake you will have it fished out in no time. I was there last week and there were 17 boat on the lake when we got there. Several more came after we were there. Only 3 boats were from SD. The same thing happened 2 days later. First of all Opitz can't handle that many boats and if change the limit to four the boats will multiply until the fish are gone. I take two disabled people with me to fish most of the time and I took all of my Grandkids (9) to fish there. It is a nice quiet lake where you can catch fish and have fun. I was upset to see so many boats on the lake last week. If you change the limit the out of state boats will have it so you can't get on the water because of the limited parking and you will have the same thing happen there that has happened at some of the other lakes. With the low cost out of state season fishing licenses and many of the people coming more than once to fish the out of state fishing appetite is insatiable. I have fish a lot in the glacial lakes over the past 25 years and I have seen how fast the fishing pressure comes to the hot lakes i.e. Waubay, Bitter, Pyus. I am asking you to leave the rules as they are for Opitz. Thanks TT

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: GFP October Commission Meeting to be Held in Spearfish
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2015 8:04:54 AM

From: Tom Mahan [mailto:tom.mahan@grotonford.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 4:17 PM
To: SDGFPINFO
Subject: RE: GFP October Commission Meeting to be Held in Spearfish

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission,

I'm sorry I couldn't make the meeting Tuesday night in Eden concerning the walleye limits and length restrictions on Opits and Bitter Lake in Northeastern South Dakota.

It is my understanding that you want to increase the limit from two walleyes to four on Opits and let fishermen keep any fish under 20" and one over 20". The reasoning is to lower the population of walleyes in the lake so the fish can get bigger faster. I really enjoy fishing Opits because it is not usually crowded and you can always catch fish, a very nice combination. I always thought that the state must be thinking along these same lines because the boat landing will accommodate just a few boats and the people who are concerned about keeping more than two fish can go some place else to fish. Bitter on the other hand has a great landing area and the lake has all sorts of structure and different venues to accommodate any type of fisherman and the walleyes are usually very accommodating, we always catch fish on Bitter.

Both of these lakes offer great fishing because they both have a good population of fish and I can't see why the state wants to destroy that population by removing the lower slot and allowing fishermen to keep fish under 15"s. Game and fish has done a great job in creating our fishing recourses in the state and I think all SD residents agree along with the countless out of starters that our fishing attracts year around.

The economy's in the towns in and around where the fish are biting have grown to really rely on the traffic fishing has created and I hope you take that into consideration when making your decisions. Have you explored the idea of putting more bait fish or fresh water shrimp into these waters to help these fish grow bigger faster? Most of the Northeast lakes that grew to what they are today started that growth back in the early 90's and the bottoms of those lake have matured to resemble most any ordinary glaciated lake and the habitat in those lakes is not what it was after the flooding started. If you make a mistake on this I think you know how long it will take to rebuild the numbers from fingerlings, let's just feed what we have and see if that works first. Thanks for reading what I had to say!

Sincerely,

Tom Mahan
Groton SD.

From: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks [mailto:sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 11:09 AM
To: tom.mahan@grotonford.com
Subject: GFP October Commission Meeting to be Held in Spearfish

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks



The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' Commission is holding their October meeting in Spearfish at the Holiday Inn Convention Center.

The Commission will be finalizing the 2015-16 and 16-17 mountain lion hunting seasons, changes in fish limits, the commercial take of white bass, paddlefish regulations, fish health inspection rules and the 2015-16 and 16-17 bobcat hunting and trapping seasons,

A full agenda for this meeting can be found [here](#).

Written, public comments must be received by Oct. 1 at 12 p.m. MDT and include a full name, city and state of residence. To submit written comments, click [here](#).

The public hearing portion of the meeting will begin Thursday, Oct. 1. at 2 p.m. MDT

This message was sent to tom.mahan@grotonford.com from:

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks | sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us | South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks | 523 E. Capitol Ave | Pierre, SD 57501

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From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Removal of walleye length restriction
Date: Monday, September 28, 2015 8:32:58 AM

From: Taylor Anderson [mailto:taylor.ross.anderson@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 10:53 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Removal of walleye length restriction

Hello,

Taylor Anderson of Groton, SD here. I am emailing you in regards to the proposed removal of the walleye length restrictions on Bitter, Opitz and Cattail Lake. I am against the removal of the restrictions on Bitter and Opitz. The fish in Opitz, in my opinion, will be exploited by fishing pressure if that changes. I also believe that there are big fish in the lake, and that the creel surveys are not reflecting this.

In regards to Bitter Lake and the year class that is causing trouble. I believe it has grown recently, and many of the fish are, or soon will be, over the 15 inch minimum. Thus will be available for harvest.

As far as Cattail Lake goes, personally I am okay with whatever you decide to do. The fishery there is really struggling.

I am also 100% in favor of removing the protective slot on the small mouth bass.

If you have any questions feel free to email me back, or contact me at 1-605-380-4059.

Thanks for your time,
Taylor Anderson, D.C.

From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Restricted Fishing
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:25:10 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Byron Petersen [<mailto:bdpetersen@venturecomm.net>]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:24 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Restricted Fishing

I would encourage the Commission to leave the current fishing restrictions in place for Opitz Lake in Marshall County. The few SD residents that can fish it during the week are happy with their results and I see no reason to change as it only will help out of state fishermen who are already often surpassing their limits; especially those who remain on the lake past nightfall . Thank you

Byron Petersen
11130 Guy R.d
Lake City, SD 57247
605 448 5548

From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Walleye length limits
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:24:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

From: Malcomb, Pat D. [mailto:Pat.Malcomb@spartanmotors.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:45 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Walleye length limits

I am all for the proposed walleye rule changes, and would like to see Lake Poinsett do away with the 15 inch size limit also. There are so many 14-3/4 to 14-7/8 inch walleyes being caught it is sometimes hard to get a few over 15 inches to keep, not to mention the ones we see floating belly up because they are under 15 inches. I hate to see these fish floating because they are 1/8 under 15 inches, what a waste as they are really nice looking walleyes.

Pat Malcomb 3016 East 21st
Sioux Falls SD

Pat Malcomb

Engineering Plumbing Liaison
Emergency Response

CELL 605-323-7761

EMAIL Pat.Malcomb@spartanmotors.com

WEB www.spartaner.com



From: [John Cooper](mailto:John.Cooper)
To: gino.adams@state.sd.us; Lott, John
Subject: Fwd: Info for commission
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:44:40 AM

Please add to our public comment record. TKS, Coop

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Honer <joeguidesyou@me.com>
To: John Cooper <jlcoop11@aol.com>
Sent: Mon, Sep 14, 2015 10:21 am
Subject: Info for commission

Boys did a survey at Opits this weekend during there fireman's tourney. Boon also did one over last three days at bait shop he owns, which had A great amount of traffic including five different states. The over wellming response was that they thought the minimum should stay in place. They also reported the keeper to catch rates on Opits were at or above fifty percent and that the total numbers of fish they were catching was down from last year. At the stake dinner afterward I worked the crowd and found that the guys after given the info I was given still felt very strongly that the bitter and Opits should be left in place also the 2 fish limits. Some of thees guys felt so strongly that they said they were going to call the media in. When I told them they needed to e mail u or others there response was they don't listen. I tried to encourage them that that is not the case. I tell u this so u know and I'm sure u do already but this is part of why u don't get an overwhelming response directly from the public. As far as the bitter lake. The word is out and the landings were pretty much full this weekend with every one I talked to having there limits of keeper fish. After thinking about what I was told on the phone. The things that don't add up are. One of the biggest reasons they don't want to wait a year on bitter is that after waiting 9 years on Waubay then taking the minn off. We r experiencing a slow growth rate even on new fish stalked. I would agree, but I believe it is from the exact thing we r proposing to do. Once the minn were taken off the harvest was very heavy leaving a void in wich the white bass exploited. The population of white bass is now higher than population of walleye in bitter. So if u look at the chart the high numbers in bitter are 13-1/2 and biggest being 14-1/5. After that it goes down considerably. So we take and knock those fish down to 12-13 we will be providing that very fertile opportunity for those bass. Brian commented on they think it is heading that way now but we r not seeing that In catch rates and actually the opposite this year as they r very rare. Also the other thing I hear a lot is that our lakes are not as fertile as in the past and we should be carful not expect as much out of them. That makes sense from what I see in there consumption. My confusion is that we r making part of this decision based on an expected growth rate from the past also. Maybe we have to modify that in certain situations. I hope this helps and again I am with u guys not against. I have complete respect for all of u. I am just not able to make sense of the whole pic and am very concerned that we may make a decision that will ruin bitter or sentence our fisheries to 15 inch or LESS on our average to big fish size. Thanks again and have a good day. Joe

Sent
from my iPhone

From: [John Cooper](#)
To: gino.adams@state.sd.us; [Lott, John](#)
Subject: Fwd: Minimum Length limits on Bitter and Opitz Lakes
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:46:28 AM

Please add to our public comment record. Tks, Coop

-----Original Message-----

From: Blake Anderson <BAnderson@sdwg.com>
To: jlcoop11 <jlcoop11@aol.com>
Cc: brian.blackwell <brian.blackwell@state.sd.us>
Sent: Fri, Sep 4, 2015 2:12 pm
Subject: Minimum Length limits on Bitter and Opitz Lakes

Hey John,

This is Blake Anderson, I am from Groton, SD. I fish the waters to the NE of me very regularly especially Bitter and Opitz. I attended 2 of the informational meetings that were put on in Aberdeen and Britton regarding the proposed length limits. The guys did a very good job of putting the meetings on and getting the information to us. Although I am seeing the lengths of the fish differ from what they are seeing, especially in Bitter and Opitz lake. I fished there in middle of July and there was plenty of short fish with few keepers but a lot of the fish were close. Currently the fish we are catching have jumped 1-1.5" at least in 45 days. Making catch rates of 1 out of 3 keeper vs. Short fish, some days have been better than that. Hopefully the next 45 days show the same jump or close too. Not only are most of the fish above the 15" limit but they are in great shape also. Even the 13-14.5" fish are very healthy with a occasional thinner fish that comes out of deeper water. Catch rates in deeper water are showing 1 out of 10 keepers. With that being said I believe they need to table the length limits for a year to make sure it is the right thing to do. I think when people see these nicer fish being caught that the populations will be knocked down some with the current limits in place. I worry that if the limits change then they cannot easily be put back into place in the future. As far as the size limit on Cattail, I don't see a population of walleyes below 20" in that water right now so why change the minimum length? I think it should stay in place in case that water does get a good "take" of walleyes and they get to that 15" size very rapidly. From what I've seen from the boat on Cattail there is plentiful food, if those walleyes get going in there they will grow fast.

If you have any questions for me don't hesitate to call

Thanks for your time,
Blake Anderson
1-605-380-8573

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From: [John Cooper](mailto:John.Cooper)
To: gino.adams@state.sd.us; Lott, John
Subject: Fwd: Minimum length proposed
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:51:18 AM

Please add to our public record comments. TKS, Coop

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Honer <joeguidesyou@me.com>
To: [jlcoop11 <jlcoop11@aol.com>](mailto:jlcoop11@aol.com); [Bill Leonard <bleonard@yourstarnet.net>](mailto:bleonard@yourstarnet.net); [Banderson <Banderson@sdwg.com>](mailto:Banderson@sdwg.com)
Sent: Fri, Sep 4, 2015 1:15 pm
Subject: Minimum length proposed

Hey john. Here is some of what we see and feel about minimums. I have been guiding on bitter for the last month. I have also been canvassing other guides and frequent fisherman of bitter and Opits lakes. Most of this info is from bitter. We r all in agreement that the fish have shot up a solid inch in the last month or so and expect that to continue through sep. we r seeing catch rates of 25-40 percent of keepers to none keepers in a lot of areas in the lakes. There are also a lot of fish about to clear the 15 minn. we feel strongly that a significant percentage of fish can and will be harvested to clear the way for the rest of the fish to come out of the stunted stage. I would strongly hope that we could hold off a year on the rule change. It would be a considerable set back to have thees fish cropped down to 12-13 inches at this point. We r also very concerned that there is no plan or goal in place to reinstate the minimum. We feel that in itself would sentence is to a far inferior fishery in to of our most important body's of water. The consensus of the boys I know around here is that our fisheries boys up here r top notch but r limited at times in how much info they have available to them. We have much more input to share but in an effort to keep this message manageable I will stop here My number is 320 260 6143 if any of the commissioners would like to hear more I would love to talk.
Thanks much. If there is anything I or we can do feel free to call. Joe honer
Sent from my iPhone. I will get a copy to mr Blackwell also but don't have his email at the moment

From: [John Cooper](mailto:John.Cooper)
To: gino.adams@state.sd.us; [Lott, John](mailto:Lott,John)
Subject: Fwd: Minimums
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:41:36 AM

Please add Mr. Leonard's comments into our public record. Coop

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Leonard <bleonard@yourstarnet.net>
To: John Cooper <jlcoop11@aol.com>
Sent: Tue, Sep 8, 2015 9:31 pm
Subject: Minimums

John

Just a short message to pass on my feelings about reducing the length limit on Walleyes on Opitz, and Bitter lakes. It's pretty obvious that these two fisheries have been hurt in the past few years due to the increased harvesting. Both lakes are faced with large numbers of smaller fish that seem to be on a slow growth pattern.

However I have seen an increase in the lengths of both fisheries in the past two months. It is now very common to catch several fish in the 15/12-16" class. It's my feeling that we need to hold off on reducing the length limits to less than 15", let's see what these fish do by the end of next yr before a decision is made.

Another short note about another lake in the NE cattail. I might be way off on this one and it may not be finically feasible. I don't think it's a secret that the fishery has been hurt because of high water and the fish moving dn stream through the outlet tiles. How about a fish trap to prevent this in the future.

Thanks for listening to me, and thanks for all your efforts to protect our fisheries.

Bill Leonard
318 Taft
Ave
Eden, SD
712-380-4466
bleonard@yourstarnet.net

Sent from my iPad

From: [John Cooper](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Cc: [Lott, John](#); [Adams, Geno](#)
Subject: Fwd: Opitz Lake
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:38:08 PM

Please place this email into our public comment file on the fisheries proposal re: Opitz Lake. TKS Coop

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Blair Healy <blairhealy@yahoo.com>
Date: September 29, 2015 at 6:00:36 PM CDT
To: "jlcoop11@aol.com" <jlcoop11@aol.com>
Subject: Opitz Lake
Reply-To: Blair Healy <blairhealy@yahoo.com>

I attended the recent meeting at Eden SD. I appreciate Paul Dennert, commission member, attending the meeting and able to relay our concerns with changing the limit and size restriction for the walleye fishery. While I am not an avid fisherman, I do enjoy fishing with family and friends. Our recent outing was an annual family fishing weekend at Opitz Lake. We enjoyed the numerous catch of walleyes, many below the 15" size restriction, which were returned to the water, but did catch enough over 15" to eat that evening. While we were not able to limit out, we had a fine time.

The GF&P fishery representatives did a good job of explaining their recommendation of changing the rules at Opitz, but this is our local Lake, which we feel should be preserved for the local people. It is not the large fishery of Bitter and Waubay Lakes, and could not handle the influx of SD and out of state fisherman who would fish out 12", 13" and 14" fish, with an increased limit. Soon to be, another lake, without a walleye population.

Please reconsider the recommendation of the biologist's to do away with the 15" size restriction and adding additional fish to the creel limit.

Blair Healy
Langford, SD

From: [John Cooper](#)
To: gino.adams@state.sd.us; [Lott, John](#)
Subject: Fwd: Opitz Lake
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:39:52 AM

Please add Judge Sommers comments into our public record. TKS, Coop

-----Original Message-----

From: Sommers, Judge Richard <Richard.Sommers@uj.s.state.sd.us>
To: 'jlcoop11@aol.com' <jlcoop11@aol.com>
Sent: Thu, Sep 10, 2015 1:21 pm
Subject: Opitz Lake

I am writing to voice my opposition to changing any of the regulations on Opitz Lake. It has been an excellent fishery that has been fished heavily with the existing regulations. Even as recently as this past weekend, there were over 30 boats at the ramp. The fish that were caught this past weekend were healthy and fat, and also at least half were over 16" long. It is not broken. No need to fix it.

As an aside, I am your daughter's next door neighbor.

Rick Sommers

From: [John Cooper](mailto:John.Cooper)
To: gino.adams@state.sd.us; Lott, John
Subject: Fwd: Walleye Length limits
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:43:37 AM

Please add this to our public record of comments. TKS, Coop

-----Original Message-----

From: walleyescot <walleyescot@aol.com>
To: jlcoop11 <jlcoop11@aol.com>
Sent: Mon, Sep 7, 2015 9:44 am
Subject: Re: Walleye Length limits

The 30 inch walleye was by far my biggest walleye in NE SD, caught on Swan Lake in Sept. Prior to that, several 24-25 inch walleye in several lakes. But I mostly catch nice 'eater;' walleye. However, last year, hard to catch a walleye on Bitter over 15 inches. One day, I bet we caught 50 walleye, but all under 15 inches, at the boat ramp talked to 5 other boats all with the same story. I do not think any of us had a fish over 15 inches. But that was last year, have not fished Bitter in 2015. Much was the same for Opitz, hard to catch over 15 inches. But those fish seem to have grown in 2015. Biggest I get is around 17 inches. Still many under 15, but I am ok with that. Several year classes on Opitz. No northern, a few jumbo perch and a few crappie, hard to target those. Catch by accident walleye fishing. I fish NE SD until ice up. Let me know if you want to hear anything more. I will tell you my experience. Keep my boat stored there and fish all the lakes in the NE. Then to Chamberlain for spring. I have lots of photos I can send if interested. This photo from last spring in Chamberlain. I fear the great fishing of NE SD is going to be ruined by excess limits. I would prefer a 2 fish limit. With 4 in possession. I do like only one over 18 inches.

SCOT HANSON
Shoreview, MN
612-590-6389

-----Original Message-----

From: John Cooper <jlcoop11@aol.com>
To: walleyescot <walleyescot@aol.com>
Cc: John Lott <john.lott@state.sd.us>; Brian.Blackwell <Brian.Blackwell@state.sd.us>; Cathy Peterson <Cathy.Peterson@state.sd.us>
Sent: Mon, Sep 7, 2015 9:28 am
Subject: Re: Walleye Length limits

Hello Scot: I appreciate your comments on this length limit issue up in our NE glacial lakes area. It's critical for both the GFP Staff and our Commission to hear from folks like you who have experience on these water bodies. To set good regulations, we need both the biology and the public user's views.

Let me/Commission work with John Lott, Brian Blackwell and other staff to review your and other comments on all this before anything is placed into final regs. We will get your comments, and the others, into our final public comment record as well. Thanks for sharing the photo of a real nice walleye - 30 inch fish are hard to come by..!!! Nice Job..!!!! Cooper

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 4, 2015, at 12:56 PM, walleyescot@aol.com wrote:

I frequent NE SD for walleye fishing and very concerned about length limits.
I do like the 15 inch minimum and fear you will ruin the fishery if lowered.

Yes, I have caught 20-30 fish a day and struggled to find any over 15 inches, but had much fun in doing it.

How much detail do you want me to give you as I have fished nearly all the lakes in NE SD? There is a reason I travel from MN and spend my time and dollars in SD. Do not hurt the fine fishing you have here or many other anglers will stop taveling to SD

Released this walleye last fall. Caught on Swan Lake just south of Webster.

SCOT HANSON

Shoreview MN

ps I thought yo retired. So glad to hear you are still working to improve SD. Thanks for your service in the US Navy

<Scot Hanson 30 inch walleye released.jpg>

From: [John Cooper](#)
To: pitzlkevin@yahoo.com
Cc: [Adams, Geno](#); [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: Re:
Date: Friday, September 18, 2015 8:17:53 AM

Thanks for taking the time to write and for expressing your concerns. I'll make sure your email gets into our public record comments on this proposal. John Cooper, GFP Commission Chairman.
Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 17, 2015, at 9:22 PM, pitzlkevin@yahoo.com wrote:

>

>

> John

>

> The length limit on bitter or optiz should not be changed! These fish in these 2 fisheries are without a doubt doing well. Many legal fish are being caught, these fish that people were not finding this summer don't just all of a sudden show up! The number of fish that would be harvested out of these 2 lakes would be terrible. If the size limit would change on bitter, and optiz those 2 fisheries will be done for a long time. Thank you for your time.

> Sent from my iPad@

From: [John Cooper](mailto:John.Cooper)
To: ringneck@albanytel.com
Cc: Lott, John; gino.adams@state.sd.us
Subject: Re: Slot limits on Bitter and Opitz Lakes
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:14:48 AM

Vern: I appreciate you taking the time to write me and the Commission. I'll make sure that your comments/email get into our formal record of public comments for this proposal. We are actively working on this issue from both a biological and a public use perspective. We treasure the Glacial Lakes fisheries and want to make the right decision on this matter. Thanks for your comments. John Cooper, Chair, GFP Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth Prosocki <ringneck@albanytel.com>
To: jlcoop11 <jlcoop11@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, Sep 16, 2015 10:38 pm
Subject: Slot limits on Bitter and Opitz Lakes

Dear Mr. Cooper,
I am writing to plead with you to NOT remove the slot limits on these two lakes.
As a Minnesota resident I realize these two lakes are not part of my regular haunts. They are however important to me as I try to get to the Glacial Lakes region 1-2 times per year and during these trips I look forward to the quality of fish they produce.
The prospect of quality walleye fishing is what attracts many of us non-residents to your great state. The probability of negatively affecting these resources is reason enough for a NO vote.
Minnesota has seen more than our share of mis-managed fisheries.
Please don't make changes to these lakes which represent an example of what your people have done well.
Respectfully,
Vern Prosocki
Avon, MN

Sent from my iPad

